

# Religious Leadership: Navigating the Swamp



uncertain  
turbulent chaos peril liminal swamp





















- ❖ Enticing – lures
- ❖ Mysterious – unpredictable
- ❖ Life lurks – beautiful and dangerous
- ❖ Inherent dangers
- ❖ Necessary for survival of the world
- ❖ Seek higher ground
- ❖ Don't go alone

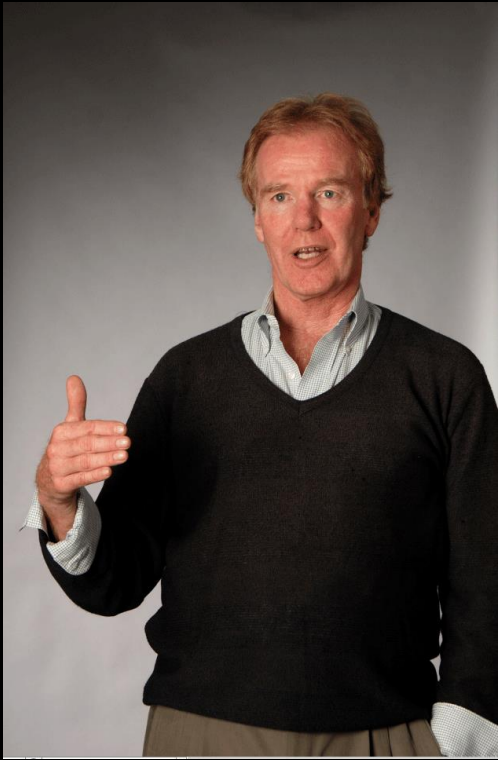
MARK PATRICK  
HEDERMAN

THE  
BOY  
IN THE  
BUBBLE

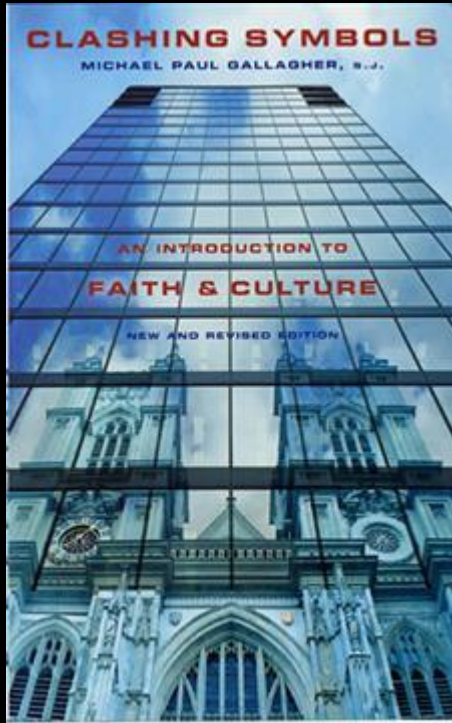
EDUCATION AS  
PERSONAL  
RELATIONSHIP

Our world  
bleak businesslike century





We are all in the bowels of this giant machine, the modern global economy, being used as instruments to serve its ends. We have created this machine collectively, but we feel trapped individually. We've shifted the burden so much to the machine that we don't see a lot of options even though they may be really there. We can't go into the woods and live happily off the land anymore. So we 'deep freeze' our ability to sense what is going on. We deny the larger consequences of what we are doing.



Thou shalt not believe in history;  
Thou shalt not tell meta-stories;  
Thou shalt not agonise about values;  
Thou shalt not trust institutions;  
Thou shalt not bother about God;  
Thou shalt not seek uniformity

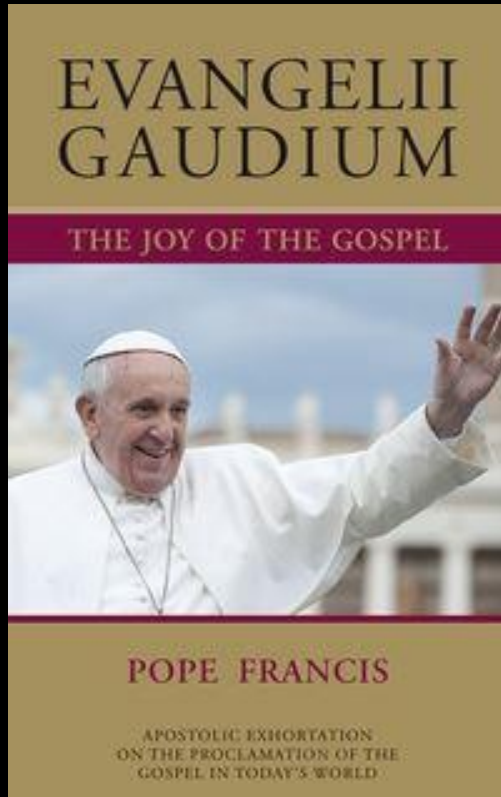


"dictatorship of  
relativism"





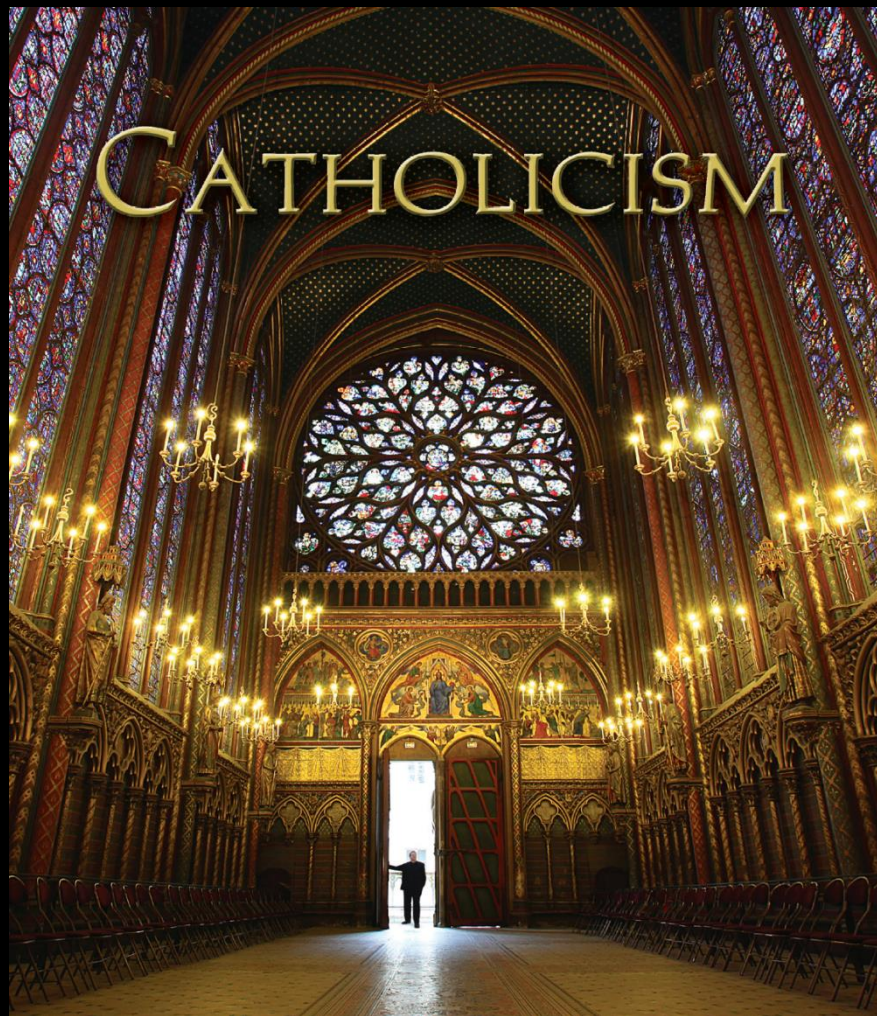
"globalisation of  
indifference"



