

## The Eucharist and Holistic Transformation: An inquiry on the transformative role of the Eucharistic liturgy from Coptic Orthodox and Latin American liberationist perspectives

The Christian approach to the liberation of the poor is better understood in terms of holistic transformation; a transformation that touches the roots of the problem and its outer expressions, the individual and the society, the spiritual and the material, together without division. Thus, since the Eucharistic liturgy is perceived as the central activity of the Christian community where God's salvific act for humanity is celebrated and renewed, it is imperative to examine its role and position in the process of holistic transformation. This paper, which is part of a bigger dialogue between Coptic Orthodox theology and Latin American Liberation theology on the sacramental theology of the poor, intends to shed some light on that role from their different perspectives. In doing so, I take an objective approach through which I construct a mutually informative and corrective model for further discussions between both groups regarding this matter. I begin by presenting the three phases of holistic transformation, followed by an examination of some of its features. Then, I discuss the transformation of the eyes through the Eucharist and its centrality to the liberation of the poor. Finally, as the Eucharist takes place in the church, I explore how the church is the objective place of transformation. The overall argument of the study is that the Eucharistic liturgy is the heart of the holistic transformation.

Key terms: Liberation, holistic transformation, Eucharist, liturgy, Coptic Orthodox, Latin American theology.