

## o2\_Church

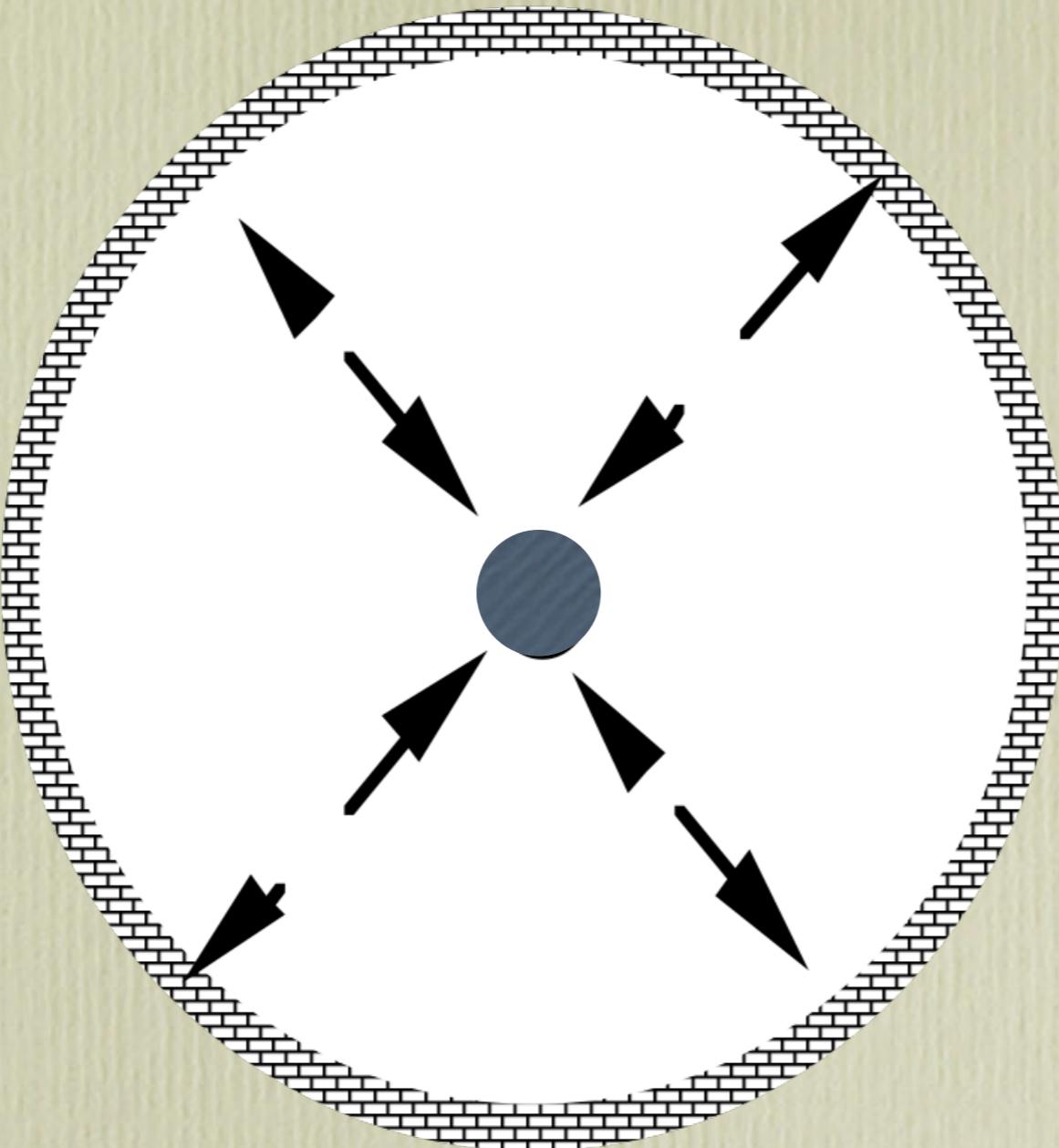


John 15:4

‘Make your home in me as I make mine in you’



# Religious Experience



Religion Re + ligare To bind back

God  
Sanskrit **Ghu** ('called' 'calling') + **To** ('The one')

Religious  
Experience is



Experience of  
Communion with God

God 'The Heart and the Beyond of Everything' (Teilhard de Chardin)

## God's Word

experienced

- in nature
- in people & events
- in words spoken & written
- in works of art

They reveal something of the truth, beauty & goodness  
of the transcendent & mysterious God

