

A still life composition on a textured, teal-blue surface. In the center is a dark brown, earthenware chalice filled with a deep red liquid. To its left is a small, golden-brown loaf of bread. Behind the chalice is a crown of thorns made of dry, brown, spiky branches. The background is a solid teal color.

The Incarnational Tradition: Formed by Sacrament

Ps Lim Wei-en

Incarnational Tradition

Concerns itself with the relationship between spirit and matter. It emphasizes experiencing God's presence through the material and ordinary means of life. This tradition invites believers to see the world as "sacramental," where physical elements and actions convey spiritual realities.

Biblical Foundations

1. The Goodness of Creation (Gen. 1-2)

God saw all that he had made, and it was **very good**. (Gen. 1:31)

Give thanks to the LORD, for **he is good**.
His love endures forever.

who by his understanding made the heavens,
His love endures forever.
who spread out the earth upon the waters,
His love endures forever. (Ps. 136: 1, 5-6)



Biblical Foundations

2. Jesus' incarnation for the purpose of the redemption of our creation.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us... (Jn. 1:14)

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to **reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven**, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (Col. 1:19-20)



Biblical Foundations

3. Jesus meets us in and through the created order as a visible sign of the life he brings.

- Turning water into wine (Jn.2:1-11)
- Feeding multitudes with bread and fish (Mk. 6:41-44)
- Using spittle to heal mute and blind (Mk 7:33, 8:23)
- Laying hands to heal, raise the dead, bless (Mk 5:41, 6:5, 10:16)



Biblical Foundations

Sacrament

An outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible grace. (Augustine)





Biblical Foundations

Sacrament

An outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible grace. (Augustine)

Two sacraments:



Baptism
(Mk. 1:9-10)



Holy Communion
(Mk.14:22-23)



Biblical Foundations

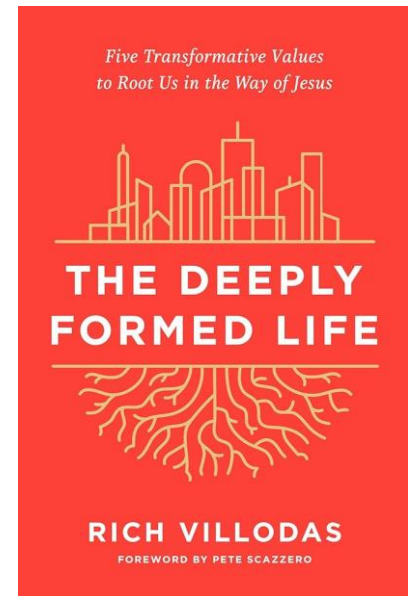
4. **Jesus sends us out into the world as “means of His grace” to do all things for His glory.**

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:17)



