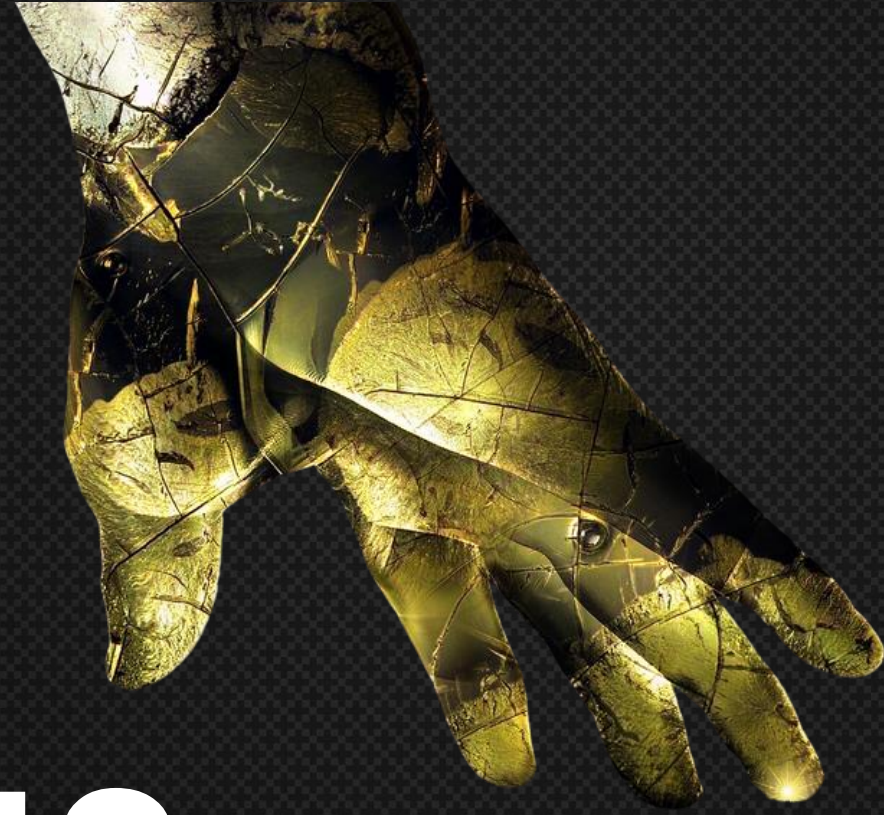


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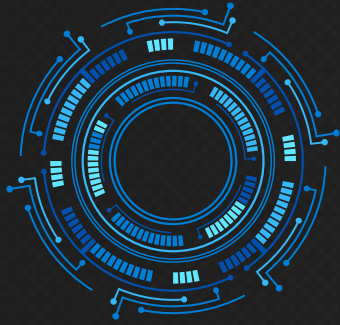
# NAVIGATING the DIGITAL WORLD

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FORMATION OF  
CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS