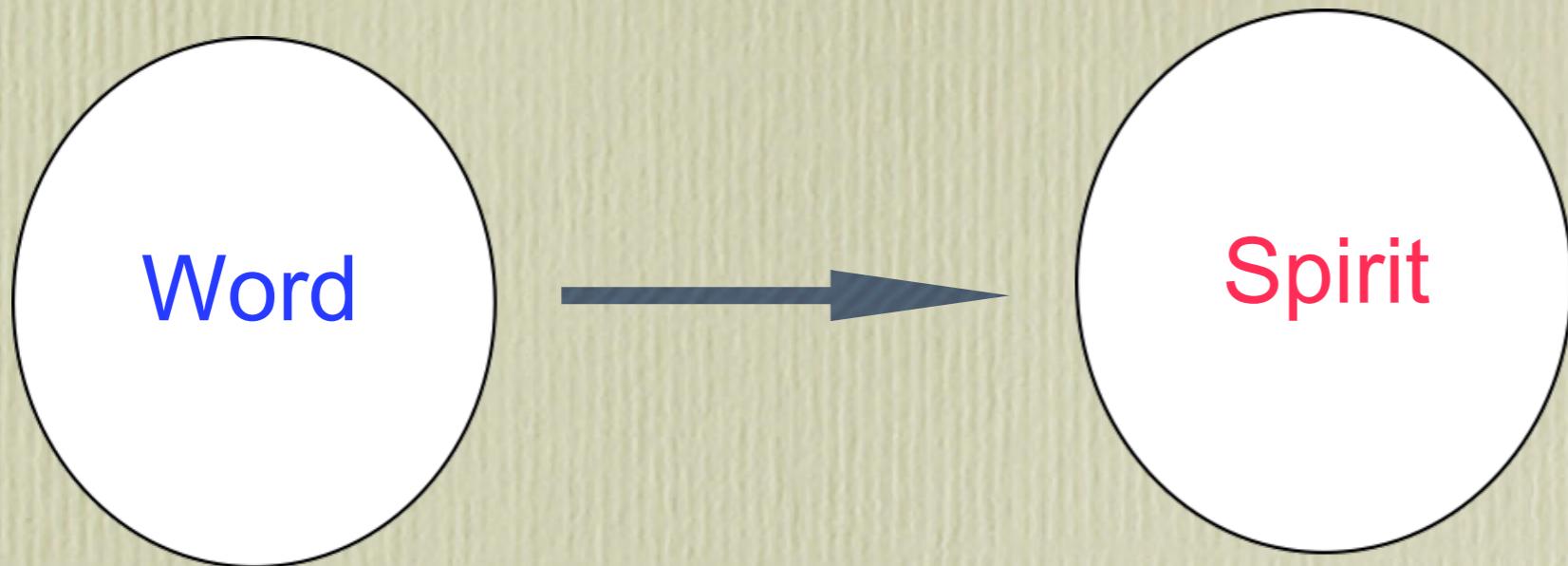
## God's **Spirit**

experienced

- in inner movements of mind and heart

‘God’s love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us’(Romans 5:5)

# Revelation



heart

speaks to

heart



Jesus is THE **Sacrament**,  
THE **Mystery**  
THE **Symbol** of God

‘The **Word** became flesh  
and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father’s only son,  
full of grace and truth ...  
From his fullness  
we have all received,  
grace upon grace’(John 1:14,16).

‘He whom God has sent speaks  
the words of God, for he gives the  
**Spirit** without measure. ’(John 3:34)

Jesus, God's Son

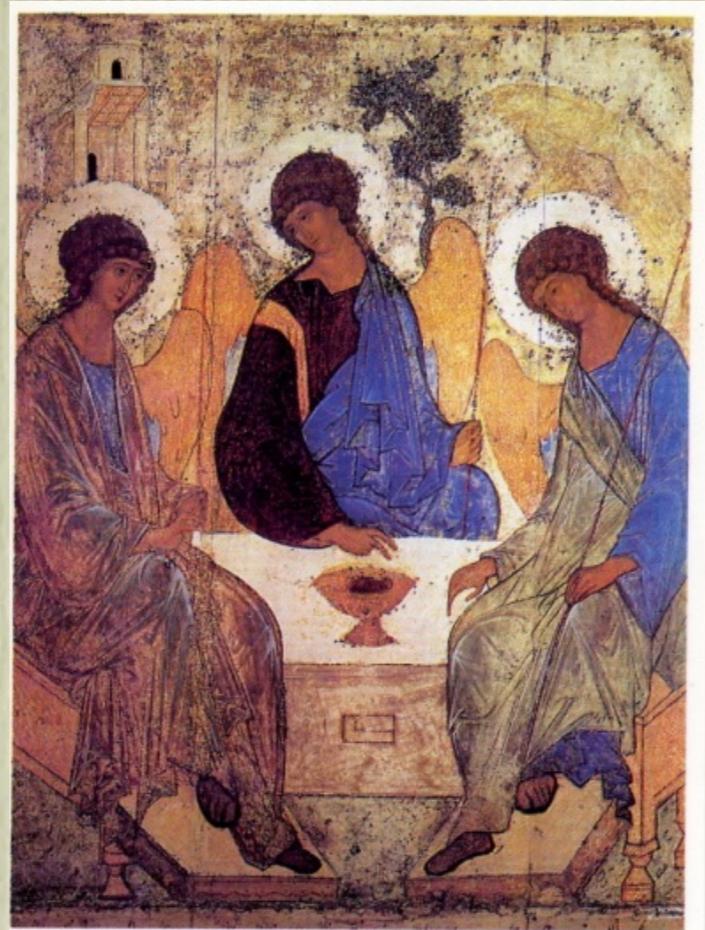
The Dancer, The Singer, The Lover

God the 'Father'

The Dance,  
The Song,  
Love

God's Spirit

The Dancing,  
The Singing,  
The Loving



'The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all' (2Corinthians 13:13).

