


Theology of healing in relation to God's mission



A Holistic, Eucharistic and
Latinoamerican approach/Provocations
about healing and mission.

Importance of theology today...



- For many influencers, theology has nothing to do with meaning and the 'real world'
- Since Elon Musk was a teenager: He didn't find any meaning in the biblical narratives or philosophy, but in the understanding of the universe (as he learned reading *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* from Douglas Adams, a radical atheist)

The immanent and economic Trinity are the same

“ We are starting out from the proposition that the economic Trinity is the immanent Trinity and vice versa” **Karl Ranher**

“Economic” has to do with the History of Salvation, and discussing the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the sending and mission of salvation. In this case, “immanent” means “the action remaining within an agent.” The immanent Trinity would be a discussion of the eternal, essential, and ontological aspects of the Trinity.

The immanent and economic Trinity are the same

"The salvation-economy fatherhood of God **is** the inner-divine fatherhood, and vice versa.



The salvation-economy filiation **is** the inner-divine filiation, and vice versa.



The Spirit of God at work in salvation history **is** the inner-divine Spirit, and vice versa.




The missions **are** the processions, and vice versa.




The salvation-economy relations **are** the inner-divine ones, and vice versa."

The meaning of *Mysterium Salutis*

The linguistic meaning of *Mysterium Salutis* is better understood in my study utilizing Latin and Spanish, where *salutis* and *salud* are synonyms.



The terms justification, redemption, and salvation together explain better this mystery of salvation that is central in Christianity.



The relation between salvation and *salud* (health) is a key idea in this Cycle. Healing connected with the meaning of Jesus (Yahweh saves) as Savior and Lord

“To ignore Scripture is to ignore Christ” St. Jerome

- “And now to him who can make you strong in accordance with the gospel that I preach and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, in accordance with that **mystery** which for endless ages was kept secret but now (as the prophets wrote) is revealed, as the eternal God commanded, to be made known to all the nations, so that they obey in faith: to him, the only wise God, give glory through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen. ”
(Rom 16:25-27)
- “in whom, through his blood, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins. Such is the richness of the grace which he has showered on us in all wisdom and insight. He has let us know the **mystery** of his, purpose, the hidden **Plan** he so kindly made in Christ from the beginning to act upon when the times had run their course to the end: that he would bring everything together under Christ, as head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth”. (Eph 1:7-10)

Phases of *Mysterium Salutis*

It is God's plan to introduce the human being in Christ to the life of the Trinity.



For a long time, it was the hidden secret of God.

