

Holy Cross Retreat

<https://holycrosscentre.com/community/>



Letter 247

1st November, 2024

Greetings everyone

Welcome and See You Later



This week, we welcomed Fr. Mike Tuyen CP from Vietnam as a new member of our community. He's the only one wearing a jumper, as 20 degrees feels too cold for him after just arriving from Saigon. See the photo below of JD after picking up his classmate, Mike, from the airport.

At the same time, we bid farewell to Fr. Rafael Gabhe CP, who has now left for his mission in PNG. He had just adapted to our climate and improved his English, but now

he has to start fresh in a new country. Some things, however, don't change—see the photo below of him having bread and a big chili for breakfast! I joined him for the experience, but my expression probably reveals it was my first and last time -that's if you can see my face at all! Mike handed out the chilis as others looked on, while Rafael, clearly enjoying himself, said, "If someone sees this photo, they may think this person has mental health problems!"

We also welcomed Fr. Tom McDonough CP for a few days. It was great to have him here, especially as he, our Provincial, was the one who requested that Rafael and Budi assist us in Vanimo.

Last but not least, we welcomed Fr. Chris Monaghan CP back from Rome -below is a nice photo of Chris with the new general before he left Rome. We missed him and are glad to have him back to cook fish and chips for us on Fridays—among many other things! Our community is constantly shifting in numbers, and each change brings a new dynamic. Meanwhile, Brian is continuing his well-deserved sabbatical after all the meetings in Rome that disrupted his time off.



African Choir visit – thank you

Last Sunday, the African choir visited us and sang at Mass. They were deeply touched by the warm welcome they received at Holy Cross. A few members approached me, delighted, and mentioned that a friendly man greeted them in Swahili, asking, "Unafanya nini?" which means, "What are you doing?" We discovered it was Joe Senzo, using the only Swahili words he knows. They were filled with joy, hearing their language and feeling the warm hospitality here.

After Mass, we gathered for a group photo and enjoyed a BBQ together. In the photo, you'll see my younger brother Leon and me with Mr. Adam in the middle. I was surprised to see him after 25 years! He taught both Leon and me in Grade 5 back in Africa, and we had plenty to catch up on—especially from my "naughtiest" childhood days! Thank you all for making the African choir feel so welcomed at Holy Cross.



San Gabriele's Sunday Pasta Lunch – 10th November



On 10th November the San Gabriele (St Gabriel) committee will put on a pasta lunch for all who wish to join, commencing at 12 noon at Holy Cross. Numbers are limited, so book now your seat for only \$35 each through Bruno on 0419 503 300. BYO drinks and be ready for faffle prizes. See you there.

*We invite informal and professional
carers to join us for time out to*

REST
REFLECT
and
RENEW

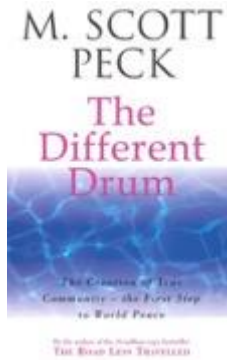
Facilitators:
Karen Rolfe and Sr Brigid cp

THURSDAY 7 NOV
9.30AM - 1.00PM

Cost: \$30 - BYO Lunch
Holy Cross Retreat Centre
207 Serpells Road, Templestowe

Reserve your place -
bridget.m64@gmail.com

Troubling Thoughts & Spiritual Growth: Stages of Faith



Most people are familiar with James Fowler's six stages of faith. Similarly, M. Scott Peck introduced four stages of faith in his book *The Different Drum: Community Making and Peace*. He is the same author of the 10 million bestseller book *The Road Less Travelled*. If you are not already aware of the four stages, I'd like to share a brief introduction. The four stages offer insight into why, despite sharing the same beliefs, we sometimes misunderstand one another's perspectives. The following summary, provided by a website focused on troubling thoughts and spiritual growth, highlights these stages. As we read through the stages it is advisable to think about at which stage of faith each of us might be and why. The images are my addition. This week's newsletter will cover stages one and two.

Introduction to M. Scott Peck's Four Stages of Faith of Spiritual Development

Source: <https://eriksholisticcornucopia.wordpress.com/2013/05/04/stages-of-faith-intro-to-m-scott-peck/>

M. Scott Peck offers a four-fold model outlining the development of one's spirituality. This system is loosely based upon our psychological development from children into adulthood. As with most, if not all of these systems, it provides a means of charting individual social-psychological development from an I-centric world, to a We-centric world, and for some into an Us-centric view of the world.

Stage I: Chaotic-Antisocial

This stage is roughly comparable to Fowler's stage 1 (Intuitive-Projective) and stage 2 (Mythic-Literal).

We all go through this stage as small children. There is little to no respect for authority outside of oneself, and one's greatest concern is only for oneself. It's hall mark traits include chaotic, defiant, disordered, and reckless behaviour.

Persons residing in this stage are egotistic in the extreme, and they have little to no development of empathy for others. Peck observes that many adults who are unable to grow beyond Stage I become criminals. It is easy to see how persons stuck in this early stage have great difficulty thriving in the wider social community.



If transition out of this stage takes place at a late date in one's life, as an adult, it is usually the result of a very dramatic, painful experience.

Stage II: Formal-Institutional

This stage corresponds well to Fowler's stage 3 (Synthetic-Conventional). This is also the stage of spiritual growth in which many "Fundamentalists" and religious extremist are arrested. Additionally, a great many "good, law-abiding citizens" never transition beyond this stage.

The hall marks of this stage are blind faith in authority figures, and understanding the complexities of the world as very simple binary choices of either Good or Evil; Right or Wrong; Us vs. Them.



Among the positive attributes of this stage are a sense of humility, and a willingness to serve others, and to work within the social structure of the wider community. However, there may also be a lack of flexibility in one's thinking and an inability to work well with persons outside one's own community.

