



An approach to the spiritual dimension of service-learning

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Two visions of Catholic Education



UNISERVITATE
Service-learning in Catholic Higher Education

A fortress or a fountain?

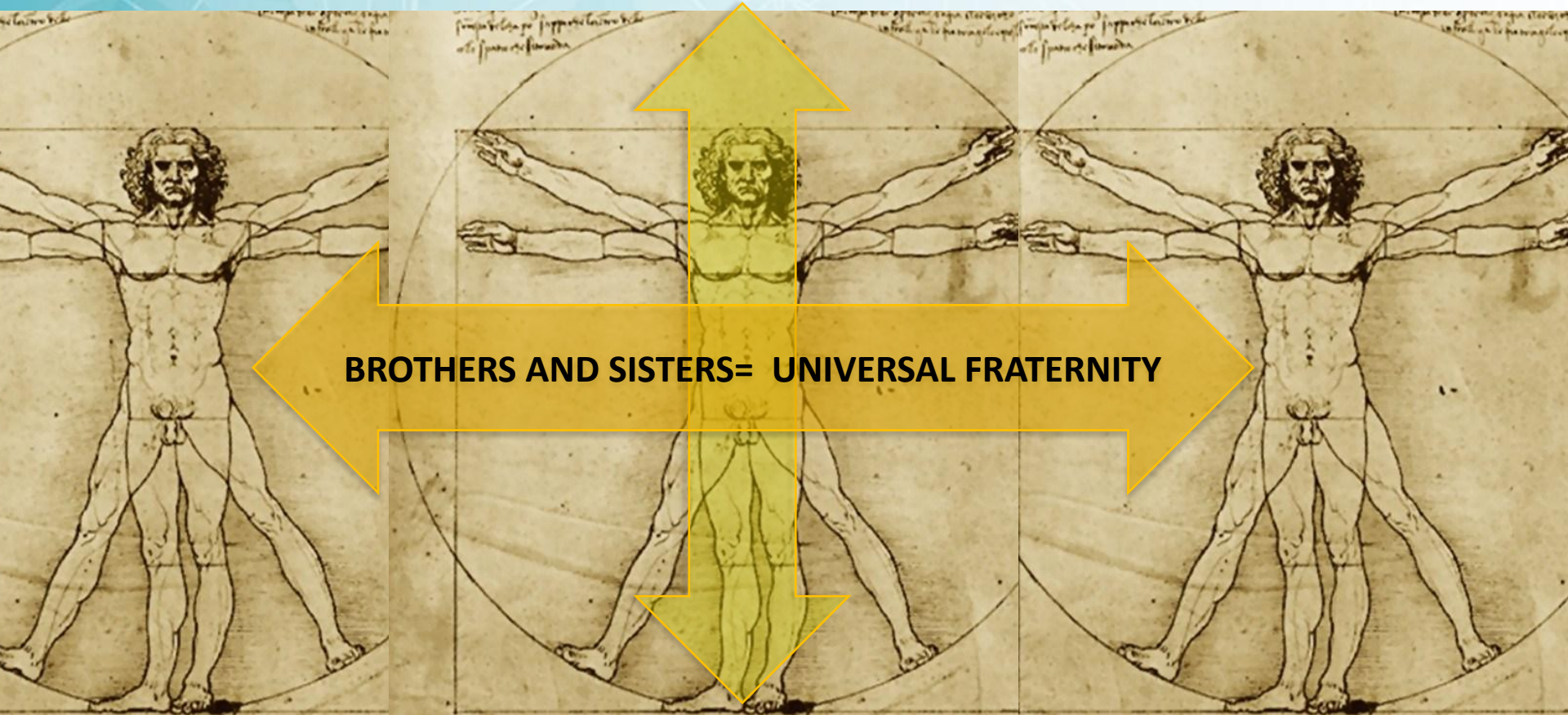


Catholic Higher Education

- Integral education: heads, hands and hearts.
- Evangelization
 - To build a community of witness=experience the nearness of God.
 - Establish a coherent dialogue between Science and Faith.
 - A University “outward-bound” into the “existential peripheries”

Humanistic anthropology

GOD/SENSE OF LIFE/SPIRITUAL DIMENSION/MYSTERY



BROTHERS AND SISTERS= UNIVERSAL FRATERNITY

NATURE



Spirituality

- Questions about the sense of life, its spiritual, mystery dimension.
- Personal connection with the transcendental dimension of life/"the Unknown God"
- Religious relationship with Divinity (any religion). Personal/Religious community.
- Personal relationship with Jesus (Christianity)/Belonging to a Church
- Personal relationship with Jesus as part of the Catholic Church community.



The spiritual dimension of SL

- Contribution to reflection on the sense of life: values of solidarity/fraternity; social justice.

- The Golden Rule: do to others what you would like the others do to you.