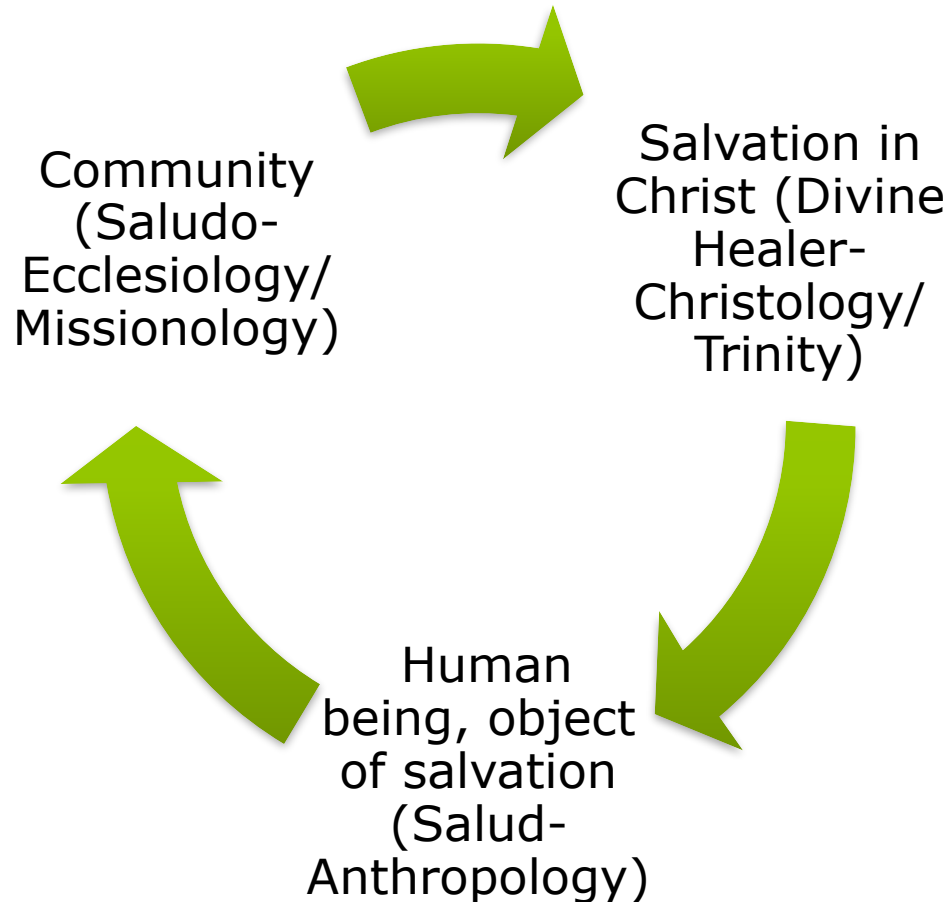


From then on, the **mission** of the Church became announcing this **mystery** of love until the end universally.



However, one day it was revealed through his son Jesus Christ, through his passion, death and resurrection.

Phases/Treatises of *Mysterium Salutis*



Mysteriu Salutis vs Mysterium Iniquitatis

I wanted you to know how people ought to behave in God's family – that is, in the ***Church of the living God, which upholds the truth and keeps it safe.***

Without any doubt, the ***mystery of our religion*** is very deep indeed:

He was made visible in the flesh,
attested by the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed to the pagans,
believed in by the world,
taken up in glory.

1 Tim 3, 15-16

The **mystery of iniquity**/rebellion is at its work already, but in secret, and the one who is holding it back (***Katejon***) has first to be removed before the Rebel appears openly.

But when the Rebel/Wicked comes, Satan will set to work: there will be all kinds of miracles and a ***deceptive show of signs*** and portents, and everything evil that can deceive those who are bound for destruction because they would ***not grasp the love of the truth*** which could have saved them.

2 Thes 2,7-9

Holistic approach in this study:

Systematic theology(harmonizing different treatises and hermeneutics of continuity)

Philosophy (philosophical synthesis and existential)proposal of Gabriel Marcel

Social and pastoral approach in post modern era from Latino American authors, Lipovetsky and Bauman

Psychiatry/Psychology: Meaning of life from Victor Frankl

Liturgy/Eschatology: Eucharist as origin and culmination of spiritual life.

Holistic Approach

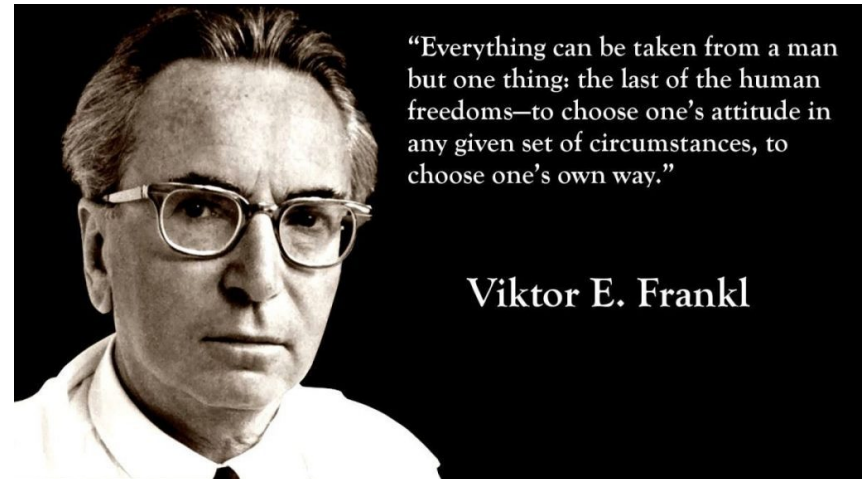
- The term holistic is characterized by the belief that the parts of something are interconnected and can be explained only by reference to the whole.
- linked also to the work of synthesis and complementarity especially when we talked about theologies from 'above' and from 'below' that could coexist in reciprocity, and not necessarily in opposition.
- The Bible and consequently theology, together with philosophy, are the greater disciplines to promote a holistic vision of human being and history.
- Philosophy of history are the works of Hegel. In his book *Phenomenology of the Spirit*, he exposes the different stages of human history in philosophical terms, obviously from his political and social perspective.
- Another example is given by Augustine. He offers us a theology of history in his book *The City of God*. He explains how God manifests himself through history to save the human being.
- *Daniel and the Apocalypse*, which are works of theology of history and give a holistic and eschatological vision that includes a historical, political, moral, and spiritual vision.

