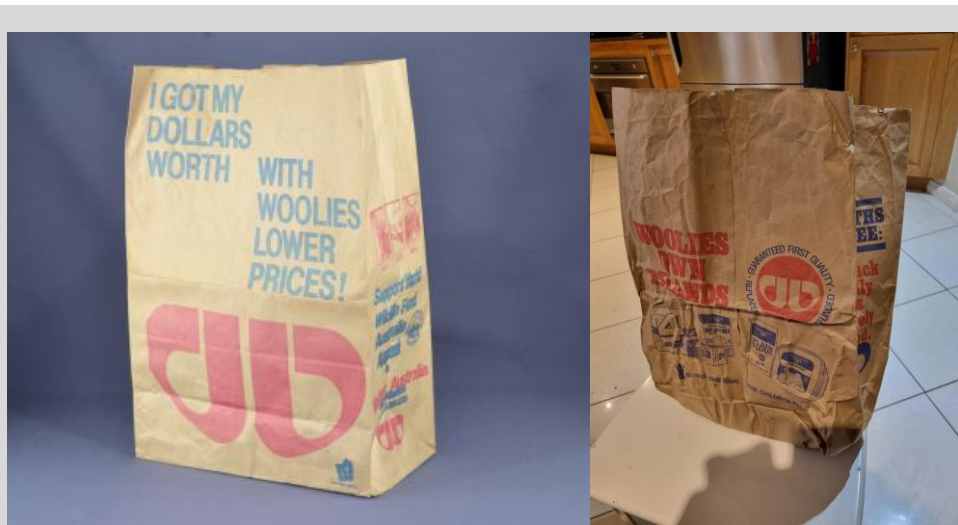




Australasian Mercy Secondary
School Association
Santa Maria College
Professor Br David Hall FMS
29 May 2025

Mercy Schools: Good for the World





XXS

EXCESS







“

The pace of
change has
never been this
fast, yet it will
never be this
slow again.

Justin Trudeau — World Economic Forum

Australia Towards 2021 65









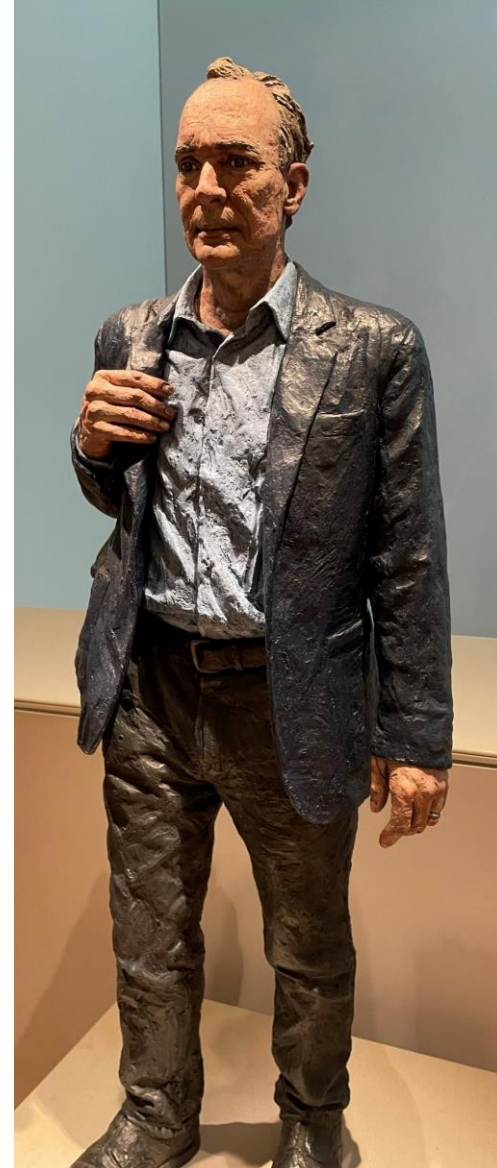


Sir Tim Berners-Lee, b.1955

By Sean Henry

'I want the web to reflect our hopes and fulfil our dreams, rather than magnify our fears and deepen our divisions.'

Tim Berners-Lee, 2018







THE HUMAN RACE



A misty forest scene with tall, thin trees and a soft, golden light filtering through the canopy. The text "What Have We Become" is overlaid in a white, cursive font.

