

Contents

A Note on Orthography	xi
Abbreviations of Key Documents, Reference Works, and Organizations	xiii
Introduction	1
<i>A New General Introduction</i>	2
<i>Defining the Terms</i>	4
Theology	4
A Christian Theology	5
A Christian Theology of Religious Pluralism	7
Theology of Religious Pluralism	10
Toward	11
<i>Questions about Method</i>	13
<i>Outline and Sequence of the Work</i>	20
 Part I AN OVERVIEW OF CHRISTIAN APPROACHES TO RELIGIONS	 25
 One	
The Religions of the Nations in the Bible	29
I. <i>Israel and the Nations</i>	31
A. God's "Cosmic Covenant" with Humankind	31
B. The Pagan Saints of the Old Testament	34
C. The God of Israel and the Gods of the Nations	37
D. A Universal Economy: Word, Wisdom, and Spirit	41
II. <i>The New Testament and the Nations</i>	45
A. Jesus and the Pagans	45
B. The Apostolic Church and the Nations	48
 Two	
The Cosmic Christ in the Early Fathers	53
I. <i>Saint Justin and the Logos-Sower</i>	57
II. <i>Saint Irenaeus and the Revealing Word</i>	60
III. <i>Clement of Alexandria and the Covenant of Philosophy</i>	66
IV. <i>Hermeneutics of the Early Logos-Theology</i>	70
V. <i>Toward a Theology of History</i>	77

<i>Three</i>	
No Salvation outside the Church?	84
I. <i>The Evolution of a Controverted Axiom</i>	86
A. The Fathers of the Church before Augustine	86
B. Saint Augustine and After	90
C. The Church's Magisterium: Popes and Councils	93
II. <i>The Hermeneutics of the Axiom</i>	96
A. Interpreting the Axiom in the Historical Context	97
B. The Meaning of the Axiom for Today	99
III. <i>Positive Attitudes toward Religions</i>	102
<i>Four</i>	
The Substitutes for the Gospel	110
I. <i>The Substitutes in the Theological Tradition</i>	112
A. Evangelization beyond Death	112
B. Destination to Limbo	113
C. Toward Implicit Faith in Jesus Christ	114
D. The Fundamental Option in Reaching the Age of Reason	116
E. The Theology of the Act of Dying	117
F. The Flowering of Implicit Faith	118
II. <i>Implicit Faith and Desire for Baptism in the Church's Magisterium</i>	120
A. The Council of Trent	120
B. Baianism and Jansenism Condemned	121
C. Nineteenth-Century Popes	122
D. The Twentieth-Century Magisterium before Vatican II	126
<i>Five</i>	
Theological Perspectives Surrounding Vatican II	130
I. <i>The Fulfillment Theory</i>	133
A. Jean Daniélou on Cosmic Religion and Christian Revelation	134
B. Henri de Lubac on Christianity as the Axis of God's Plan	137
C. Hans Urs von Balthasar on Christ the "Concrete Universal"	140
II. <i>The Mystery of Christ in the Religious Traditions</i>	143
A. Karl Rahner on "Anonymous Christianity"	143
B. Raimon Panikkar on the "Unknown Christ"	149
C. Hans Küng on "Ways of Salvation"	153
D. Gustave Thils on "Mediations of Salvation"	156
<i>Six</i>	
Vatican II and the Postconciliar Magisterium on Religions	158
I. <i>Vatican II, a Watershed?</i>	161
A. Positive Values Enshrined in the Religious Traditions	162
B. Contrasting Interpretations	165
C. A Balanced Critical Appraisal	168
II. <i>The Postconciliar Magisterium</i>	170
A. The Pontificate of Paul VI	170
B. The Pontificate of John Paul II	173

*Seven***The Debate over Theology of Religions 180****I. *Shifting Paradigms* 185**