- A Catholic Spirituality of Service&Learning



A laity reflection of Solidarity/Service

“Vertical” service



**“Horizontal”
service/solidarity**

Giving

Sharing

Doing “for”

Doing “with”

Paternalistic

Fraternal

Patronizing

Empowering

Know-it-all

Reciprocal learning

Self-serving/“I feel well”

Empathy/Prosocial
attitudes

Reproduce injustice cycle

Recognize rights, search
for social justice



The Golden Rule

Hinduism: This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you. (Mahabharata 5:1517)



Buddhism: Treat not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful. (Udana-Varga 5.18)



Christianity: In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. (Jesus, Matthew 7:12)



Islam: Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself. (The Prophet Muhammad, Hadith)



Taoism: Regard your neighbour's gain as your own gain, and your neighbour's loss as your own loss. (T'ai Shang Kan Ying P'ien, 213-218)



Judaism: What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour. This is the whole Torah; all the rest is commentary. (Hillel, Talmud, Shabbat 31a)

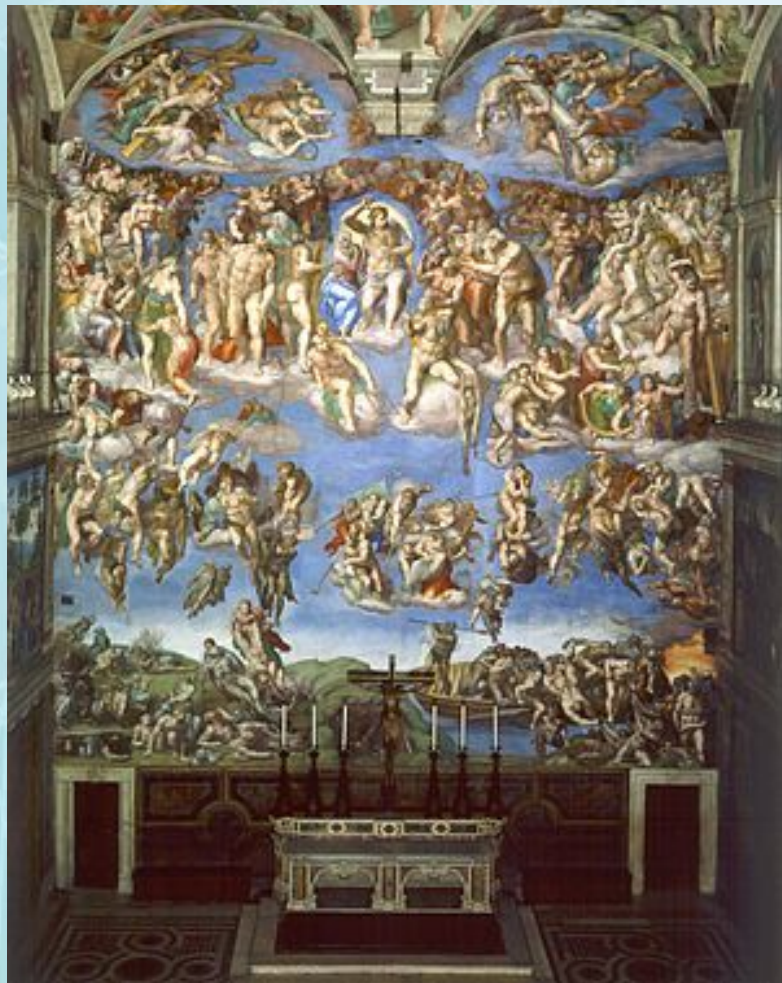




A Catholic Spirituality for SL

- Sources:
 - The Word of God/The Good News
 - The Social Teaching of the Church
- Service-Learning as:
 - Meeting Jesus in your brothers and sisters/serve them/learn from them.
 - Meeting Jesus among “Two or more united...” (Mt. 18, 20)/Learning from Him.
 - Personal relationship with God as Love.

The final exam



"If you were a student and by chance came to know the questions of the school's final exams, you would consider yourself lucky and study the answers thoroughly.

Life is a trial and at the end it, too, has to pass an exam; but the infinite love of God has already told humanity what the questions will be: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink". (Mt. 25, 31-46).

Chiara Lubich, 1959

“The Church is called to come out of herself and to go to the peripheries, not only geographically, but also the existential peripheries: the mystery of sin, of pain, of injustice, of ignorance and indifference to religion, of intellectual currents, and of all forms of misery.”

Monsgr. Jorge Bergoglio, Intervention at the Conclave, March, 9th, 2013.

La Salle University, Manila

- “Real wealth is the ability to think and to feel, not to be possessed by possessions; to give, to receive, to reason, to fair. Children know this; there is no class distinction among men. If I can open their minds and let the sun enter in, if a lot of men can do this, if we can reach beyond the boundaries marked rich and poor, if we can open their minds to this light, we’ll become a brighter place, closer to peace, closer to human fraternity.”
- – St. John Baptist De La Salle



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