What Have We Become



MODERN HISTORY

Post Modern Era

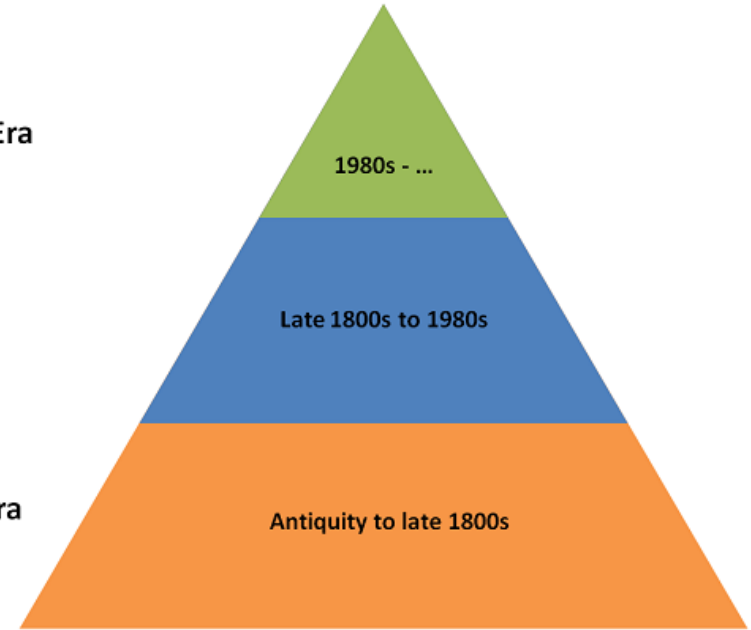
1980s - ...

