

Au cœur du monde. L'engagement du chrétien dans la société
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Jean-Marie Faux SJ, *Au cœur du monde. L'engagement du chrétien dans la société*. (In the heart of the world. A Christian commitment to society). Brussels, Éditions Lumen Vitae (Trajectoires collection, 20), 2009, 131 p.

This study intends to offer a theological foundation to Christian social and civic commitment and demonstrate its central nature. Christians are not separate from society, they live in the heart of the world. They share with their human sisters and brothers responsibility for creating a just world, a world according to the heart of God. It is thus necessary to encourage those who refer to the Christian faith to examine critically the way in which their faith underpins their commitment as citizens of the world today.

The key to the work is the reference to the Kingdom of God which occupies a central position in the Gospels, in close relation to the figure of Jesus Christ. The author proposes an exegetic journey to observe more deeply this historic reference and deploy it through time, as well as an updated analysis and situating of this commitment today, together with its community dimension. The Church will be situated here as community of the disciples of Christ, in the service of this Kingdom which expands in the heart of the world.

The world we live in today is both unified and divided. "In this context, what is important?", asks the author at the end of the book. "It seems to us," he writes "what is important is to rediscover faith in the human being, trust in the best of themselves, the call to freedom and awareness raising among men and women of good will. What is important for Christians is to commit themselves with others to this common task, bringing all the resources of the heart and spirit brought them by the Good News of Jesus Christ, and above all with unwavering hope. "Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39).

Jean-Marie Faux is a Belgian Jesuit and a theologian (emeritus professor at the Institute of Theological Studies in Brussels). At the same time for many years now he has been actively involved in numerous associations working for human rights and the creation of a just world. He is currently administrator of MRAX (Movement against Racism and Xenophobia) and a member of Centre AVEC (Social Research and Action Centre - Brussels). It is on the basis of situations experienced in the field that he has been inspired to re-examine the scriptural foundations of the Christian faith and write this reflection.

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*Original French
 Translation by Judy Reeves*