

“Every Thing is Sacred” — 50-05
PAUSE TO CONSIDER: REFLECTIONS ON SESSION #5

1. So... another great reason to be on zoom — safe and snugly at home when outside it is cold. However, the forecast looks inviting for next Monday.
2. **Ken’s opening:** Ken led us through a synopsis of the book “Values” written by Mark Carney, former Governor of the Bank of Canada and of Britain. He saw parallels between the book **Values** and with Boland and Rohr’s book that we are studying.

He read **Values** two years ago and has enjoyed fleshing out the unlikely pairing of the ideas of the monk and the economist, a Canadian, an Albertan, educated at Harvard and Oxford.

Quoting from the book, he referred to the parable by Pope Francis at the World Leaders conference held at the Vatican. The pontiff observed:

Our meal will be accompanied by wine. Now, wine is many things. It has a bouquet, colour and richness of taste that all complement the food. It has alcohol that can enliven the mind. Wine enriches all our senses. At the end of our feast, we will have grappa. Grappa is one thing: alcohol. Grappa is wine distilled.

The Pope continued:

Humanity is many things – passionate, curious, rational, altruistic, creative, self-interested. But the market is one thing: self-interest. The market is humanity distilled.

And then he challenged Carney and the other attendees at the luncheon:

Your job is to turn the grappa back into wine, to turn the market back into humanity. This isn’t theology. This is reality. This is the truth.

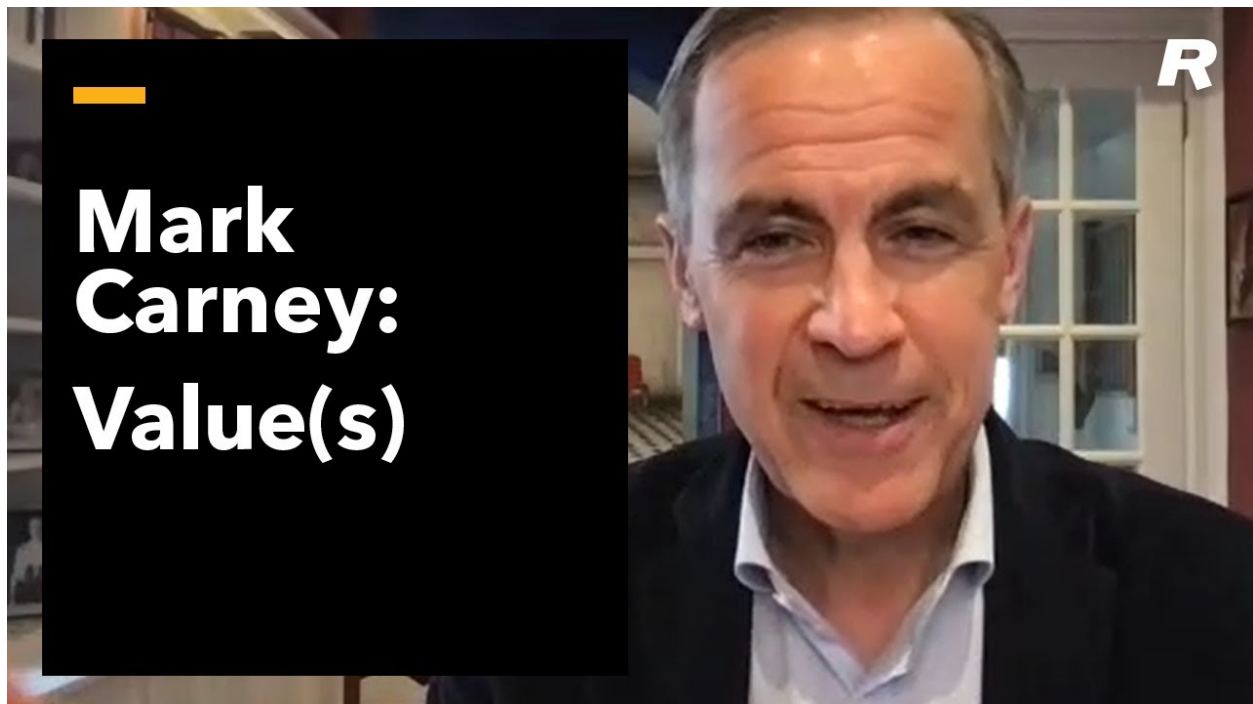
Carney equates the Market to Humanity distilled and the challenge — to turn grappa back to wine. Social Capital beliefs must be nurtured... integrity, fairness, justice, kindness, susceptibility and more. The church is no longer the moral authority and has lost credibility over time due to its refusal to accept science... Galileo spent his last years in exile for his beliefs and he quoted René DesCartes statement, “I think, therefore I am.” He was forced to flee from the church.