'The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the hierarchy of the truths of faith.'(Catechism n. 234)

John 14:15-18, 23

If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

And I will ask the Father,  
and he will give you another Advocate,  
to be with you forever.

This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive,  
because it neither sees him nor knows him.

You know him, because he abides with you,  
and he will be in you.

I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you ...

If you love me you will keep my word,  
and my Father will love you, and we will come to you  
and make our home in you.

## Revelation 3:20

**Listen!** I am standing at the door, knocking;  
if you hear my voice and open the door,  
I will come in to you  
and eat with you, and you with me.

John 15:4

'Make your home in me as I make mine in you'





Lifted up from the earth,  
I will draw everyone  
to myself' (John 12:32).

## John of the Cross: Spiritual Canticle 1.7

The soul is God's most beautiful creation

'O transcendent spirit, who long to know  
where your beloved is and where you may find him  
so as to be united with him. He dwells within you.  
You are yourself the tabernacle, his secret hiding place.  
Rejoice, exult, for all you could possibly desire,  
all your heart's longing is so close, so intimate  
as to be within you; you cannot be without him.'

## **PART II    The Church community is God's temple**

## Person – the fruit of a community

Lonergan Philosophy of God and theology

‘The person is not the primordial fact.  
What is primordial is the community.

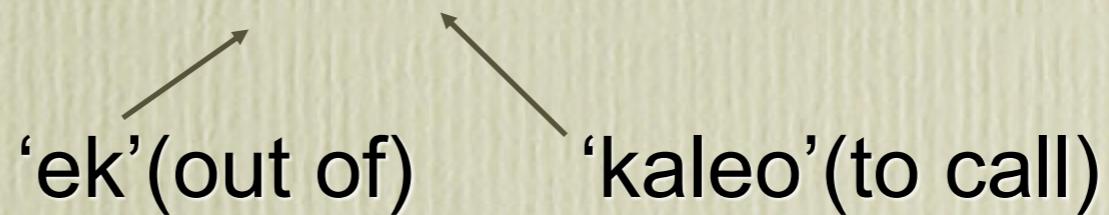
It is within community,  
through the inter-subjective relations  
that are the life of the community,  
that there arises the differentiation of the individual person.

If persons are the products of community,  
if the strongest and best of communities is based on love,  
then religious experience  
and the emergence of personality  
go hand in hand.’



- The word ‘church’ like the German ‘kirche’, derives from the Greek ‘kyriake’ (belonging to the Lord). The Church is the community of disciples of the ‘Lord’, the Risen Christ.

The Greek word for Church is ‘ekklesia’



Through his Son, Jesus, God is ‘calling’ everyone ‘out of’ darkness into light, drawing everyone to Christ and so into the church:

The Church is THE **Sacrament**  
THE **mystery**  
THE **symbol** of Jesus

As a community we are to be disciples of Jesus  
'the Way' to the Father (John 14:10).

The Church is his 'body' in the world,  
living the life given to us by his Spirit –  
the Spirit he shares with the Father.

## Catechism n. 776

‘As sacrament, the Church is Christ’s instrument. The church is taken up by him also as his instrument for the salvation of all, the universal sacrament of salvation, by which Christ is manifesting and bringing about the mystery of God’s love for all people.

The Church is the visible plan of God’s love for humanity, because God desires that the whole human race may become one **People of God**, form one **Body of Christ**, and be built into one **Temple of the Holy Spirit**.’

## Ephesians 2:19-22

You are members of the household of God,  
built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.  
In him the whole structure is joined together  
and grows into a holy temple in the Lord;  
in whom you also are built together spiritually  
into a dwelling place for God.

## The Church is holy

- ‘God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple’(Corinthians 3:17).
- There are sinners in the Church because ‘the Church clasps sinner to her bosom.’ (Luke 15:1-2).
- ‘The holiness of the Church is constantly shown forth in the fruits of grace which the Spirit produces in the faithful. And so it must be. It is expressed in many ways by those who, each in his or her own state of life, tend to the perfection of love’(Vatican II, LG 39).

John 13:34-35

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.  
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.  
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,  
if you have love for one another.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within  
you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and  
give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and  
make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my  
ordinances.