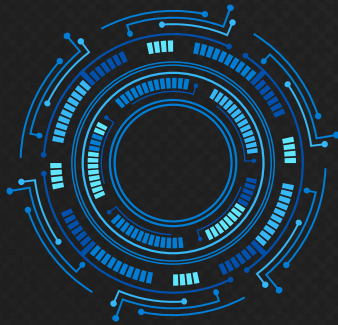
GEORGE JACKSON LOUIS





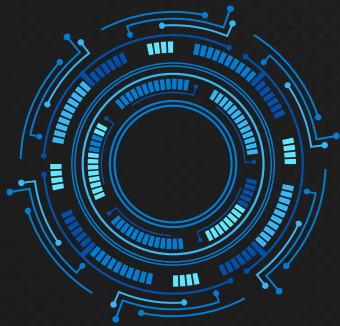
## Present Reality

Pervasive Nature of Digital World  
Not a single day without technology



## Technology

No longer a tool used occasionally  
Integral part of our identity



## Digital Divide

Vast urban and rural divide  
Marred image of self among youth





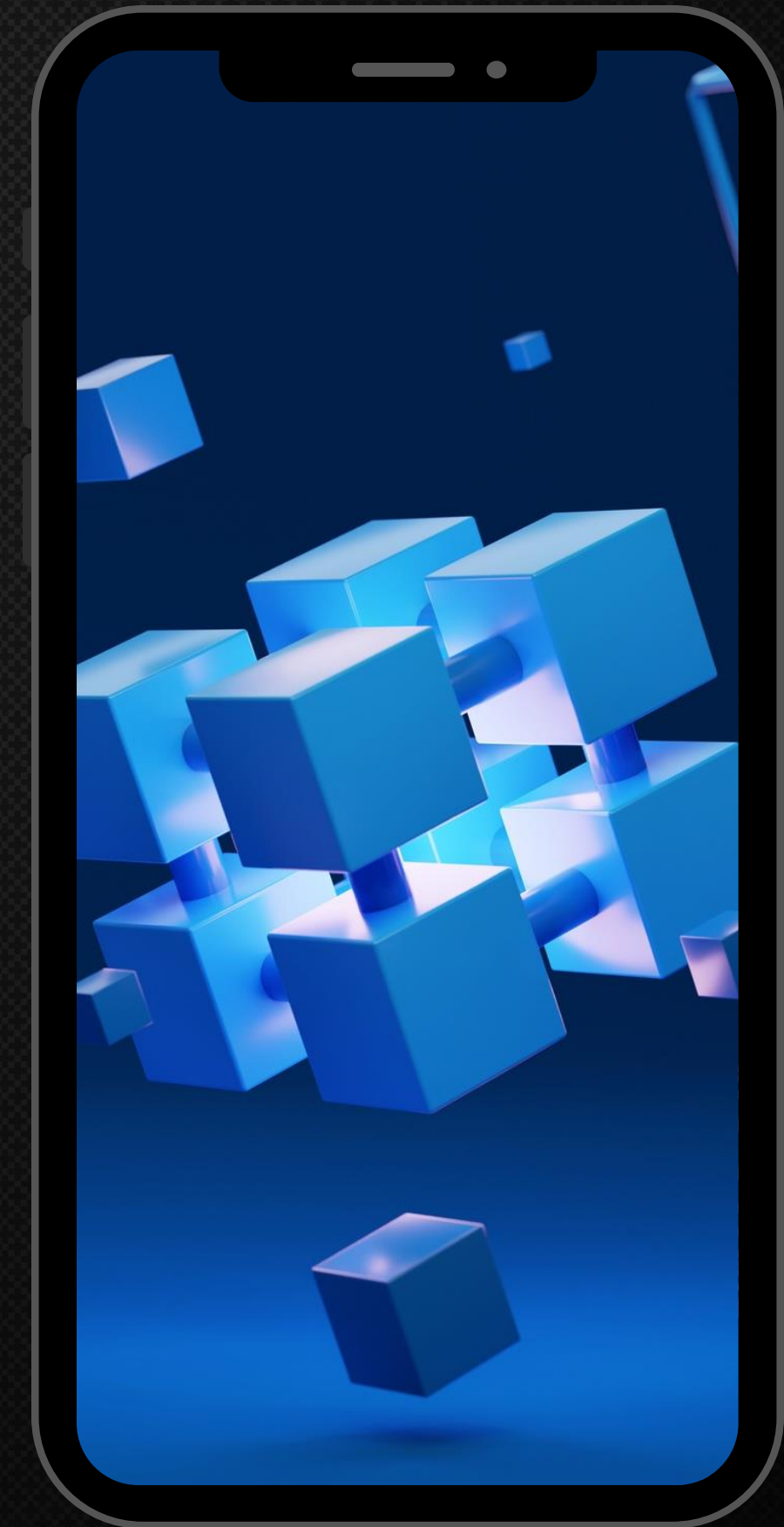


Interconnectedness

Interactivity

Immediacy

- late 20th century
- arrival of the Internet
- breaking geographical boundaries
- dominance of social media
- reshaping how we connect, share and consume information

