Abstract


The Presbyter’s Spirit. Disciplinary and Doctrinal Antecedents of the Idea of “Synodality”

Sinodality is a new and not obvious phrase in theology and canon law. Not simply a sociological or political principle. It is not identical with the college of the bishops. This article examines a theological point of view, which might be a precedent of this new category. The community or collegial character of the presbyters’ office – which can be observed from the very beginning in the Jewish-Christian communities – according to the perception of the ancient Church comes from the idea of the presbyters receiving the gifts of the same Spirit when being ordained. We also have to take into consideration of the body of elders, working in the synagogues. The Christian presbyterium acts as a community along with the bishop in the celebration of the Eucharist, the ordination of the presbyters, exercising jurisdiction, handling the goods of the Church, and also explaining the Holy Scriptures. This body was very early paralleled with the college of the Apostles.

Keywords: sinodality; college of presbyters; ordaining the priests; the Holy Spirit given to a community; the spirit of the Temple of Jerusalem; “transferring” the Holy Spirit to the Christians.