



CENTRE FOR MISSIONARY LEADERSHIP

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A work of the Missionaries of God's Love

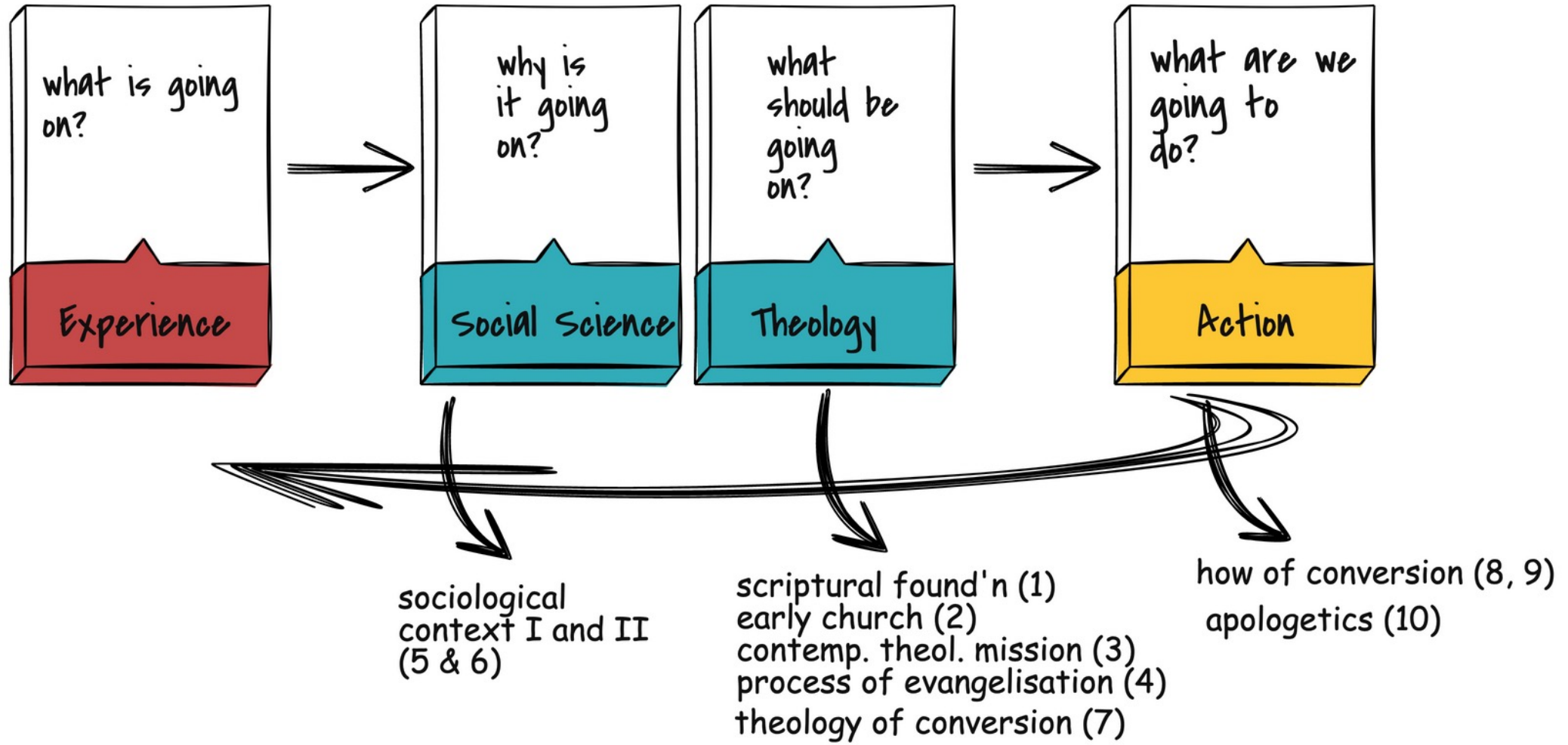
# The Sacramental Dimension of Mission

Theological Foundations of Mission 11

Inspire us to give  
generously of  
ourselves, so that  
people may be drawn  
into the mystery of  
love, and experience  
the fullness of life.



# Practical Theological Method



The Sacramental Dimension  
of Mission (11)



# Key Points in Tonight's Lecture

- Sacramentality
- Salvation is realized sacramentally: In baptism, confirmation and Eucharist
- The place of the sacraments in the Process of Evangelization
- Celebrating the Eucharist in a missionary key
- Sacramental on-ramps
- Practicalities



# Sacramentality

- A Sacrament: An efficacious sign (the visible sign that makes an invisible grace present)
- The Liturgy: The work of the people (before God)
- A sacramental worldview
  - Biblical - the world as sacrament (Alexander Schmemmann)
  - The Church as sacrament of salvation
  - The 7 sacraments
- Sacramentality as authentic re-enchantment (Taylor again!)



