



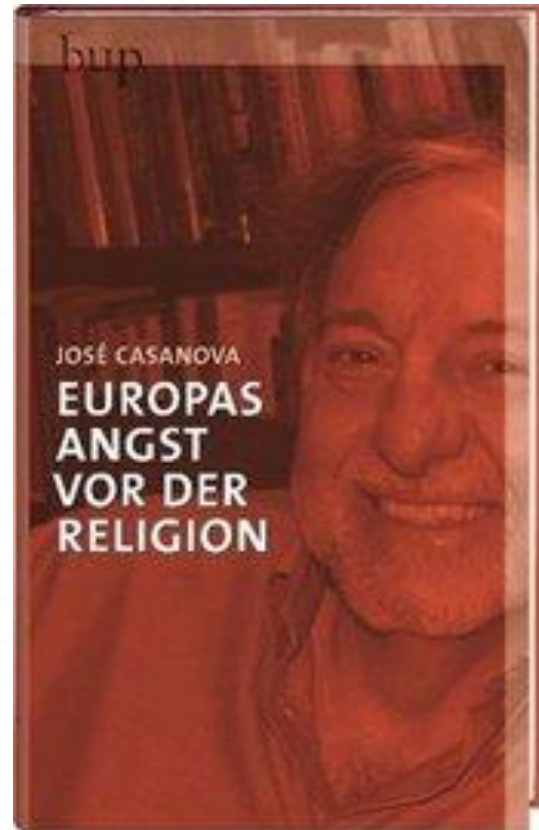
**Catholicism and Catechetics
in Europe**
(from Austrian Perspective)

Matthias Scharer
University Innsbruck, Austria

Big Europe – Small Austria



Europe's Fear of Religion



Thirty Year's War and the process of Secularisation



Hitler and Stalin



The achievements of ideological neutrality



A SECULAR
AGE

The big change from 1910 to 2010

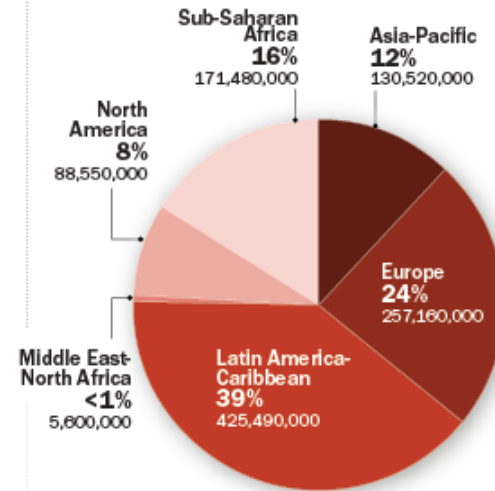
Regional Distribution of Catholics, 1910 and 2010

Percentage of all Catholics that live in each region as of ...

1910



2010



Figures for 1910 are from Pew Research Center analysis of data from the World Christian Database. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Pew Research Center

Austria/Europe post Second World War and since the creation of the EU







excluded from citizenship

citizenship has become a metaphor for inclusion or exclusion from society

End of Religious „monocultures“



Variety on offer



Learning Religion in midst of a varied And even challenging world of religions



- Inter-religious learning
- Religious education catering for a plurality of religions“ or
- „inter-religious competence“

Mary C. Boys



„Learning
in the
Presence
of the Other“

Who is the foreign?



diversity of religions and beliefs is public



The second vatican council



- 0 The central significance of consciousness as the „most concealed centre and inner sanctum of the individual core and sanctuary “
- 0 Freedom of religion to all people of any age
- 0 Many paths to salvation in different religions

