



‘The Character of Catholic Schools’

**Singapore Catholic
Education Conference
2015**

WIZARD OF ID BY PARKER AND HART



TIME

A portrait of Pope Francis, the head of the Roman Catholic Church, smiling and wearing his white papal attire, including a zucchetto and a pectoral cross. He is positioned in the center of the frame against a textured, light-colored background.

**POPE
FRANCIS**

PERSON
OF THE
YEAR




“Education Today and Tomorrow – a Renewing Passion” -

**Vatican Congregation for Catholic
Education document, 2014**

**“Character
is what we
are when
no one
sees but
God.” Os
Guinness**





**Take all
you want.
God is
watching
the
apples**



**“Set me like a
seal upon
your heart,
like a seal
upon your
arm. For love
is as strong
as death” Song
of Songs 8:8**

“Each totemic ancestor, while travelling through the country, was thought to have scattered a trail of words and musical notes along the line of his footprints, and....these Dreaming-tracks lay over the land as ‘ways’ of communication between the most far-flung tribes. ‘A Song’, Arkady said, ‘was both map and direction-finder. Providing you knew the song, you could always find your way across the country.

‘And would a man on ‘Walkabout’ always be travelling down one of the Songlines?’

‘Yes!’.

Bruce Chatwin in ‘Songlines’



**Jesus – our
Lighthouse
and Our
Songline**

Let us focus on *the*

HOW

***of Catholic
Education rather
than the 'what'.***

**In the past,
Christianity
has been
very strong
on the
‘what, but
very weak
on the
‘how’.”**





**“Faith is not a
landscape to be
seen, but eyes for
seeing. It is not a
world, but a gaze
upon the world. It is
not a book to read,
but a grammar for
reading – for reading
all books.”** (Clodovis Boff)

**“Catholic identity
is a verb”. It is
not a brand, but a
way of acting and
doing things.**

Catholic identity is an ongoing process of ‘becoming’ in particular cultural context. It is not something static that we achieve once and for all.

Gerald Arbuckle SM, Crafting Catholic Identity in Postmodern Australia, Catholic Health Australia, 2007

**Jesus is the
master
storyteller
through the
use of
parables**





**Jesus
expected his
disciples” to
‘chew’ on
parables a
while to
unlock their
flavour.”**

**Michael Heher, The
Lost Art of Walking
On Water, p.133**

**Good
storytelling
builds on
the
experience
of one's
listeners.**



NEVER GIVE UP

Quitters never win and winners never quit!



**The
parables are
‘springboard
stories’
leading
people to
discover the
answers for
themselves**



**“Evangelization
is a process of
bringing the
gospel to people
where they are,
not where you
would like them
to be.”**

**Vincent Donovan,
Christianity Rediscovered**

“When the gospel reaches a people where they are, their response to that gospel is the church in a new place, and the song they will sing is that new, unsung song, that unwritten melody that haunts us all.”

Vincent Donovan, Christianity Rediscovered

**In *Redemptoris Missio*
John Paul II talks about
the new *areopagoi*. As
with Paul in Acts 17, we
need to bring the gospel
to where people are
converging in modern
societies.**


**“Two things
must come
together to
lead us to
that new
place – the
gospel and
the sacred
arena of
people’s
lives.”**



The Sacred Arena of people's lives – where are people at today?



**Our Catholic
Faith is a way of
seeing the world**

A black and white photograph of a group of soldiers in a workshop or training room. They are wearing military uniforms and berets. In the foreground, a soldier is standing and looking towards the right. Another soldier is standing next to him, looking towards the left. In the background, several other soldiers are working at tables. The room has large windows and a wooden floor. Two speech bubbles are overlaid on the image. The first speech bubble is on the left and contains the text "I didn't see you at camouflage training this morning Murphy". The second speech bubble is on the right and contains the text "Thank you Sir".

I didn't see you at camouflage training this morning Murphy

Thank you Sir



2 Jesuits meet in Rome – Father General and Pope Francis.



“If you were in our place what would you do to respond to your call to go to the frontiers...?”



**“The Church grows by
witness, not by
proselytism”**



**“The witness
of...generosit
y,
detachment,
sacrifice,
self-
forgetfulness
in order to
care for
others.”**

**“The Church
must be
attractive.**

**Wake up the
world. Be
witnesses
of a
different
way of
doing
things, of
acting, of
living.”**



**...spend time
walking on the
periphery in
order really to
become
acquainted
with the reality
and life-
experiences of
people.**



by neneo/bigstock.com

**“...imitating
Jesus, who
went to all
the
peripheries”**



**Q. How do we look at
reality in order to see it?**

**A. “With the eyes of
discipleship”, A.Ivereigh,
The Great Reformer, p.300**



**What distinguishes
Jesus from all others
is his ability to cross
all kinds of borders in
order to share the life
of others and be in
solidarity with them**

Peter Phan



**Former Australian Prime Minister
,Kevin Rudd, speaking at the
Jesuit University Alberto
Hurtado, Chile, 18 Dec 2010:
When in Rome (for the
canonisation), I asked the Jesuit
General, Father Nicolas, about
his priorities in the world today.**

**He said his number one
priority in the world today
was combating what he
called ‘the globalisation of
superficiality.’**

Discerning the superficial

- Separating what is real
from the plastic and
sparkles**
- Separating the lasting
from the ephemeral**
- Separating what is
essential from indulgence,
the fluff, and the vacuous**

MATT



*'Will sir be lining
his own pockets?'*

**They're behind
us aren't they?**



**Don't make
eye contact.**



"Wake up. The cat's got your teeth."

**ARE WE
THERE
YET?**



Where are the Frontiers for our Schools in 2015?



**Father
General,
Adolfo Nicolas,
suggests they
are **the**
**Frontiers of
Depth and
Universality****

**“Jesus always
responded in depth.
Look at any healing
story: the way Jesus
heals the paralyzed man
brought in by his friends
through the roof...he
goes on to respond to a
deeper need....”**

Nico, Philippines address

**The spirituality of
Jesus was one of
HOLISTIC HEALING
E.G. Mark 2:1-12**

**Jesus judged, but never
condemned. He offered
healing, not blame**



**Jesus was touched
by a woman who
had suffered for 12
years from bleeding,
and she was cured
(Mark 5:30-31).**

**The Eucharist is the Touch
of God – Ron Rolheiser OMI**

In the Eucharist “we touch the hem of Christ’s garment and are held to his heart. What happens there is something beyond words and understanding, though not beyond love.”

