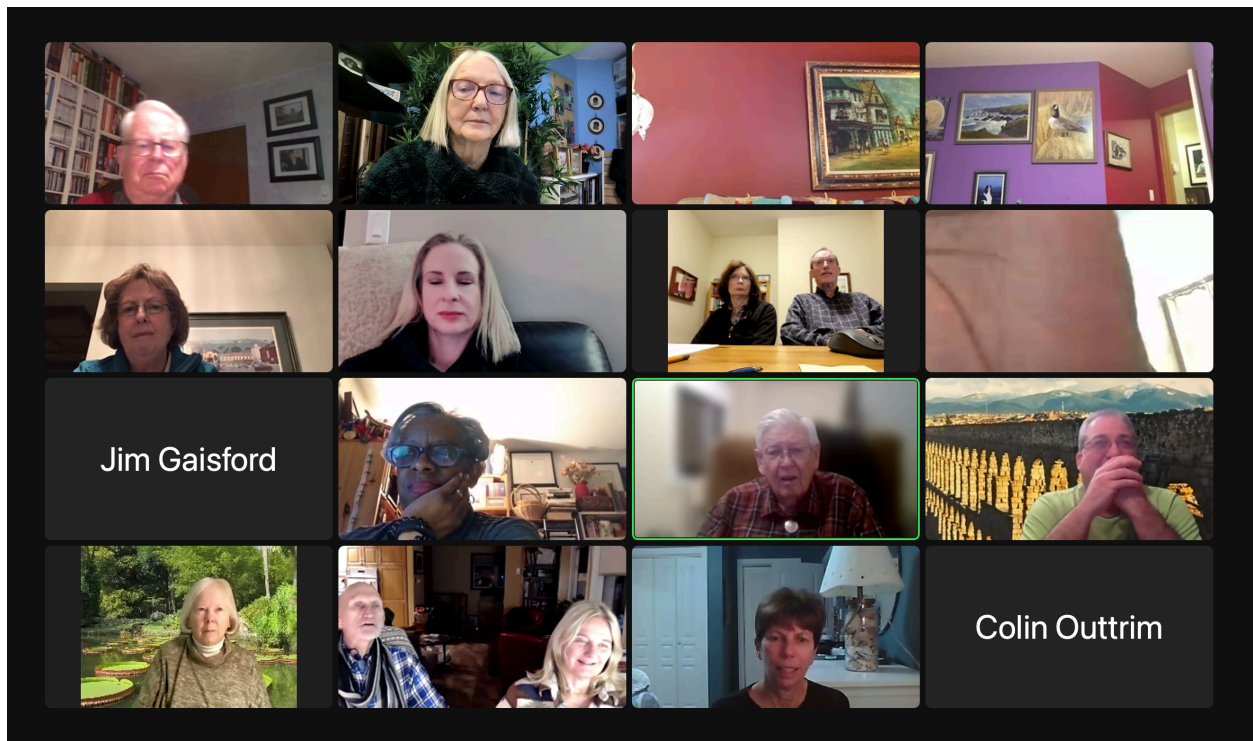


“Every Thing is Sacred” — 50-01
PAUSE TO CONSIDER: REFLECTIONS ON SESSION #1



1. Good afternoon. Here is our class picture from last night. A great beginning.
2. Ken's Opener for 50-01 was a review of "Universal Christ" — our 45th Book Study. P.S. If you wish to review the slides and Pause to Consider for that book, go to sduc.ca/Ministries/Acts on left side of the page to Universal Christ.

Notes on Ken's Opening:

By his own description, Fr. Richard Rohr calls himself a Franciscan, a Christian mystic and/or a Progressive Catholic. Ken talked to us about his own heritage as researched by daughter, Kelly: his dad's dad was a victim of WWI and his dad's mom to the Spanish flu. As a result, he was raised in an orphanage and as an adult, rejected his Roman Catholic faith.

Overall big thoughts on "Universal Christ":

- a. a Christian mystic seeking the divine presence in each of us
- b. progressive Catholicism
- c. Bible as primal source of truth

He went on to talk about use of Sacraments focussing on the divine within. He mentioned the significance of the two Mary's — Mother Mary and Mary Magdalene and the Crucifix and all the saints revered by the Catholic faith.