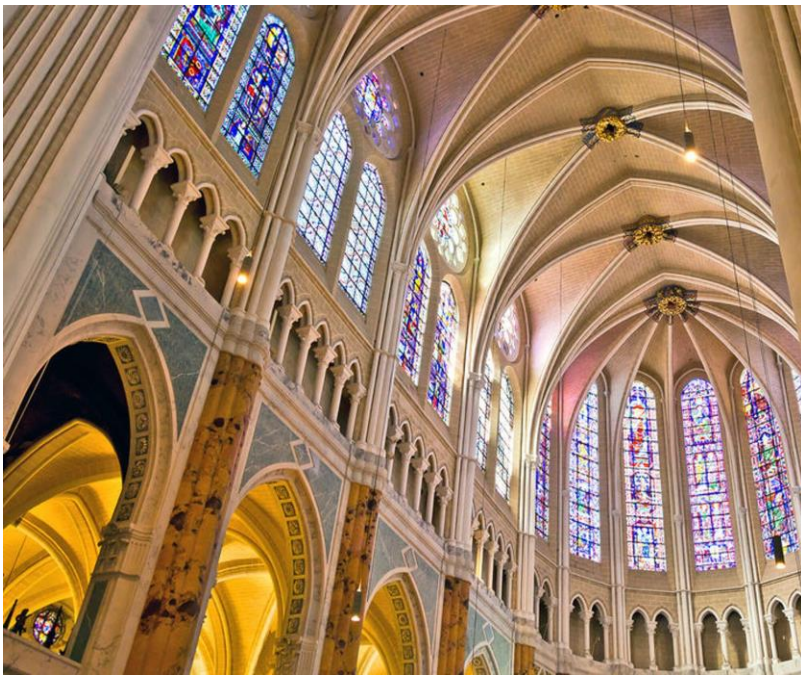
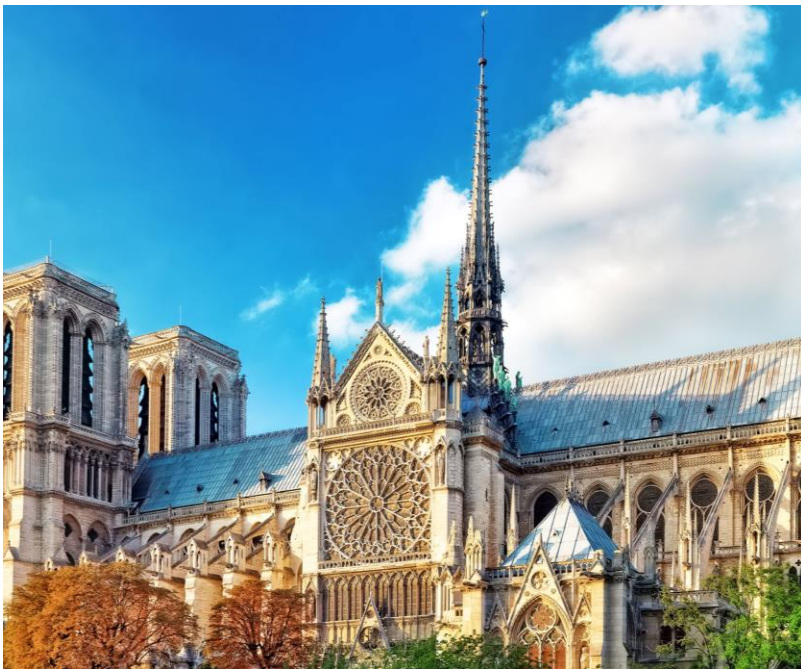
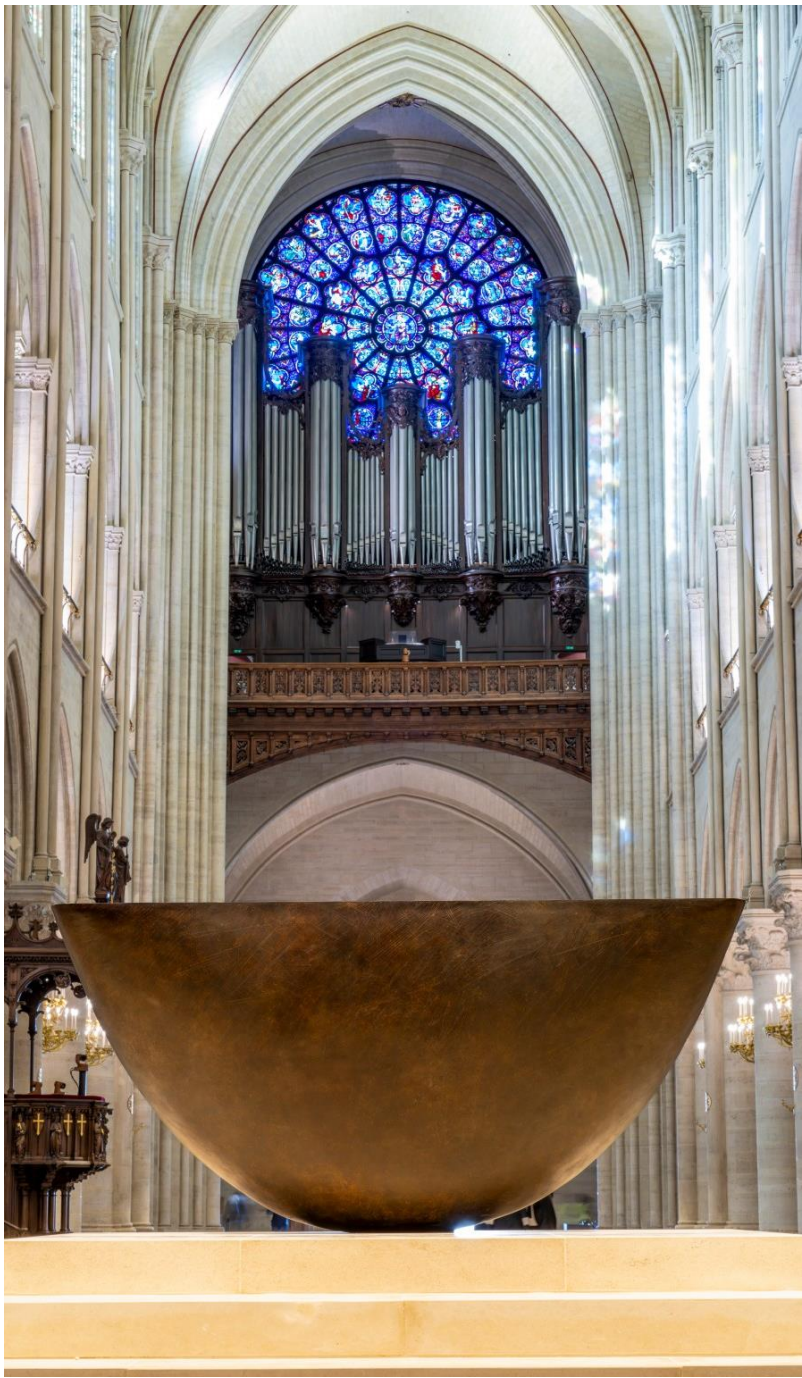
“To put it simply, we are not just to receive sacraments; we are to become them. Whether through our compassionate love for our neighbours, shared intimacy with friends, kindness towards our children... **our entire lives point to something beyond ourselves.**”