Ron Rolheiser OMI, Forgotten Among the Lilies



**Jesus
always
responded
in depth**

Christ is the water of life

John 4: 7-15

**Christ's dialogue with the
Samaritan woman took
him “beyond the river
banks of what was
culturally and religiously
familiar...”**

**‘He
who
knows
about
depth
knows
about
God’**

(Paul Tillich)



Education is about Depth – A ‘Frontier’

4 questions from Fr General

**1. How deeply do we
respond to our
students’ needs...their
deepest hungers for
meaning and purpose?**

- 2. How deeply do we help our students see? The real beyond the virtual? See people in real need and on the margins?**
- 3. How deeply do we invite our students to think? (vs fundamentalism and fanaticism)**
- 4. How deeply do we form our students' inner persons?**

Interview of Fr Antonio Spadaro with Pope Francis, 2013

**“What element of Ignatian spirituality
helps you live your ministry?”**

“Discernment,” he replies.

**“Discernment is one of the things
that worked inside St. Ignatius. For
him it is an instrument of struggle in
order to know the Lord and follow
him more closely.”**

**“...the test of our
education as Jesuit
(and Singapore)
education is if we
are able to produce
people of
discernment.”**

**“Would that our
Australian shores
were as welcoming
as they are
protected.”**

Father John Grace VG, 17 Feb 2014

1. Do our students, as a result of their time with us, end up with a broader sense of belonging and responsibility than their own families, classes, clans?

**2. Can we break out of
our narrow sense of
belonging to this
particular school?**

3. Can we break out of our particular school system and serve those outside the Jesuit (read CEO) system in Singapore (read other JCAP Provinces and regions)?

**4. Can we break out of
our concern for the
Philippines (read
Australia and Singapore)
and start thinking of how
more we can serve the
wider world of Asia
around us?**

**“Good catholic education
should help people to see.”**

(Thomas Groome)

**“But happy are your eyes
because they see, your ears
because they hear!”** Matthew 13:16

**Sacramental vision = finding
God in all things, and being
found by God in all things**

**"God comes looking for us
and we go looking for God
through the ordinary
and every day."**

(Thomas Groome)

**As Catholics our
faith is a way of
seeing the
world – through
incarnational
eyes**

What do we mean by ‘looking at the world in an incarnational way?’

It means identifying “God’s signature on everything around us, to see God’s face behind every face, to discover the lover-God who comes to us disguised as our lives.”

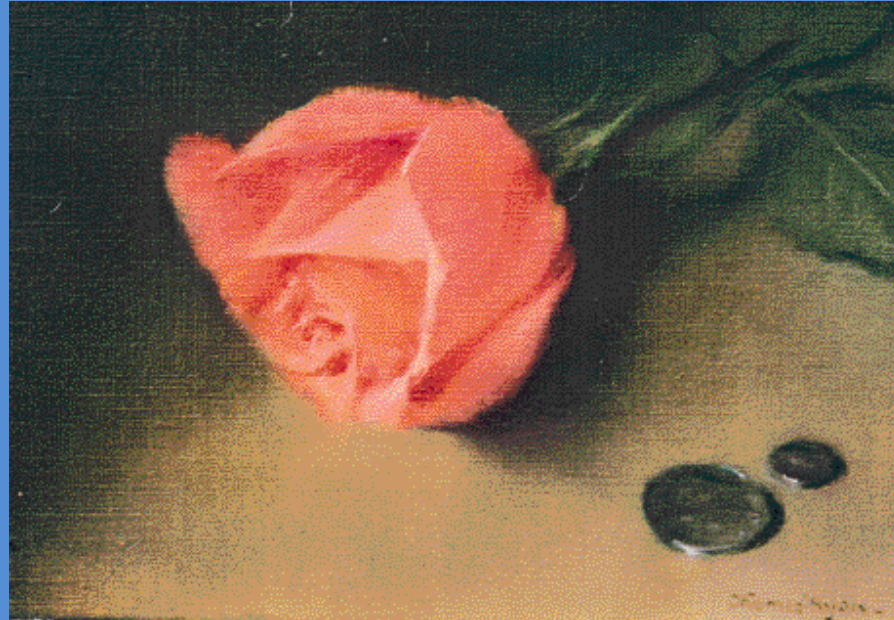
O’Leary, Begin With the Heart



**Christ in Young and
Jackson's Hotel,
Melbourne – Percival
1947**

**“What the
Incarnation is
saying is that
henceforward
God is exactly
where we
are..and only
there is He to be
found.” Karl Rahner**

