



Motivation for Social Transformation through Spirituality in Service Learning in CHEIs

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UNISERVITATE
Service-learning in Catholic Higher Education

my
starting
point

“The Christian spirit of service to others for the *promotion of social justice* is of particular importance for each Catholic University, to be shared by its teachers and developed in its students.”

Ex Corde Ecclesiae, no.34

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Formation
of agents of
Social
Transformation

Ex Corde Ecclesiae, no.34



Social Transformation from a Christian Perspective

“a set of processes in which individuals and groups of people bring about large scale social change with an aim of enhancing quality of life” in the light of the gospel values.



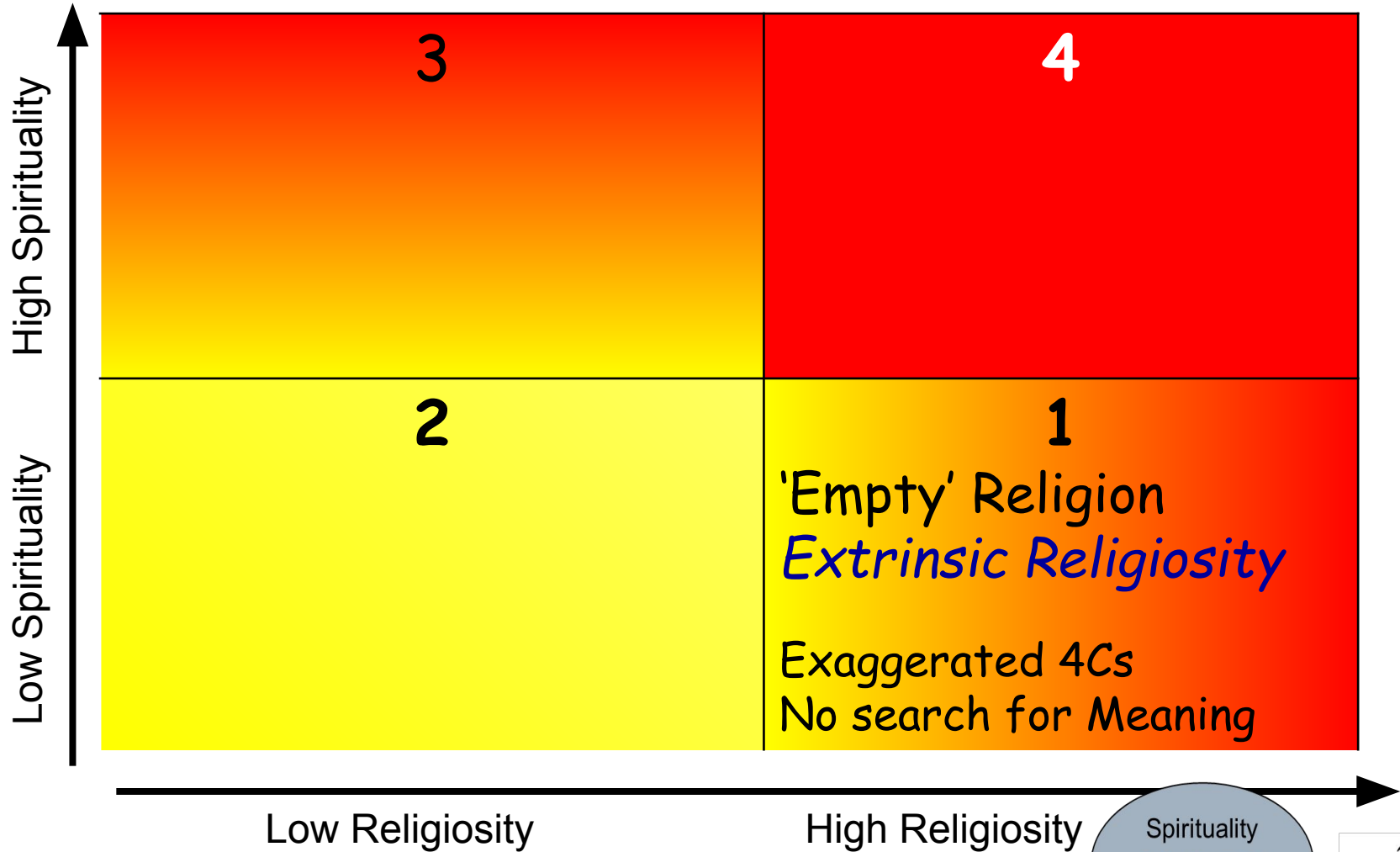
The Big Question

**How can CHEIs accompany
their students in such a way
that their graduates will
become agents of
social transformation?**

A dark blue graduation cap with a gold tassel is the central focus, resting on a light-colored surface. To the right, a rolled-up diploma in a white sleeve is partially visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gradient.