an economy of exclusion;  
the new idolatry of money;  
a financial system that rules rather than serves;  
the inequality that spawns violence;  
selfishness and spiritual sloth;  
a sterile pessimism;  
spiritual worldliness;  
warring among ourselves.

**NO!**

# CATHOLICISM







**CHRISTIANITY**

**ISLAM**

**JUDAISM**

**BUDDHISM**

**HINDUISM**



The  
WALT DISNEY  
Company

TOYS R US



Google

Kellogg's

amazon.com



Johnson & Johnson



[illegible]

The Church

TRADITION

CHALLENGE

CHANGE

The Church

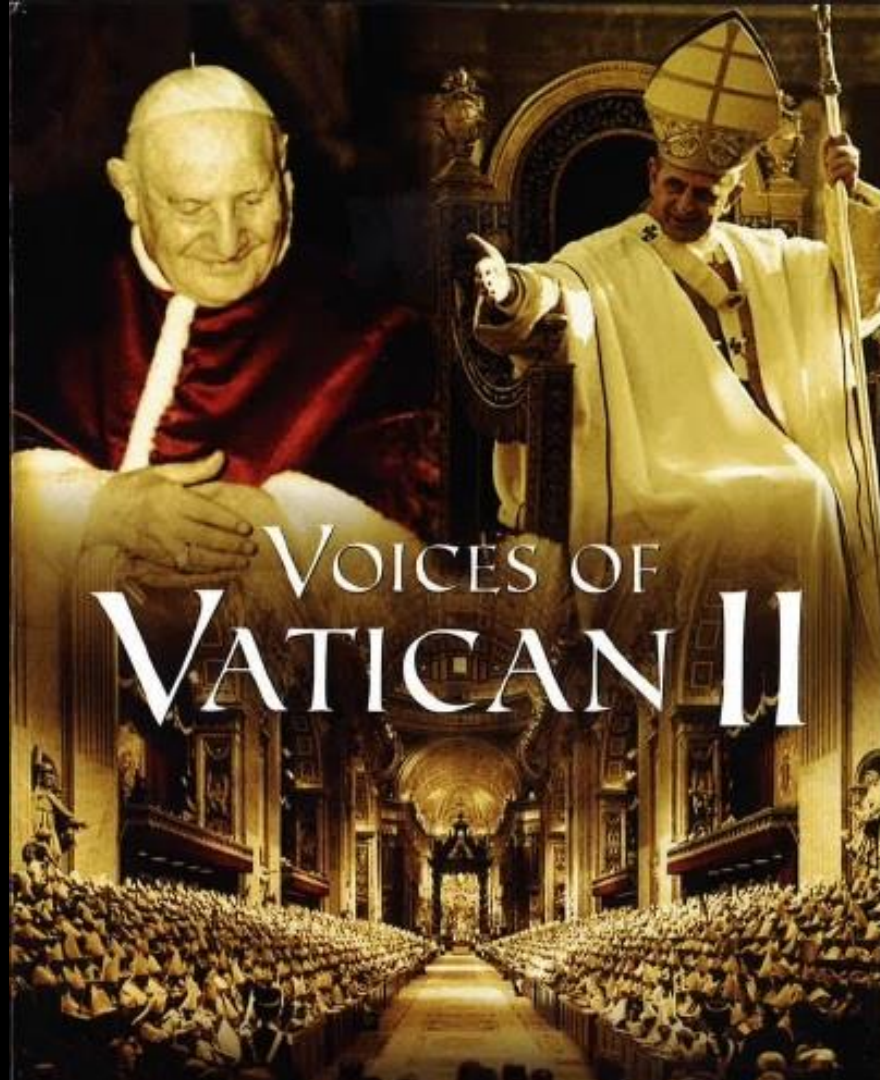
TRADITION

CHALLENGE

CHANGE







VOICES OF  
VATICAN II













resigned



painfully being born



The journey is Abrahamic  
because no-one – not even the  
Pope – knows exactly where  
the journey is heading.



# OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY



identity  
mission

APOSTOLIC LETTER

***NOVO MILLENNIO  
INEUNTE***

OF HIS HOLINESS  
POPE JOHN PAUL II

To the Bishops, Clergy, and  
Lay Faithful at the Close of the  
Great Jubilee of the Year 2000



Where are the individuals with the generosity . . . faith . . . daring . . . We need unconventional people to take on leadership roles. Those who are close to the poor, who can galvanise young people by being willing to try new approaches. We need to be challenged by people who are fired by the spirit so that it can be spread far and wide. p.22







identity  
pastoral  
missionary

# PASTORAL

Let's begin with life experience, rather than something abstract.

"To be pastoral means to start with the facts, whatever they are and however unfriendly they may seem." (Coleridge, Knox Lecture)

pastoral  
interpreter



evangelise  
proselytise  
invite and inspire

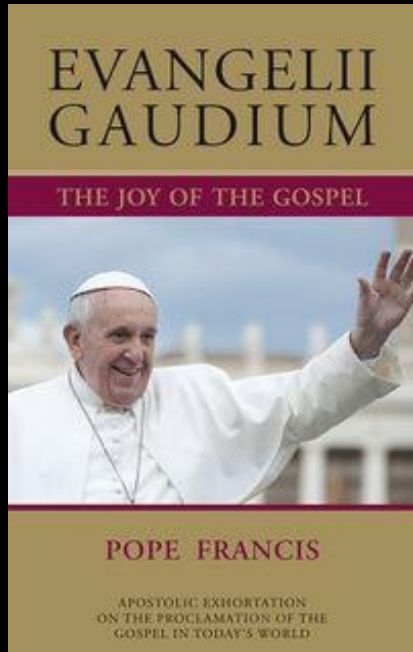


The Church needs to  
find new doorways  
through which people  
can enter.

