

Proposal for Integral Theology Formation

Jean Khoury and I propose a new vision to understand and teach Theology, in which Catholic teaching would be presented, in its entirety and with academic rigour, in a way that fully integrates the actual way of understanding and teaching theology with deeper spiritual theology and the spiritual life of the seminarian. A theology that guides us to union with God and the fullness of love and not just gives an understanding of faith.

“The theological disciplines [...] should be so taught that the students will correctly draw out Catholic doctrine from divine revelation, **profoundly penetrate it, make it the food of their own spiritual lives**, and be **enabled to proclaim**, explain, and protect it in their priestly ministry.” (Vat II, *Optatam Totius*, 16)

Until the early Middle Ages spiritual life and academic theology were inseparable but have become distanced since then in a way that does harm to both. Today studying Theology can sometimes be dry and abstract. The seminarian doesn't always see with practical clarity the relationship between his studies and his personal spiritual life. Beyond some talks given in the Seminary on Prayer or the Liturgy and some input on Spiritual Theology, during the seminary years Spiritual Formation is often left to personal effort, reading and spirituality.

Using the depths of Spiritual Theology, the method of integral theology intends to offer exciting theological bridges between our personal spiritual life and theological studies, namely Bible, Dogma, Sacraments, Commandments and Ministry.

It also tackles the vital necessity for a wholesome and more practical Spiritual Formation. Amongst other things this formation can utterly transform the way in which the seminarian will view and pray the Mass.

This way of making theology will enable God's grace to flow more easily from within, identifying what one learns as concrete and alive. The combination of academic teaching and formation in spiritual life will make the learning and deep integration of theology much more fruitful to the seminarian. Then intellect and heart become unified, intellectual life, worship and personal spiritual life flow in one continuum. A strong witness and ministry develop, becoming alive, truthful, and capable of conveying to others, in a practical way, what has been learned, thereby feeding the spiritual life of his brothers.

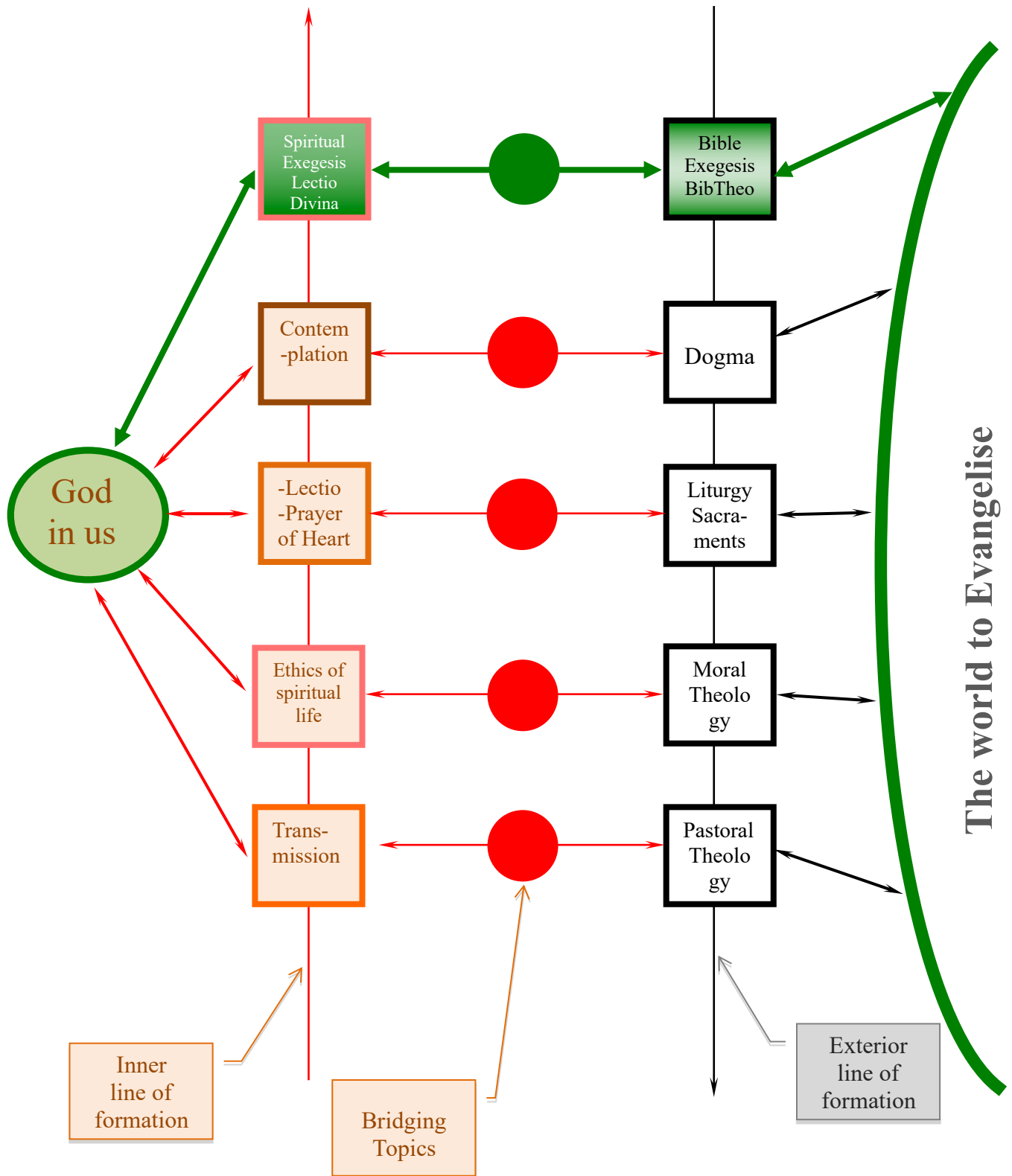
See the accompanying sheets for a schematic presentation and examples on how, in each area of theology, integrating actual theology (right column) and spiritual theology (left column) can be achieved.