Motivation
for Social Transformation
through
Spirituality in
Service Learning in CHEIs

Religion and/or Spirituality

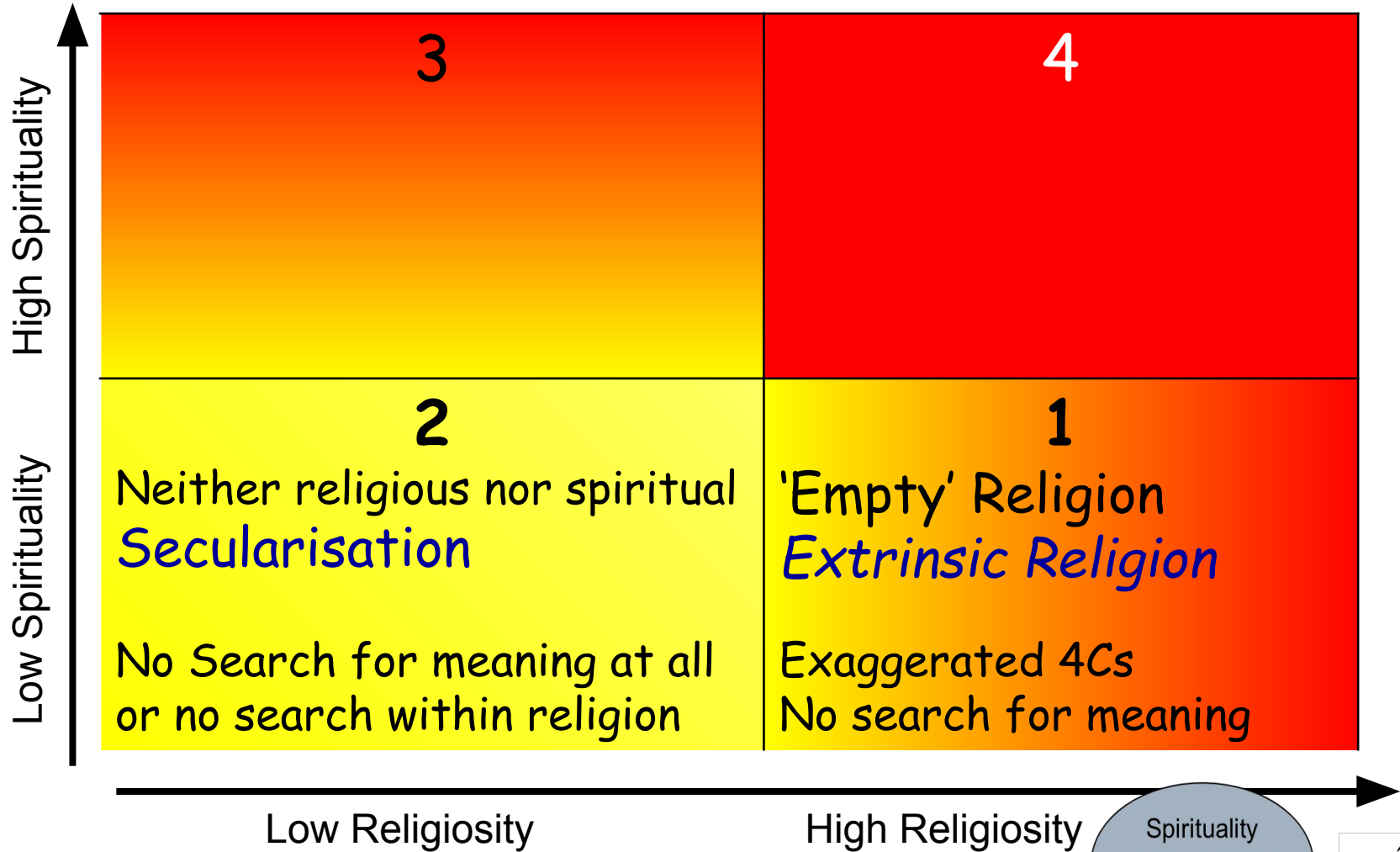


Selvam, S.G. (2013). Towards religious spirituality: A multidimensional matrix of religion and spirituality. *Journal for the Study of Religions and Ideologies*, 12(36), 129-152.

