

Mark McLeod-Harrison

To Know as I Am Known

The Communion of the Saints and the Ontology of Love

SERIES IN PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

About the author

Mark S. McLeod-Harrison PhD is Professor of Philosophy at George Fox University. He is the author of *Rationality and Belief in God*; *Make/Believing the World(s): Toward a Christian Ontological Pluralism*; *Repairing Eden*; *Apologizing for God*; *The Resurrection of Immortality*; and *Image, Incarnation, and Expansivism*; along with a book of poetry, and dozens of journal articles. He has been thinking about the doctrine of the communion of the saints for 20 years. This book flows out of those 20 years of thought. He is the husband of Susan McLeod-Harrison and father of three children, one of whom is grown and married. He is now engaged in writing philosophically about the Christian doctrine of sin in light of evolution and the so-called "species problem."

"McLeod-Harrison has given us a wonderful book, diving into deep waters. These reflections on the nature and possibility of Christian love and the communion of saints are rich, powerful, and insightful. And they are much needed in our individualistic age, where many have lost sight of the importance of the common good. The account he gives of the connections between love, morality, self-interest, and human fulfillment is of special interest."

Dr. Michael W. Austin
Eastern Kentucky University

"In his new book, Mark McLeod-Harrison helps us to make sense of the doctrine of the communion of saints, which has been surprisingly neglected by contemporary philosophers and theologians. Along the way, we find intriguing discussions of sin, love, humility, and self-interest, among many other topics. Highly recommended!"

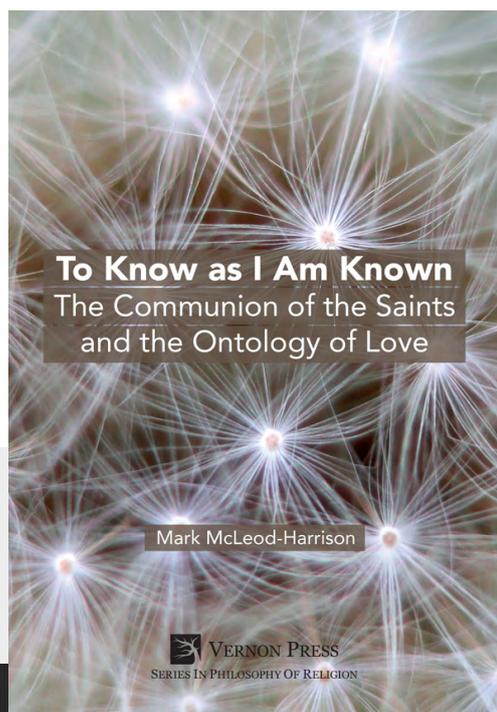
Dr. Christian B. Miller
A. C. Reid Professor of Philosophy, Wake Forest University

Summary

The doctrine of the communion of the saints is central in the spiritual lives and theology of millions of Christians. However, it has been neglected by much recent philosophical scholarship. 'To know as I am known' addresses this oversight by offering a contemporary analysis of this venerated doctrine. By taking two related puzzles inherent in the doctrine itself, McLeod-Harrison explores and reflects on not only the communion of the saints but also on the ontology of love.

Divided into five parts, this book provides an account of human nature and sin, before suggesting a way of thinking of love that is rooted both in the doctrine of the Trinity and in the thought of several contemporary analytic thinkers along with Dostoyevsky, Eckerd, Royce. While the integral issues of the doctrine are related to the "why-be-moral" problem, McLeod-Harrison shows that the challenges of the doctrine arise from the unique nature of agape (divine love). Thus, the communion of the saints comes through the challenges intact with a plausible interpretation of saintly motivation and human solidarity.

Born out of 20 years of thought, this essential and sophisticated reflection serves as an important contribution to the field of the philosophy of religion that will inspire and engage students, scholars, and Christians, alike.



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