

Zeitschrift: Internationale kirchliche Zeitschrift : neue Folge der Revue internationale de théologie
Band: 113 (2023)
Heft: 3-4
Vorwort: Editorial
Autor: Berlis, Angela

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: 01.02.2026

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

Editorial

Anglican–Old Catholic Theological Conferences address issues which are important to both church communions. Between 1957 and 1993, theologians who had been delegated by their respective churches met for regular consultations; since 2005, such conferences have been held in an open format at approximately five-year intervals. The 2023 conference took as its core theme for discussion “sacramental theology and the Church’s mission in contemporary culture”. The communiqué states that “the purpose of the conference was first the ecclesiological basis of the sacramental communion between the two families of churches, and then to explore how the theology of the church as communion could energize the witness and mission of both our communions in our time”. Voices from other churches in communion were involved in the theological exchange, including the Iglesia Filipina Independiente and the Church of Sweden. The proceedings appear in both the IKZ and the journal *Ecclesiology* (2024, ed. Paul Avis).

Representatives from our fellow churches have also been invited to the Old Catholic Congresses since their beginnings in the 19th century. This includes most recently the 33rd International Old Catholic Congress, which took place in early September 2022 in Bonn, on the topic “For Life: for Creation and the Church”. I extend my thanks to Vicar General Anja Goller (Bonn) for her assistance in compiling the documentation.

In 2023, changes in the episcopate were implemented in several of the Union of Utrecht’s member churches: in Austria, a female bishop was elected for the first time; in Poland, four new bishops were elected and consecrated at the same time; in Switzerland, the change was initiated by the incumbent bishop’s resignation. Many Old Catholic Churches have commemorated the beginning of their “independent ecclesiastical existence” (Urs Küry) over the last few years, whether that be 150 years ago (as a result of the disputes surrounding the First Vatican Council of 1869–1870) or 100 years ago (such as the Church in Croatia). The Old Catholic Church in the Netherlands looks back even further: in 1723, the Metropolitan Chapter claimed its traditional right to elect an Archbishop of Utrecht. Then as now, at heart the mission is about enabling Christians of an Old Catholic persuasion to access the sources of Christian faith (the Holy Scriptures and the sacraments), while shaping ecclesiastical and pastoral structures in a way that is simultaneously traditional and contemporary. Dealing with our chequered history can also energise our witness in our time.

Angela Berlis