Spirituality may or may not include faith in God



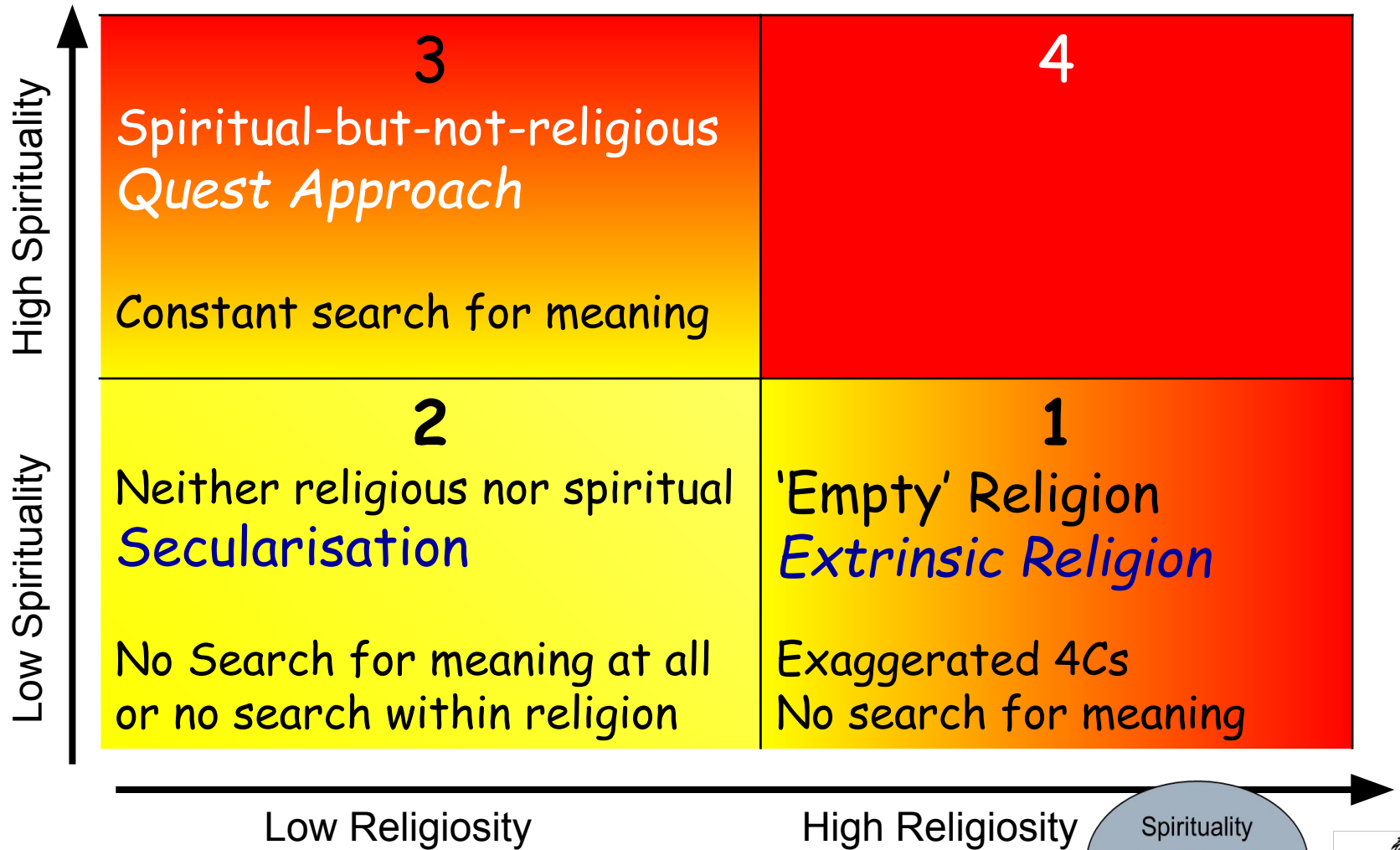
