

Bergische Universität Wuppertal  
In Cooperation with the Bischöfliche Akademie Aachen

**Confessing Together our Faith Today  
in God Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

1200 Year Anniversary  
Synod of Aachen 809

International Theological Symposium

September 23-26, 2009

Patronage

*Metropolitan Augustinos von Deutschland*  
*Bishop Heinrich Mussinghoff*  
*Praeses Dr. Nikolaus Schneider*

*In the year 809, exactly 1200 years ago, a Frankish council took place in Aachen. It was used as a theological justification for the introduction of the filioque into the Latin version of the Creed of Nicene and Constantinople (NC), in reaction to the first East-West conflict concerning the use of the filioque in the creed of the liturgy -- a controversy between Frankish and Greek monks in the St. Sabas monastery in Jerusalem (807/808). There, the Greek monk Johannes had characterized the filioque in the creed of the Frankish monks as heretical. The controversy came via Rome to the court of Charlemagne and was the occasion for this council. As a result, the wording of the NC stood in the center of the discussion for the first time. The Decretum Aquisgranense de processione spiritus sancti, was prepared on the basis of the collection of testimonia of Arnus von Salzburg (H. Willjung) in Aachen in 809 and attempted to demonstrate the theological appropriateness of the filioque. It is considered to be the "first literary product of the filioque controversy" (P. Gemeinhardt).*

*The dogmatic question regarding the filioque and also the catechetically motivated incorporation of the filioque into the NC, were already important issues in the history of the church and theology before the decree. In Aachen one held that the procession of the Holy Spirit from the Father and the Son - based on a certain hermeneutical reception of the patristic tradition - was theologically founded and that consequently, the form of the text was correct. Orthodox faith should find expression in orthodox confession and in order to preserve orthodox faith, it is permissible to formulate the creed more clearly through interpretive additions. In Rome Pope Leo III., to whom the results of the Synod of Aachen were delivered and explained in 810, accounted it theologically justified, but at the same time he wanted to keep the NC without the filioque, believing that the text of the creed should not be modified.*

*Here, twelve hundred years after the Council of Aachen, we will attempt to bring about a new theological and ecumenical understanding. We cordially invite you to participate in a rereading of the Decretum Aquisgranense from a historical/systematic, ecumenical perspective in this international and multilateral theological symposium.<sup>1</sup>*

Prof. Dr. Michael Böhnke  
Bergische Universität  
Wuppertal

Dr. Karl Allgaier  
Bischöfliche  
Akademie Aachen

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<sup>1</sup> **The program was created by an oecumenical workgroup: Members:** Prof. Dr. Thomas Bremer, **Münster**, Prof. Dr. Viorel Ionita, **Bukarest/Genf**, Prof. Dr. Peter Gemeinhardt, **Göttingen**, Prof. Dr. Assaad E. Kattan, **Münster**, Prof. Dr. Bernd Oberdorfer, **Augsburg**, und Prof. Dr. Michael Böhnke, **Wuppertal**.

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Program

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

4:30 pm Introduction and Opening of the Symposium

*Prof. Dr. Lambert T. Koch*, Rector of the Bergische Universität Wuppertal

5:00 pm Keynote Lectures

**The Meaning of Trinitarian Theology Today in East and West**

*Prof. Dr. Athanasios Vletsis*, Munich

*Prof. Dr. Bernd Oberdorfer*, Augsburg

6:30 pm Dinner

8:00 pm Western and Byzantine Music in the Cathedral of Aachen

Followed by a Guided Tour of the Cathedral

Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009

9:00 am Historical Section

**The Council of Aachen 809 in its Context**

East and West circa 800

*Prof. Dr. Klaus Herbers*, Erlangen

11:00 am Historical Section

**The Theology of the Synod of Aachen 809**

The Procession of the Holy Spirit in the Western Tradition until the Beginning of the 9<sup>th</sup> Century from the Orthodox Perspective

*Prof. Dr. Joost Van Rossum*, Paris

The Theological Argumentation for the Filioque in the Experts' Appraisals at Aachen

*Prof. Dr. Igor Pochoshajew*, Rostock

12:30 pm Lunch

3:00 pm Historical Section

**The Patristic Hermeneutics of the Synod of Aachen 809**

How are Patristic Theologians received in the Decretum Aquisgranense? An Analysis from Western and Eastern Perspectives

*Prof. Dr. Marcus Plested, Cambridge (UK)*

*Prof. Dr. Pablo Argárate, Toronto*

*Prof. Dr. Peter Gemeinhardt, Göttingen*

5:00 pm Working Groups

Moderated Discussion Groups (English and German)

6:30 pm Dinner

8:00 pm Public Lecture in the Aula Carolina

**Charlemagne – Former of Faith?**

*Prof. Dr. Max Kerner, Aachen*

Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009

9:00 am Dogmatic Section

**Faith in the Triune God**

The Relationship between the Economic and Immanent Trinity

The Significance of the Economy of Salvation for Knowledge of the Eternal Being of God

*Prof. Dr. Georg Essen, Nijmegen*

The Relationship between the Economy of Salvation and Theology of Immanence: On Fundamental Epistemological Principles of Trinitarian Doctrine

*Prof. Dr. Assaad E. Kattan, Münster*

11:00 am Dogmatic section

**Faith in the Triune God**

The Relationship among the Trinitarian Persons and their Common Essence

The Unity of God and the Relations between Father, Son, and Spirit from Western and Orthodox Perspectives

*PD Dr. Matthias Haudel, Münster*

*Rev. Prof. Dr. Michel Stavrou, Paris*

12:30 pm Lunch

3:00 pm Ecumenical Section

### **The Filioque in Ecumenical Dialogue**

The Results of Previous Dialogues

*Dr. Johannes Oeldemann, Paderborn*

The Filioque and the Question of Creedal Hermeneutics in Individual Christian Churches

*PD Dr. Reinhard Flogaus, Berlin*

5:00 pm Working Groups

Moderated Discussion Groups (English and German)

7:00 pm **Ecumenical Vespers in the Cathedral of Aachen**

8:00 pm Reception in the Cathedral Choir School

Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009

9:00 am Ecumenical section:

### **Confessing Together our Faith Today in God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**

Hermeneutical and Theological Perspectives

Statements and Podium:

*Prof. Dr. Viorel Ionita, Bukarest/Genf*

*Prof. Dr. Assaad E. Kattan, Münster*

*Prof. Dr. Bernd Oberdorfer, Augsburg*

*Prof. Dr. Peter Gemeinhardt, Göttingen*

*Prof. Dr. Michael Böhnke, Wuppertal*

Moderation:

*Prof. Dr. Thomas Bremer, Münster*

11:30 am Closing Session

Reports of the Listeners:

*Evgenij Pilipenko, Münster*

a.o.

1:00 pm Lunch and End of the Symposium

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Languages of this symposium are German and English

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