

## **An "imaginative" theology**

**by Antonio Staglianò, Bishop of Noto (Italy)**

The "intellectual fraternity", invoked by ten theologians in their call *Rescuing Fraternity - Together*, is the intelligent idea of a path that requires a renewal of scientific theology. However, having an idea is one thing, but making it become a project, or rather a process, in which an effective change in ways of thinking, conceptual categories, and interpretative criteria of reality to be updated takes place, is quite another thing. Here we need the effort of thinking and of "thinking together", which is even more difficult.

(...)

What would happen to academic theology if it finally decided to speak to the emotional intelligence of ordinary people, of all young people? It would integrate, in the exercise of its rationality, imagination and, through it, poetry and literature (in all forms, even pop songs), acquiring in its language new aesthetic and artistic registers. In this way it would help the new evangelization to produce new Christian imaginations of the world and of God, giving life to a new "theology of imagination" - a true Pop Theology - by widening the sapiential space of the exercise of reason and by pushing it "beyond", "to the future", so that "this new language" could communicate especially to young people the beauty of the Christian God, the eternal source of love.

**Originale text: Italian September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021 :**

<https://www.osservatoreromano.va/it/news/2021-09/quo-198/una-teologia-immaginale.html>

(Translation by Leonardo Stefanucci; summarized by Fabrizio Mastrofini)