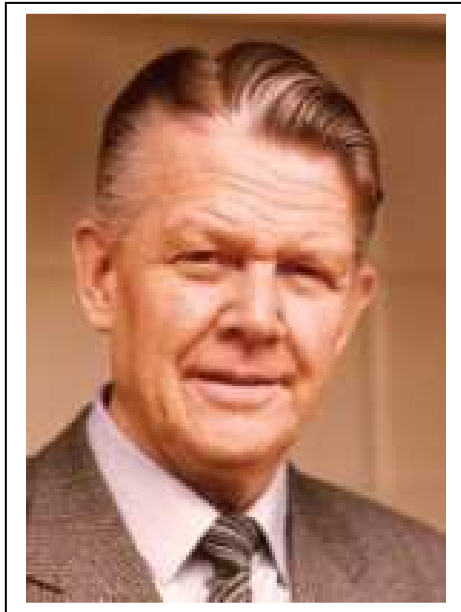


Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Weber (1925 – 1983)



1925 born 12th december at Meggen in Sauerland (North-Rhine-Westphalia). The father, Josef Weber, was miner; the mother, Maria, born Hoheisel, originated from Elpe.

Attendance of elementary school.

Attendance of a boy's seminar due to the initiative of the local priest and thereafter of the high school at Paderborn.

He spent his last schoolastic years at Arnsberg.

1943 Weber is called up to the army where he works as telegraphist, first at the Eastern front and later on in France. He is made prisoner of war at Dunkerque and spends some month in Belgian captivity. During these years his decision to become priest after the war strengthened.

1946 End of the scholastic years and entrance into the seminar of priests.

Theological studies at Paderborn, since the fourth semester, at the request of his bishop, at the Gregoriana University in Rome. Due to Gustav Gundlach SJ., professor at the Gregoriana and one of the advisors of Pius XII., Weber becomes acquainted with the catholic social teaching.

1952 Ordination

1953 Licence in theology. Back in Germany. Followed years of curacy in the Ruhr region.

1955-1963 Studies of Christian social sciences and of nation economy at the university of Münster; at the same time scientific assistant of Joseph Höffner.

1957 Doctor's degree of theology, thesis on the economic-ethical statements in the work of Ludwig Molina SJ., Spanish late-scholastic.

1961 Doctor's degree of national economy; thesis on the relationship between money and interests in the Spanish late-scholastic.

Habilitation with Ludwig Berg at Mayence. Thesis of habilitation on the development of fundamental statements of a monetary ethics under the actual conditions, in other words on ethical questions of the monetary stability.

Nominated counciliar advisor to his bishop of Essen for the preparation of the counciliar declaration "Gaudium et spes".

Summer semester 1964/65 professor at the university of Münster.

Since the winter semester 1964/65 professor of Christian social sciences at Münster, as successor of Joseph Höffner; at the same time director of the Institute of Christian social sciences. Besides of these tasks he also taught social politics, transformed 1965 in business ethics, at the faculty of juridical and political sciences.

Since 1966 clerical advisor to the Association of Catholic Entrepreneurs (Bund Katholischer Unternehmer-BKU), as successor of Joseph Höffner; after the death of Wilfried Schreiber also scientific advisor to BKU.

In numerous publications he intervened many times in actual discussions such as for instance on the interpretation of the pastoral constitution „Gaudium et spes“, on conflicts regarding equality of employees' representation in management, on the conflict around the theology of liberation; in this context he firmly rejected the attempt to replace catholic social teaching by the theology of liberation. He proved as an absolute adversary of marxist tendencies also with regard to other questions in this area.

1971 Advisor to the second Roman episcopal synode.

1973 Publication of the book „Der Unternehmer. Eine umstrittene Sozialgestalt zwischen Ideologie und Wirklichkeit“ (The entrepreneur: A contested social figure between ideology and reality). He therein develops the fundamental characteristics of an ethics for the entrepreneurial activities. In this context he rejected a functionalistic view of the entrepreneurial activity as well as the polemic of the class-conflicts as demonstrated in the social discussion at the end of the sixties, beginning of the seventies.

Since 1977 ordinary member of the Academy of Sciences of North-Rhine-Westphalia, faculty of the Arts.

1983 Weber died on 4th october in Münster.

To distinguish from the physicist Wilhelm Weber (1804 – 1891) of Göttingen and author of the book: Wilhelm Weber – The practical psychology in business life. A systemic and critical summary of the whole scope of the economic-psycho-technique. Leipzig: J. A. Barth 1927 (418 S.)