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IN GOD'S HANDS
ESSAYS ON THE CHURCH AND ECUMENISM
IN HONOUR OF MICHAEL A. FAHEY, S.J.

EDITED BY

Jaroslav Z. SKIRA & Michael S. ATTRIDGE

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PREFACE

*The East is God's,
The West is God's,
Both North & South
Rest in the peace of God's hands.
J.W. von Goethe, West-östlicher Divan (1819).*

The origins of the idea for this Festschrift go back many years to when we were both doctoral students. We agreed we would one day do this for Prof. Michael Fahey, S.J. And now, with the help of many fine and generous colleagues, this promise has become a reality.

One may wonder why we chose the title "In God's Hands". The quote, which is a slight recension of a stanza from Goethe, may remind the reader of Irenaeus' image of the Spirit and Christ being the two hands of God. Here, the image is trinitarian. The quote also contains intimations of an image which is also cosmological: God is in the East and the West, the North and the South. Prof. Fahey used similar symbolism in the subtitle of his 1996 Marquette lecture on Orthodox-Catholic unity, re-working Rudyard Kipling's famous quote, in affirming that the "East is West and West is East". For those who have studied under Prof. Fahey or heard his lectures, he equally affirmed that the Church is also in the North and the South. For us, therefore, the title is pre-eminently ecclesial and ecumenical. And so we took Prof. Fahey's interests and life-long work in ecclesiology and ecumenism as the principle themes of this work.

This Festschrift appears at the start of this new millennium alongside other celebratory monuments in Prof. Michael Fahey's life. In 2001, he celebrated 50 years in the Society of Jesus, and in 2003 his 70th birthday. In 2004, in his 40th year since ordination, the Catholic Theological Society of America awarded him the John Courtney Murray Award for Distinguished Achievement in Theology. This academic year will also mark his being awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto and his 10th year as the editor-in-chief of *Theological Studies* 2005.

Much more could be added to the list of Prof. Fahey's contributions, accomplishments and gifts to us, the academy, and the Church. The articles in this Festschrift celebrate him in many ways. We would only emphasize his sensitivities and spirituality as a friend and pastor, his support for the many voices in the church, his engagement and mentoring of