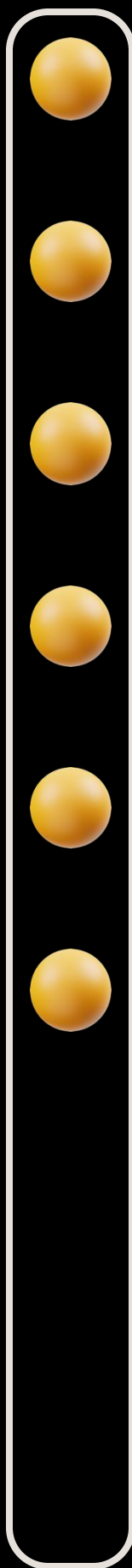






# HISTORY OF COMMUNICATION

Communion with one another is rooted in our very nature



Oral Tradition

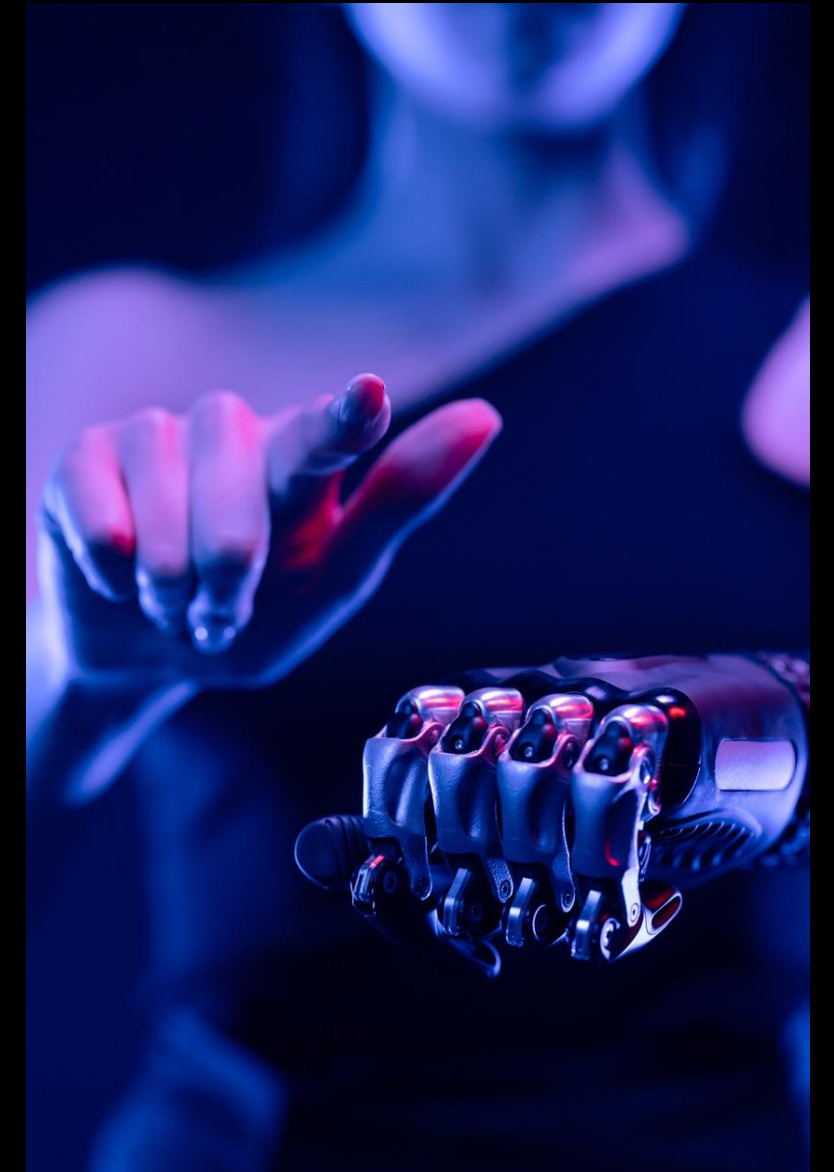
Written Word

Printing Press Revolution

Electronic Media

Digital Age

Age of AI



AI is here to stay and will continue to shape how we live, work, and communicate.



# In Formation



Influencing formation?

AI driven study resources

Reflection and Study

Wrong Conversation?

Outdated Vocabulary?