**“God is simply right
where we are...**



**...We are always
looking
elsewhere.”**

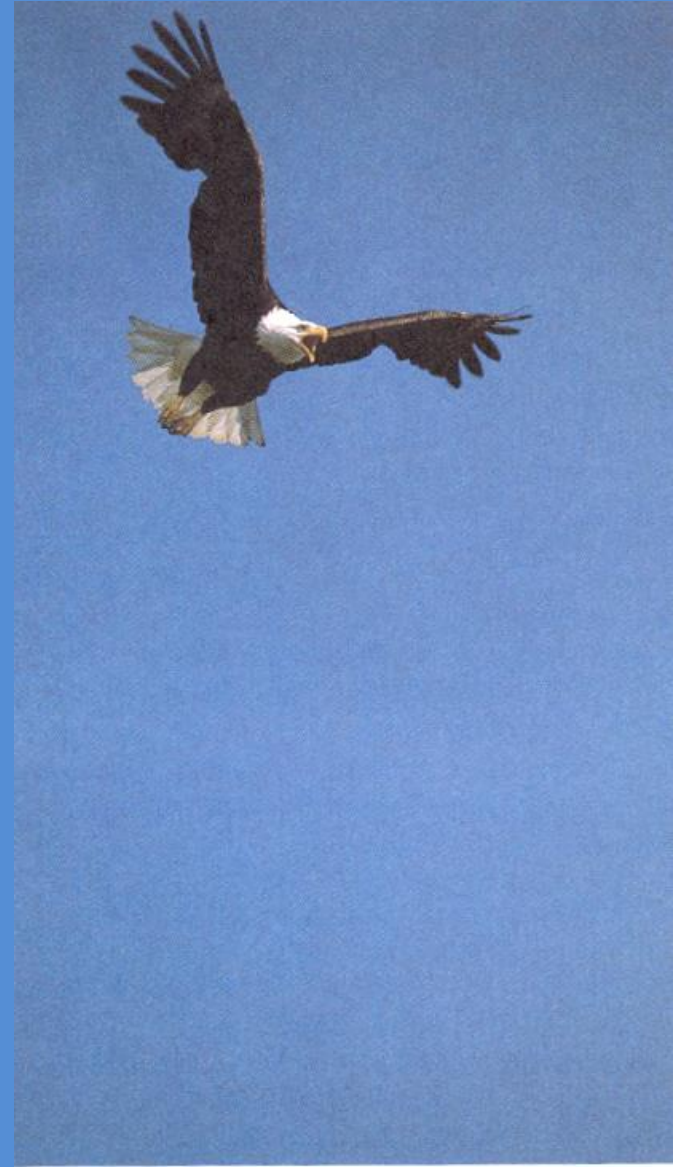
Joan Chittister

Seeing can have its problems



**“We are condemned
to live out what we
cannot imagine”**

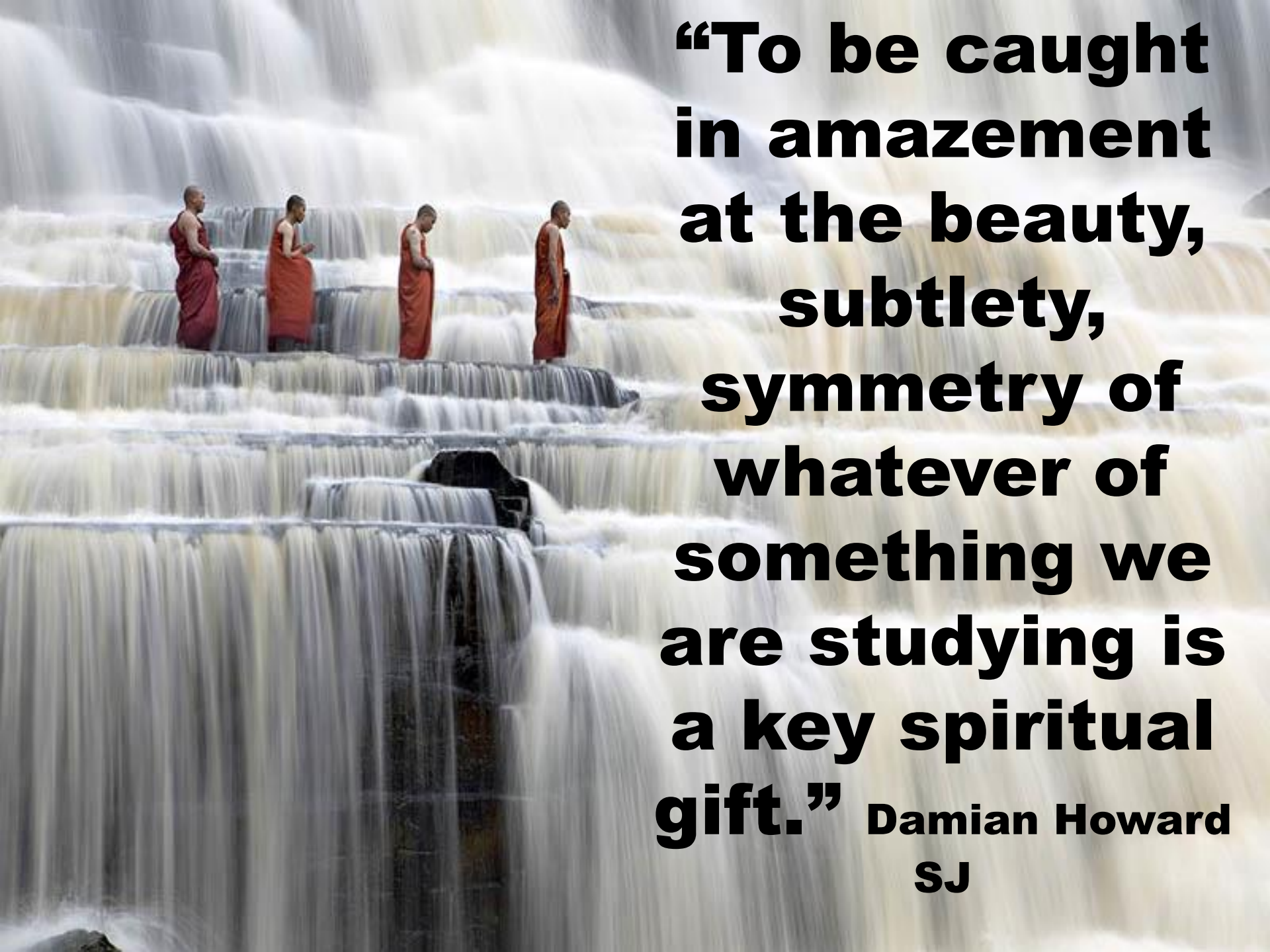
Thomas Moore, Care of the Soul



**‘We have
become afraid of
the imagination,
thereby settling
for false
certitudes and
unable to
embrace
ambiguity and
mystery.’**

Kathleen Norris






**“To be caught
in amazement
at the beauty,
subtlety,
symmetry of
whatever of
something we
are studying is
a key spiritual
gift.”** Damian Howard
SJ

**“Teachers are called
upon to rise up to a major
educational challenge,
which is the recognition,
respect and
enhancement of
diversity.”**

Vatican 2014 Document (section 5)

A close-up photograph of Pope Francis. He is wearing his white papal attire, including a zucchetto and a pectoral cross. He is smiling broadly, looking slightly to his left. He is holding a white umbrella in his right hand. In the background, a crowd of people is visible, including a woman in a green shirt on the left and a man in a dark suit on the right. The background is out of focus.