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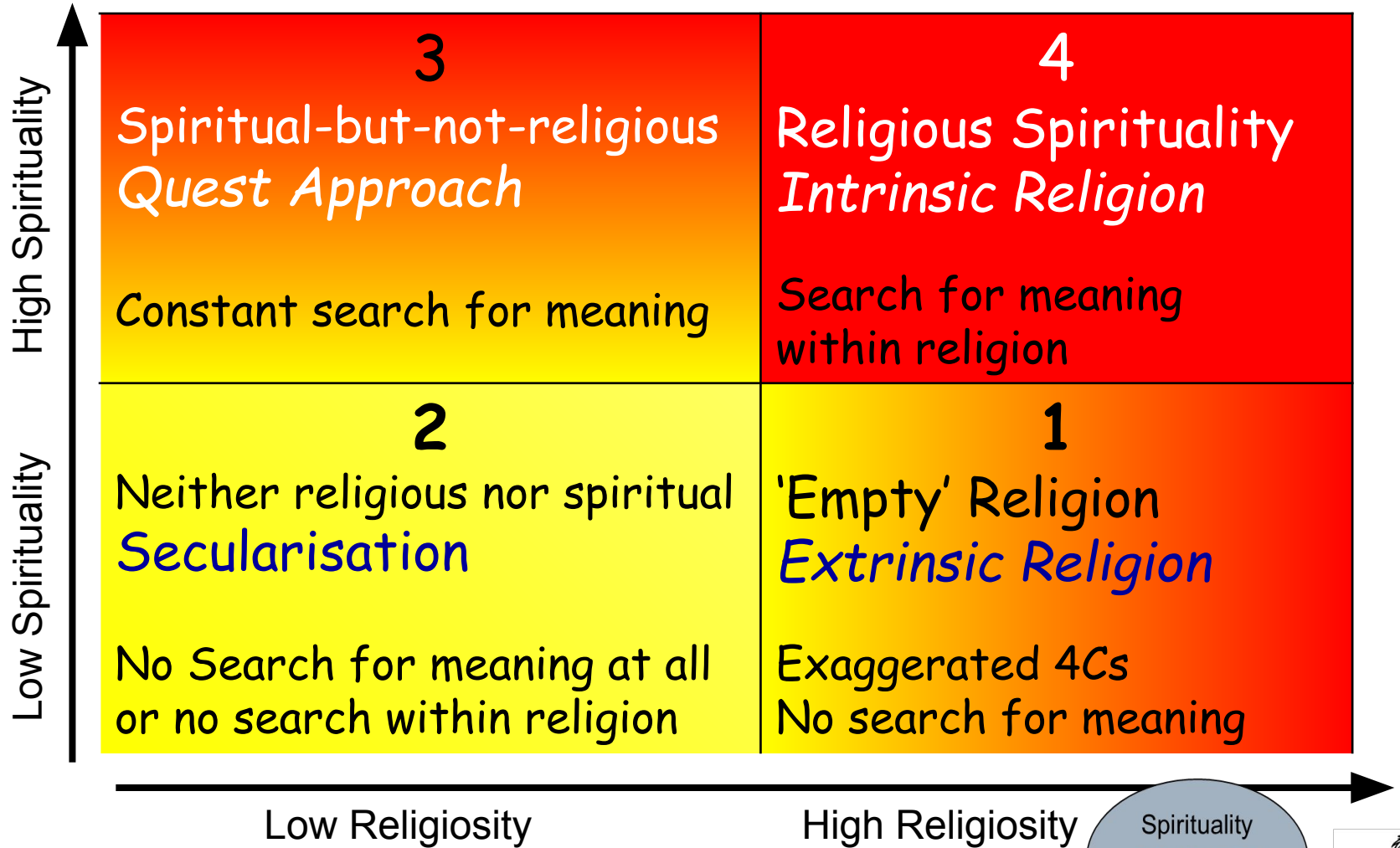