# Initial Reservation

advent of new technology has met  
with initial indifference and fear

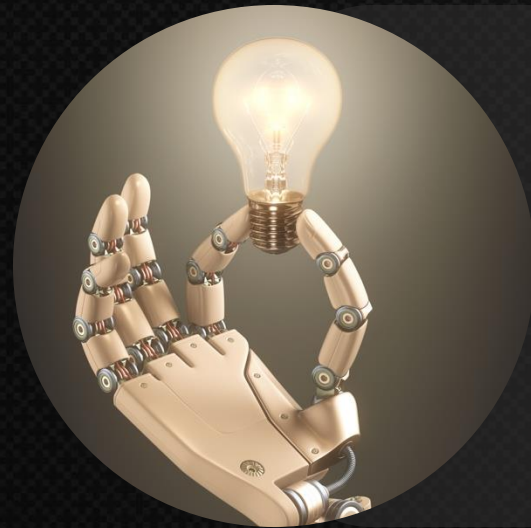
same vicious circle of becoming  
techno-freaks?





# Discussion Today

For Catholic clergy and religious, especially those in formation



**NOT**

Learning how to use modern technology



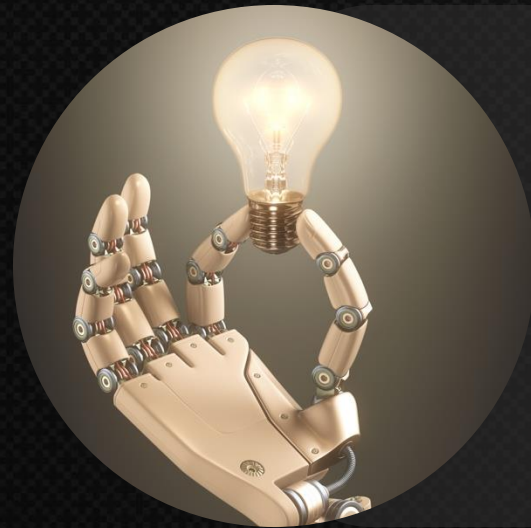
**BUT**

Integrating their Identity and Ministry



# Formation

in Catholic Tradition