Progressive points for Ken include the concept of the 'Original Blessing' and not the fear, pro-feminism and recognition of our immortality — life as a journey.

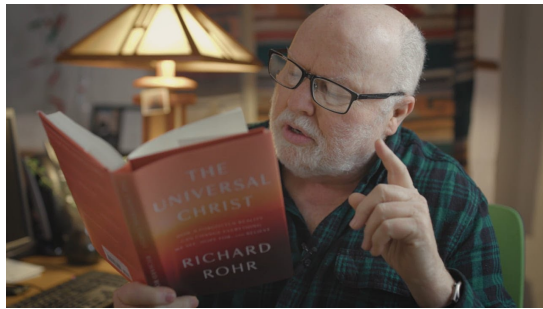
Issues for him include: Male domination, RC position on birth control and sexual orientation and sexual abuse by clergy. He referred to a letter to the editor that advocated for priests to marry and have families. His conclusion is a question: Can R.C/church evolve quickly enough to serve our changing world? His mentors include Marcus Borg, Bishop John Spong and Fr. Richard Rohr. (My apology if I didn't record your thoughts correctly.)

3. About Fr. Richard Rohr: In response to his current standing in the RC church, this is something I found:

Richard Rohr, OFM (born 1943) is an American Franciscan priest and writer on spirituality based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was ordained to the priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church in 1970. .. He was quite critical of Pope Benedict but has audiences with Pope Francis and responded favourable to Francis' recent announcement regarding anti-gay legislation. <https://time.com/6253077/pope-francis-anti-gay-laws/>

4. Wayne asked two questions and asked for our response. Here are a few of our thoughts for you to pause and consider: (I won't use names but will share thoughts.)

- Richard Rohr in comparison to Karen Armstrong as spiritual mentors
- Superbowl Christian Advertisements on Jesus paid for by multimillionaires
- Daily meditations are viewed as great bridges between Catholicism and Protestantism. Brené Brown podcast with Fr. Richard Rohr:
 - <https://brenebrown.com/podcast/spirituality-certitude-and-infinite-love-part-1-of-2/>
- Fallibility of the Pope an issue for some
- Work with other cultures opens minds. Wayne talked about his experiences with the Dené of Canada's north and how he came to see the relationship between their faith and his. His suggestion: Probe individual situations to find a much broader universal set of spiritual discoveries.
- Sense of humour — so important in our journey.
- Sharing our stories shows we are not alone — allows us to have an indepth look at ourselves in a safe place.
- We are galvanized into action too often — good to step back, reflect and think (a passive activity... time to think.)
- Mindful meditation is so important for sufferers of mood disorders.
- We can't live without meaning.
- "Immortal Diamond" and "Universal Christ" ... a Christian perspective yet, inclusive.



5. Wisdom from last night's videos:
Richard Rohr on the history of Christ:

"We live in an enchanted universe."
 "Universal religion — not a competition."
 "an invitation into the struggle."
 "... whole creation is the body of God/Christ."



"Every Thing is Sacred: A Broadcast with Richard Rohr, Kirsten Oates: Note: we will continue with this video next week.

-Francis of Assisi — a religious genius - intuitive
 -"Be Still and Know that I am God." a meditative beginning with Kirsten Oates.
 Check it out. **Should we adopt this procedure for our book study to centre ourselves?**

6. Reading for next week: Intro and Reflections One to Seven: a review with **references to "Universal Christ."** a request for those without this book yet.

How to use the book: Patrick Boland:

"the Cosmos we live inside." Page 7

"Recognize the Presence." Page 58

Reflection One: The Four World Views

Page 242

Reflection Two: The Pattern of Spiritual Transformation: Part One

Page 247 - 249

Reflection Three: The Pattern of Spiritual Transformation: Part Two

Pages 250 - 253

Reflection Four: Christ is Every Where

Pages 1-7

Reflection Five: Contemplation

Page 1-7

Reflection Six: The First Incarnation

Pages 12-17

Reflection Seven: Personal and Universal: The Second Incarnation

Pages 15, 19, 36

Thoughtfully yours,

Brenda (have a great week!)



OPIE, Fr. Richard's Dog