

We invite you to the next webinar
in the 2023-2024 research lecture series

Did the Christian Message Pass Necessarily by Greek Language and Thought?

Prof. emer. Dr. theol. Johannes Beutler SJ

Tuesday, 30 January 2024

at 20:00 Israel time, 13:00 New York time, 19:00 Paris time

VIA ZOOM

The Fraternity Lecture Series continues with a presentation and discussion of the current research of Professor Beutler. We are glad to extend the invitation to you.

Fr. Johannes Beutler is Professor emeritus for New Testament and Fundamental Theology. Having lectured at Sankt Georgen College in Frankfurt and in Rome at the Pontifical Gregorian University and the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Professor Beutler is known for his numerous publications on the New Testament Johannine writings. His *Commentary on the Gospel of John* appeared in six languages since 2013; his *Commentary on the Epistles of John* was published in 2000, a revised English edition in 2023.

Having visited the Holy Land since 1967 sixteen times, Professor Beutler developed an interest in the Jewish roots of the Gospel of John (*Judaism and the Jews in the Gospel of John*, Rome, 2006). Currently he resides in Berlin, Germany and works on the question of Greek influence on the Gospel of John and its impact on the emergence of the Christological dogma.

About the forthcoming Fraternity lecture Professor Beutler writes:

“The Christological statements of the Creed of Nicaea and Constantinople of the fourth century meet increasing difficulties of understanding. This became evident in Sunday Masses for Spanish-speaking workers in a suburb of Frankfurt. It helped to replace this form of the Creed by the Apostolic Creed of the Latin Church and led to the question of the importance of Christological confessions as such. For instance, Mark 8, 27-38 shows that it is not enough to give exact answers according the Catechism, who Jesus is, but to follow him on his way.

Early on in Church it became increasingly important to express the faith in formulas about the nature of Jesus, a tendency that started already in the New Testament which is written, from the beginning to the end, in Greek and strongly influenced by Greek thought. The question, “Who is Jesus,” is described in terms of Greek thought and philosophy: He is the eternal Logos, preexistent, taking part in God’s creation, of the same nature as the Father. Such thought concludes in the Councils of the (Greek) Church of the fourth and fifth centuries.

The question arises whether this development was the only possible one or whether others had been likely and may offer themselves today. The New Testament suggests examples of a more Jewish-Christian Christology, for instance in the Epistles of James and to the Hebrews, and in the Apocalypse of John. Those texts will be examined together during the lecture.”

We are looking forward to your Zoom-active participation to this lecture. To register click [HERE](#).