‘If we are going to use the word community in a meaningful way we must restrict it to a group of individuals who have learned how to communicate honestly with each other, whose relationships go deeper than their masks of composure, and who have developed some significant commitment to rejoice together, mourn together, and to delight in each other, make other’s conditions our own.’

## **PART III. The Church building and God's Tabernacle**

'Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks {eucharisteo}, he broke it and gave it to them saying: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me' (Luke 22:19).

Tintoretto 16th cent.



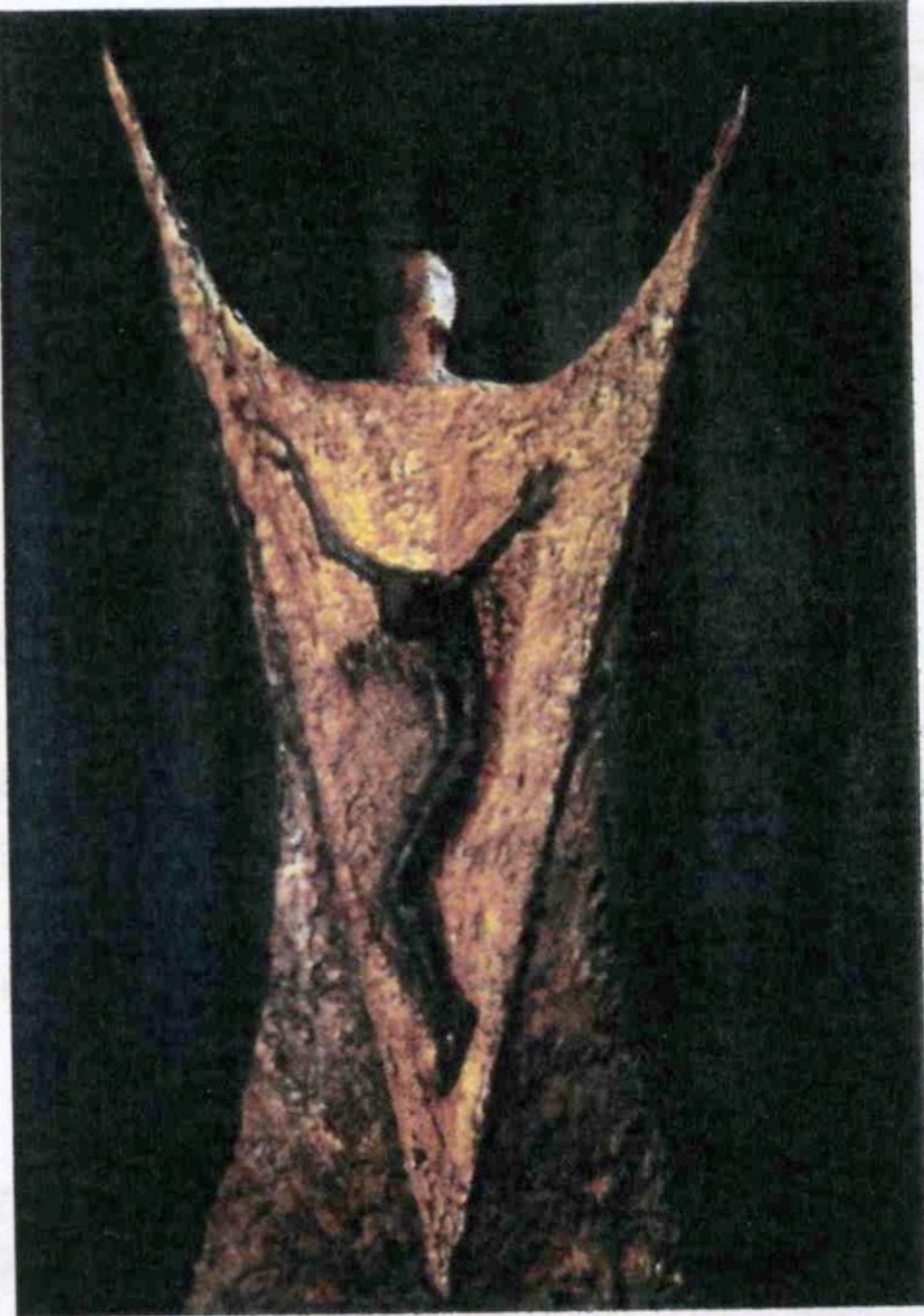
Tintoretto

1Corinthians 11:23-25  
(see Luke 22:10-20)



‘The Lord Jesus on the night when he was handed over took a loaf of **bread**, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my **body** that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

‘In the same way he took the **cup** also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my **blood**. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”



## Apocalypse 1:12-16

Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me,  
and on turning I saw seven golden lamp stands,  
and in the midst of the lamp stands I saw one like the  
Son of Man, clothed with a long robe  
and with a golden sash across his chest;  
his head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow;  
his eyes were like a flame of fire,  
his feet were like brass, refined as in a furnace,  
and his voice was like the sound of many waters  
In his right hand he held seven stars, and  
from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword  
and his face was like the sun shining with full splendour.