**Pope Francis – “a master
builder of cross-frontier
relationships”**

A. Ivereigh



**Catholic
Schools
seek to
offer an
INTEGRAL
education.**

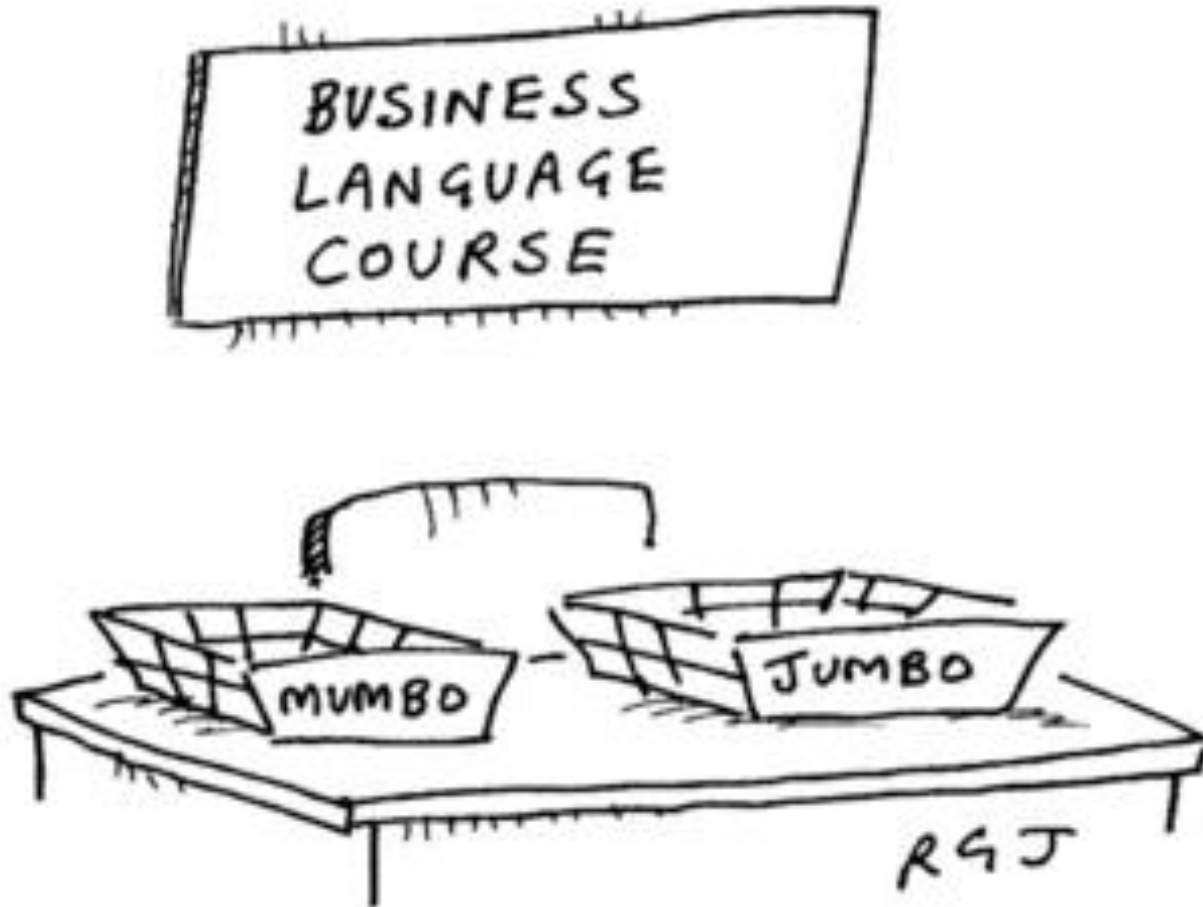
**Catholic schools seek
“to prevent a situation
in which the life of faith
is experienced or
perceived as being
separate from other
activities in human life.”**

Vatican 2014 document (section 1)



Our Catholic tradition asks us to draw all components of our lives together. Damian Howard

**Ours must not be a merely
functional view of education**



Question to Father General, January 2012, in Sydney

**With all the emphasis on
excellence of outcomes,
exam scores etc., is there
not a danger that the
importance of the process
of education will be
diminished?**

“..excellence has nothing to do with social, financial or professional success, it's an excellence in humanity. It's forming better human beings; people with a heart, with compassion, with understanding....”

JOHN'S WEATHER FORECASTING STONE

CONDITION	FORECAST
Stone is Wet	Rain
Stone is Dry	Not Raining
Shadow on Ground	Sunny
White on Top	Snowing
Can't See Stone	Foggy
Swinging Stone	Windy
Stone Jumping Up & Down	Earthquake
Stone Gone	Tornado •

**How do we
educate young
people to cope
with failure?**

**“Don’t be
afraid of
failure. The
problem with
the journey of
life and faith
isn’t falling;
it’s not getting
back up.”**

**Pope Francis, June,
2013**



**The Frontier of
Universality, the
'climate' in schools,
is about
HOSPITALITY**

***In the
Eucharist
we meet the
Bread of
Life as our
HOST***



“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that, some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

Hebrews 13/1-2





**“The City
which
forgets how
to care for
the stranger
has
forgotten
how to care
for itself.”**

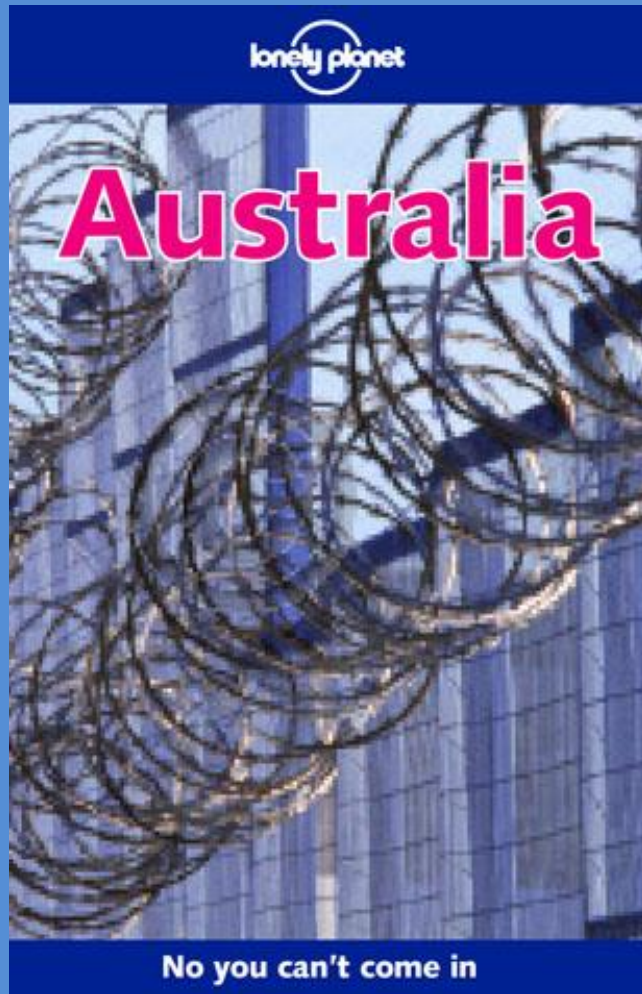
Homer, The Odyssey



***“A hero
is one
who
turns
strangers
into
friends”***

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

**HOSPITALITY - the fine art
of having an open soul and
a listening mind.**



**HOSPITALITY is not merely
a matter of opening the
door; it is a matter of
opening the heart.**

“Hospitality is the ability to make another person comfortable in strange space: ours”. Joan Chittister OSB





