

Celebrants or Celebrities, Worship or Suicide

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The North American Roman Catholic bishops have suggested that our present age is one of “supreme crises.” If this be the state of things, then such a statement goes to reassert the challenging aspect that Christ presented to his hearers. He referred to the scribes and pharisees as “hypocrites,” that is “under-thinkers” or rather those who were concerned with the “pseudo-crises,” over and against the “supreme crisis.” Christ’s incarnation caused his hearers to make a judgment whether to live either the “kingdom” or “history.” If an age is faced with a similar “Supreme Judgment,” then part of that judgment goes into choosing between celebrant or celebrity, worship or suicide, being or non-being.

We will consider four “books of revelation” in this presentation: the book of creation, the book of scripture, the book of the soul, the book of art. After considering some of the features of the new cosmology, participants will then be invited to comment and reflect on the implications these revelations have on our present day world and ecclesial view as well as their impact upon our worship .

The function of art and artists is and has been to act as guardians of the imagination and makers of myth. Art is not the fringe of beads, bangles and brass. Rather it is “requisite,” a vital force and forum from whence comes the images of our cosmologies. The sphere of art also gives flesh to our rituals and ritual spaces. A religion of love must come to terms with the creative process active and alive in all levels of being because it is “love alone which creates.”

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