Latin American countries have experienced the development of two ecclesial movements; The theology of liberation and charismatic movement: Looking for a holistic approaches.

- The theology of liberation with its interest in social welfare for the poor. Yet, there are efforts to reconcile the different elements of these two streams of spirituality. For instance, some congregations have complemented their social action with prayer workshops and interest in developing a deeper spiritual life based on Scripture.
- Evangelical and Charismatic movements motivating a spiritual renewal of the believers. Have matured in their understanding of the gifts of the Holy Spirit by developing strong ministries to the poor and needy. Therefore, each group has evolved by integrating new practices in their community life. For instance, the collaboration of different disciplines has created a more complete understanding and practice on healing.

Viktor Frankl and Logotherapy (Healing by meaning)

- ❑ “They died less from lack of food or medicine than from lack of hope or lack of something to live for.” In other words, they died from lack of meaning.
- ❑ The search for meaning is not an abstract meaning but something very concrete. Such meaning is an ontological need, an existential condition of the human being.
- ❑ Search for meaning according recent neuroscience research has to do with common sense, as instinct looking for inner peace, hope and love amid suffering.



Frankl's Logotherapy

- The term logos, used by Frankl in a philosophical sense. Logos is related to the meaning of life. This term is better understood as a focus on the future rather than the past as Freud's psychoanalysis had proposed. Freud's proposal works as a defense mechanism to respond to problems which can be called neuroses. Logotherapy through meaning deals with present problems, using the human will and freedom, emphasizing the future.
- The guides that Frankl offers have been a sure guide for my ministry. The existentialist context of his proposal has been a key since it touches the concrete human being, the real man or woman with whom we can all identify during difficult moments in our Christian journey. In this sense, the teachings and insights of existentialism have much to say not just to my people in Odessa and Tulsa, but to all the postmodern generation who often try to escape from suffering and pain as something dangerous, instead of facing it in order to be healed and find meaning in life.

Gabriel Marcel and his Phenomenology and Metaphysics of Hope

Marcel's hope is fearless, is rooted in love, grows with love, and is inseparable from faith. Such hope is open to miracles, to receiving and asking healing in prayer as a gift and is the kind of hope that is always ready to risk because it is not subject to consumerism and a triviality of having. From those concepts of hope emanate countless actions in favor of individuals that arrive in our parishes and missions to receive a word, a smile, a prayer, or a charitable gift. Our neighborhoods and communities, as well, could receive countless blessings through our ministries even if those ministries are small efforts, but driven by love.

**There is only one
suffering: to be
lonely**

~ Gabriel Marcel ~



www.StatusMind.com

Gabriel Marcel and his Phenomenology and Metaphysics of Hope

Today, the 'global agendas', seems to exacerbate more the reality: growing poverty that marginalize millions of people surviving without having space(homeless), facilitating war industry, inflation, more people experiencing issues about, identity crisis, fragility in relations, loss of liberty, etc.

Marcel's contribution to this time of crisis is to persuade us to have hope and love in the face of impending despair or emotional illness. It is that hope, says Marcel, that allows us to **overcome despair**, and to **risk** in our mission to heal the world.

Latino American approach



- ❑ Mexican-American theologian Virgilio Elizondo in his book ***The Future is Mestizo*** is helpful here. Elizondo argues that the cultural conditioning of a people is not just an aid to the proclamation of the gospel, but the medium through which God chooses to reveal himself.
- ❑ The 2020 Census shows how the Latino community continues to grow faster than other groups. “The Hispanic or Latino population, which includes people of any race, was 62.1 million in 2020. The Hispanic or Latino population grew 23%, while the population that was not of Hispanic or Latino origin grew 4.3% since 2010.”

Latino American approach

- In Latin American culture, the predominant religion has been Roman Catholicism and the predominant language is Spanish. It is a universe of cultures in which syncretism has been overcome **and the gospel has been enculturated** with good synthesis examples. There also exist examples where violence, exploitation have been experienced and where syncretism is strong with aberrations that are still in force to this day. It is enough to mention the present resurgence of worship to the goddess pachamama (mother earth).



