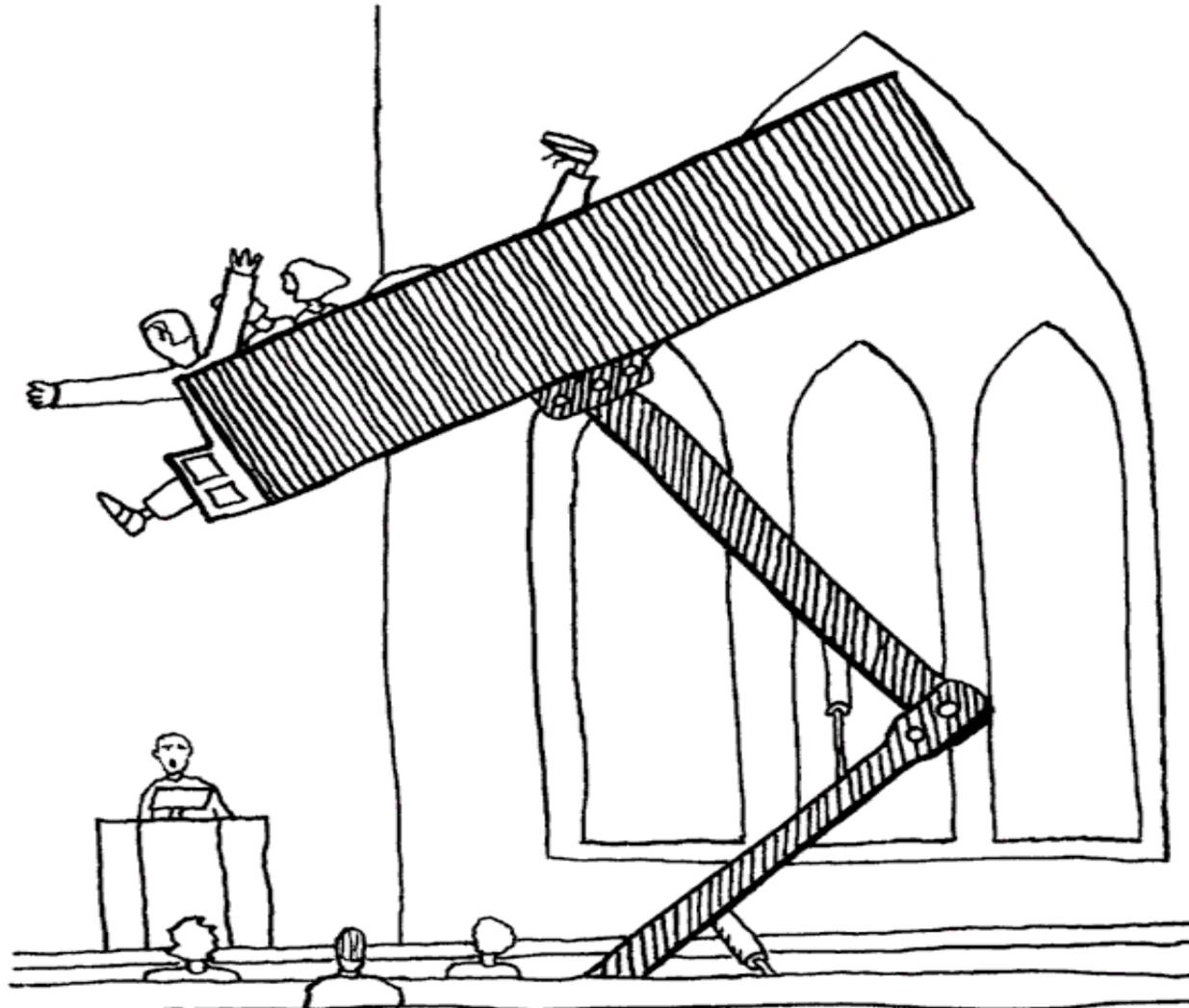


My Soul Longs For You, O God



St. John Parish
Little Chute

As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?



SOME OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WANTED
CHURCH TO BE MORE EXCITING

We are born with the desire for God

“O God, you are my God whom I seek;
For you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts
Like the earth parched and lifeless without water (Ps 63:1-2).”

“How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God (Ps 84:1-2).”

Is America a purely secular culture? America has more houses of worship per capita than any other industrialized nation.

If this is the case why have so many failed to find God? *Pew
Forum

What is the soul?

- Heraclitus “ The soul is its own source of unfolding
- The soul is a mystery showing traces of the finger of God at work “servants.....
- Identifying with your soul-being “out of touch” “lose one’s soul” –depression



How do you see God in the World?

- How do you see God?



- How does God Speak to you?



- How does he reveal his presence to you?

How does God reveal himself to Us?

Through Creation:

St. Paul tells us that the Creator can be known through the works of creation. St. Augustine puts this truth more dramatically.

“Question the beauty of the earth. Question the beauty of the sea . . . question the beauty of the sky. . . . All respond: ‘See, we are beautiful.’ Their beauty is a profession. These beauties are subject to change. Who made them if not the Beautiful One who is not subject to change?” (Sermon 241, 2).