# CONTEXT . . . CHALLENGES

1. Many seekers of the Spirit have left ecclesial practice
2. The mode of exercising Church magisterium being challenged, explored and discerned
3. The content of moral teaching: dialogue and challenge
4. A pluralism of spiritualities within the tradition

*Renewing the Church in a Secular Age: Holistic Dialogue and Kenotic Vision.* 2015 Conference of the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy

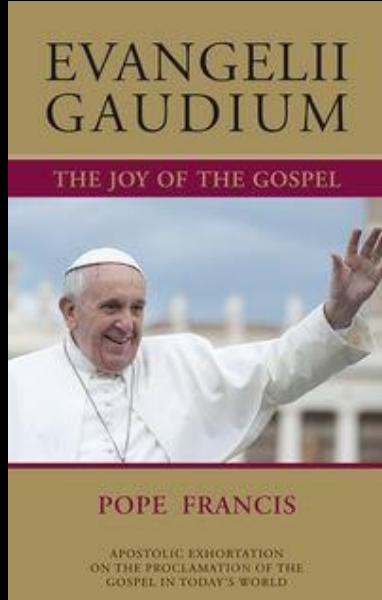


Young people call us to renewed and expansive hope, for they represent new directions for humanity and open us up to the future, lest we cling to a nostalgia for structures and customs which are no longer life-giving in today's world. #107





Don't ask, "what sort of world are we leaving our children?"  
Instead, ask, "What sort of children do we want for the world?"



What is called for is an evangelisation capable of shedding light on these new ways of relating to God, to others and to the world around us, and inspiring essential values. #74





Your class has come of age at a moment of great consequence for our nation and our world – a rare inflection point in history where the size and scope of the challenges before us require that we remake our world to renew its promise;





that we align our  
deepest values and  
commitments to the  
demands of a new age.  
It is a privilege and a  
responsibility afforded  
few generations – a  
task you are now  
called to fulfil.



**Royal Commission**  
into Institutional Responses  
to Child Sexual Abuse

Can. 129 §1. Those who have received sacred orders are qualified, according to the norm of the prescripts of the law, for the power of governance, which exists in the Church by divine institution and is also called the power of jurisdiction.

§2. Lay members of the Christian faithful can cooperate in the exercise of this same power according to the norm of law.

collaborators  
participants







# THE PROPHETS

OBADIAH  
HABAKKUK  
MALACHI  
ZEPHANIAH  
JEREMIAH  
JOEL  
AMOS  
HAGGAI  
MICAH  
LAMENTATIONS  
NAHUM  
ZECHARIAH  
ISAIAH  
EZEKIEL  
DANIEL  
HOSEA  
JONAH





# *Abraham Heschel*



Heschel, Abraham. *The Prophets*.  
Peabody, MA: Prince Press, 1962.





The prophet :

1. No to their society
2. Condemnation of habits and assumptions, complacency, waywardness and syncretism.
3. Compelled to proclaim the very opposite of what his/her heart expects.





The prophet :

4. Fundamental objective is to  
reconcile people to  
God.

5. Why? Perhaps it is due to our  
false sense of sovereignty,  
to our abuse of freedom,  
to our aggressive sprawling  
pride, resenting God's  
involvement in history. p.xv

BIBLICAL  
FOUNDATIONS  
OF  
SPIRITUALITY



*Touching a Finger  
to the Flame*

BARBARA E. BOWE

# biblical prophets

hope and re-birth

here and now

indignation and urgency

in tune with the Spirit

pay the price

gentleness and compassion

new horizons

“Prophetic leadership is visionary, strategic, corporate and foundational. It calls us to be Christ’s people together in this place now and for the future.”

Nick Colarelli, “The Challenge of Pastoral Leadership: Servant, King and Prophet” *Human Development* 28, no. 1 (Spring 2007): 19.

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*Human Development* 28, no. 1 (Spring 2007): 19.



Leadership is about paying attention  
moment to moment. It is about  
opening up the mind, the heart and the  
will.

Linda Kaser and Judy Halbert, *Leadership Mindsets: Innovation and Learning in the Transformation of Schools* (New York: Routledge, 2009), 140.

APOSTOLIC LETTER

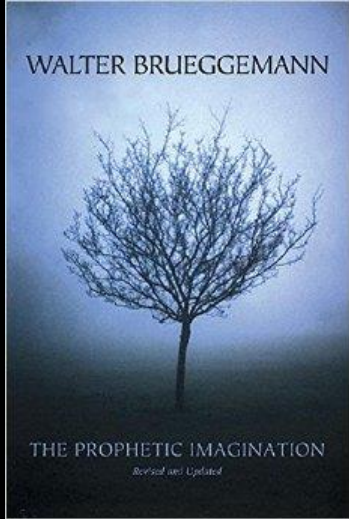
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Challenge elements of the  
dominant culture.  
The challenges to the  
dominant culture energises  
people.<sub>p.14</sub>

“A leader takes people where  
they want to go. A great leader  
takes people where they don’t  
necessarily want to go **but**  
**ought to be.”**  
**How do you know?**

Rosalynn Carter

[womenshistory.about.com/od/quotes/a/rosalyn\\_carter.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/od/quotes/a/rosalyn_carter.htm)

accessed 4 July 2011

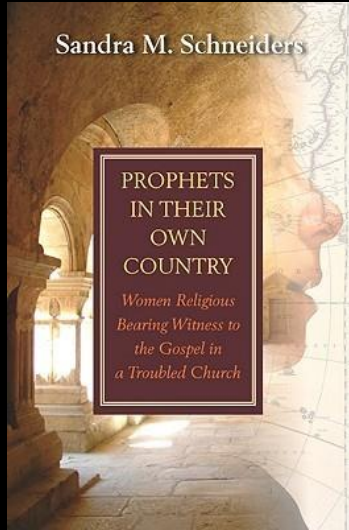
Sandra M. Schneiders

PROPHETS  
IN THEIR  
OWN  
COUNTRY

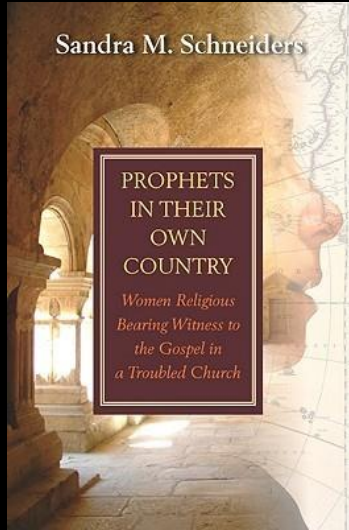
*Women Religious  
Bearing Witness to  
the Gospel in  
a Troubled Church*