**To welcome
the other
means the
willingness
to enter the
world of the
other, to let
the other tell
his or her
story.**

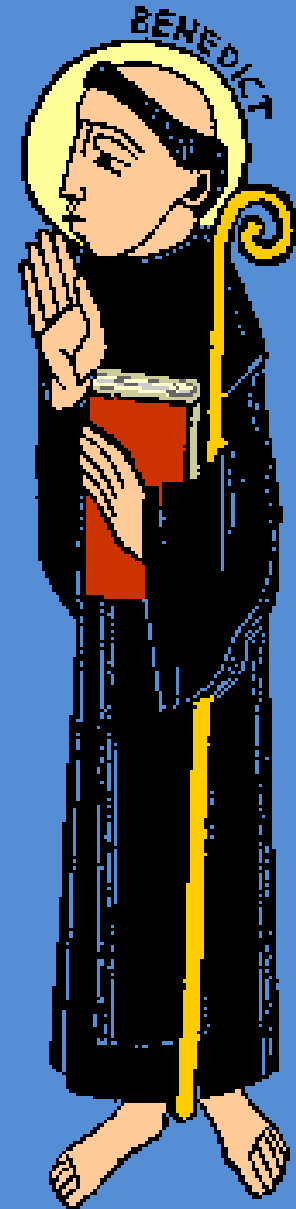


**The whole
mission of
Jesus
according to
Luke can be
summed up in
the phrase
'the
hospitality of
God'**

B.Byrne SJ, The Hospitality of God

‘Receive the guest as Christ’

~ the Rule of St. Benedict



**To be a true
host**

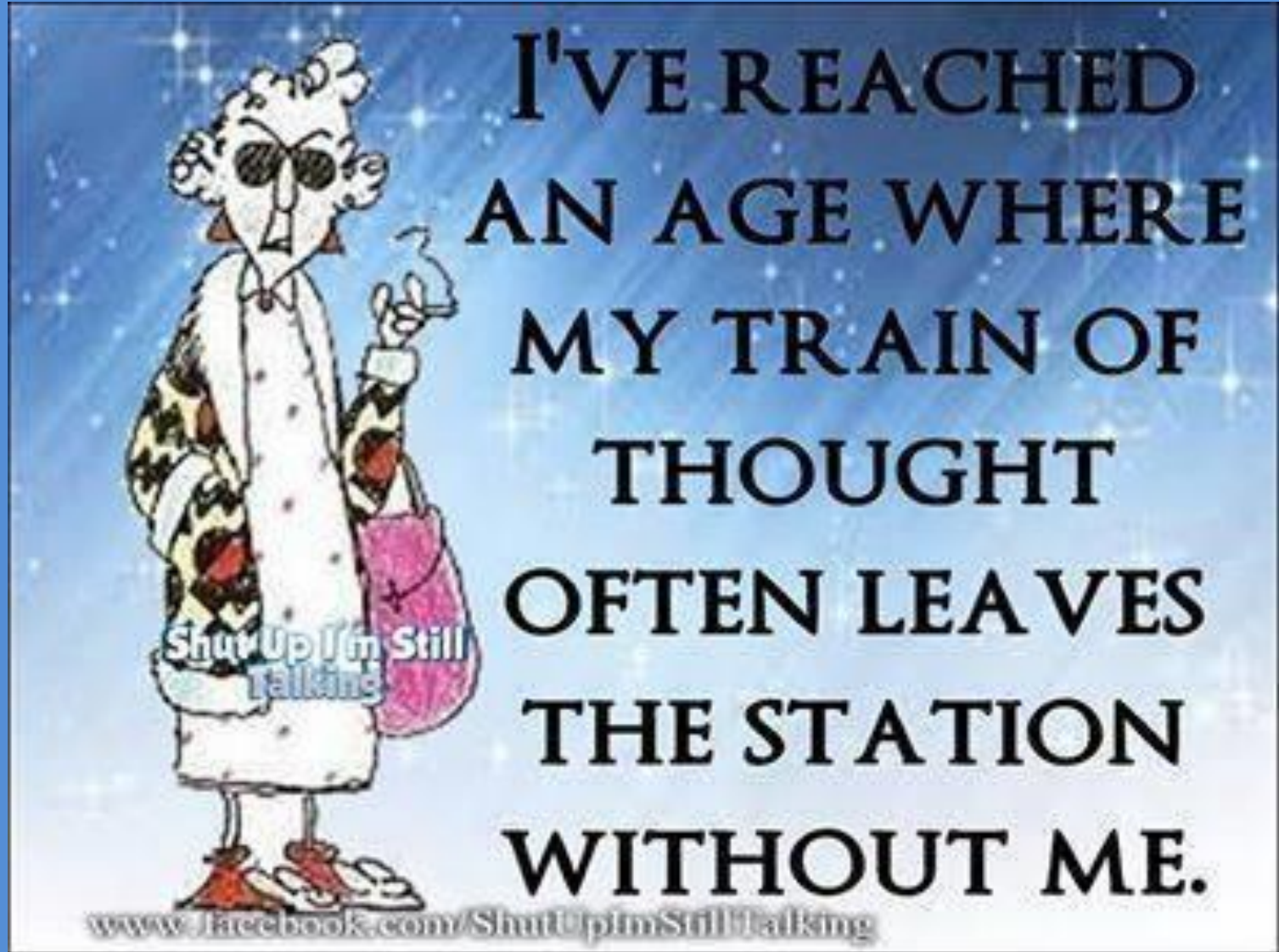
**We must be open
to the dignity of
each and every
person**





**To be a
true host**

**We must
welcome
ideas and
initiatives as
well as
people**



Humour welcomes

A photograph showing Pope Francis on the left, wearing his white papal attire and zucchetto, and Mark Zuckerberg on the right, wearing glasses and a dark shirt. They are both smiling and engaged in a conversation. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in white shirts.

**‘The CIRCULAR
character of
Communication’**

**“Jesus had now
finished what he
wanted to say, and
his teaching made a
deep impression on
the people because
he taught them with
authority.”**

