THE DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY THIRTEENTH ANNUAL HOLY SPIRIT LECTURE

Discerning The Holy Spirit in the World of Religious Pluralism(s), Secularism(s), and Science(s):
A Multilayered Constructive Christian Vision of Pneumatology For The Third Millennium

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2019 | 4:00 p.m.
Charles J. Dougherty Ballroom,
Power Center, Fifth Floor
600 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA

FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST
Rev. Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen,
Dr. Theol. Habil
Professor of Systematic Theology
Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California

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Duquesne University is proud to host Discerning the Holy Spirit in the World of Religious Pluralism(s), Secularism(s), and Science(s): A Multilayered Constructive Christian Vision of Pneumatology for the Third Millennium, the Thirteenth Annual Holy Spirit Lecture and Colloquium. Our special guest, Rev. Dr. Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen (Dr. Theol. Habil.), Professor of Systematic Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary, will explore this theme during his lecture at 4:00 p.m. in the Duquesne University Charles J. Dougherty Ballroom in the Power Center. Dr. Kärkkäinen also will join other scholars from the nation and abroad to explore this captivating topic at a private colloquium on the following day.

Designed to develop the intellectual spirit, the Annual Holy Spirit Lecture and Colloquium was initiated in 2005, as an expression of Duquesne’s mission and charism, as a University founded by the Congregation of the Holy Spirit and dedicated to the Holy Spirit.

This ongoing series of lectures and colloquia encourage the exploration of various themes pertaining to the theology of the Holy Spirit. This in-depth engagement of pneumatology in dialogue with multiple disciplines and contextual realities is aimed at fostering scholarship as well as a heightened awareness of the work of God’s spirit in all spheres of life.

You are most cordially invited to join us for this special lecture and reception. Registration is requested. To register, visit duq.edu/holyspirit or email holyspirit@duq.edu. Parking is available in the Forbes Avenue Garage for a nominal fee.

Rev. Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen,
Dr. Theol. Habil.
Professor of Systematic Theology
Fuller Theological Seminary,
Pasadena, California

Rev. Dr. Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen (Dr. Theol. Habil., University of Helsinki) is Professor of Systematic Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA and Docent of Ecumenics at the University of Helsinki. He did his post-doctoral work on ecumenical pneumatology at St. John’s University and Abbey in Collegeville, MN, under the mentorship of Fr. Killian McDonell, OSB. A native of Finland, he has also lived and taught theology in Thailand, and continues participating widely in ecumenical, theological, and interreligious work. Among over 30 books written and edited, the most recent project includes the five-volume series titled Constructive Christian Theology for the Pluralistic World (Eerdmans 2013–17) which develops a full-scale systematic theology in a critical dialogue with Christian tradition, including global and contextual interpretations, natural sciences, and four living faiths. Dr. Kärkkäinen is an ordained Lutheran minister (ELCA) and serves as Associate Pastor for Finnish Lutheran Church in California and Texas. He is a sought-after lecturer, speaker, and preacher and an appointed member of the Academy of Sciences in Finland.

Abstract

The doctrine of the Holy Spirit and discernment of the divine presence in the world has always generated lively debate. Traditional approaches of understanding the Spirit’s work confined mainly (although, not exclusively) to Trinity and “spiritual” realms such as revelation, salvation, spirituality, and the church, with only occasional notes on her role in creation, public sphere, and particularly among religions.

This presentation seeks to re-imagine Christian pneumatology in a radically new key. This plural and multilayered vision allows us to discern the presence and work of the Spirit of God in cosmos, in the secular and religiously pluralistic world and society, as well as in Christian life at both ecclesial and personal levels. No need to mention that this kind of authentically Christian re-imaging can only be accomplished in an integral Trinitarian framework.

In difference from the “unitive” paradigm in which only one Spirit (of God) is considered, while the rest of the spiritual realities are dismissed, the plural paradigm engages critically spiritual “powers” and energies (as in traditional “angelology”), the Spirit(s) in other religions, the spirit(s) of the public realm (as in sciences, politics, and economy), and the spiritual aspects of (post-) secularism. And in difference from the traditional limited conception of the Spirit’s work to the “spiritual,” the multilayered and complex account of pneumatology seeks to envision the Spirit’s work in all aspects of the world and life.

While his multilayered and radically inclusive pneumatology is refreshing, it also poses significant questions and challenges which will be taken up and discussed.

Christine M. Helmer, Ph.D.
Respondent to Keynote Lecture
Professor of German and Religious Studies
Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

Christine M. Helmer, Ph. D. is Professor of German and Religious Studies at Northwestern University. In 2017, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Theology from the University of Helsinki. She is the editor (and co-editor) of numerous volumes in the areas of Schleiermacher studies, biblical theology, philosophical theology, and Luther studies, including the forthcoming The Medieval Luther (Mohr Siebeck 2020). She is the author of Theology and the End of Doctrine (Westminster John Knox 2014) and How Luther Became the Reformer (Westminster John Knox 2019).