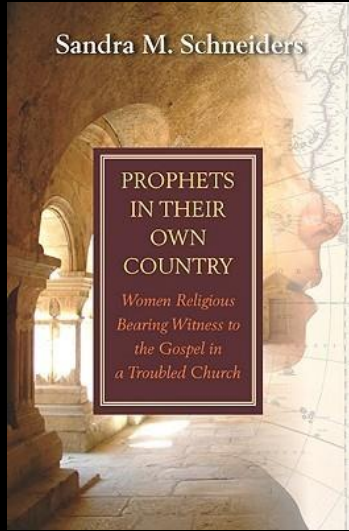


“Intrinsic to the prophetic vocation within the Judaeo-Christian tradition is the tension between prophecy and institution.” p.23



*Some counsel. . .*

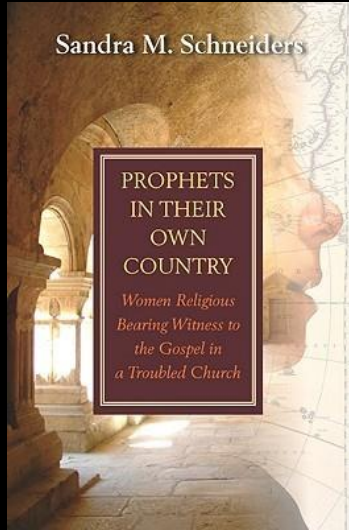
“It is because the prophet is one with the people that he or she can speak for this people to God and for God to this people.” p.82-83



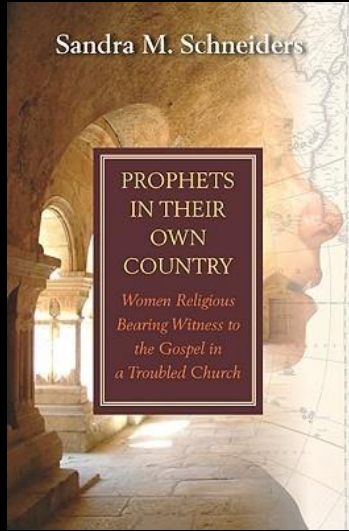
*therefore. . .*

*“ . . . special relationship with God.*

Mediate the special interaction  
between God, this people, and the  
particular historical situation.” p. 84



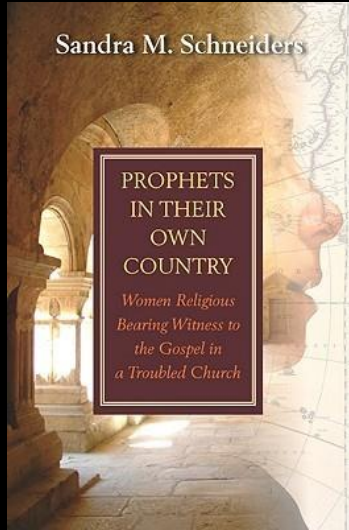
*The prophetic voice invites us. . .*  
“moral responsibility, rather than the  
prescribed answer . . .” p. 86



The prophet's direct and immediate experience of God is the root of her or his words and actions. p. 93

. . . speak for God not as God. p.93



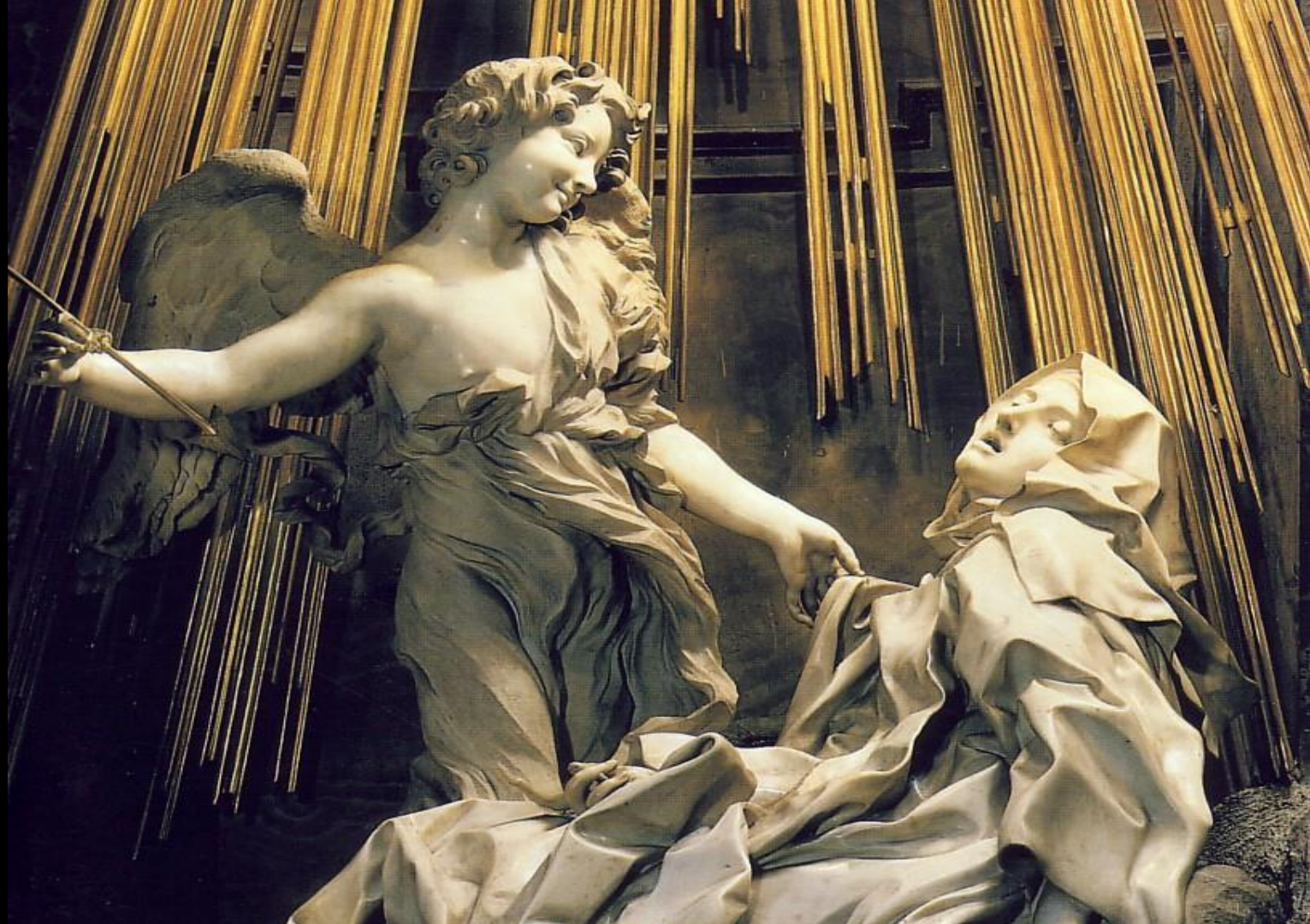


. . . Criterion of the true prophet is the *coherence between the prophet's message and the prophet's life.* p. 93

Prophetic witness involves discerning and responding . . . p.101

*mysticial*

*christian  
mysticism*





“ . . . the devout Christian of the future will either be a ‘mystic’ . . . or cease to be anything at all.”

