

Theological Reflection

The Art of Theological Reflection

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What is?

- It is about weaving the thread of our lives and our religious heritage (traditions) more strongly into a single story of faithfulness in practicing TR.
- It is the discipline of exploring individual and corporate experience in conversation with the wisdom of our traditions.
- The outcome in TR is new truth and meaning for living.
- It trains us to discern the presence of God's spirit in the social events and movements of our time.
- The artful practice of bringing our lives into conversation with our Christian tradition in a way that nurtures new ideas for us as well as for the tradition we come from.
- It is a movement toward insight of events, belief, experience and tradition.

How does it function?

When we ask the question: Where is God in (pain, struggles, challenges, transitions, doubts)?

- TR may confirm, challenge, clarify and expand how we understand our experience and how we understand the religious tradition.
- TR is intimately grounded in the fundamental human drive for meaning within the riches of one's Christian tradition and life experience.

- TR allows the thoughts, feelings, images, and insights that arise from the concrete events of our lives.
- TR opens the reality of the claim that God's presence, power, and purpose work for us in our time the same way it operated in the past for our ancestors in their time.
- It is a dialogue between own beliefs and our experiences, that respects the integrity of both. It increases the connection between life and our Christian tradition.
- But that conversation can only take place when we allow the questions to assume primacy and set aside our fears.
- TR nurtures growth in mature faith by bringing life experience into this conversation of the wisdom of our tradition and the wisdom of life experiences.

Results of Theological reflection:

In these times of "massive transition" in the Christian body, with the potential conflicts this can entail, Christians must become skillful at describing and reflecting on their experience.

These reflections will make it possible for a Christian community to go through these traditions and feel empowered to spread the good news of the gospel.

The call of TR is not a foreign one, but it is a response to human drive to find meaning in our lives.

When we do TR the capacity to combine experience and tradition becomes the key to releasing and receiving the power of the Christian religious heritage we claim.