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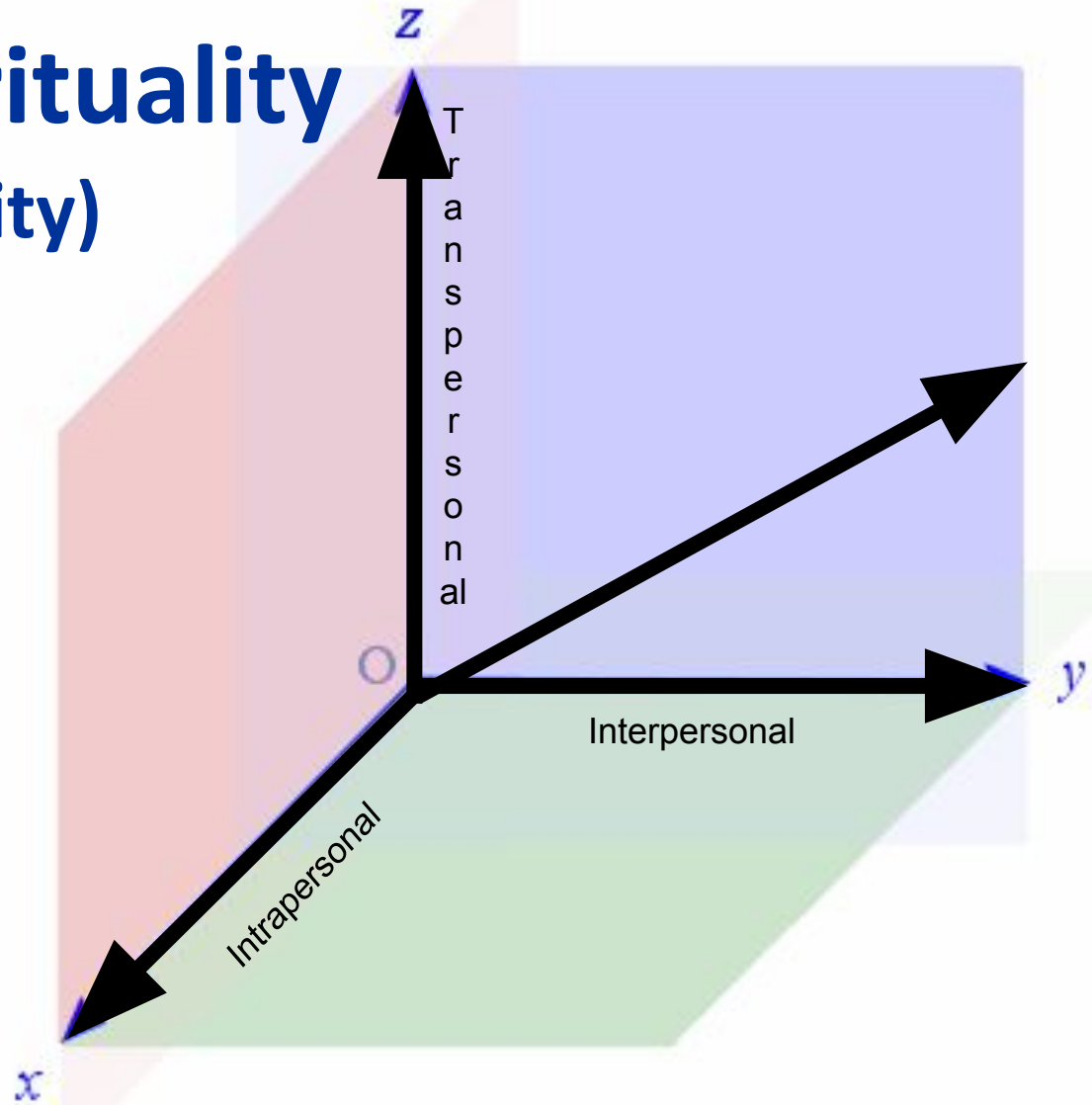