We are a part of Creation



“I bind unto myself today
The virtues of the star lit heaven,
The glorious sun’s life giving ray
The whiteness of the moon at even,
The flashing of the lightning free,
The whirling wind’s tempestuous shocks,
The stable earth, the deep salt sea
Around the old eternal rocks”

St. Patrick



How does God Reveal himself to Us?

Through the Human Person

If we think about what we are like, we notice that we want to know the truth and experience perfect beauty. We are attracted to moral goodness. We appreciate our freedom and struggle to maintain it. We are aware of the voice of conscience and try to live by it. We thirst for nothing less than the infinite and absolute happiness. These experiences make us aware of our souls and our spiritual nature. The more we realize these facts about ourselves, the more we are drawn to the reality of God.



How does God Reveal himself to Us?

Through Direct Revelation

Wonderful as the world and the human person are as sources for knowing God, the ambiguity of the signs, caused by human sinfulness, required an explicit and assuring direct Revelation from God about his love for us, his plan for our salvation, and his inner life. In Sacred Scripture, as understood within the faith of the Church, we have a sure and certain guide to the extraordinary riches of God. Most of what we will be studying in the Catechism is derived from Scripture as prayed in the liturgy and transmitted to us by the Church, her Apostolic Tradition, and her teaching office (Magisterium).



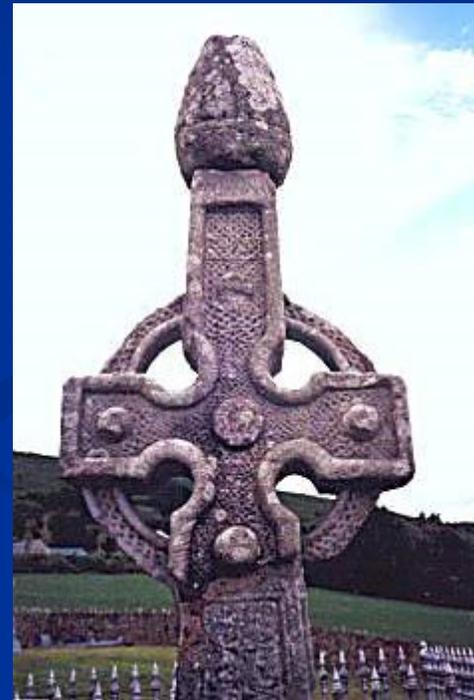
The High Cross

- What do they say to us??
- The designs symbolized the interlacing of God and humanity, heaven and earth, spirit and matter.
- Belief- we can look to creation as to the Scriptures to receive the Word of God



The Imagery of the Cross

- Orb at the center of the cross- representing the sun and the light of the world
- Scripture/Nature on opposite sides of the cross- revelation of God in creation and revelation of God in the bible
- Metaphor- listening for the living Word of God in nature as well as the Scriptures
- God did not create the world out of nothing- but out of his essential nature, his goodness, his essence, his very life

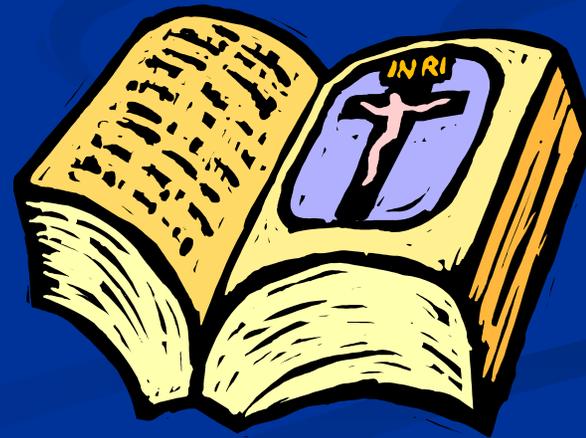


Why did God reveal himself?

- Jesus said to Nicodemus that God's love moved him to get close to us. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him (Jn 3:16-17)."



- “You may be the only Gospel that some people will ever read”.



The Separation of Faith & Life

“This split between the faith which many profess and their daily lives deserves to be counted among the more serious errors of our age.”

- *Gaudium et Spes*, n43
Second Vatican Council

The Power of Myth

Faith and the practice of religion – appropriate for the privacy of your home and conscience, but never to be publicly displayed.

“Religious belief and ceremony should be a private matter”

- American Atheists Inc.



“An atheist is a person with no invisible means of support.”

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

All That I Am

All that I am Lord

I place into your hands.

All that I do Lord

I place into your hands.

The troubles that weary me

I place into your hands,

The thoughts that disturb me.

I place into your hands.

Each that I pray for,

I place into your hands,

Each that I care for,

I place into your hands.

Help me to find my happiness in my acceptance

Of what your purpose is for me:

In friendly eyes, in work well done,

In quietness born of trust,

And most of all,

In the awareness of Your presence

In my spirit.

Amen.