(Rich Villodas, The Deeply Formed Life)



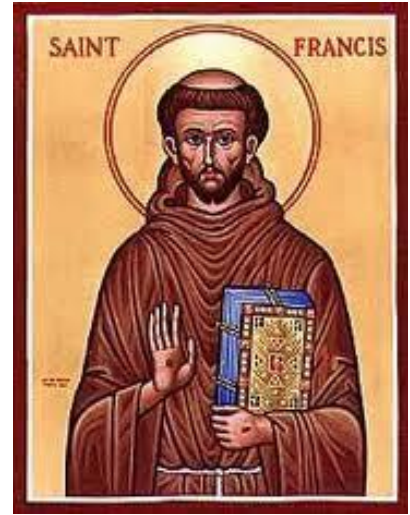
Incarnational Tradition

1. Medieval (Gothic) Architecture as a Window into the Transcendent.



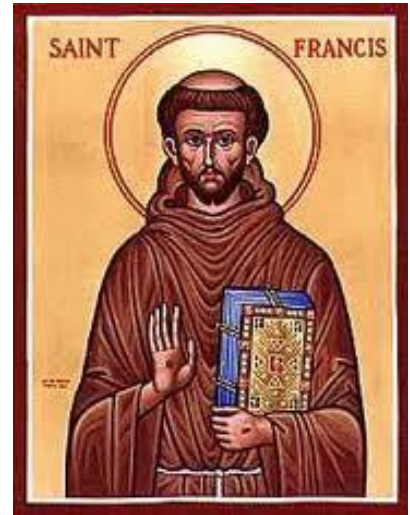
Incarnational Tradition

2. The Rise of Mendicants and Other Lay Movements



Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen.



Incarnational Practices

- 1. Regular partaking of the sacraments**
- 2. Observe Liturgy and the Christian Calendar**
- 3. Cultivate Thankfulness.**
- 4. Creation Care**
- 5. Serving God in our Daily Vocation**



Potential Pitfalls

1. Idolatry

2. Superstition



A still life composition featuring a golden-brown loaf of bread, a dark brown ceramic cup filled with a red liquid, and a crown of thorns. The items are arranged on a textured, light blue surface. The word "Response" is overlaid in white text on the bottom left.

Response

Dedicating our Daily Vocations to God

Lord of the Universe, we praise you for your creation, the beauty of the world, the value of the earth's resources, and the skills of hand and brain which you have given us.

We thank you for offering us the chance to share in creation through these skills; for the opportunity to plan and design, to manufacture and grow, to serve and conserve, and to care for one another in the places where we work.

Dedicating our Daily Vocations to God

Whether we work at home, or at school,
indoors or out of doors,
alone, or with others,
with hand or brain,
paid or unpaid,
dynamic or monotonous,
with objects or with people,
constantly travelling or always staying put
we give our work to you, Lord God.

Dedicating our Daily Vocations to God

And because he shared with us our humanity and our world, we thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ, who carried out your work to your praise and glory and for the renewal of your creation. Teach us to do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen