

4. The Ukrainian Catholic Church in the Light of Contemporary Ecclesiology.



Originally published in *Oriental Churches Theological Dimensions*, Xavier Koodapuzha, ed., Vadavathoor, Kottayam, India: Oriental Institute of Religious Studies, 1988, pp. 288-321.

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The Church is a mystery which cannot be defined, it has been represented by many literary images and expressions. The best-known are "Body of Christ," "Mystical Body of Christ," "Kingdom of Heaven" or "Kingdom of God," "People of God," "Bride of Christ," etc. The multitude of terms proves only too well that the mystery of the Church is greater than any existing term or concept.¹ Pope Pius XII, in his famous encyclical *Mystici Corporis Christi*, clearly stated that the Church is the visible Mystical Body of Christ.² The organic and hierarchical constitution of the Mystical Body exhibits an external nature and visibility - for the Church uses visible means of sanctification, the Sacraments and sacramentals. Besides this the Mystical Body of Christ is composed of visible, individual members. The head of the Mystical Body was a visible God-man, Jesus Christ. Thus, all the theological currents which had been stressing the purely spiritual and invisible view of the Church were clearly rejected by Pius XII.

In the wake of this encyclical, many theologians and commentators started explaining the nature of the Church in juridical, strongly monarchial and hierarchical terms.³ Neither Pope Pius XII

1 cf. Petro B.T. Bilaniuk, *Theology and Economy of the Holy Spirit : An Eastern Approach*(Bangalore, India:Dharmaram Publications, 1980) pp.83-85

2 *Acta Apostolicæ Sedis* 35 (Vatican, 1943) 193-248. For the English text, cf. Pius XII, *Foundations of Renewal : Four Great Encyclicals of Pope Pius XII* (Glen Rock, N.J. : Paulist Press, 1961).

3 H. SCHLIER, *Christus und die Kirche in Epheserbrief* (Tubingen, 1930). M.GIERENS, "Eucharistie und Corpus Christi Mysticum" *Theologisch-praktische Quartalschrift* 86 (1933), 536-550; 769-781. S. Tromp, *Corpus Christi quod est ecclesia*, 3 volumes : Vol. I : *Introductio generalis* (Rome) 1937, 2nd ed. 1946); *The Body of Christ which is the Church*, trans. A. Condit (New York, 1960); Vol. II : *De Christo cepite mystici corpori*, (Rome, 1960) ; Vol. III : *De spiritu Christi anima* (Rome, 1960). L.Valpertz "Kirchliche Mitgliedschaft und Nichtkatholiken nach der Enzyklika *Mystici Corporis*" *Theologie und Glaube* (1944), 43-46. L. Malevez.

nor these theologians had developed any clear idea of the local, autonomous, or particular Church. In their juridical vision they saw only individual Christian communities, whether Latin or Oriental, from which one, holy, catholic, apostolic and Roman Church was composed, and which were ruled by Christ through the voice and power of their bishops. Each bishop was seen as a true doctor and shepherd of the flock entrusted to him, ruling it

"Quelques enseignements de l'encyclique 'Mystici Corporis'" *Nouvelle Revue Theologique* 77 (1945) 385-407. C. Lialine, "Une etape en ecclésiologie" *Irenikon* 19 (1946) 129-152; 283-317; 20 (1947), 34-54. H. Schaufele, *Unsere Kirche* (Heidelberg, 1946). J. Brinktrine, "Was lehrt die Enzyklika 'Mystici Corporis' über die Zugehörigkeit zur Kirche?", *Theologie und Glaube* 38 (1947/1948) 290-300. A. Chavasse, "Ordonnes au corps mystique" *Nouvelle Revue Theologique* 80 (1948) 690-702. A. Liege, "L'appartenance a l'Eglise et l'encyclique 'Mystici corporis'" *Revue des Sciences philosophiques et theologiques* 32 (1948) 351-357. V. Morel, "Le corps mystique du Christ et l'Eglise catholique romaine," *Nouvelle Revue Theologique* 80 (1948) 703-726. C. Feckes., *Die Kirche als Herrenleib* (Koln, 1949). J. Gribimont, "Du sacrement de l'Eglise et de ses realisations imparfaites," *Irenikon* 22 (1949) 345-367. H. de Lubac, *Corpus Mysticum: L'Eucharistie et l'eglise au moyen-age*, 2nd ed. (Paris, 1949). E. Mersch, *The Whole Christ*, trans. J.R. Kelley (Milwaukee 1938; London, 1949). A. Mitterer, *Geheimnisvoller Leib Christi nach Thomas von Aquin und nach Papst Pius XII* (Wien, 1950). J.A.T. Robinsont *The Body: A Study in Pauline Theology* (London, 1952) R. Brunet, "Les dissidents de bonne foi sont-ils membres de l'eglise?" *Analecta Gregoriana*, Vol. 58 (1954) 199-218. P. Benoit, "Corps, tete et plerome dans les epitres de la captivite," *Revue Biblique* 63 (1956) 5-44. M Schmaus, *Die Lehre von der Kirche*: vol. 3.1 of *Katholische Dogmatik*, 5th edn. (Munchen : Hueber, 1958). S. Tromp, *De Mystico Jesu Christi Corpore*, 3rd edn. (Romae, 1958). L Cerfaux, *The Church in the Theology of St. Paul*, trans.G.Webb and A. Walker (New York, 1959). F. Malmberg, "Die Enzyklika *Mystici Corporis*: Dogmatischer Wert und innere Struktur," *Ein Leib-Ein Geist* (Freiburg, 1960) 43-54. H. Schlier - J.Ratzinger, "Leib Christi Lexikon fur Theologie und Kirche" (Freiburg : Herder, 1961) 6 : col. 907-912. W. Bartz, "Mystici Corporis Christi," *Lexikon fur Theologie und Kirche* (Freiburg : Herber, 1962) 7 :col 731-2 J. Hamer, "Signification et portee de l'encyclique. *Mystici Corporis*:" *L'eglise est une communion* Paris, 1962 11-34. K. Rahner, "Die Gliedschaft in der Kirche nach der Lehrl der Enzyklika Pius XII. 'Mystici Corporis Christi.' Schriften zur Theologie Einsiedeln, etc.: Benziger, 1962 vol II. pp. 7-94. F.X. Lawlor, *Mystical Body of Christ*, " *New Catholic Encyclopedia* New York, etc. : McGraw-Hill, 1967 10: 166-176. F.X. Lawlor "Mystici corporis, *New Catholic Encyclopedia* New York, etc. : McGraw -Hill, 1967 10: 174-175.