[2Corinthians 4:6 - ‘glory of God on the face of Christ’]

Apocalypse 21:2-3

I saw the holy city the new Jerusalem,  
coming down out of heaven from God,  
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
‘See, the tent of God is with mankind.  
He will pitch his tent with them as their God;  
they will be his peoples, and he will be their God.

## Apocalypse 22:1

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life,  
bright as crystal, issuing from the throne of God  
and of the Lamb in the middle of the city square.

## Apocalypse 22:17

The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come’ [assembly repeats].  
And let everyone who hears say, ‘Come’ [assembly repeats].  
And let everyone who is thirsty come,  
let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

Psalm 84:1

‘What a delight your dwelling place is, YHWH of hosts.’

Hebrews 12:22-23

‘You have come to Mount Zion  
and to the city of the living God,  
the heavenly Jerusalem,  
and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,  
and to the assembly of the first born  
who are enrolled in heaven.’

## Sunday

Ignatius to the community at Magnesia n. 9

‘Former adherents of the ancient customs  
have since obtained a new hope.

So they have given up keeping the Sabbath,  
and now order their lives by the Lord’s Day instead,  
the day when life first dawned for us,  
thanks to Jesus and his death.

That death is the mystery that has moved us  
to become believers and endure tribulation  
to show that we are disciples of Jesus Christ our teacher.’

Hebrews 10:25

‘Do not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some,  
but encourage one another.’

Ignatius to the community at Ephesus n. 5.2

‘Let no one be under any illusion;  
a person who excludes himself from the sanctuary  
is depriving himself of the Bread of God,  
for, if the prayer of one or two individuals has such efficacy,  
how much more powerful is that of the bishop  
together with the whole church.’

1Corinthians 10:16-17

‘The cup of blessing that we bless,  
is it not a communion in the blood of Christ?  
The bread that we break,  
is it not a communion in the body of Christ?  
Because there is one bread,  
**we who are many are one body,**  
for we all partake of the one bread.’

## Augustine Sermon 272

‘If you are the body and members of Christ,  
then it is your sacrament  
that is placed on the table of the Lord;  
it is your sacrament that you receive.

To that which you are you respond “Amen” (“Yes, it is true”)  
and by responding to it you assent to it.

For you hear the words “the Body of Christ”  
and you respond “Amen”.

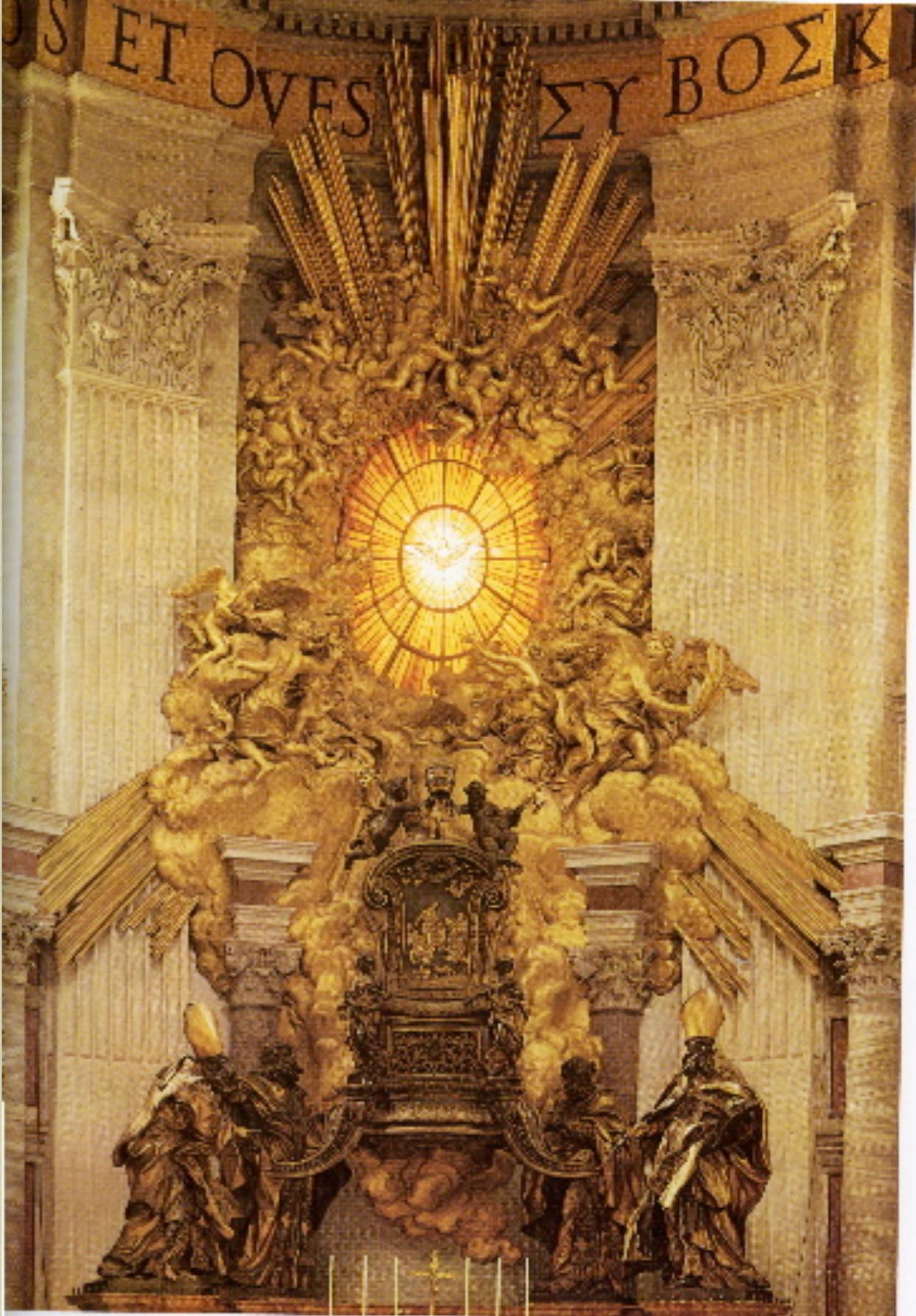
**Be then a member of the Body of Christ  
that your Amen may be true.’**

