

In this number

VISA IMMONEN

”Are the Middle Ages Coming Back?” Making a Crosier for the Archbishop of Finland in 1931

In 1931, Juhani Rinne, the State Archaeologist of Finland, designed a crosier for the Archbishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church modelled on a Medieval staff at Turku Cathedral. It was commissioned by the Minister of Education, Paavo Virkkunen. The crosier was presented to the new Archbishop Lauri Ingman, prompting a public outcry, since bishops’ staves had not been used in Finland since the 16th century. Its introduction combined the ecumenical interests of Virkkunen with the antiquarian vision of Rinne.

LIISA LAMPELA

Power Struggle in the Church in the 2000s

Using Vammala Parish as a case study, the article discusses the struggle ongoing in the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland in the 2000s concerning who is allowed to officiate in the Church and on whose terms. The approach is sociological, viewing the Church as a social field and power space as per Bourdieu’s theory of power. The struggle for power and leadership is considered as a research problem from the point of view of the parish leadership. The article discusses how the Church defends its doxy

and how revival movements that reject the priesthood of women attack the doxy of the Church, thereby methodically reinforcing their heterodoxy. Tolerance seems to be an inalienable value in the Church doxy, supporting the concept of a national church.

PÄIVI VÄHÄKANGAS

Monogamy as the Ideal of the Early Church

In the Old Testament, many patriarchs and kings are said to have had several wives. Early Christian theologians struggled to explain away these polygamous references in Scripture. When they argued for the union between one man and one woman, their concept of monogamy came to be understood in a strict sense: it means one single marriage during one’s lifetime. Widows were encouraged to abstain from second marriages. Christian understanding of the Roman *univira* ideal became the symbol for the virtue of monogamy.

Translation: Jaakko Mäntyjärvi