The Money System seems to be our North Star... Ken went on the talk about the contributions of Adam Smith (Wealth of Nations) who warned about monopolies interfering with the ‘invisible hand’ of capitalism. He compared that with the theories of Karl Marx —

“From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs” is a slogan popularized by Karl Marx in his 1875 Critique of the Gotha Programme. The principle refers to free access to and distribution of goods, capital and services.

His advice gleaned from the reading of “Values”: Retain the central banking system, keep banking separated from politics, don’t consider cryptocurrency (too volatile, no taxes, no laws). “Live a life of moral not market sentiments with ... fairness across generations. Expand — give it life, and grappa becomes wine.

Here is a short video featuring Mark Carney and his ideas. There are many videos to choose from online.



3. Housekeeping with Brenda

- a. **Flowers for Easter...** contact the office.
- b. Koffee Klatches begin March 10 at St. David's between 10 and noon sponsored by the Friendship Club.
- c. **Guided Meditation Pastoral Care Zoom** gathering will go as usual between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Wednesday morning with Rev. Eva.
- d. **Happy Pi Day** on March 12 after church to support Camp Fyrefly.
- e. **Thursday Morning Bible Study** meeting at 10.
- f. **Broadview subscriptions can be purchased through St. David's** for \$25.00
- g. **Rev. Nancy's message on Sunday with the reading from John 3:1-17** ties in with our Reflections #23 and #26.
- h. **If crafting is in your life**, join others on Friday afternoon between 1 and 4 at Northminster. RSVP to Suzanne Vandervoort.
- i. Opportunities abound with Calgary Alliance for the Common Good. Monthly meetings are attended by people like you from all walks of life with one goal in mind: Making Calgary the best it can be.
<https://www.calgarycommongood.org/>

4. Wayne's Reflections on Reflections 22 through 27. **Discussion as we move through the Reflections with Wayne seems to involve many of us. I have run**

comments for Pause to Consider together in an ongoing conversation. Forgive the paraphrasing of your ideas.

Snippets of conversion

- **The Divine Feminine:**

There is a fear of women's power as evidenced in laws, religious institutions... Women through literature are often the spiritual ones, the healers, wise... Sophia ... Matriarchal society preceded current system (i.e. Corn Ceremony video from last night)... Eastern Catholicism focuses on love. The danger: Casting God in our image. Sharing our memories of our mothers stressed the importance of family.

- **The Eternal Yes:**

Saying yes was the focus of the Lay Leadership three year program of St. David's in the early 80's.... Mary was not a helicopter mom! ... Abraham said yes... (Sarah laughed when she conceived in later life!! but she birthed her son.)

- **Embodiment:**

- **Laura McGregor's article in recent Broadview Magazine.**

<https://broadview.org/embodied-worship-united-church/>

- **Embodied Suffering:**

- **the Lord's Supper:** we have moved to remembering rather than being in the present... it's a sense of community, receiving, together — a shared experience of worshipping... offering the elements (serving communion) is a different experience from receiving the elements... Communion between services in the 80-90s gave congregants a weekly spiritual practice. (a cone of reverence separated the participants from the usual between church activities) ... it is viewed as a statement of belief... a physical expression that is impossible to take without thinking, "I believe."... attending RC events and not being able to receive the elements is concerning ... maybe that will pass away as time progresses being out of step... Jewish tradition of saying grace after eating is important...
 - **Atonement:** Ritual is the doorway, Rebirth for the year... face your faults. The ritual of atonement sets the stage for that frame of thinking... positive change ... your right shouldn't be someone else's wrong.
 - **Restoration:**... from punitive to restorative thinking... a positive happening.

5. Closing with Joan:

Last night, Joan began her closing — announcing, "Good News!" She elaborated as she told us about the momentous decision made by the UN following 36 hours of debate and 10 years in the making of the first step to protect the oceans.

"More than 190 countries have reached a landmark deal for protecting the biodiversity of the world's oceans, agreeing for the first time on a common framework for establishing new protected areas in international waters."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/03/05/un-ocean-treaty-high-seas/>

She continued, thanking Michael for his journal notes which he had shared with us last week and concluded with her personal way of negotiating with God. From the Reflections from 50-05, she added the following: **From Divine Feminine**... Boland's quote, "To others she's a faithful biblical figure, but she's not God, so it's off-putting to imagine praying to her and, seemingly, worshipping her. From Joan's RC

upbringing, she admitted being defensive of her beliefs, says her “Hail Mary”’s (as she finds comforting) and asks, “Why no prayer to Joseph, the father of Jesus, a good man who followed God’s calling? **From Eternal Yes**, she mentioned the importance of boundaries in her own life and her growing edge of assertiveness. P.S. Rev. Dr. Stan Errett, in his Stages of Life writings said, “Know your limitations and boundaries...”