- Office of Teaching  
(‘Magisterium’)

n. 890

‘The pastoral duty of the Magisterium is aimed at seeing to it that the People of God abides in the truth that liberates.’

Wooden chair from 9th century said to have been used by St Peter.



Ambrose

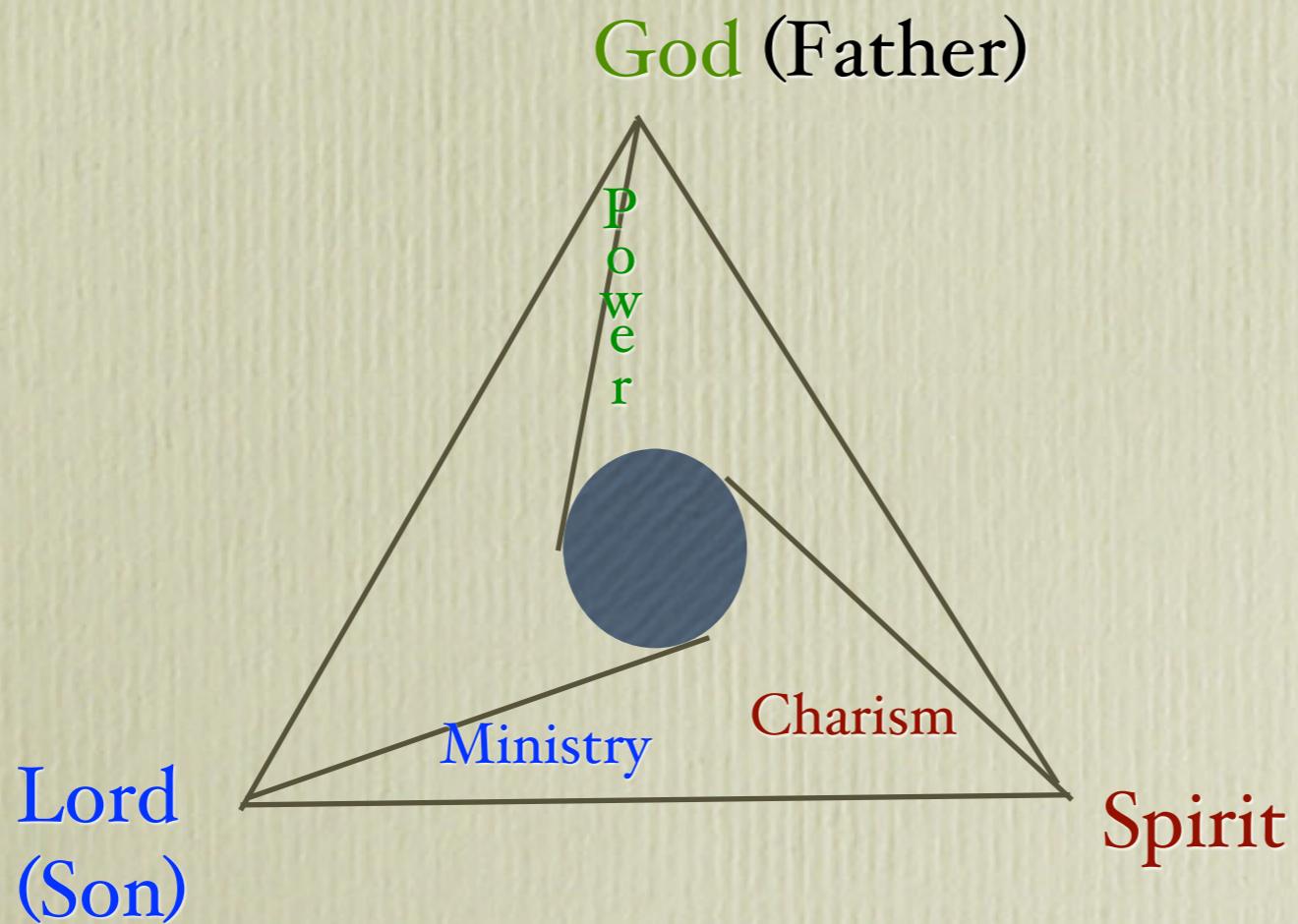
Athanasius   John Chrysostom

Augustine

## **PART IV. Our Mission to the district and the world**

## 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

'There are varieties of **gifts** but the same **Spirit**,  
