

Abstract

The aim of the rigorous work called *Imagination as a Theological Term* is to grasp the theme of imagination in the field of theology both in theory and practice. The work is grounded on the theory of imagination of Paul Ricoeur, who approaches the theme from a linguistic perspective. The first chapter, which is devoted to Ricoeur's theory, introduces his concept of narrative, metaphor and symbol.

The second chapter deals with the theological reflexion of imagination from the point of view of three authors: J. H. Newman, K. Rahner and H. U. von Balthasar. Newman describes imagination by his distinction of real and notional assent. Rahner introduces the theme from the perspective of various kinds of arts, and von Balthasar comes with a concise project of theological aesthetics. These various points of view enable us to open several important questions. The chapter thus touches the theme of theological language which should appeal not only to the reason of the listeners but also to their heart. After that it shows how various kinds of art speak to us and on which condition they can serve as a theological expression. Finally, it introduces the theme of man as an imaginative being and shows that the language of imagination is also the language of God, who reveals himself to man by his creation, Holy Scripture and, finally, by his Son.

The whole work is concluded by the third chapter, which is focused on the work of an Irish theologian M. P. Gallagher and shows how the themes sketched in the previous chapters are reflected in practice.