Children who learn to obey their parents (and by extension, authority figures more generally) as a result of fear or shame (as opposed to appreciation and respect), may become stuck in this stage and primarily express its darker attributes. Peck observes that such persons often rely upon an institutional structure for a sense of stability. If this sense of stability takes the form of a church or religious observance, persons locked in Stage II thinking may become extremely upset -and in extreme cases, violent- when their beliefs are questioned.



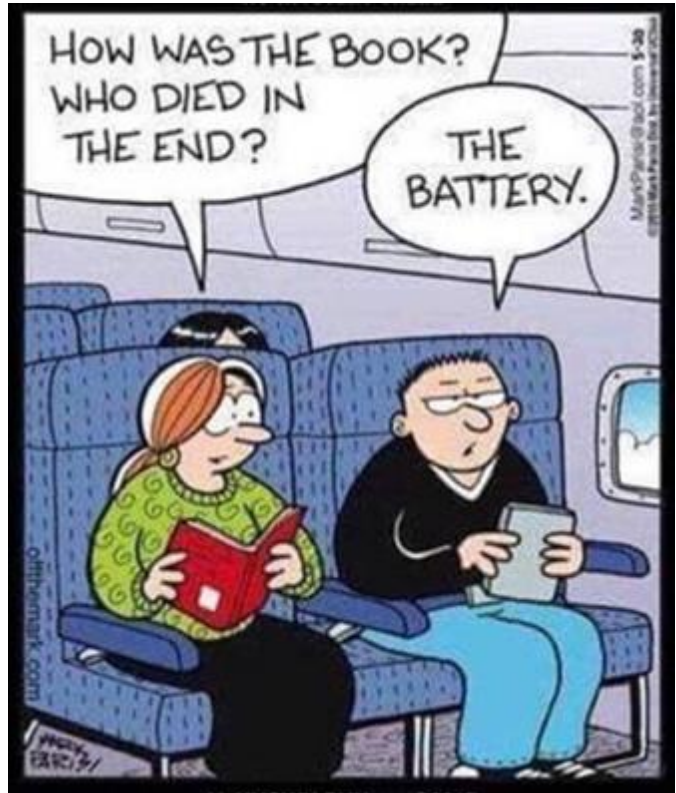
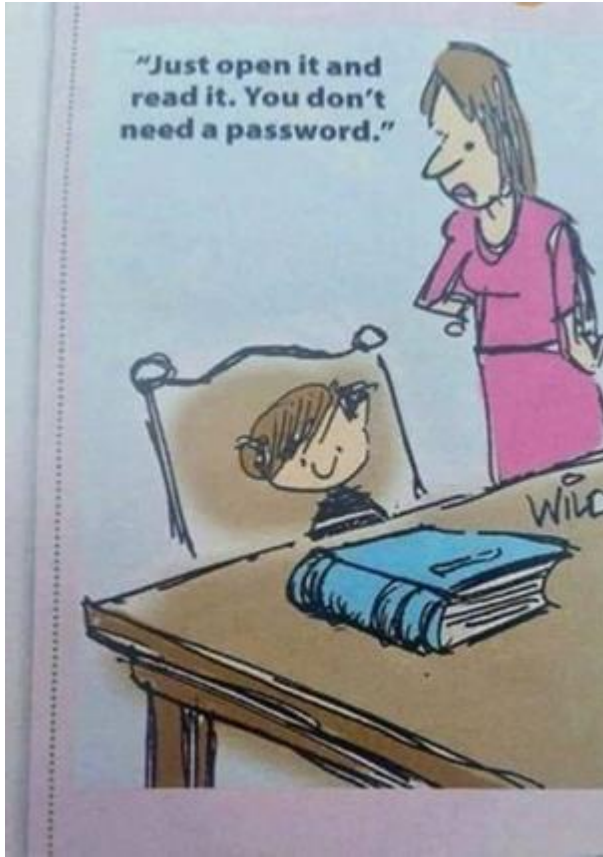
To live well within a community, we all need some sense of Stage II limitations of our actions. Yet if taken to an extreme, these same positive attributes may stunt one's social-psychological-spiritual development, severely limiting one's ability to think for oneself, and to be flexible enough to live comfortably with those different than oneself.

Humour from Tom

This week our Jokes have come from Tom McDonough. Thank you for the jokes.

A GLIMPSE INTO TODAY'S WORLD







Prayers

We remember all the recently deceased, and those whose anniversaries occur this week, especially

- Tom Barry - 3/11
- Giuseppe Larosa - 4/11
- Angelo Vigilante - 4/11
- Ellen Chapman - 5/11
- Andrew Bertram - 6/11
- Phillip McDonald - 7/11

**I thank my God each time I think of you!
And when I pray for you,
I pray with joy.**

We also remember all others in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially.

- Peter Barry, Monica Sleeman, Desley Reynolds, Rex Cambry, Sharon Williams, Doris Castro, Julia Cantone, Caroline Meade, Sophia Chung, Zoe Chung, Michael O'Callaghan, Peter McNamara, Pam Storey, Lorraine Gill, Adrian Woon, Maree Bartoli, Sandra Street, Paul Darbyshire, Luke Norden, Carol Battistella, Monique Hardinge, Kaya Lenic, Robyn Burns, John Reardon, Alexander Lim, Agnes Mumburi, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Gerry Bond, Mary Dunn, Bronwyn Burke, Greg Agosta Helen McLean, Phil Drew, Anne Jenkins, Pam Gartland, Patricia Keeghan, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Errol Lovett, Chris O'Toole and baby Alfred Theodore in London.**

The **Mass link** for this Sunday will be sent on Saturday afternoon by Chris.

Thank you
Erick.