varieties of **ministries** but the same **Lord**,  
varieties of ways of exercising **power** but the same God  
who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given  
the manifestation of the **Spirit** for the common good.





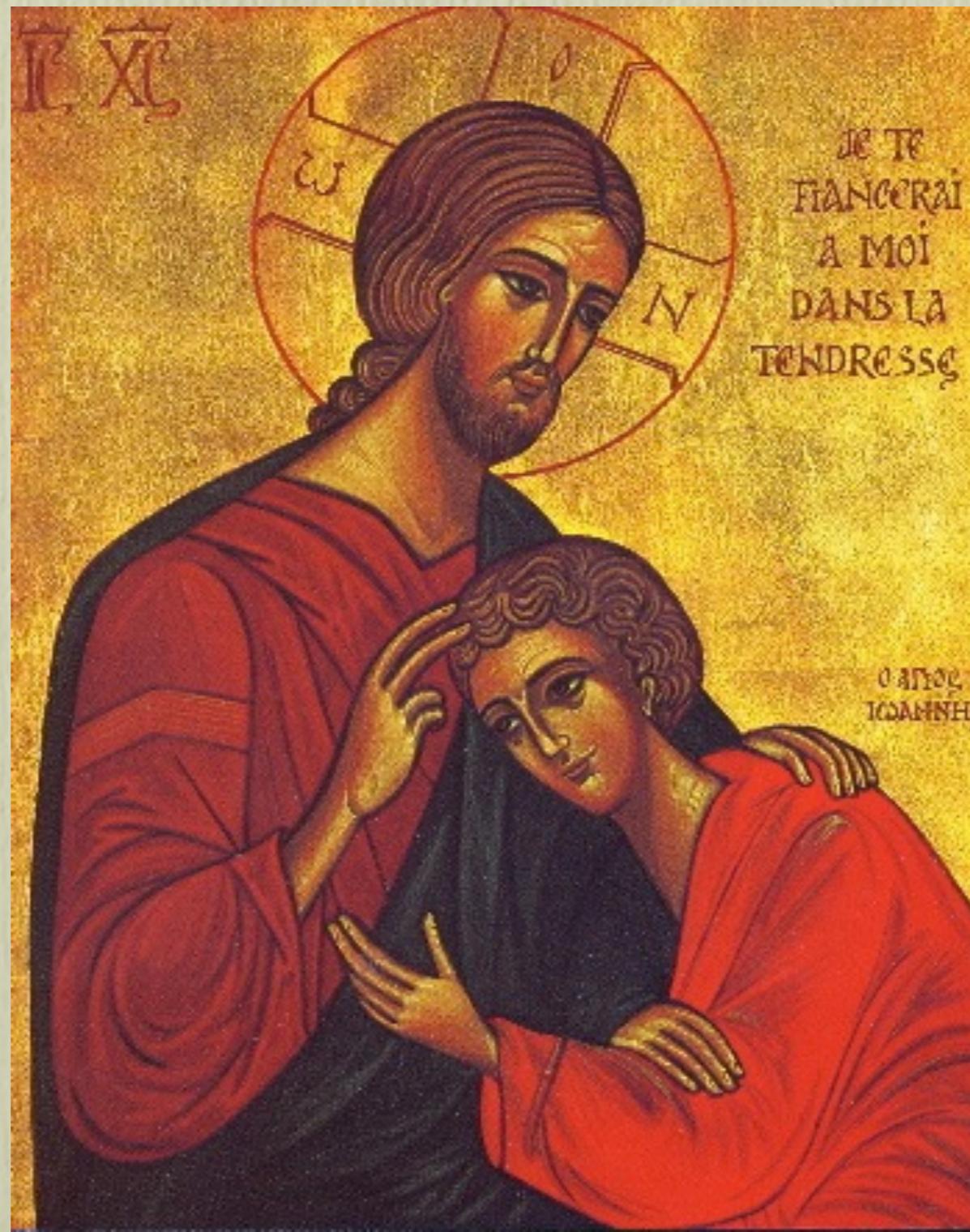
Jules Chevalier msc

‘From the Heart of Jesus  
pierced on Calvary, I see a  
new world coming forth –  
a great and life-giving  
world, inspired by love and  
mercy: a world which the  
Church must perpetuate  
on the whole earth.’

