

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Encounters With God For The Sake of Spiritual Maturity & the Apostolate

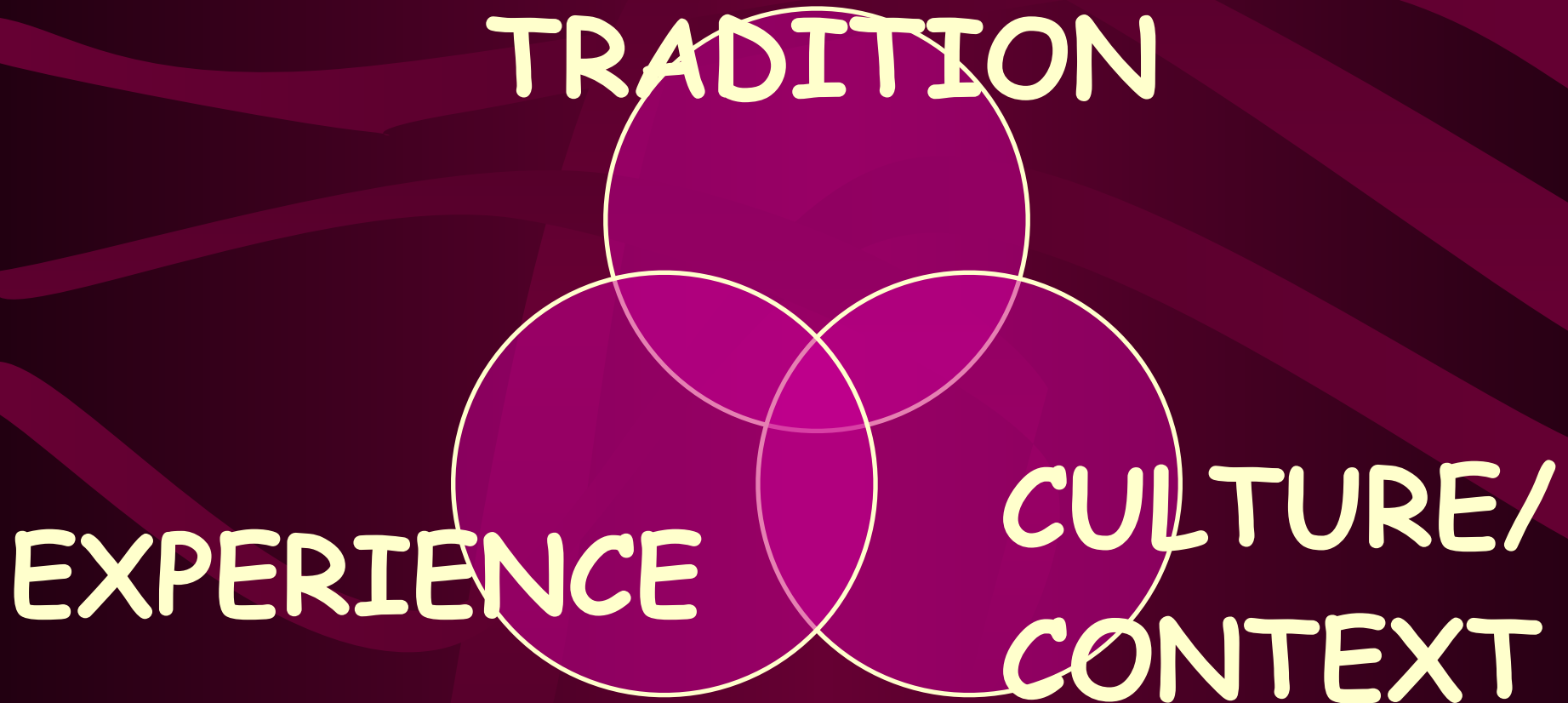
DESIRE FOR THIS SESSION:

Become acquainted with & practice
a method of theological reflection

WHAT IS THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION?

- Provides a way to investigate our action as Christian leaders from a theological perspective
- Enables us to ascertain God's presence and action in the world—what God is *already* doing & how we are called to participate in God's ongoing activity

Theological Reflection involves a focused conversation that engages, personally and communally, three elements:



EXPERIENCE IS INCARNATIONAL AND REVELATORY

People are called “to interpret the data of experience and the signs of the times assisted by the virtue of prudence, by the advice of competent people, and by the help of the Holy Spirit and his gifts”

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1788

**MODELS OF THEOLOGICAL
REFLECTION:**

**Encounters with the Living God
for the Sake of Spiritual
Growth & the Apostolate**

ATTENDING TO
THE EXPERIENCE



NAMING THE
EXPERIENCE

EXPLORING
THE HEART OF
THE MATTER



NEW TRUTHS/
MEANINGS FOR LIVING

CATALYSTS/SOURCES for considering an EXPERIENCE to reflect upon...
LIFE SITUATION...
PIECE OF THE TRADITION...
ENCOUNTER WITH NATURE, ART, MUSIC, BOOK, DRAMA...

EXPERIENCES???

Praying about/Meditating/Contemplating...then CHOOSING an EXPERIENCE (e.g., Event, Conversation, Crisis, Resolution, Moment of Grace, Insight, Encounter) of significance. Choosing something with some “pull” or appeal—something that moves a person

NAMING THE EXPERIENCE

WHO/WHAT/WHEN/WHERE/HOW described
CONCRETELY & VIVIDLY: Memories, Images, Feelings
(e.g. anxious, upset, afraid, energized, excited, peaceful,
confident...)...Where does God seem present/absent?

ATTENDING TO THE EXPERIENCE

...IN CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHRISTIAN
HERITAGE (e.g., Images, Scripture, Theological themes
(e.g., Creation, Salvation, Prayer, Suffering, Grace, Justice,
Vocation/Calling), Symbols

EXPLORING THE HEART OF THE MATTER

...FLOWING FROM the previous CONVERSATION... What Questions remain for me; what do I need to talk about to a mentor/director; what seems decided or unsettled; is something new emerging from this reflection; what skills have I learned?

**NEW TRUTHS/MEANINGS
FOR LIVING**

THE HEART OF THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

EMMANUEL
“GOD WITH US”
INCARNATION

Peering into one’s “house of
experience” [Temple of the Holy Spirit]
through the window of faith-life-spiritual
journey

“AN ENCOUNTER WITH...”:

A Case Study for Practicing Theological Reflection