# The Sacramental Realization of Salvation

- OT:
  - The New Passover Meal and the Importance of eating the lamb
  - The Covenant Renewal at Passover required the eating of the lamb
- NT
  - The Eucharist requires communion because it is the New Passover, and Jesus is the Lamb of God



# The Sacramental Realization of Salvation II

- *The Fourth Cup* (Scott Hahn)
  - The Passover Liturgy at the time of Jesus involved drinking four cups of wine
  - Jesus and his disciples have three cups at the Last Supper
  - He drinks the final cup on the Cross
  - The Last Supper/Cross is thus a liturgy – for the effects of the Cross to be realized in us we are to drink the cup



# The Sacramental Realization of Salvation III

- Emmaus
  - The story of Emmaus is Luke's answer to the question: how do the disciples of the second generation and onwards meet the Risen Lord?
  - They go to Mass



# The Place of the Sacraments in the Process of Evangelisation

Key principle: the RCIA is both profoundly liturgical and profoundly missionary



- “The sacred liturgy does not exhaust the entire activity of the Church’: it must be preceded by evangelization, faith, and conversion. It can then produce its fruits in the lives of the faithful: new life in the Spirit, involvement in the mission of the Church, and service to her unity.” CCC 1072
- The assembly should *prepare* itself to encounter its Lord and to become “a people well disposed.” The preparation of hearts is the joint work of the Holy Spirit and the assembly, especially of its ministers. The grace of the Holy Spirit seeks to awaken faith, conversion of heart, and adherence to the Father’s will. These dispositions are the precondition both for the reception of other graces conferred in the celebration itself and the fruits of new life which the celebration is intended to produce afterward. CCC 1098



# Pre-catechuminate

- Alpha (or similar)
  - Mass?
  - Reconciliation?
- Rite of Acceptance



# Catechumenate

- Dismissal of the Catechumens before the Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Minor exorcisms, blessings, liturgies of the Word
- The Rite of Election



# Purification and Enlightenment

- 3 scrutinies
- Presentation of the Creed and Lord's Prayer
- Sacramentals > ordered to the sacraments of initiation



# Initiation and Mystagogy

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Eucharist
  
- Mystagogy



# The Role of Confession in Missionary Activity

- The sacrament of penance as the renewal of initiation
- To be reconciled with God
- Re-incorporated into the Church
- A sacrament of the evangelisation of the nominally baptised
- A moment of deeper conversion and maturing conversion



# Reconciliation – Sacrament of Conversion

- Contrition and Compunction
- Radical re-orientation of my life
- Can be a moment where the Gospel becomes ‘real’ for a person
- Experience of God, God’s love for them in a personal way



# Sacrament of Healing

- Reconciliation is a sacrament of healing – spiritual, but also emotional, psychological healing (healing: salve – salvation)
- People can carry very significant hurts inside of them, which they often bottle up
- In reconciliation these hurts can rise in a safe context, where the heart is opened up. Retreats or camps etc can provide an important context for this
- People may also need referral and follow up and other modes of healing



# How to Celebrate the Sacrament well

- Obviously for priests ... but you have a role
- Great context for this is a camp or retreat experience
  - Need to make it integral not incidental to the experience
  - 3 day retreat – high point of night 2
  - First intensive
- Prepare people for the sacrament
  - Take time
  - Preparation of the heart
  - Preach mercy, love of God, compassion, forgiveness
  - Testimony,
  - Small group precedes - time for Q and A, testimony



# The Eucharist as Profoundly Missionary

- The Eucharist is primarily about worship, the realization of salvation
- But this means it is also profoundly missionary: it is the goal of missionary activity
- It is also the source of missionary activity
- And other expressions of mission (healing, teaching, etc)



# Celebrating the Eucharist in a Missionary Key

- Every weekend visitors, unchurched, and un-evangelised people come to our Masses so...
  - Welcome matters
  - Preaching matters – preaching specifically to this group of people
  - Style of music?
  - Hospitality afterwards
  - Clear next step
  - Respect the integrity of the Mass (Rebuilt?)



# Sacramental on-ramps

- Baptism of infants
- Reconciliation, eucharist, and confirmation for children
- School Masses
- Funerals
- Weddings