(Sacred Heart 1900)

John 15:4

‘Make your home in me as I make mine in you’





I'll be always loving you

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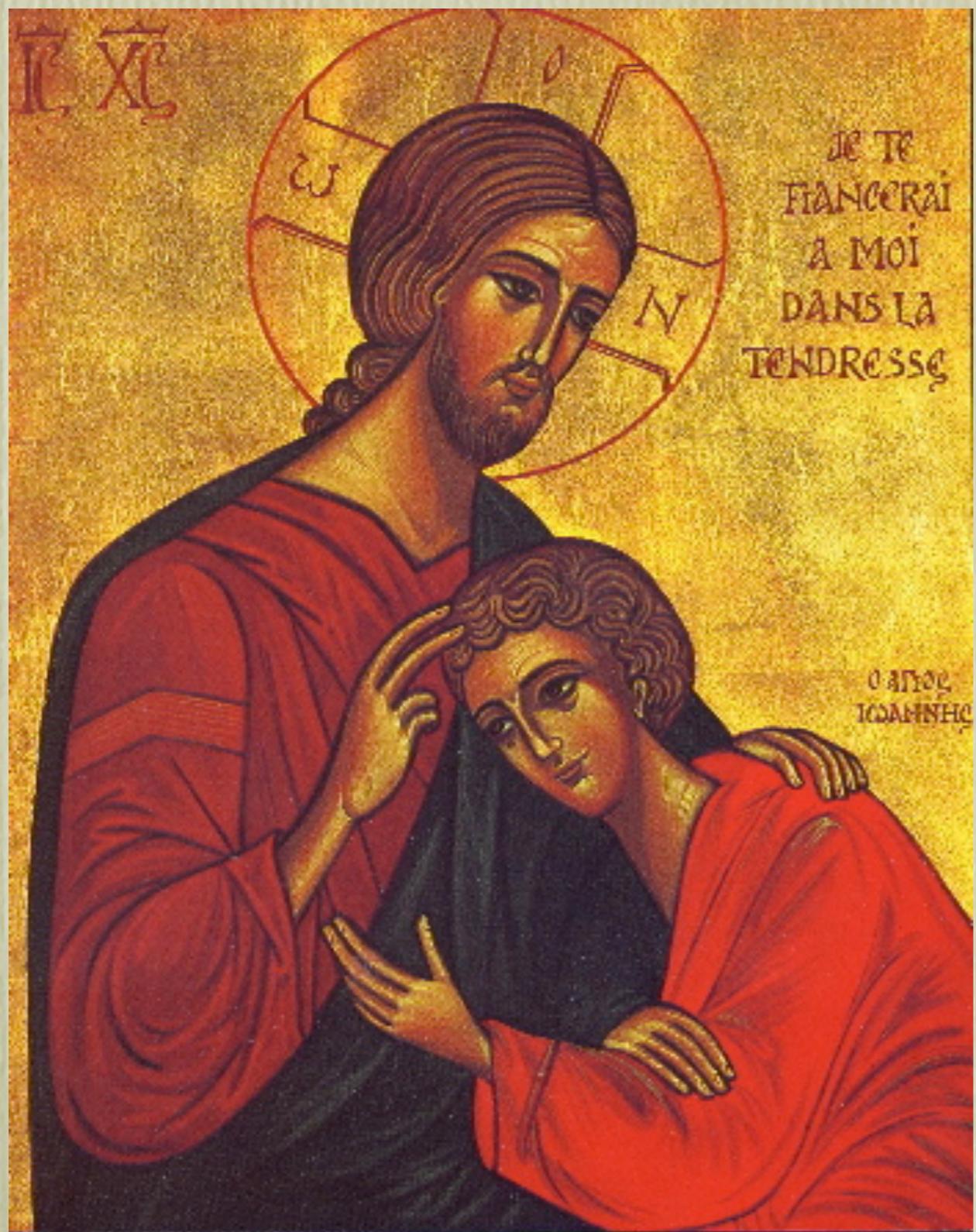
I am here with you  
by your side  
sheltering your heart  
in the night.  
  
Wherever you go,  
whatever you do,  
I'll be always loving you.  
  
I will be your God,  
your comforter,  
I will hold you close  
in my heart.



Let me love the world  
through your heart.  
Let me heal your wounds  
by my touch.

Wherever you go,  
whatever you do,  
I'll be always loving you.

I will be your God,  
your comforter,  
I will hold you close  
in my arms.



Mmm

Wherever you go,  
whatever you do,  
I'll be always loving you.