Karl Rahner, “Christian Living Formerly and Today,”  
*Theological Investigations* 7 (1971): 15.

**Universal call to holiness  
of all the baptised**





“... we need always to keep in mind that all believers, whatever their particular Christian vocation, are equally called to discipleship and to holiness.”

Sandra Schneiders “Call, Response and the Task of Prophetic Action,” *National Catholic Reporter*. Jan 4, 2010. <http://ncronline.org/news/women/call-response-and-task-prophetic-action> (accessed Jan 10, 2010)

CHURCH

























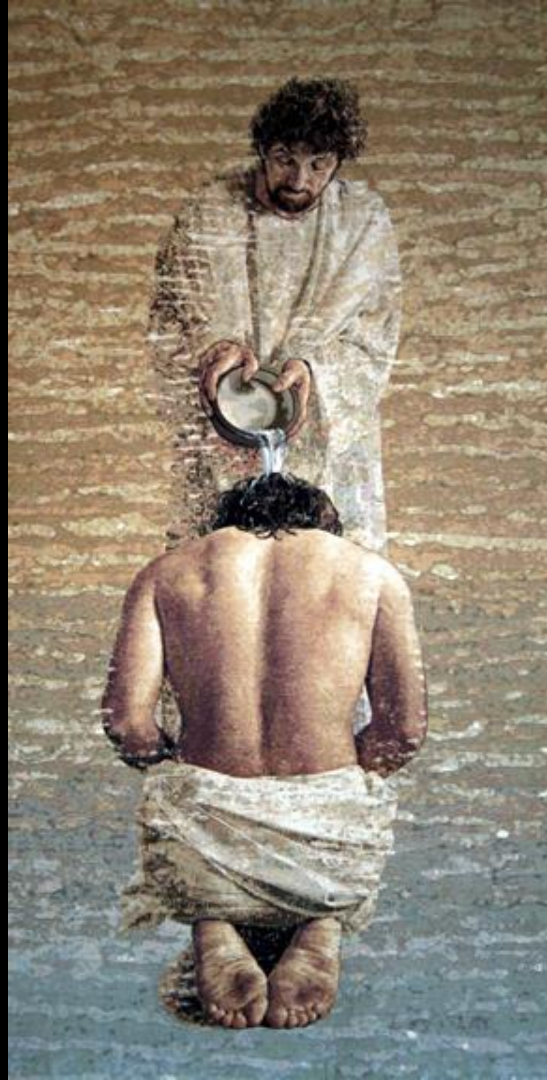




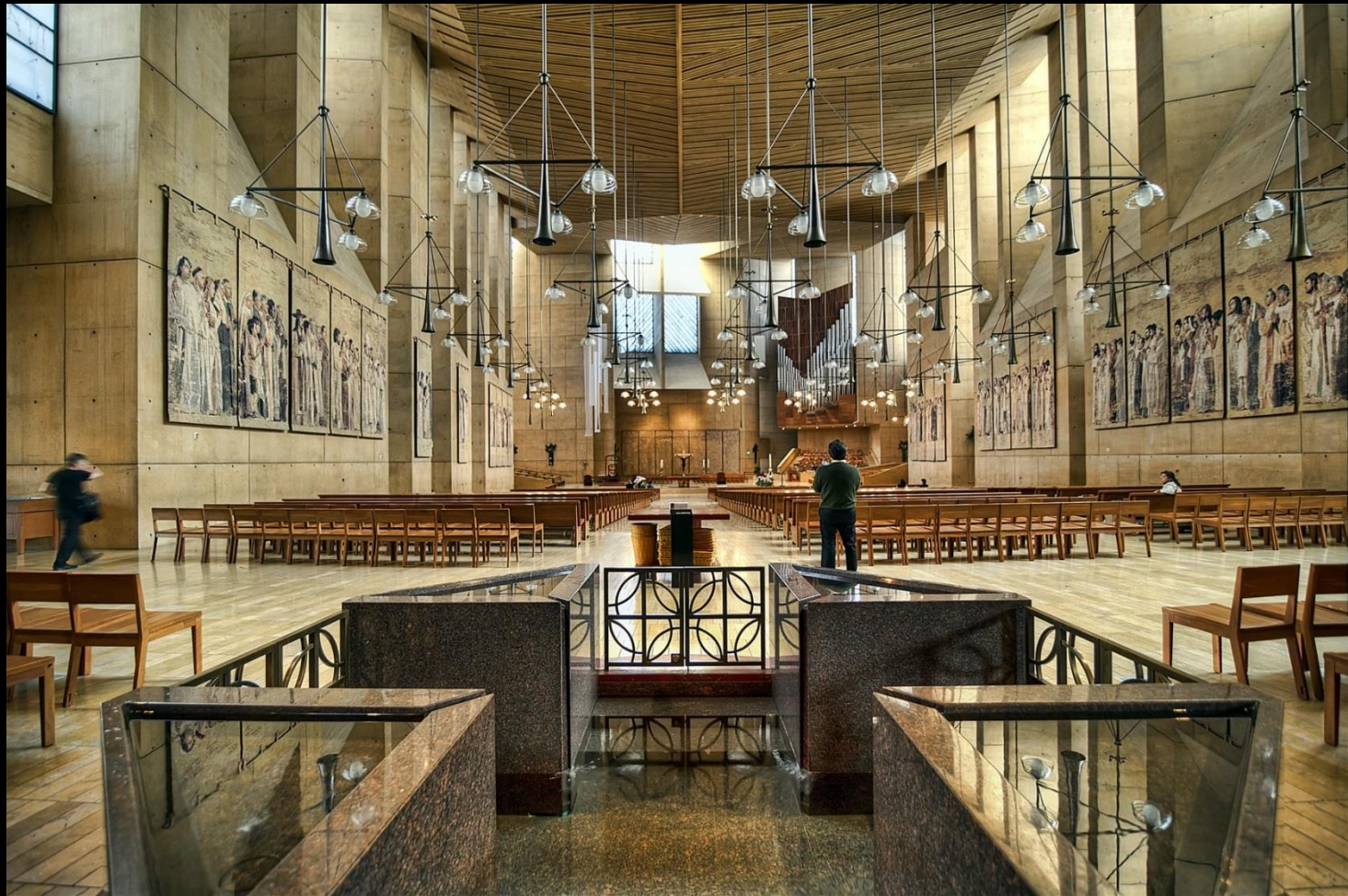












