

August 17-18



"Christian Faith + Cultural Rooting"

1. Since Vatican II local churches have been led to examine the culture in which they live and have attempted to express faith in words + rituals which are akin to the cultural roots of the society in which they are. The challenge of today - in terms of "cultural rooting" - though not denying his continuous effort, goes beyond it.

2. The "cultural rooting" we are facing now is not only the roots of the people in one given society and place but it is also, and foremost, the roots in the culture of our time.

3. Christian Faith, both in its institutional forms and in the convictions + attitudes of individual believers, appears lagging behind the most important traits of contemporary culture.

4. This rooting in our time can be found in some contemporary Christian thinkers. A few quotations I give here can say it better.

- "To believe deeply in history is to believe deeply in eternity." — Kirkegaard
- "Christian spirituality has an essentially historical character, because it expresses itself out of an experience and attempts to face, through a "praxis", the difficulties one encounters." — Michel de Certeau
- "A true spirituality is not rooted in something out of time but in the search of our time. The answers it gives to life are the answers to the questions raised by men who live today - Christians as well as other ~~men~~ men." — Michel de Certeau

• "Our time is the fabrics of our eternity."
- J. Durandeaux

• "The fear to live our time leads us astray from eternity while the desire to live our time in all its density roots us in eternity."
- J. Durandeaux

5. To respond to the culture of our time, to live Christian Faith in a cultural rooting of today, is a condition to live fully the "Kairos".



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1. In the beginning of this century the lay people were not treated as such. The Popes referred to them as "the multitude" or "the faithful". The apostolic lay groups started in the 20's. The first attempts to a lay spirituality were formulated in the 40's + 50's and then expressed in Vatican II (the 60's).
2. The discovery of a true lay spirituality is still in its beginnings. To search for the hard core of the lay spirituality is a major task in the church. It is a pioneer role for the Grail women.

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