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Jill Fehleison. Boundaries of Faith: Catholics and Protestants in the Diocese of Geneva.

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Jill Fehleison. *Boundaries of Faith: Catholics and Protestants in the Diocese of Geneva*. Kirksville, Missouri: Truman State University Press, 2010. 272 pages. ISBN: 978-1935503118. \$48.00 US.

In *Boundaries of Faith: Catholics and Protestants on the Diocese of Geneva*, Jill Fehleison structures the discussion of Reformation Catholicism around national, Confessional, denominational, and geographic lines. The primary focus of the work is the internal politics of the Catholic Church in the aftermath of the Council of Trent as the church attempted to adjust to, and respond to, a strong Protestant presence at Geneva. The discussion is couched in terms of the new political boundaries around France, Savoy, Geneva, and the Pays de Gex, the Catholic response to the Reformed presence in the area, and to the reform of both the clergy and the laity which resulted from the promulgation of the work of the Council of Trent.

Fehleison uses a unique source, in the records of pastoral visitations by diocesan leaders to individual churches in the region around Geneva, and uses those documents to reflect on the development of a Catholic response to the Reformed incursions into the area. A particularly valuable part of the book is the analysis of relative Catholic and Reformed proselytization techniques. Fehleison points to fundamental theological and ecclesiological beliefs as the roots of the differences and traces the differences in the practice of rhetoric, of public spectacle, of the role of the pastorate, and of interactions with the community at large.

Despite the title of the book, Fehleison concludes that boundaries were difficult to conceptualize and to define precisely. She points frequently to permeability in presumed boundaries between political, cultural, and religious identities. This allowed residents of those regions to adapt themselves to changes between French and Savoy control and between Catholic and Reformed churches. The residents of the region Pays de Gex were possessed of a strong identification with local units of government and of religion. This allowed putative changes in leadership to have little effect on their day-to-day life or on their personal understandings of themselves.

Fehleison argues that previous work in the field has oversimplified Catholic interactions with the Protestant and Catholic Reformation, and that the importance of local expression has been overlooked in favor

of a less nuanced transnational understanding. Using various church records, including, most intriguingly, accounts of the pastoral visitations made by diocesan leaders to local churches, Fehleison argues that Trent had significantly less effect than has been previously imagined. She points to the continuation of local customs in the Mass and in the placement, care for, and services around local holy places, despite external pressures to conform to an internationally accepted standard of Catholicism.

The book is well-written, engaging, and, in its discussion of Roman Catholic reaction to the Reformed movement into its political, ecclesiastical, and cultural territory, addresses a topic that is often overlooked. The only quibble that I had with the book was there seemed to be two distinct discussions present. The first half of the book dealt with interactions between opposing factions: between France and Savoy and between the Catholic and Reformed Churches. The second half of the book dealt with Catholic reforms, or at least reform attempts, following the Council of Trent. While both sections of the book were excellent and while both were related to Trent and the Catholic Counter-Reformation, it felt as if there was a lack of a singular thesis or argument to tie the two halves convincingly together.

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