From Atonement, Joan confessed to liking the idea of atonement. She quoted Fr. Richard Rohr’s statement that “the cross, was a freely chosen revelation of Total Love on God’s part.”

Joan closed by sharing with us that often she has felt out of sync with the world, understanding but taking her time to do so. Like the episode from Star Trek, when crew beaming back to the Enterprise were seconds faster in time and it took some convincing to get them back in sync. She is still learning and is grateful for her life, quoting T.S. Elliot,



“We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.
Through the unknown, remembered gate
When the last of earth left to discover
Is that which was the beginning;
At the source of the longest river
The voice of the hidden waterfall
And the children in the apple-tree
Not known, because not looked for

But heard, half-heard, in the stillness
Between two waves of the sea.

—T.S. Eliot, from “Little Gidding,” *Four Quartets* (Gardners Books; Main edition, April 30, 2001) Originally published 1943.”

6.Homework:

next week as we read...

Reflection #28: Cruciform

a. In what ways have you bought into the story line of a culture whose highest aspirations are progress, success and comfort? How has this affected your ability to face personal suffering?

b. Reflecting on your current life challenges in the context of the Hero’s Journey, what do you think your call to adventure might be?

Reflection #29: Total Love

a. Write a journal entry or speak your response to Jesus on the cross. Don’t edit yourself, speak or write as if nobody else will ever hear you, apart from Jesus.

Reflection #30: One Suffering

a. What personal suffering are you most aware of today?

b. In what one practical way can you open up to allow others to identify with you and share in your suffering?

c. In what one practical way can you enter into solidarity with others who suffer?

Reflection #31: All in One Lump

- a. Reread the definitions of individualistic and collectivistic societies. Which aspects of each societal culture most shaped you during your formative years?
- b. Which of these values and perspectives have most influence who you've become, the daily choices you make in your life and how you view faith and spirituality today?

Reflection #32: Atonement

- a. Reflect for a moment on some of the daily deaths you experience. Do you tend to see abundance, new life and resurrection or do you see scarcity and death?
- b. Spend a few moments reflecting or journaling on Jesus's parables about the final state of affairs: the wedding banquet and the court scene in Matthew 25:31-46.
- c. How might the idea of making courage and confidence your message be manifested today in your attitude, your choices and your responses to others?

Reflection #33: Restoration

- a. What resurrection moments have you experienced in the midst of grief, pain and challenge?
- b. What caused these experiences to move from death toward resurrection?
- c. In what ways are you currently being invited to align with "Love and Light" to include more and more and exclude less and less?

Michael's Challenge to us: Write your own obituary.

Thank you, so much, for your sharing of journal notes — a generous contribution!!

7. Final Thoughts:

- a. There is a facticity about creation — it exists, nothing to argue about — it's touchable... an opening that is bottomless. Rohr's experience with the robin..."Why this Robin, why here, why now? In prayer maybe we should use the word communing (loving deeply) This robin, this place, now pulled Rohr into a singularity... and he asks, "What if the delight is mutual?" A Template for the Trinity allowing the spirit to explode.
- b. From Fr. Richard... our church services are uninteresting, limited to humanly constructed building and service where God is apparently in charge but not outside the doors.
- c. From Patrick: The Sacred/ Profane. Universal Christ comes from the Christ infused world. Jesus came out of a Christ-soaked world, a model holding all contraries together. Jesus observes real world (plants, animals, poor...) not candlesticks and altar boys... church is too small a world. His little boys sees all.
- d. Summary: Don't compartmentalize — that's the judging mind at work.

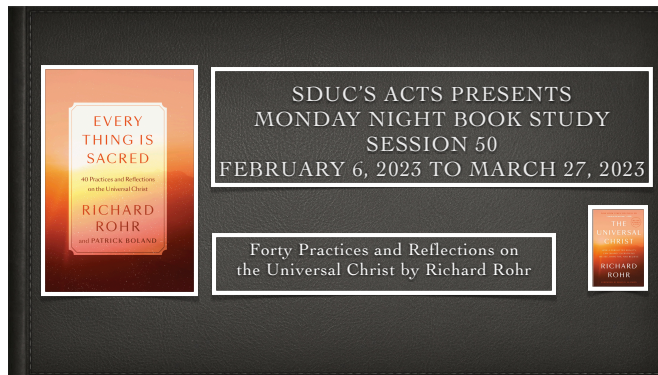
Happy journalling!

Thoughtfully yours,

Brenda (have a great week!)



OPIE, Fr. Richard's Dog



See sduc.ca — Click on Ministries and on the second line is our page for ACTS and the slides for each week along with Pause to Consider which is sent out on Tuesday. See you next week.