**NOT**

Acquiring knowledge or skills



**BUT**

Fostering wisdom, discernment, and holiness



# Formation

requires



Time

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Prayer

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Community

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Human Mentors

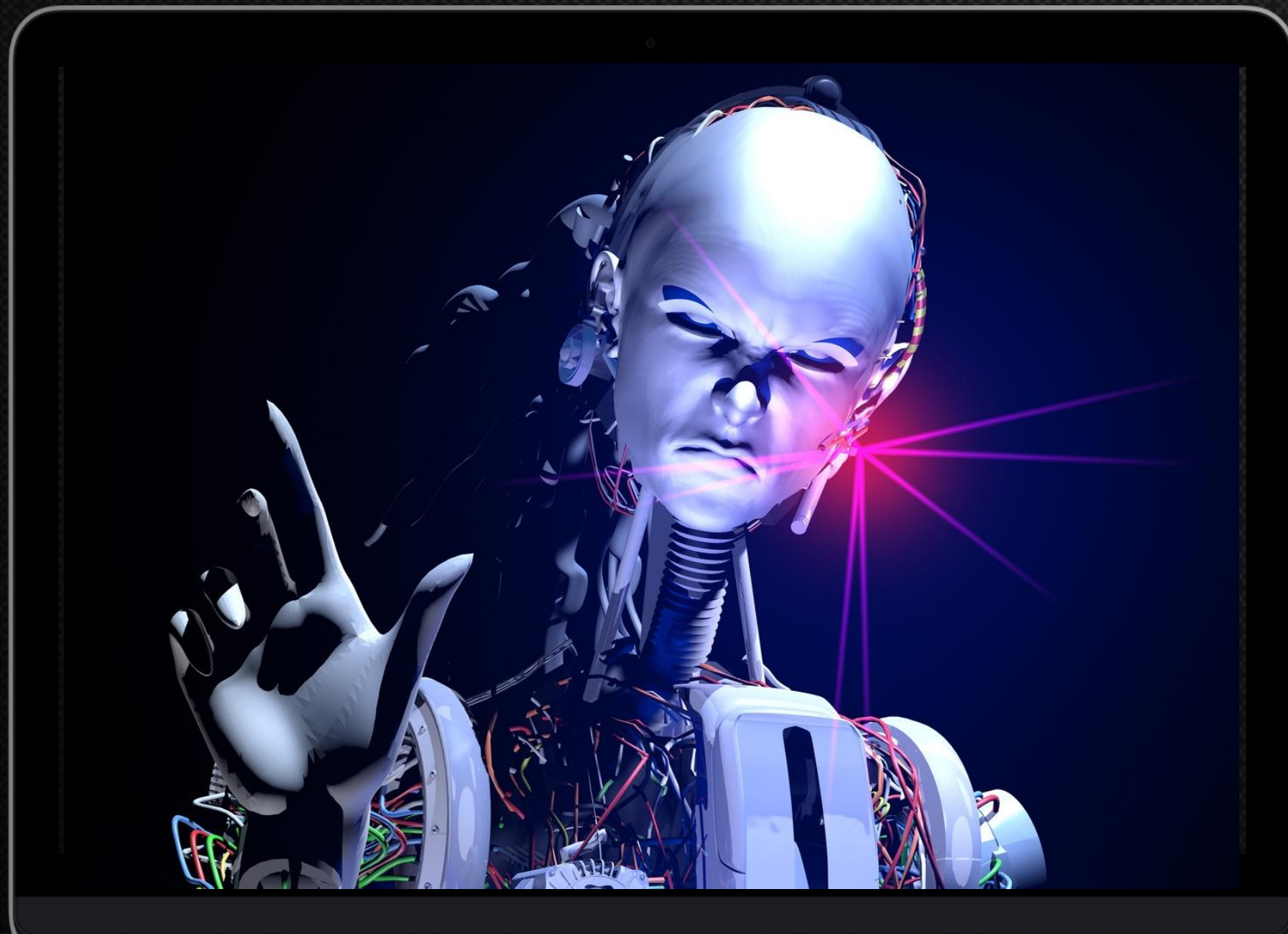
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Journey of Faith