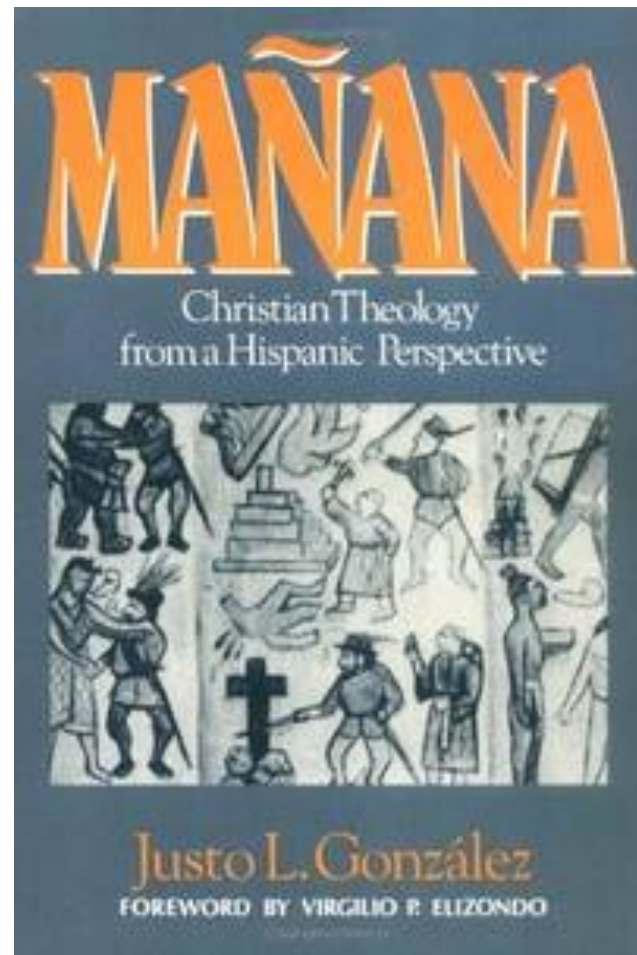
[\(8\) Takillakkta - Gloria Misa Andina \(Acordes\) - YouTube](#)

Latino American approach

- “Most of us were born within that church and still belong to it. Others were Protestants from the time of birth. Many, born Roman Catholics, are now Protestants. Still others have no ecclesiastical connection whatsoever. But still somewhere in our common background, there stands the Spanish-American Roman Catholic Church.”