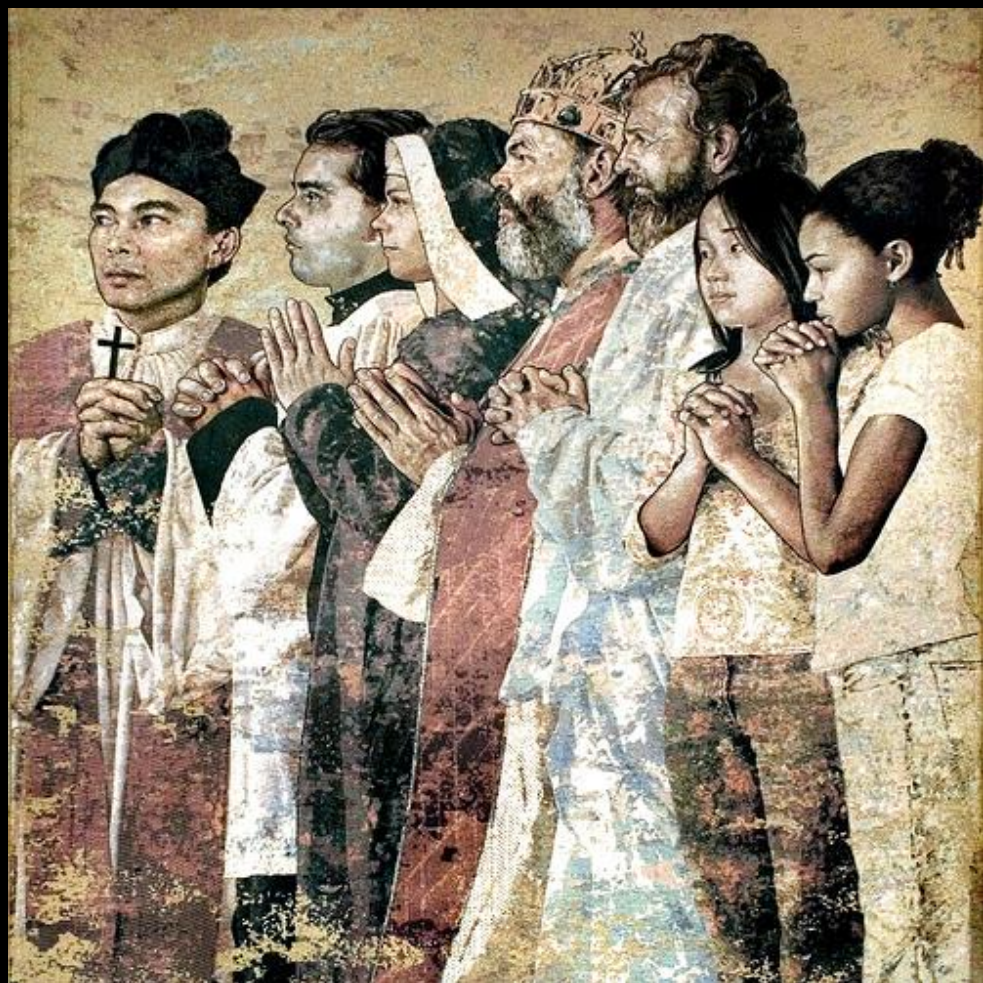




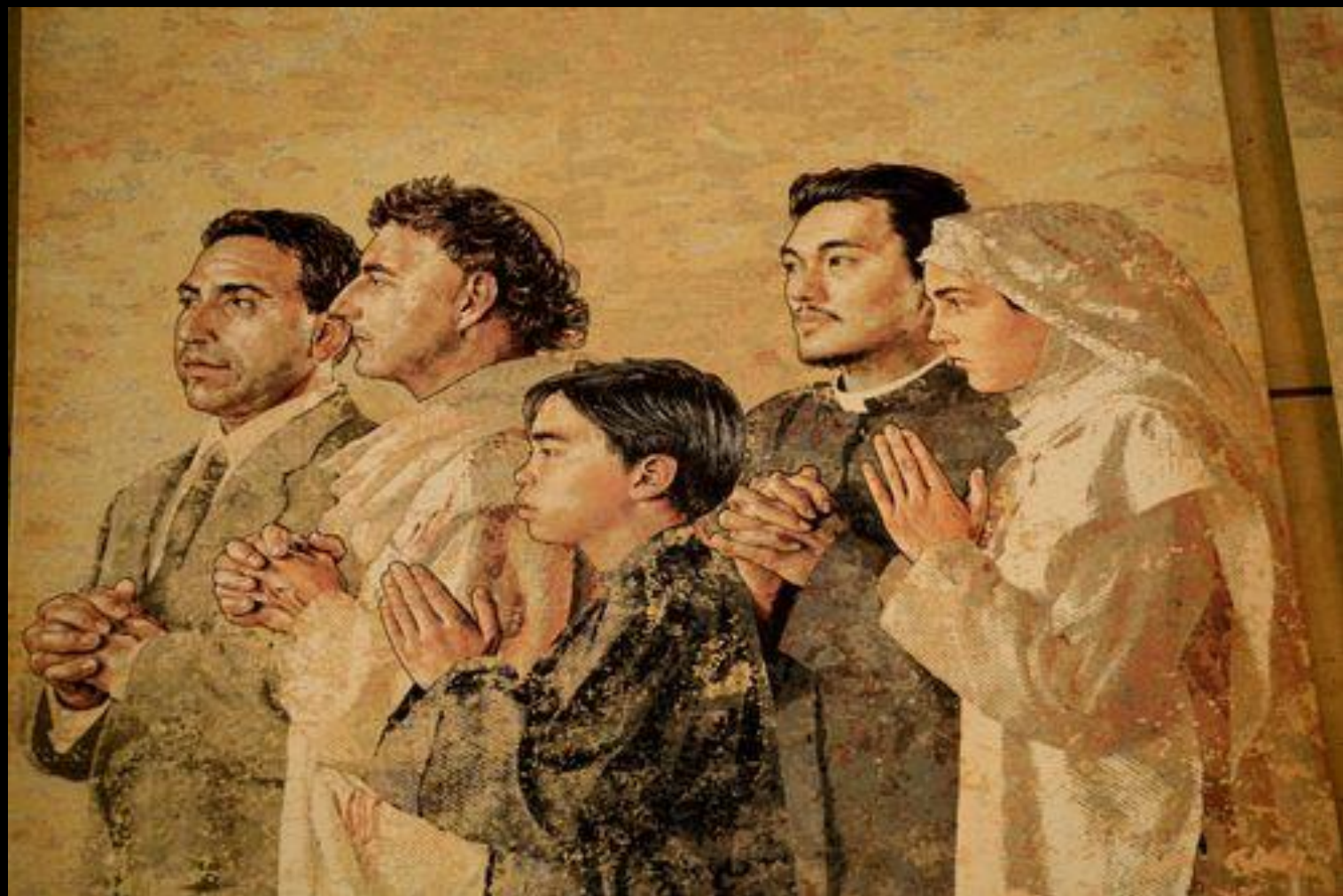






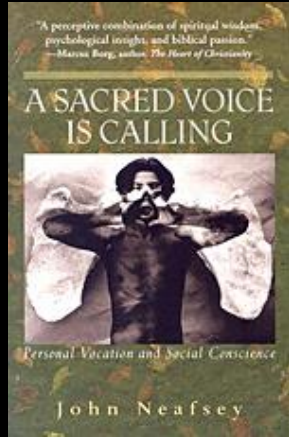








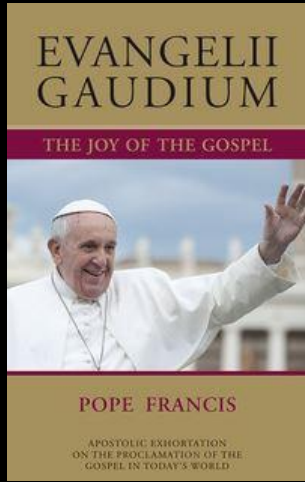
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# SPIRIT PERSONS

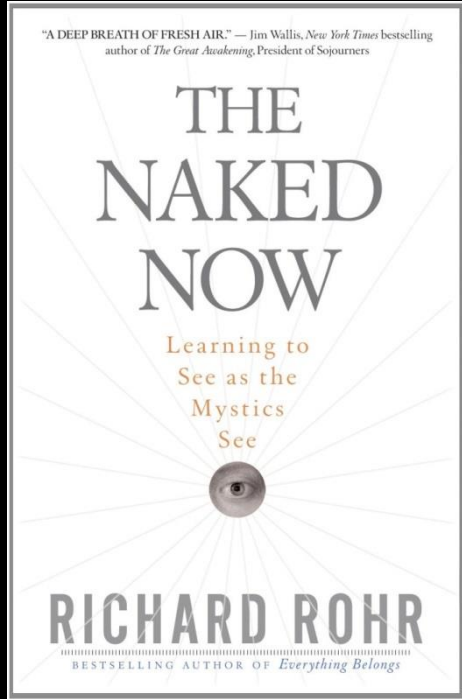
“... funnels or conduits for the power or wisdom of God to enter the world.”

(Borg) p.20



We need to look at our cities with a contemplative gaze, a gaze of faith which sees God dwelling in their homes, in their streets and squares. . . (God) dwells among them, fostering solidarity, fraternity and the desire for goodness, truth and justice. This presence must not be contrived but found, uncovered.#71





FUTURES GIVEN BY GOD AND GRACE  
Contemplation is an exercise in  
keeping your heart and mind spaces  
open long enough for the mind to see  
other hidden material.  
“A change of heart is always a change  
of mind.” (Dali Lama) p.34.





Christocentric





# LAUDATO SI'

ON THE CARE OF  
OUR COMMON HOME



POPE FRANCIS



ENCYCLICAL LETTER

“Our efforts at education will be inadequate and ineffectual unless we strive to promote a new way of thinking about **human beings**, life, society and our relationship with nature.”

