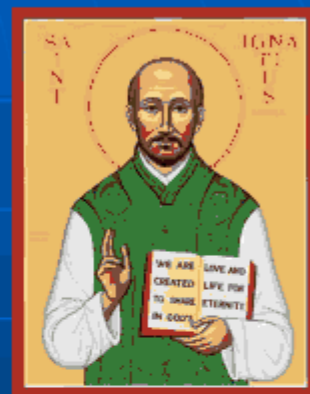


對談講座



聖方濟與聖依納爵的相遇— 教宗方濟各的靈修觀

主講：蘇啟德神父

回應嘉賓：夏志誠神父

**CONTEMPLATION
IN ACTION**

**MONASTIC
APOSTOLICITY
IN A JESUIT POPE**

Introduction

- Meaning & Origin of the Term: “Contemplative in Action”
- A Byzantine perspective
- The Implications of Action
- Pope Francis & Contemplation/Action
- Not Dichotomy but Dialectical Flywheel

The Conversion of St Ignatius

- St. Ignatius, “baptized pagan”, had a surprising conversion experience.
- And at one point he had an intense mystical prayer – experiencing the ***Trinity & all reality***. (*enlightenment*)
- “Sometimes he was led by a grace that enabled him to contemplate the whole Trinity. He was lifted up to it, united to it with his whole heart & by a poignant sense of devotion & Spiritual delight.

Mystical Experience in Apostolic Life

- Nadal, reminds his Jesuit audience that ***it is possible to receive*** "a sublime illumination in which the supreme truths are all united together in one single embracing vision



At the same moment Active & Contemplative

- By the end of his life he was able to find God when he wanted, i.e. at any point he chose, esp. during his Apostolic Life
- it allowed him *to see God present in all things and in every action,*
- and it was accompanied by a lively feeling for supernatural reality:
- he was, *simul in actione contemplativus,* a ***contemplative in the midst of work***

In the Midst of Work

- insight/experience of St Ignatius was that he could find his Mystical Experiences not just in long & intense sessions of prayer
- But esp. **during his Apostolic Work!**
- he encouraged/emphasized for Jesuits, who at that time preferred prayer to ministry/study
- St Ignatius was very insistent that they not spend all their time praying
- Stressing that they should find their Mystical **Consolations from their Apostolic Work**



Mystical Exp. in the Lord's Work

- let us place the perfection of our prayer in the contemplation of the Trinity ***extended to the neighbor in the works*** of our vocation.
- These ***works are much preferred*** to the sweetness and consolation of prayer.
 - mystical experience not in just prayer & religious events,
 - but more in ministry and Christian service.

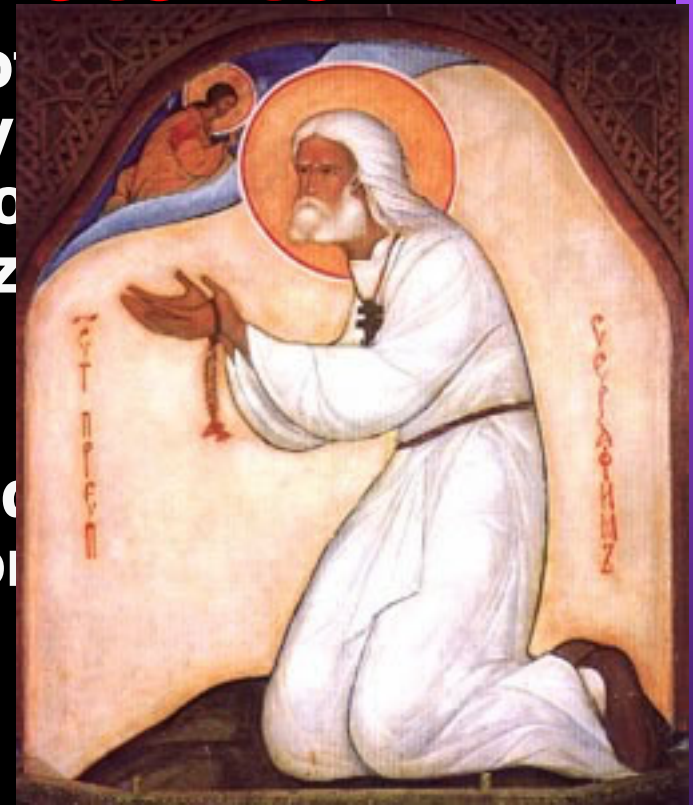
“Tabor Light”?

