



PONTIFICIO ISTITUTO ORIENTALE

Donohue Chair 2020

Herman G. B. TEULE

Annual Lecture

"CAN THIS PEOPLE LIVE?" (Ez 37:21)

Syriac Christians' Quest for Identity:

Past and Present

AULA MAGNA

ROMA, 5 MARZO 2020

ore 16:00

Donohue Chair 2020
HERMAN G. B. TEULE | (KU Leuven)

Abstract of the Lecture

Due to the changing political circumstances at the end of the First Abbasid Period (roughly the year 1000), the Christians of the Middle East developed new approaches of thinking about their identity. The traditional ecclesiastical divides came to be considered as obsolete and new strategies were developed in order to cope with the world and the religion of Islam. These developments gave rise to a new vitality in the intellectual life especially for Syriac Christians. Some scholars even speak of a Syriac Renaissance (1024-1318). Though in the subsequent centuries – for all kinds of reasons – many of the achievements of this period were lost, some intuitions of this Renaissance Period remain valid to-day and can help Middle Eastern Christians in their search for identity.



Brief Biography

Herman Teule is professor of Eastern Christianity at the Radboud University (Nijmegen, The Netherlands), where he is the head of the Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, and at the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium). He studied theology, comparative religion and Near-Eastern languages at the Universities of Amsterdam and Louvain. Teule holds a PhD (Louvain) in Oriental Studies. He also holds visiting professorships in Moscow (St Tychon's Theological University) and Kottayam-India (Mahatma Gandhi University).

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