human

humane

inhumane

















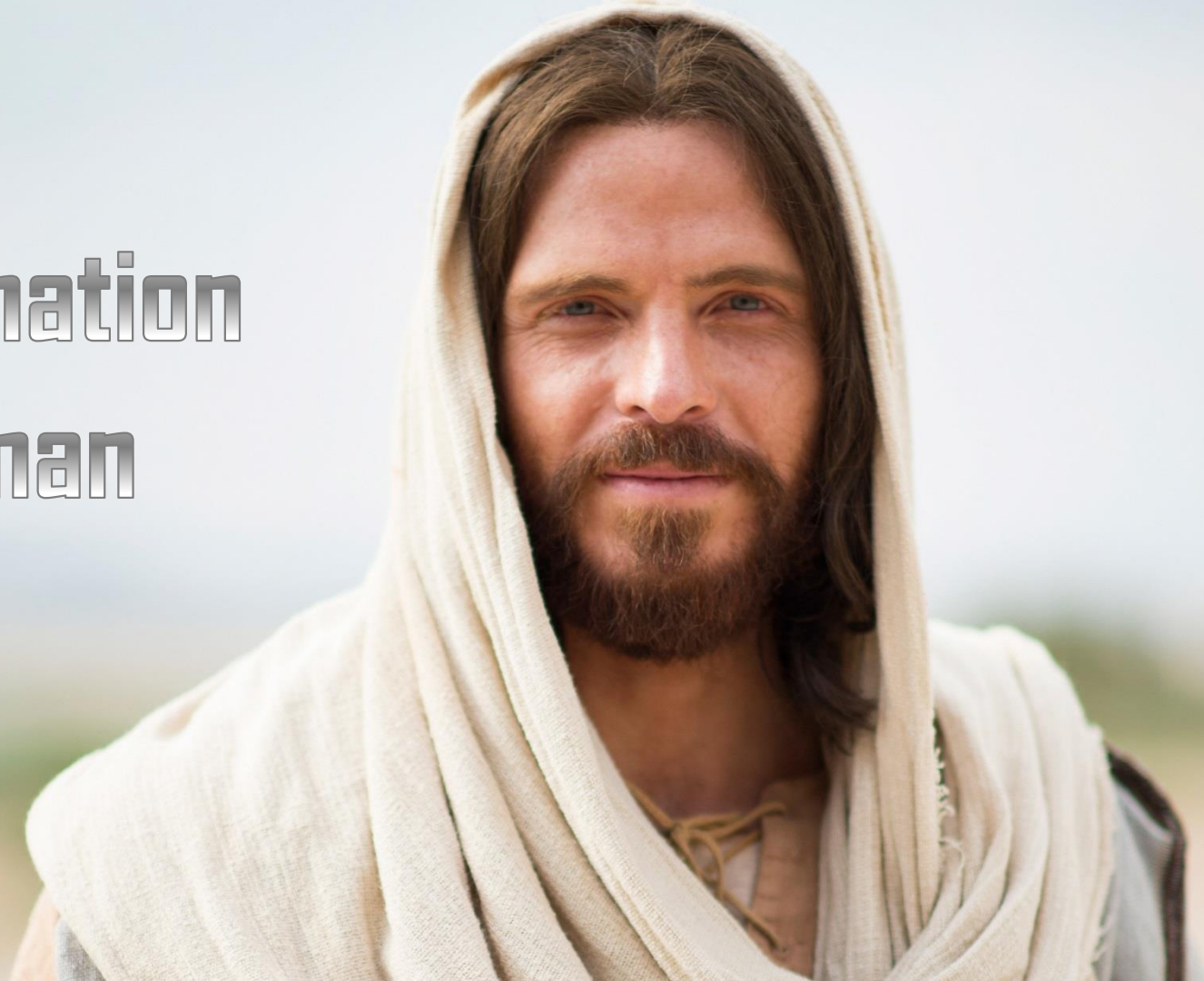


# Child prostitution A curse to Society



# Incarnation

## human



Jesus came to change the  
mind of humanity about God

Richard Rohr

We are not  
human beings on a spiritual journey  
but  
spiritual beings on a human journey

secularisation

individualism



*humanity*

*is my religion*



# Knowledge of Relationship with





# Reign of God in the world

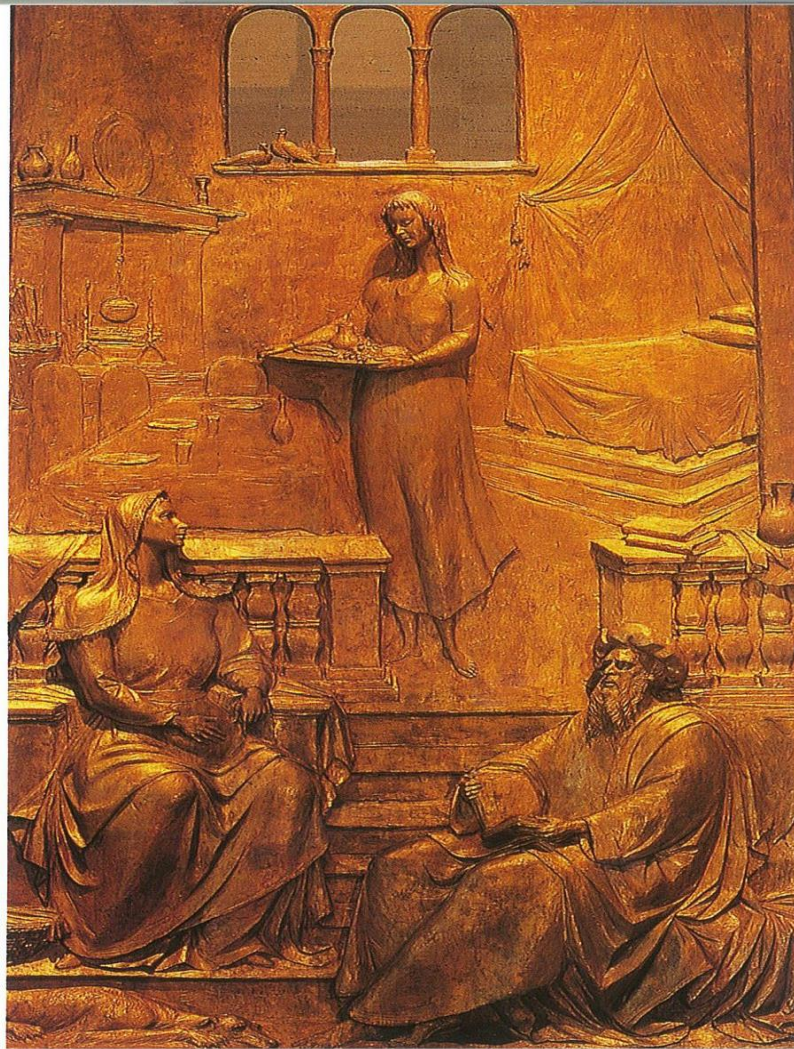


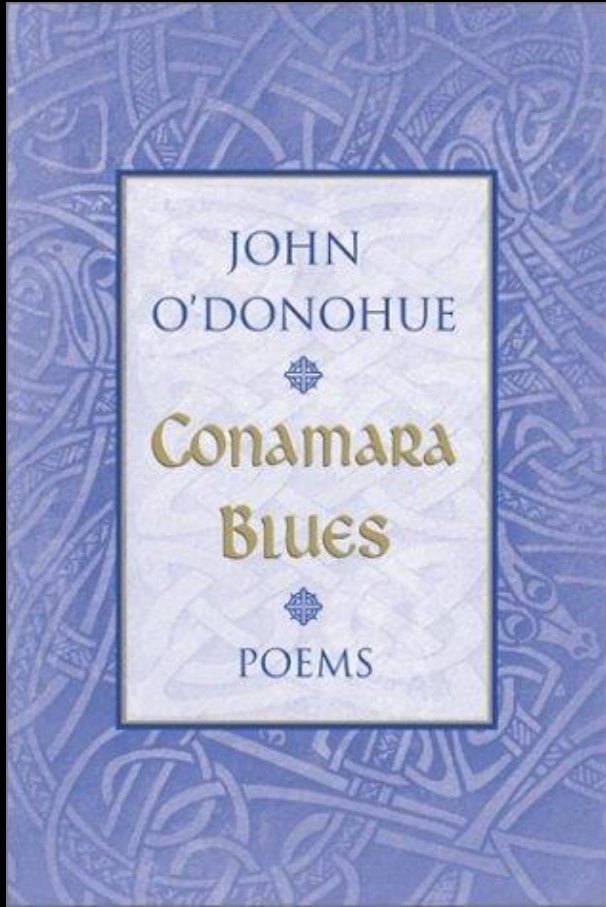












# The Visitation

John O'Donohue, *Conamara Blues*  
(London: Bantam Books, 2000), 63.

In the morning it takes the mind a while  
To find the world again, lost after dream  
Has taken the heart to the underworld  
To play with the shades of lives not chosen.

She awakens a stranger in her own life,  
Her breath loud in the room full of listening.  
Taken without touch, her flesh feels the grief  
Of belonging to what cannot be seen.

Soon she can no longer bear to be alone.  
At dusk she takes the road into the hills.  
An anxious moon doubles her among the stone.  
A door opens, the older one's eyes fill.

Two women locked in a story of birth.  
Each mirrors the secret the other heard.



















The Visitation