Neither inclusivism nor Exclusivism nor

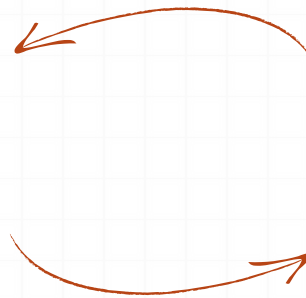
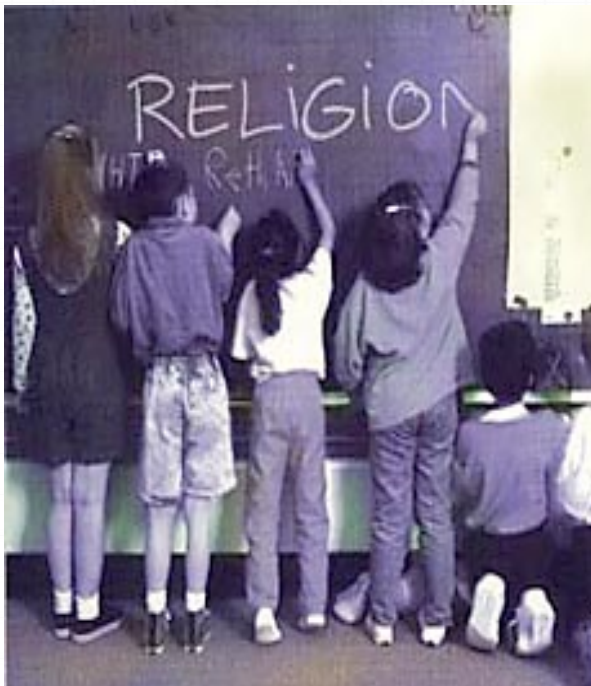


Religious Education and/or Catechesis?

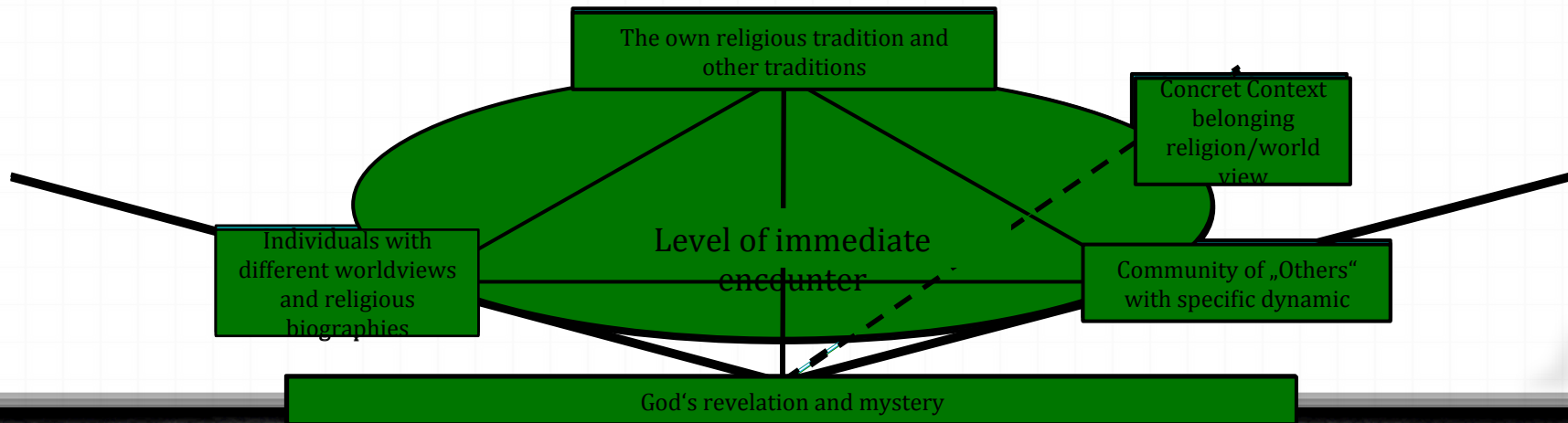
A Helpful Distinction

Catechesis in
Christian
Communities

Religious education in School



3 Level I



competence to deal selectively-authentic with the own and with strange religious beliefs



the "holy ground" of the (strange) other



“Learning (religion)” in (Non-)Strategic Contexts



“Learning” global immunity or global responsibility?

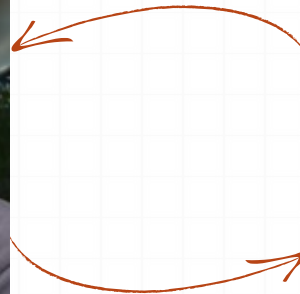
Global Responsibility



Learning religion in the Presence of the other

proving the power of
arguments and strategies

liberting service to humanity
in all ist facets



„Communication“
as a metaphor for
Understanding and persisting
Difference

the **gift** that can free us from ideologizing
and **violent impositions**

