

Catholic Identity and the Year of Faith

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The question of Catholic Identity became a central part of the year of faith through Benedict XVI's request in *Porta Fidei* of a public confession of faith on the part of the individual Catholics and Catholic organizations. This call to public witness constitutes a challenge toward contemporary trends of secularization in the Western world, which rest upon a growing distance between the dominant late modern culture and a traditional Christian ethos. To make sense of the present situation, we need to connect the demand of a new explicitness of faith with the forces of globalization that radically transform the societies in which such a confession is to take place. The main argument of the article is that the emerging globalized world society constitutes a new opportunity for the Catholic Church to realize the universality inherent in the notion of catholicity. Further, it will be shown that the hermeneutics of ecclesial continuity interpreted as a form of organic growth will be vital for such a development.

Key Subject Words

Hermeneutics of continuity, globalization, new evangelization, secularization, culture.