- This grace which illumined his soul became known to us by a kind of ***light which shone forth from his face and by the radiant trust*** with which he worked in Christ,
- It filled us with a great wonder. Our hearts were much comforted by the sight of him, as we were aware that something of the overflow of this grace poured out upon ourselves.



St Seraphim with Mr Motolotov

- I replied, "Nevertheless I do not understand how I can be firmly assured that I am in the Spirit of God. How can I myself recognize His true manifestation?"
- Then Father Seraphim took me very firmly by the shoulders and said, "We are both together, so in the Spirit of God!"
- Why lookest thou not on me?"
- I replied, "I cannot look, father, because ***lightning flashes from your eyes. Your face is brighter than the sun*** and my eyes ache in pain!"



- Father Seraphim said: ***Fear not, my son; you too have become as bright as I.*** You too are now in the fullness of God's Spirit; otherwise you would not be able to look on me as I am."
- Come, son, why do you not look me in the eyes? ***Just look, fear not! The Lord is with us!***
- After these words I looked in his face and there came over me an even greater reverential awe.
- Imagine in the center of the sun, in the dazzling brilliance of his midday rays, the face of the man who talks with you.

Mysticism of Engagement

- Contemplative in Action
- = being about the Lord's business
- And therein finding intense mystical experiences of union with God
- Not withdrawing from the world
- But engaging with world, inserting oneself into the world
- And ***by so doing Experience God & unite oneself to God***

Experience of God Missions Us

- Conversely it means our Experience of God in prayer impels us into Action on the Lord's behalf, in cooperation (**synergia**) with the Holy Spirit,
- This in turn brings us more profound and more intimate spiritual experiences of God
- Which in turn attracts us more to apostolic Service....

Need Prayer & Mortification

- St Ignatius: no one can get to this state unless he persevere in
 - the work of interior purification,
 - gives himself totally to the ministries of the Society and unless
 - he faithfully performs his spiritual exercises with great humility and sweetness.



The Christian Life

- “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”
- “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ ”
 - Horizontal dimension & vertical dimension
 - **The 2 dimensions are 1 thing**

Christian life is not:

- just doing the bare minimum to save my soul
- Restricted to the Mass attendance and the hatch, match, dispatch sacraments
- Limited to Sunday morning
- And the rest of my life is my own
- No Dichotomy between my “religious life” and the rest of my life

Christian life is total commitment

- Total Commitment:
 - of all of my life
 - Of all aspects of my life
 - To God and God's mission/cause/agenda
- Love God with whole heart, soul, mind, strength

Pontifex@ •

- ***We cannot be part-time Christians!
We should seek to live our faith at
every moment of every day.***

God wants all of you!

- Dedicate my work, family, personal etc
 - God claims it all for The Kingdom
 - God wants to use it all for the Gospel
 - God will make it & you instruments for Salvation: “I will make you Fishers of Men”
- Find & Commune & Unite self to God by
- Evangelize
- Help the Poor & Social Justice
 - Good stewardship of creation (environment)

POPE

- *Let us protect Christ in our lives,*
- *so that we can protect others,*
- *so that we can protect creation!*

• *cf. Micah 6:8*

- What does the LORD require of you:
- to do justice,
- to love kindness,
- and to walk humbly with your God

Flywheel Dialectic, not dichotomy

- Fr. Clancy : St Ignatius' vision is not a pendulum swinging between prayer/contemplation vs action,
- but rather a flywheel where each forward motion empowers and accelerates the other etc.,
 - In Christian Apostolic Action we experience God mystically which spurs us on to more Apostolic action which in turn intensifies Contemplation which intensifies Apostolic Action which intensifies Contemplation which intensifies Apostolic action....etc.

A Contemplative in Action: in sum

- Finding the Presence of God
 - Living with and uniting self to God
 - A mystical Enlightenment
- In Apostolic action
 - Which is in all the aspects of my life
- **Pope Francis: To adore & to serve:** two attitudes that cannot be separated, but which must always go together.
 - path of adoration of the Lord and of service to Him in our brothers and sisters.