A. From Ecclesiocentrism to Christocentrism 185

B. From Christocentrism to Theocentrism 186

C. The Christological Question 190

II. *Further Models and Beyond* 193

A. Regnocentrism and Soteriocentrism 193

B. Logocentrism and Pneumatocentrism 195

C. Beyond Western Categories 198

Part II**ONE GOD — ONE CHRIST — CONVERGENT PATHS 203**

*Eight***History and Covenants: One and Many 211****I. *God and Peoples in History* 215**

A. Salvation History, Particular or Universal? 215

B. General and Special 219

C. Trinitarian and Christic 220

II. *Covenanted Peoples of God* 223

A. One or Several Covenants? 223

B. The Trinitarian Rhythm of the Divine Covenants 227

C. "The Covenant Never Revoked" 228

D. Enduring Value of the Cosmic Covenant 233

*Nine***Word of God — Single and Universal 235****I. *Revelation and World Religions* 237**

A. Models of Divine Revelation 237

B. God "Without" or the Absolute "Within": Ecstasy and "Instasy" 239

C. The Trinitarian Structure of Revelation 242

II. *Revelation, Past and Present* 244

A. Word of God and Sacred Books 244

B. Fullness of Revelation in Jesus Christ 248

C. Revelation, Differentiated and Complementary 250

*Ten***Faces of the Divine Mystery 254****I. *The "Ultimate Reality": One and Three* 257**

A. The "Real" beyond the "Personae" and the "Impersonae"? 257

B. "Our God and Your God, Is One" 259

C. The Triune God as Ultimately Real 262

II. *Hindu Mysticism and Christian Mystery* 268A. *Advaita* Experience and Jesus' Consciousness 268B. *Saccidananda* and the Trinity 274

C. Complementarity or Convergence? 278

Eleven

Jesus Christ — One and Universal	280
I. <i>One Saving Figure among Others?</i>	284
A. The Christian Tradition Revisited	284
B. Contrasting Claims to Uniqueness	289
C. Christological Hermeneutics	292
II. <i>The Human Face of God</i>	294
A. Jesus Is the Christ: Distinction and Identity	294
B. Particular and Universal	297
C. Searching Christology	301

Twelve

Paths to Salvation	305
I. <i>Which Salvation? Which Liberation?</i>	307
A. Different Religious Ends?	307
B. Various Paths to a Common Goal	313
II. <i>Mediations of Salvation</i>	316
A. "Many and Various Ways"	316
B. Discerning Saving Values	321
C. Complementary Values and Convergent Paths	326

Thirteen

The Reign of God, the Religions, and the Church	330
I. <i>The Universality of the Reign of God</i>	333
A. A Survey of Recent Theology of God's Reign	333
B. Jesus and the Reign of God	342
C. Co-members and Co-builders of the Reign of God	344
II. <i>The Church and the Religions in the Reign of God</i>	347
A. The Necessity of the Church	347
B. The Church, Sacrament of the Kingdom	353
C. Reign of God and Eschatology	356

Fourteen

Interfaith Dialogue — Praxis and Theology	358
I. <i>Dialogue Is Evangelization</i>	360
A. A Review of the Recent Magisterium	360
B. "Mission Is Dialogue"?	370
C. Interfaith Dialogue and Liberation Practice	374
II. <i>Theology of Dialogue</i>	377
A. The Challenges of Dialogue	377
B. The Fruits of Dialogue	381

<i>Fifteen</i>	
Conclusion	385
I. <i>Religious Pluralism</i>	386
II. <i>Relational Unity</i>	387
III. <i>Convergence — Historical and Eschatological</i>	389
Bibliography	391
Index of Biblical Citations	425
Index of Names	431
Appendix 1	434
<i>Notification of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on Toward a Christian Theology of Religious Pluralism (24 January 2001)</i>	
Appendix 2	439
<i>Statement of Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., Superior General of the Society of Jesus (26 February 2001)</i>	
Appendix 3	440
<i>Foreword to the Indian Edition by Henry D'Souza, Archbishop of Calcutta (1 May 2001)</i>	