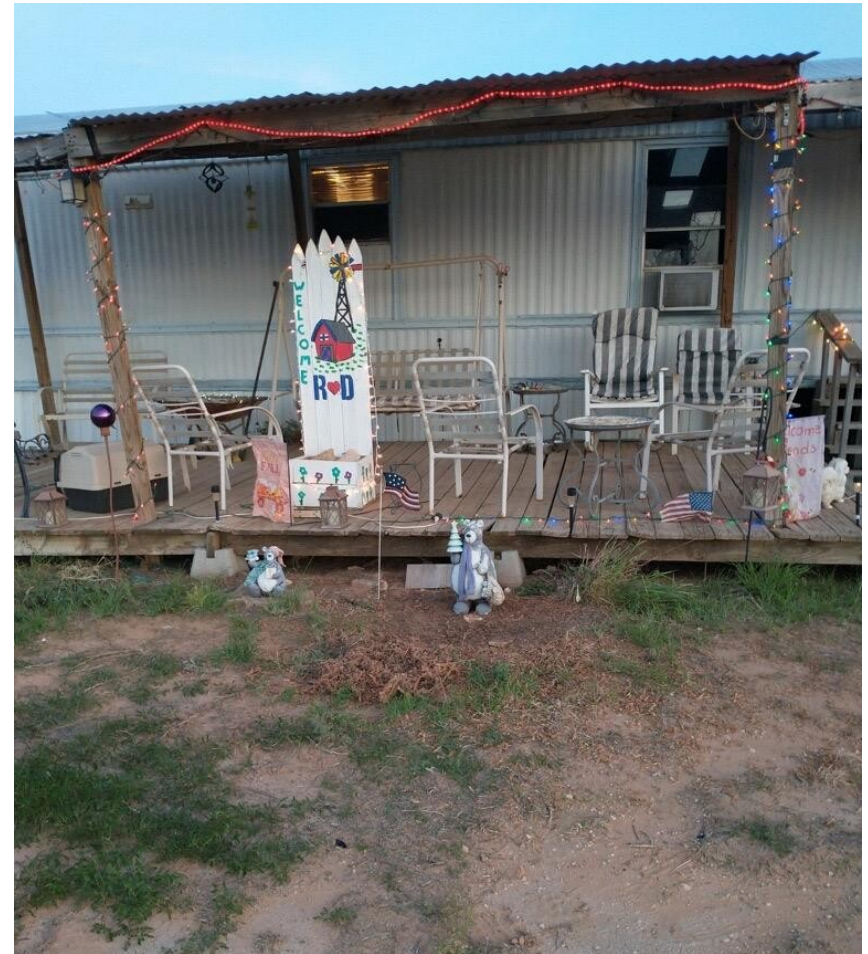
Justo L. Gonzalez,

- *Mañana, Christian Theology from Hispanic Perspective*, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990), 55.

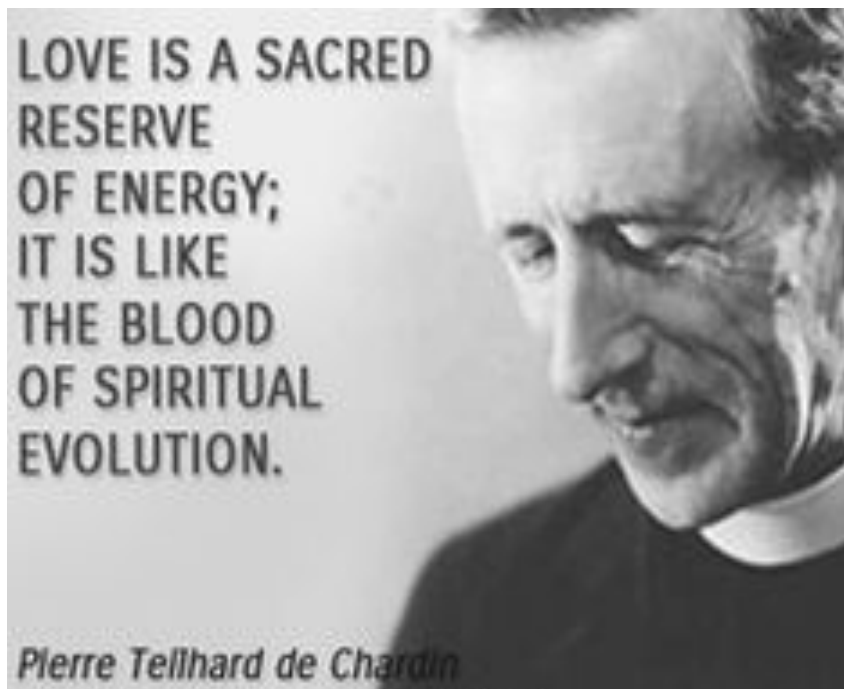


Eucharist approach

- In my ministry, I have been ministering in the Latino congregations of San Miguel, Odessa, TX, and Espiritu Santo, Tulsa, OK, in their respective contexts. I touched their 'wounds' in my pastoral practice. Those 'wounds' are identified as a sense of despair about low-paying and heavy jobs, lack of meaning in life, spiritual, emotional, and physical sufferings, and social marginalization.
- These problems are addressed through diverse kinds of holistic actions, but their culmination is always healing in the context of the ***Eucharist***.



Eucharist approach



- Liturgy is the culmination of all theological reflections, pastoral actions, and all kinds of human activities.
- The ***Eucharist is the heart of liturgy.*** Eucharist is a ***Cycle of Love***, love received from God and at same time is love offered from us to God.
- Every Eucharist is curative. The Eucharist's different moments also help us to find salud.
- Yet healing is not a goal itself but a means to glorify God in Jesus Christ.

Conclusions/Provocations

- “In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the **Plan** of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be **for the praise of his glory.** *Eph 1,4-6*
- And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to **the praise of his glory.**” *Eph 1, 13-14*

“What shall I return to the LORD for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.”



“The only dead are those whom we no longer love.” So long as we love, there is hope which says “you, you in particular, will never die.”



The Great Commission ...or The Great Ommission... Mt 28, 18- 20



“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.”

Questions/provocations

1. Share your experience of synthesizing theologies from 'above' and 'below.' How are you trying to unite theologies from 'below' and from 'above' in your spiritual journey?
2. Share your experience of doing holistic work in your personal life and ministry, especially in your global mission work.
3. Share new learnings or commitments about healing linked to mission.

Muchas Gracias por su atencion!!!