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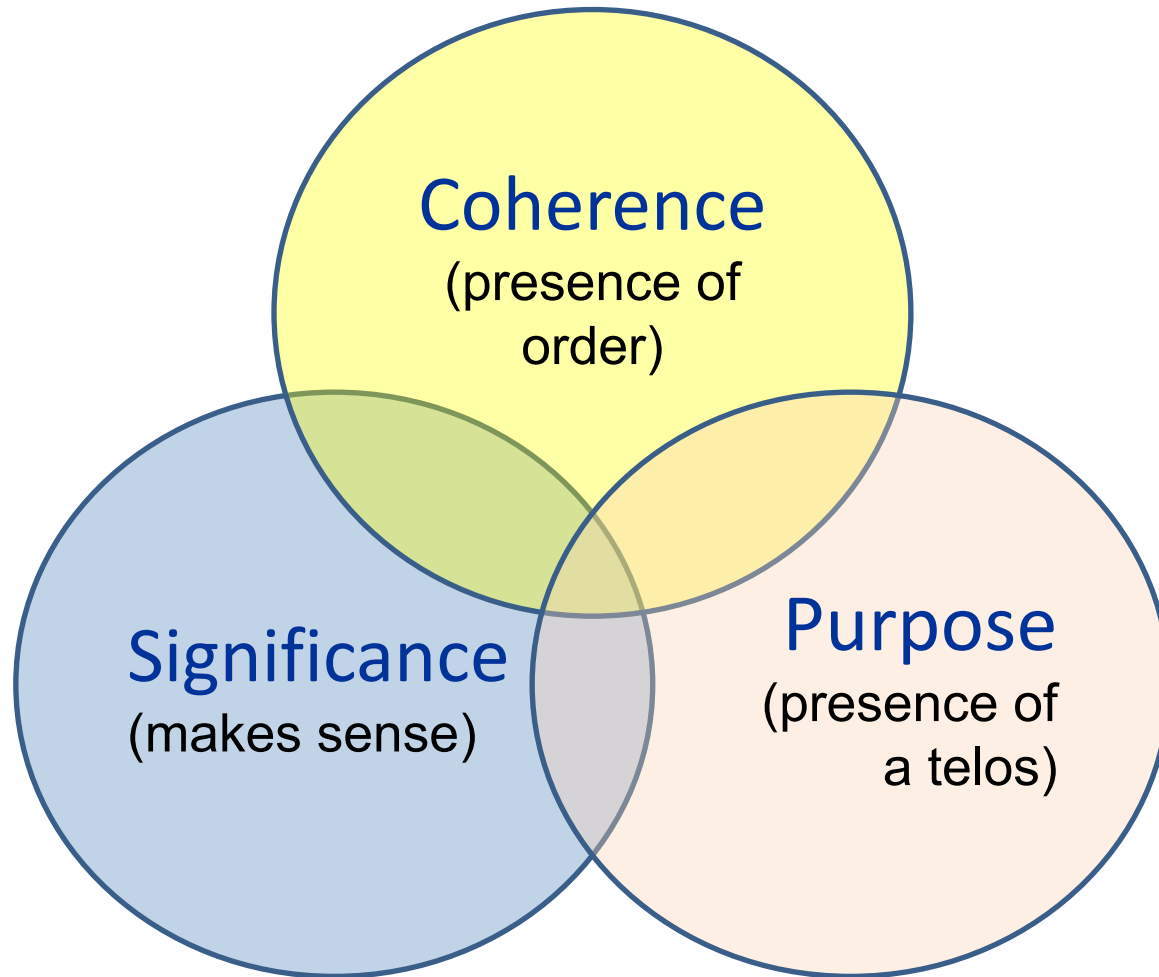


