

Zeitschrift: Internationale kirchliche Zeitschrift : neue Folge der Revue internationale de théologie

Band: 100 (2010)

Heft: [1]: Globalization and catholicity : ecumenical conversations on god's abundance and the people's need

Artikel: Words from presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori

Autor: Jefferts Schori, Katharine

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-422207>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 03.04.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Words from Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori

† *The Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori*
Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church in the USA

If we are catholic churches (for the whole world), how are we to live within this whole world? I write in the immediate aftermath of a devastating earthquake in Haiti, one of the largest dioceses of The Episcopal Church. This disaster and the ensuing compassionate response of people across the world is a remarkable reminder of what is possible when we think catholically, when we remember that we are indeed the keepers of our brothers and sisters. The entire biblical vision is about a world where all God's children have access to abundant life.

In an age of increasing globalization, the ability of the world's churches to think catholically is of mounting importance. The very word *catholic* means 'toward wholeness' and is intrinsic to modeling, working toward, and achieving wholeness or healing or indeed salvation. Our vision must be like that of the ancient Hebrew prophets, who saw the Lord's temple as a beacon of light, toward which the nations would stream, seeking wisdom and greater life. That is our task as churches, and we cannot do it in isolation. The whole of the Body of Christ is needed to bring healing to the whole world. The whole of the Body of Christ bears greater light than any one portion.

Globalization has brought blessings as well as curses. We know more about both the plight and the joy of peoples across the globe. We find it easier to build and sustain relationships at a distance, relationships ideally nurtured by incarnate meetings as well as electronic ones. At the same time, our global economy is increasingly directed by large and often faceless corporate entities, making incarnate and prophetic accountability far more challenging. A catholic gathering of the catholic churches is far more able to name the need for accountability and energize the people of God in achieving that biblical vision of justice for the poor. Our theological focus on incarnation means that we privilege the needs of those whom Jesus calls the least of these (Matthew 25). Our focus on sacrament means that we privilege created matter in serving those least. Our salvation depends on doing both, for that is where we find Jesus.