Matthew 7:28

Victoria Scale

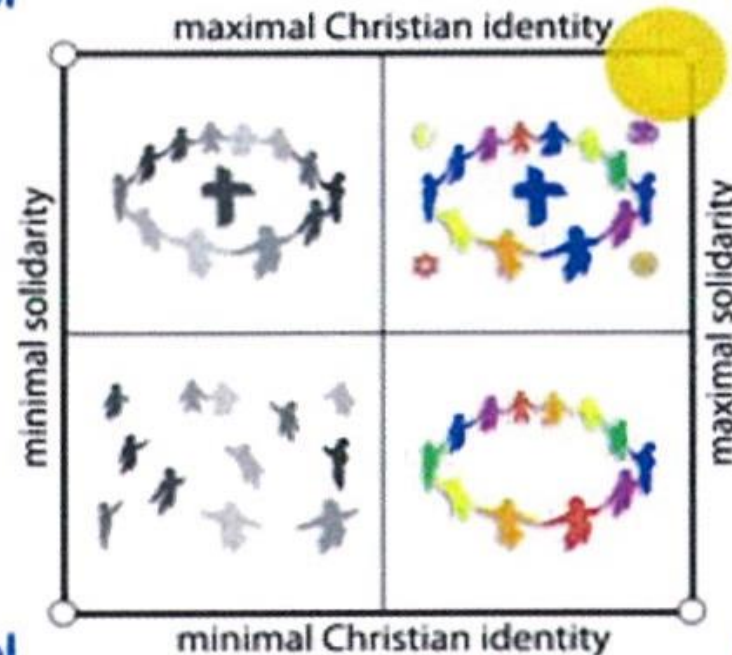
Diagram



Monologue school

Dialogue school

preferential school identity option
on theological grounds

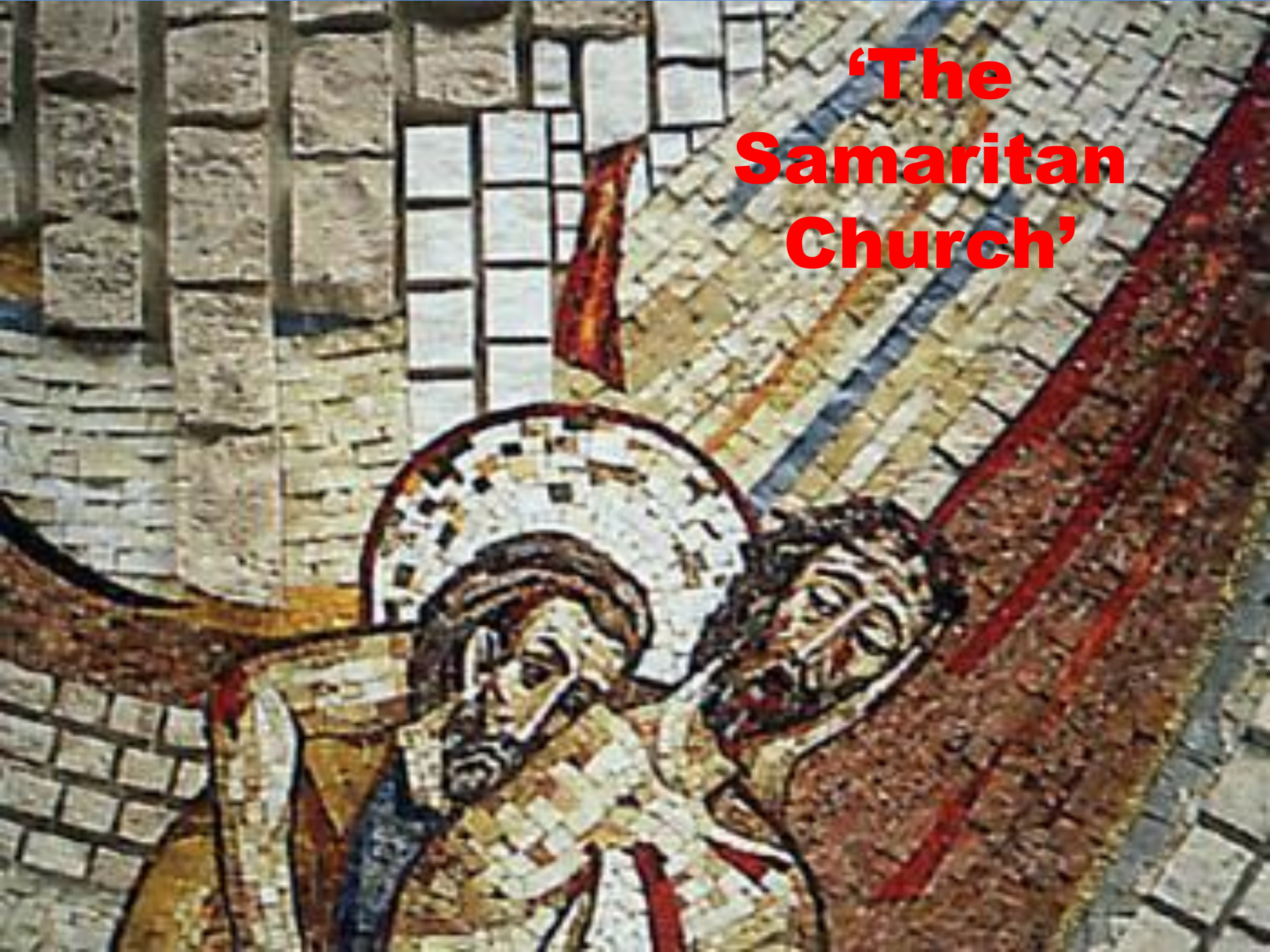


Colourless school

Colourful school

Figure 3: Pictorial Representation of the Victoria Scale⁶⁶

‘The Samaritan Church’



**We need to be people
of ‘nearness and
proximity’ – that is the
challenge in social
justice according to
Pope Francis**

Wherever there is a
human being, there
is an opportunity
for kindness.



