



CASA DEL SAGRADO CORAZON
Centro Sacerdotal
 LA ARMENIA

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dr. Christian Hvidt is applying for grants in order to have a period of research on the subject of his particular academic interest. His goal is to obtain a Danish doktordisputats treating the theological theme of miracles and Revelation. After the critique of religion and Bultmann's demythologization project, wide areas of modern theology find it difficult to accept people's continued experiences of miracles in the present world. This has been my personal experience, both as theologian and bishop in the Catholic Church. On many fronts, demythologization proves its limitations, and Hvidt has taken up to point out four major fields from where this critique protrude: Religious sociology, post-modern science, people's supernatural experiences and the tradition of Christian prophecy. His aim is not only the critique in itself but also a positive presentation of that theology of miracles that the vacuum of the critique calls for. I agree with this approach and consider it to be very fruitful. Dr. Hvidt's project aims at presenting these challenges to demythologization and formulating a theology of miracle based on a theistic concept of God and a dynamic comprehension of Revelation. This shall make possible to have a renewed theological understanding of the charismatic dimension of Christianity and a better idea of continuity throughout the history of revelation.

To secure the project's interaction with the work and research of other experts, Hvidt is establishing a reference team whose members provide feedback rooted in their respective competence. I have promised myself to be a member of this group. So I hope to contribute with the experience of my long teaching on Philosophy of Religion at the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador in Quito, and with the experience of today's world of learning gathered during my two terms as a President of the International Association of Catholic Universities.

I therefore strongly recommend Dr. Hvidt's research projects and am ready to provide further information on this subject.

Quito, 5 November 2001

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