A 4-D Religious Spirituality (Catholic Spirituality)



Selvam, S.G. (2015). Character strengths in the context of Christian contemplative practice facilitating recovery from alcohol misuse: Two case studies. *The Journal of Spirituality in Mental Health*, 17(3), 190-211.

Three meanings of meaning in life

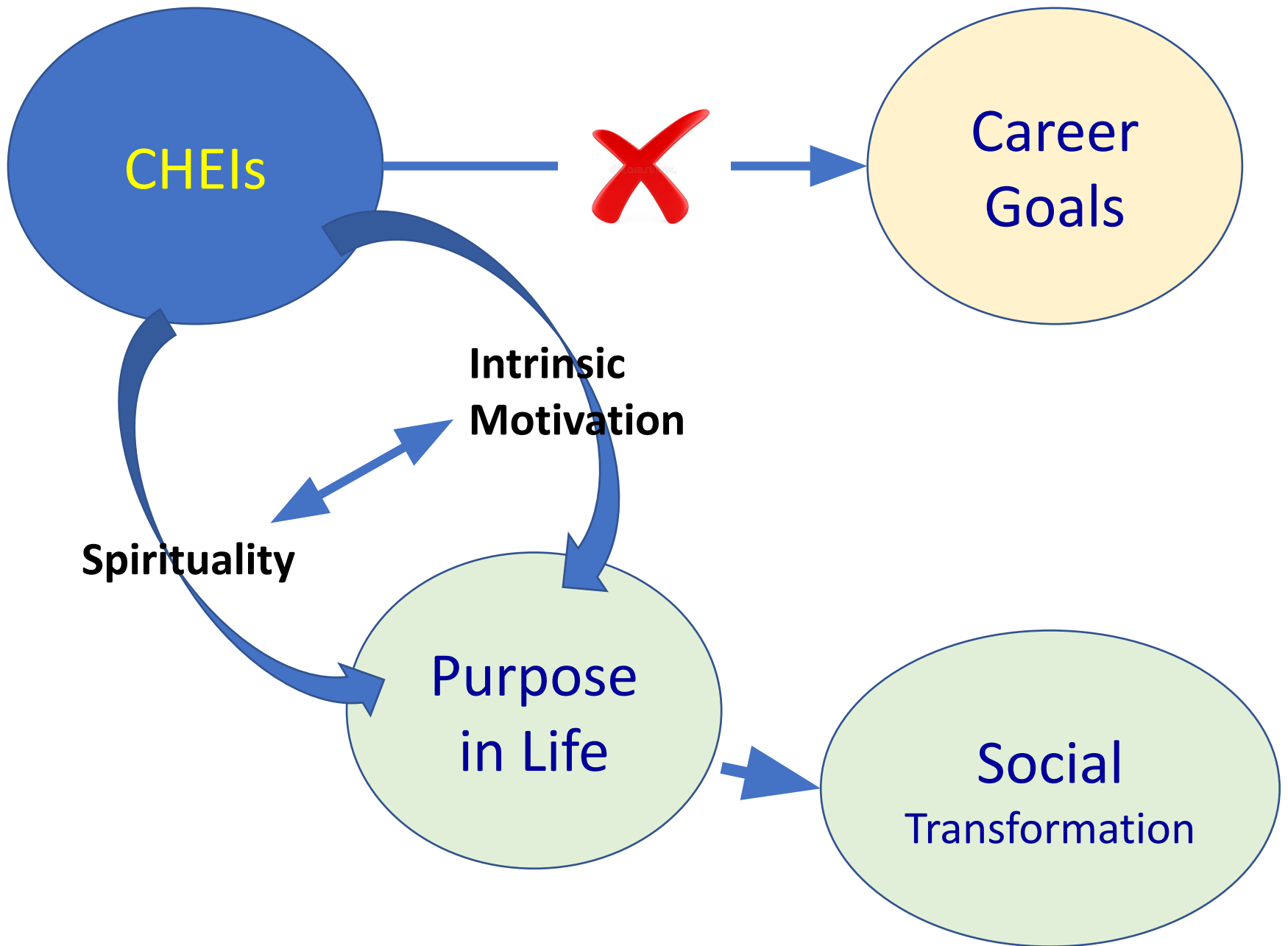


Martela, F., & Steger, M. F. (2016). The three meanings of meaning in life: Distinguishing coherence, purpose, and significance. *The Journal of Positive Psychology, 11*(5), 531-545.

Purpose

“is a stable and generalized intention to accomplish something that is at the same time meaningful to the self and consequential for the world beyond the self.”

Damon, W. (2009). The path to purpose: How young people find their calling in life. Simon and Schuster.



