

The main aim of my dissertation is to introduce, analyse, and critically evaluate the notion of symbol of a contemporary French sacramental theologian Louis-Marie Chauvet. He has significantly influenced the Western, especially Roman Catholic scene, but he is almost unknown in the Czech milieu. Chauvet's rehabilitation of a symbolic view of reality brings a possibility to speak about God's presence in a non-ideological way. He also brings a positive evaluation of body and corporality back into theology. In the first part of my work I map out the resources from which Chauvet draws in his notion of symbol. In particular I deal with Heidegger's early philosophy but also with Chauvet's use of psychoanalysis and his critical evaluation of older Thomist sacramental theology. The second part of my work is devoted to Chauvet's own notion of symbol. On the basis of his central works I analyse three topics linked with his approach to symbol: being, language and corporality. In the last part I critically appraise Chauvet's notion especially with respect to his use of Lacan's psychoanalytical theory. For some open questions that come out of this I look for alternatives in three French contemporary female authors.