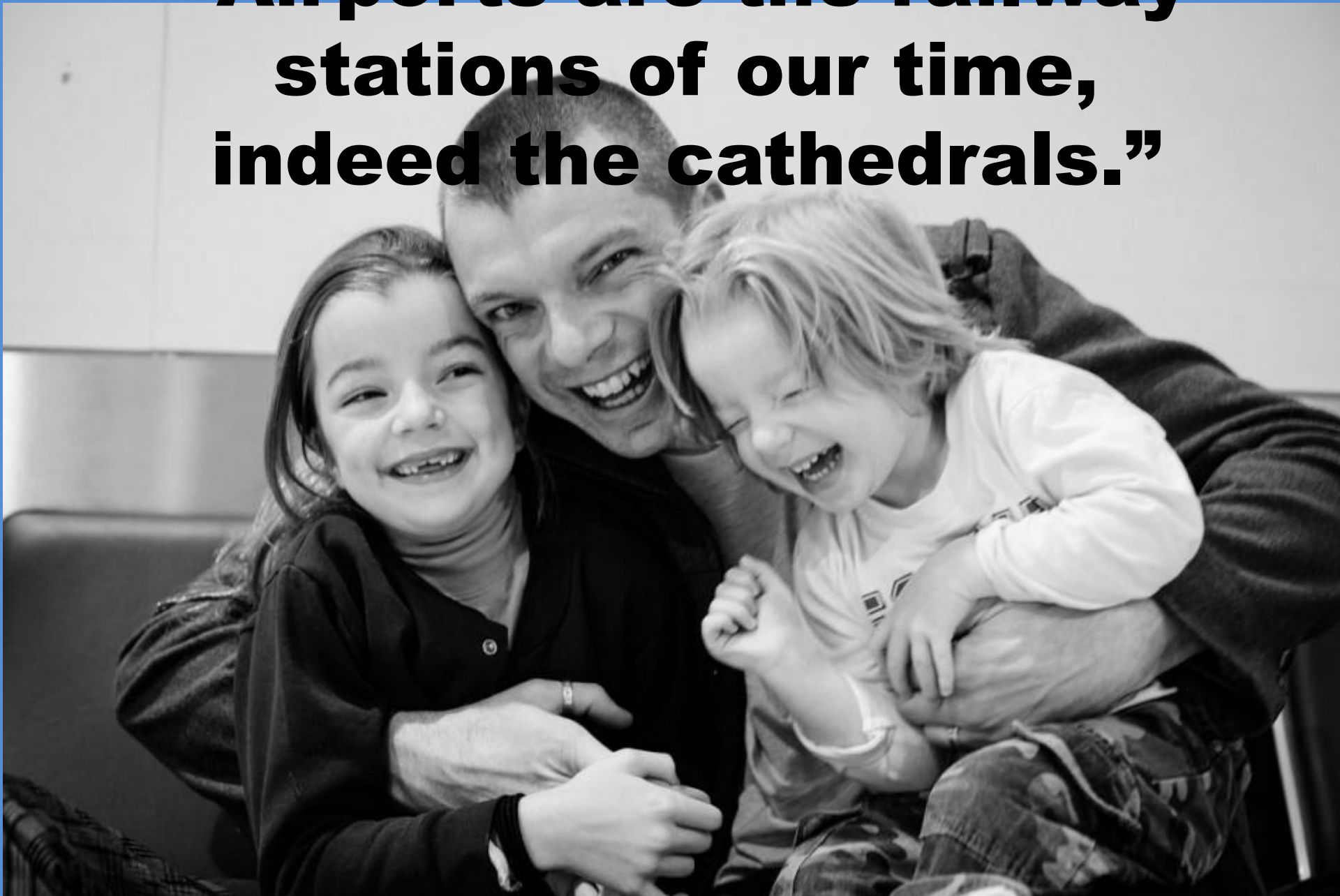
**The Good News about the
contemporary world**

Seneca

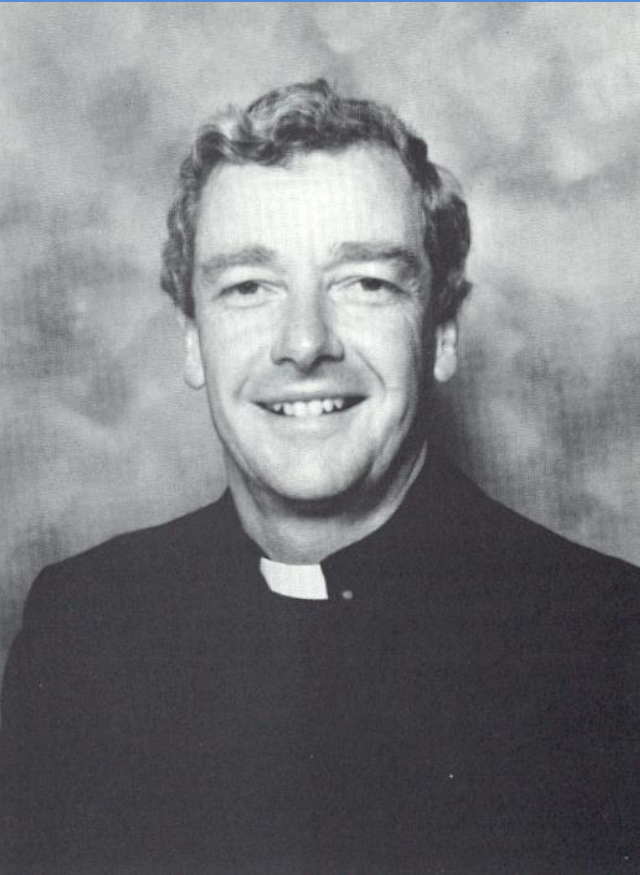
The Technological Evolution - Multi-tasking



**“Airports are the railway
stations of our time,
indeed the cathedrals.”**



**Aren't we all
in transition?**



From Xavier 1991



To Pray 2010
Conference, *Brisbane*,
July, 2010

“Our’s is the age of transition, the age of the backpacker.”