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Integral Theology Main Diagram

The 'communication line' is opened in the Seminararian, and through him, between the 'Experience of God' and the 'Persons to Evangelise'.



Topics for a Formation in ‘Integral Theology’

Introductory course presenting “Integral Theology”.
 Course on the “Call for holiness”.

	Inner line of formation	Bridging-Topics	Outer line of formation	
God	Theology of listening Lectio divina “Biblical Inspiration” and “Spiritual Life” Contemplation	Spiritual exegesis	Bible Exegesis Canon, Inspiration Biblical Theology	The Persons to Evangelise
	Experience of the Trinity Experience of Christ Experience of the Holy Spirit Experience of Mary The spiritual experience of the Church	Trinity in Spiritual Life Christ in Spiritual Life The Holy Spirit in Spiritual life Mary in Spiritual Life Church and Spiritual Life	Dogma Trinity Christology Pneumatology Ecclesiology Mariology	
	- Spirituality of Priestly Gift of the Faithful - Martyrdom - Lectio Divina - Prayer of the heart – Lift up the heart - Digesting the Sacraments - Rosary	“Fruitful Participation” to the liturgy. Liturgy and Spiritual Life Spirituality of Baptism Spirituality of the Eucharist Spirituality of Marriage	Sacraments 7 Sacraments Liturgy	
	Theological Acts (Faith – Hope – Love) Ups and downs in SL Synergy with the Action of the Holy Spirit – Presence of God	Moral Theology and Spiritual Theology Confession and Spiritual Direction Perception of sin in the examination of conscience	Moral Theology General MT Special MT	
	Discernment – Counsel – Government Spiritual Direction Spiritual Pastoral Being fruitful	The Holiness of the Priest/minister in his ministry Pastoral techniques under the light of Spiritual Life. Pastoral orientations in the light of the Spiritual Journey.	Pastoral Theology Pastoral Theology Evangelisation Canon Law	

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