

THE TRINITY AS MODEL: TANNER AND LACUGNA ON THE TRINITY AND THE SHAPING OF HUMAN COMMUNITY

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ABSTRACT

In the fifth chapter of *Christ the Key*, entitled “Politics,” Kathryn Tanner is critical of theologians who consider the Trinity to be a model for the ordering of human society. She offers Christology as a simpler and more direct avenue than social trinitarianism for formulating judgments on social and political matters. While she includes Catherine LaCugna in her list of five important theologians who look to the Trinity as a model, Tanner makes very little reference to her in the course of the chapter. As a response to such near silence, this article examines LaCugna’s theology in the light of the arguments presented by Tanner, contending that, while there are some fundamental points of difference, there are also some significant similarities between Tanner’s and LaCugna’s views. The article concludes that the ideas of both scholars provide insights into ways in which the gospel and Christian doctrine can shape our thinking about living well in community.

KEYWORDS

LaCugna (Catherine Mowry) 1952-1997, Tanner (Kathryn) 1957-, Trinity, Christology, Community – Religious aspects – Christianity, Relation (Theology)