**“Our life is a
journey, and when
we stop moving,
things go wrong.”**

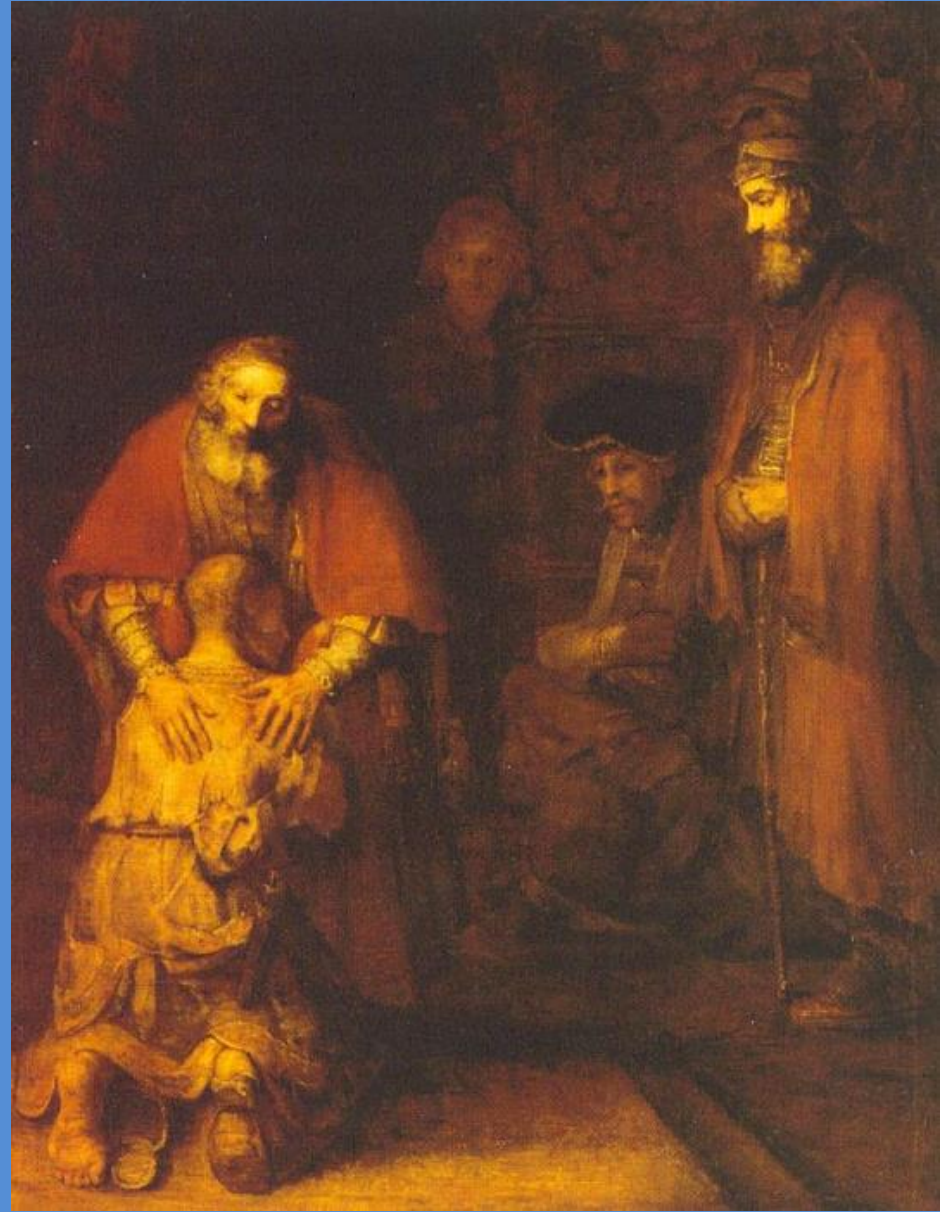
Pope Francis, Homily, March 14, 2013



**Religion is about
connection, the ligament!**

**“Religion to
me has always
been the
wound, not
the bandage.”**

Dennis Potter



“Christianity is at its worst when it becomes defensive...enshrining orthodoxy in words has caused more trouble, more pain, more evil in the world than it was worth.” (Kathleen Norris, Amazing Grace)



My wife said "Watcha doin' today?"

I said "Nothing"

She said, "You did that yesterday"

I said "I wasn't finished."

Sandi V

www.wackywits.com

**Fanaticism – the most
urgent issue of our times
(Amos OZ, Israeli writer, 2011)**

A Common Prayer

A cartoonist talks to God



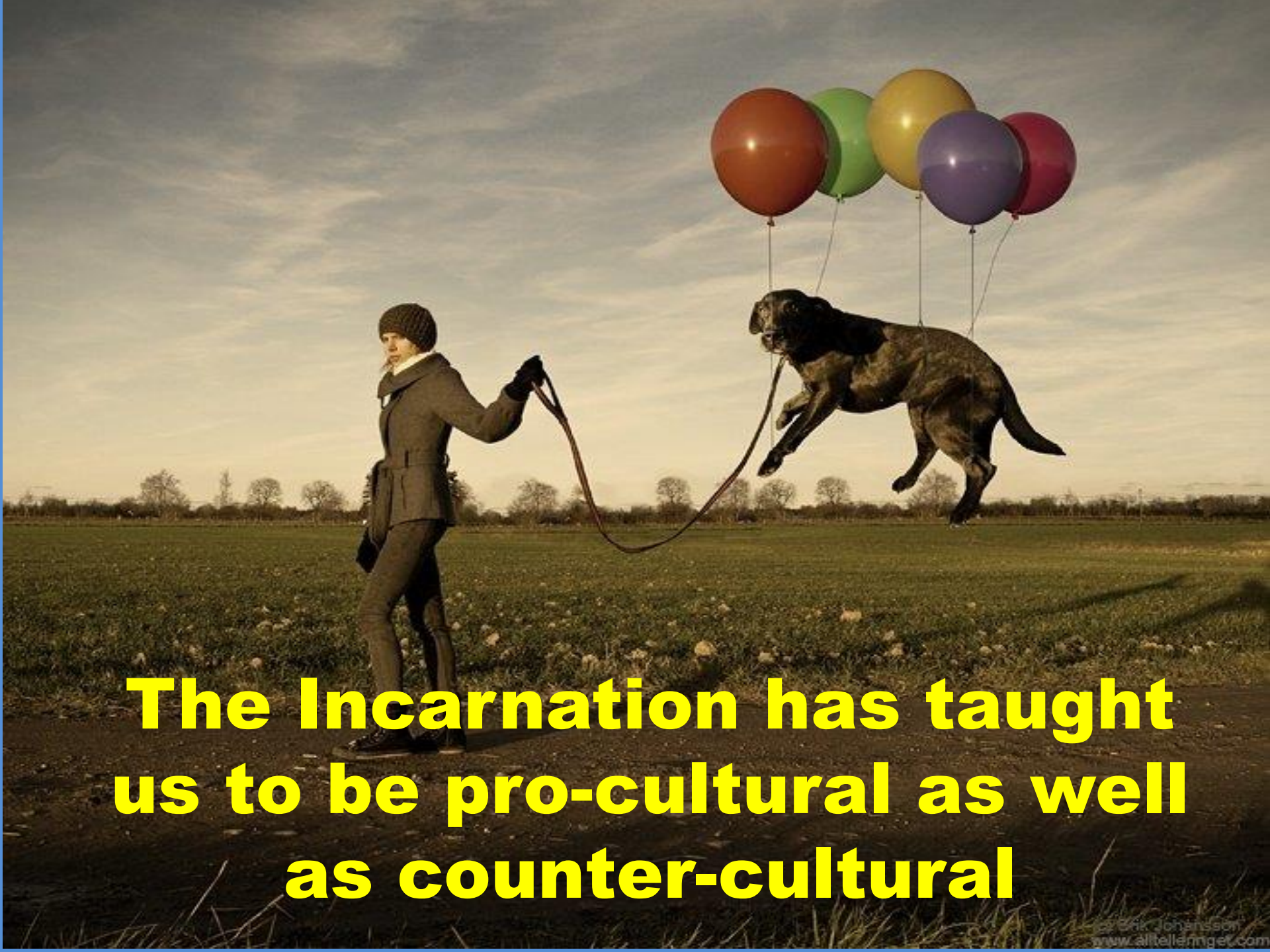
Leunig

**“Dear God,
We pray for
balance and
exchange.
Balance us
like trees.....
so must the
inner life be
equal to the
outer life”**

**The easy answers of
fundamentalism “are more
about control than grace.”**

Kathleen Norris, Dakota





**The Incarnation has taught
us to be pro-cultural as well
as counter-cultural**

**“The world is charged with the
grandeur of God”**



A photograph of a young boy sitting on a stone ledge on a street, playing a wooden flute. He is wearing a white tank top and blue shorts. A small black and white dog is standing on the sidewalk in front of him, looking up at him. The background shows a street with buildings and a person walking in the distance. The text "Let us discover or rediscover our musical sense" is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

**Let us discover or
rediscover our musical
sense**





**Let us strive for an
excellence in humanity**