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# AI Cannot replace



Sacredness of Priesthood

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Act of Consecration

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Leading a Community

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Mystery of Faith

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Christ's Presence in sacrament

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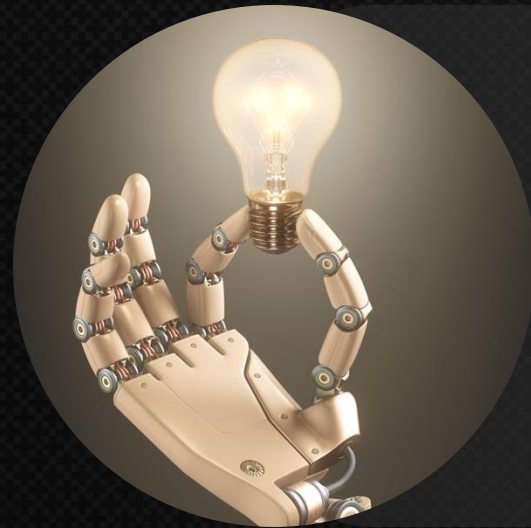


# DIGITAL DIVIDE

STUDENTS' EXPOSURE  
FORMATORS' EXPOSURE VS



# As Formators



**Open to**

the benefits of Technology



**Cautious of**

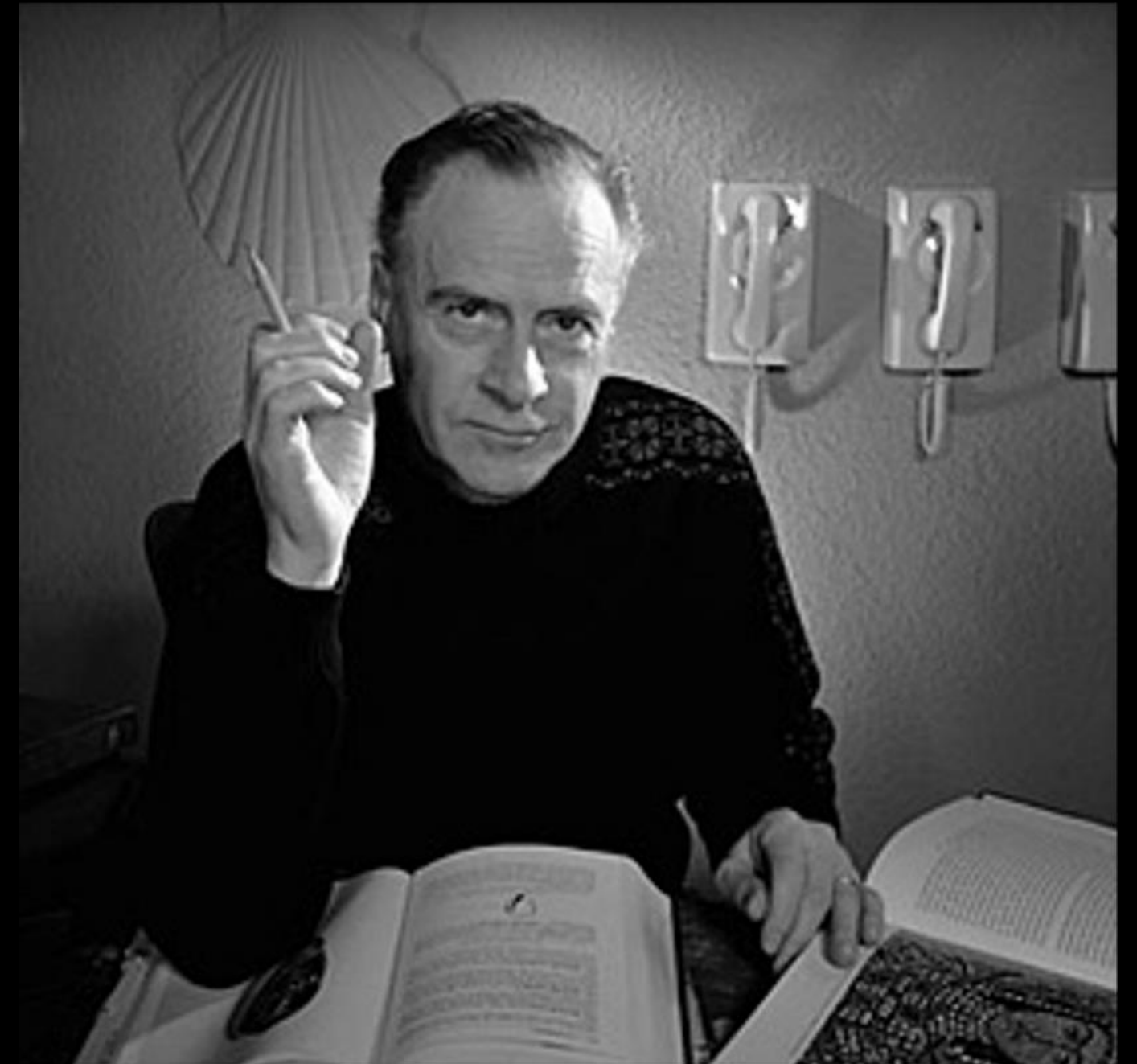
ways it can depersonalize or  
secularize our sacred mission





MARSHAL MCLUHAN

# MEDIUM IS THE MESSAGE



COMMENT....





