

William of Pagula and ideas on the Sacrament of the Eucharist

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The liturgical activities of parish clergy have traditionally focused on church services. Only at the turn of the 11-12th centuries, medieval intellectuals began to make works that were designed specifically to help the parish priests. In the 14th century, pastoral leadership for priests were instructions and treatises in Latin, such as «The Priest's Eye» by William of Pagula. The work of William of Pagula during the late Middle Ages remained the most popular pastoral manual to the duties and services of the parish clergy. It was of exceptional importance as a pastoral manual to the conduct of confession, especially in term of interrogation, forgiveness of sins and choice of punishment for the penitent. In addition, this manual contained a fairly complete and simple instruction to medieval Englishman on the sacrament of the Eucharist. An explanation of the sacrament of the Eucharist was required so that parish priests could fix the practice of communion with only bread in mental attitudes of parishioners, which began to be applied from the 12th century. Nevertheless, the new practice of communing the laity under one kind, and the clergy under both aroused discontent among some of the parishioners, which served as one of the catalysts for the emergence of reformist movements. The Catholic Church finally confirmed the church custom of the communion of the laity under one kind only in the 16th century at the Council of Trent.



Key words: William of Pagula, the Eucharist, «The Priest's Eye», parish priests, late medieval England

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