Service Learning

Community Service

- Learners providing one-way service to beneficiaries
- as an extra-curricular activity

Service Learning

- Learners learning from their encounter
- With the beneficiaries
- As a result of reflection
- That is integrated into the curriculum

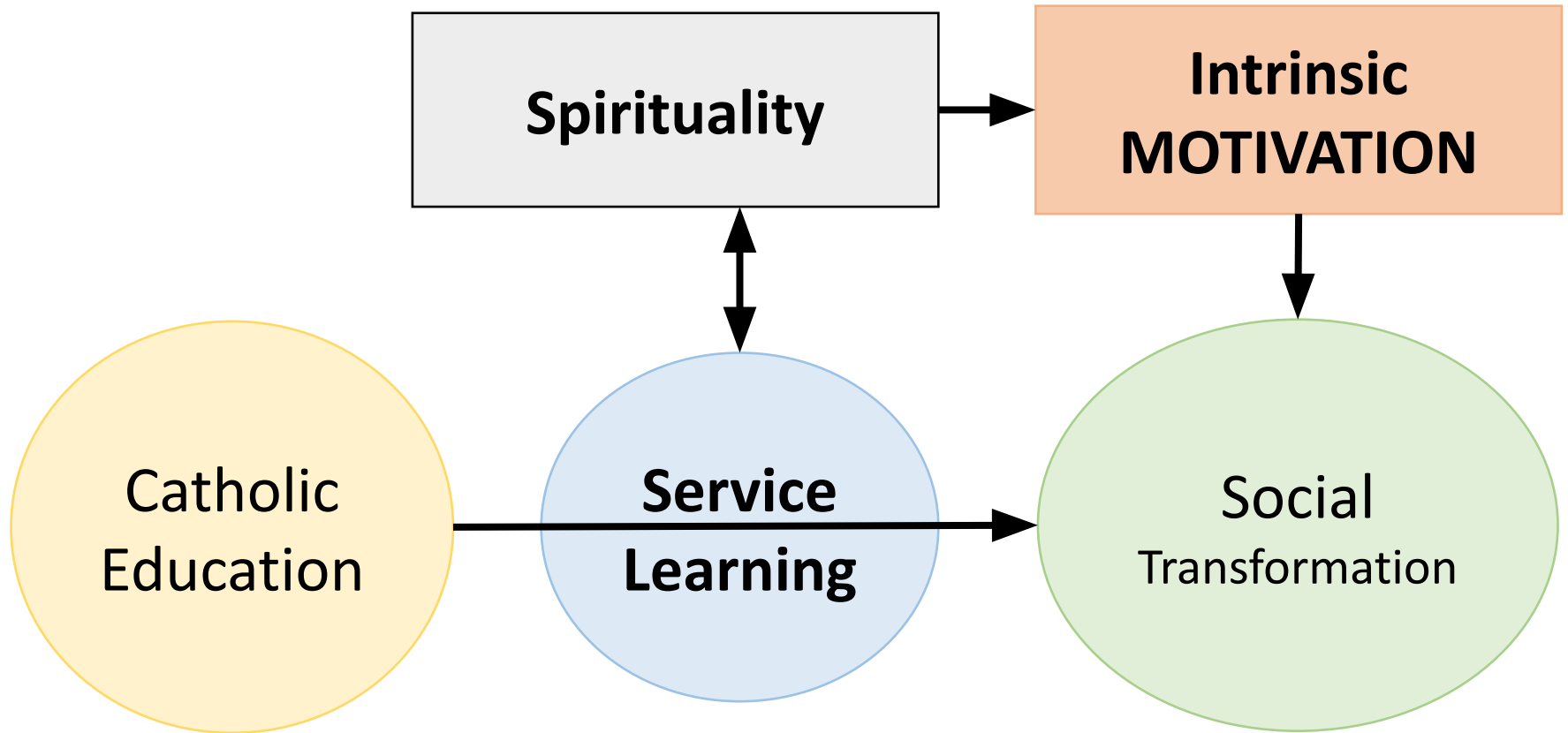
Internship

- Career oriented
- insertion into future work-place;
- With the aim of professional experience

The awakening call to serve others and work for justice might be the easy part. The true test arises from sustaining a lifelong commitment to that vision.

The lack of reference to spirituality in service-learning reflection is a missed opportunity to foster deeper contemplative practices among students.

A Conceptual Framework





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Thank you.