“Tilling and Caring for the Earth”. Public Theology and Ecology

Author(s): Heinrich Bedford-Strohm
Subject(s): Christian Theology and Religion
Published by: Facultatea de Teologie Ortodoxă Alba Iulia
Keywords: christians; dechristianization; theology; inclusivism; Justin the Martyr; seeds of the Logos; Vatican II deals; divine holiness; Holy Spirit
Summary/Abstract: One of the challenges that Christians face today, especially in the West, is dechristianization. In theology, there are some tendencies: on one hand, one may speak about inclusivism, and one of the forerunners of this trend is St. Justin the Martyr, who discovers in all the other religions “seeds of the Logos”. Another trend which is opposed to the former is the exclusivism, which views any other religion as a dangerous opponent. Nowadays, one may witness a new trend that considers any
This article examines the task of public theology in contributing to the public debate by drawing from theological resources for ethical orientation and at the same time explaining why this orientation makes good sense for all people of good will. From a concrete example, the different factors involved in political decisions on ecologically relevant issues are revealed.