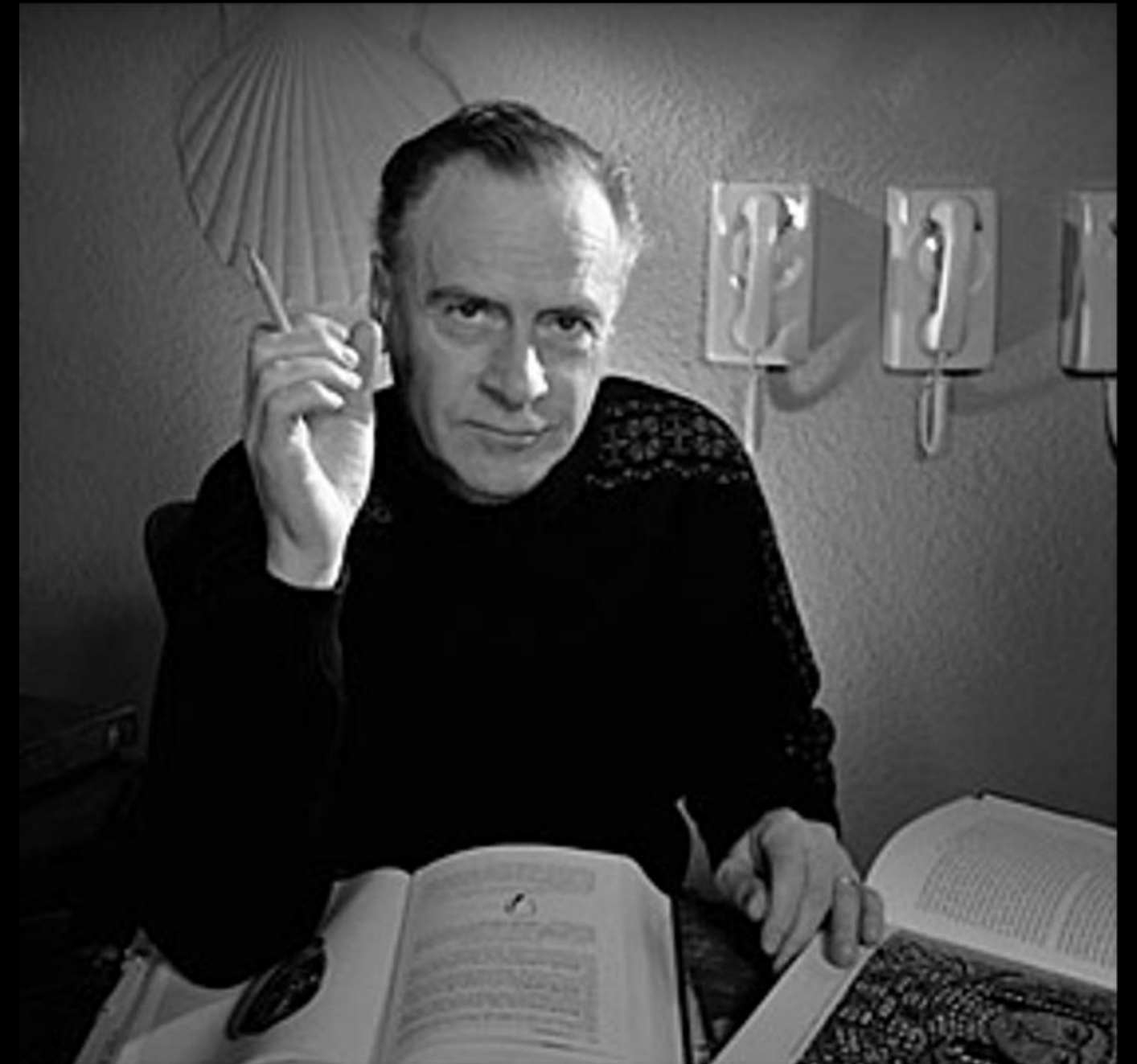
## MARSHAL MCLUHAN

The way we communicate influences more than the content.

It shapes our perception of the world.

Television promotes passive consumption, while books encourage deep, reflective thinking.

The medium itself alters the way we interact with the world.





## Christ the Perfect Communicator

Christ's life and actions are the ultimate message and medium of God's communication with humanity.

Christ did not only "speak" but also embodied it.

His model of communication transcends mere technological means to focus on building real relationships.





# FOCUS OF THE CHURCH

“Culture of encounter,” – ability to relate to one another with love, respect, and understanding.

we communicate because we long to be related.

Technology has, and always will be, a tool.

Digital world is a vital mission territory.





# New “Areopagus”

Pope John Paul II, in his 1990 encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, used the term “new Areopagus”

“The first **Areopagus** of the modern age is the world of communications, which is unifying humanity and turning it into what is known as a 'global village.'”





# Digital Continent

Pope Benedict XVI  
insisted that Church's  
need to be present on  
the Digital Continent for  
the sake of young people

If Church leaders fail to engage meaningfully in the digital sphere, young people might turn to other sources that do not reflect the truth and values of the faith.





# New “Promised Land”

Pope Francis, in his 2020 World Communications Day used the term “New Promised Land.”

“The digital world, too, a network woven of human beings, is called to be a place rich in humanity, not a web of wires but of people... In that way, the internet can be a **New Promised Land** where we can build relationships, foster a sense of community, and announce the message of the Gospel.”





# Need for

- Narratives of Truth
- Compassion
- Communion

# Two fold V i s i o n

- Missionary Opportunities
- Critical Engagement





# Formation of Conscience

Christus Vivit - 2019

Importance of teaching young people to use digital media responsibly and with moral integrity.

Promote truth, goodness, and beauty

Beware of temptations of vanity, consumerism, or misinformation.





**Thank you**