Modern Era

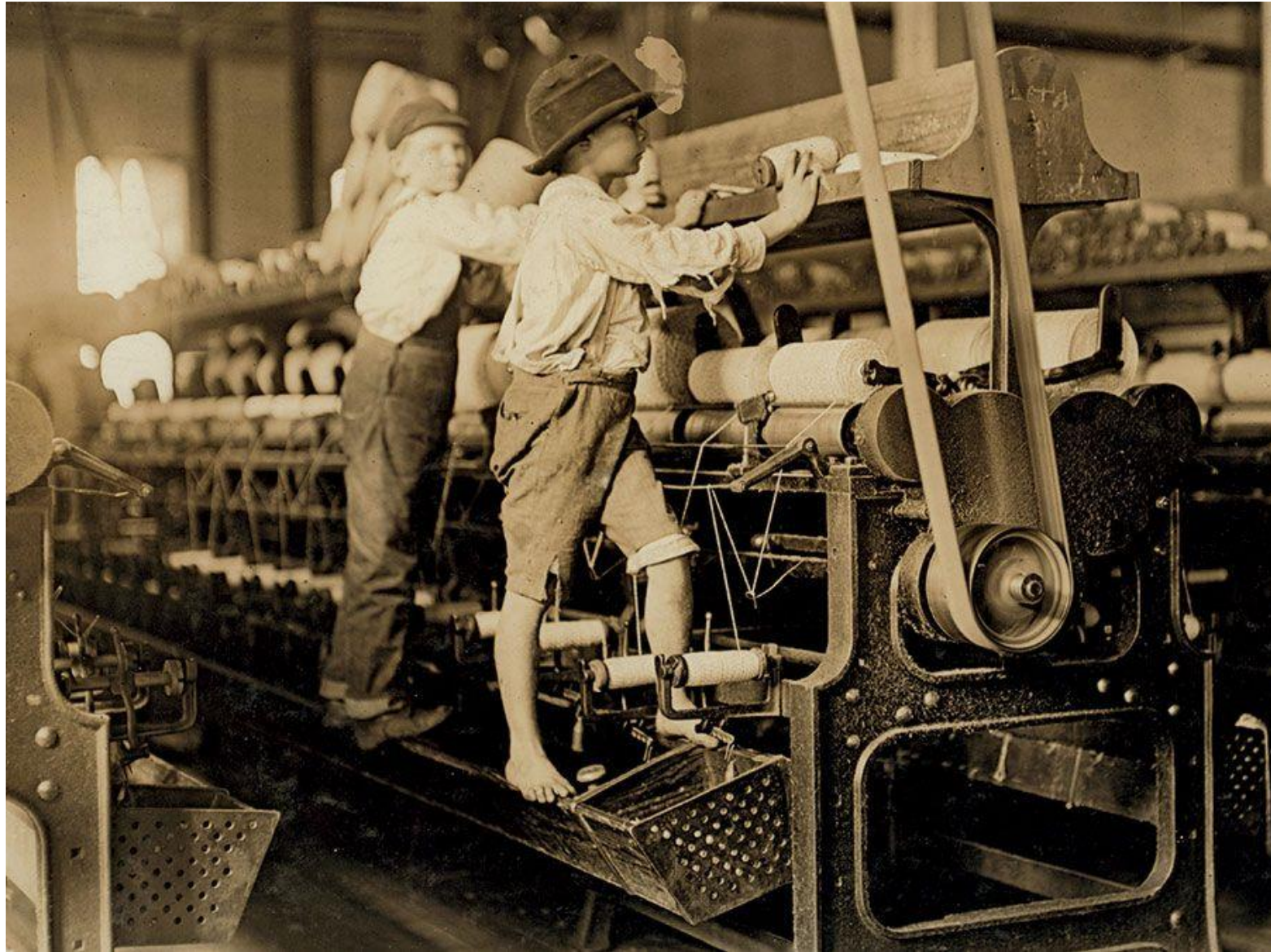
Late 1800s to 1980s

Pre-Modern Era

Antiquity to late 1800s









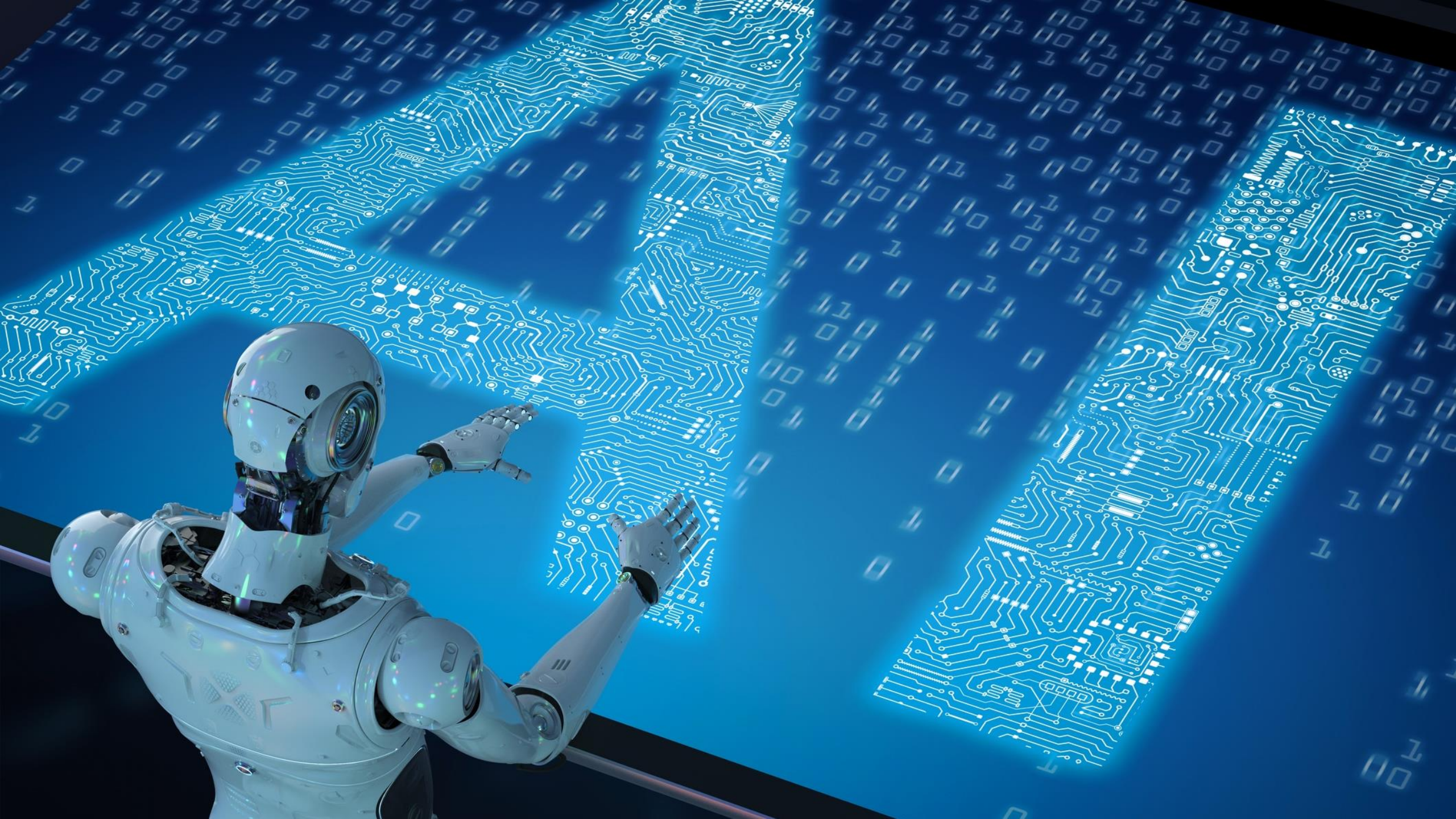
INEFFICIENT

1962

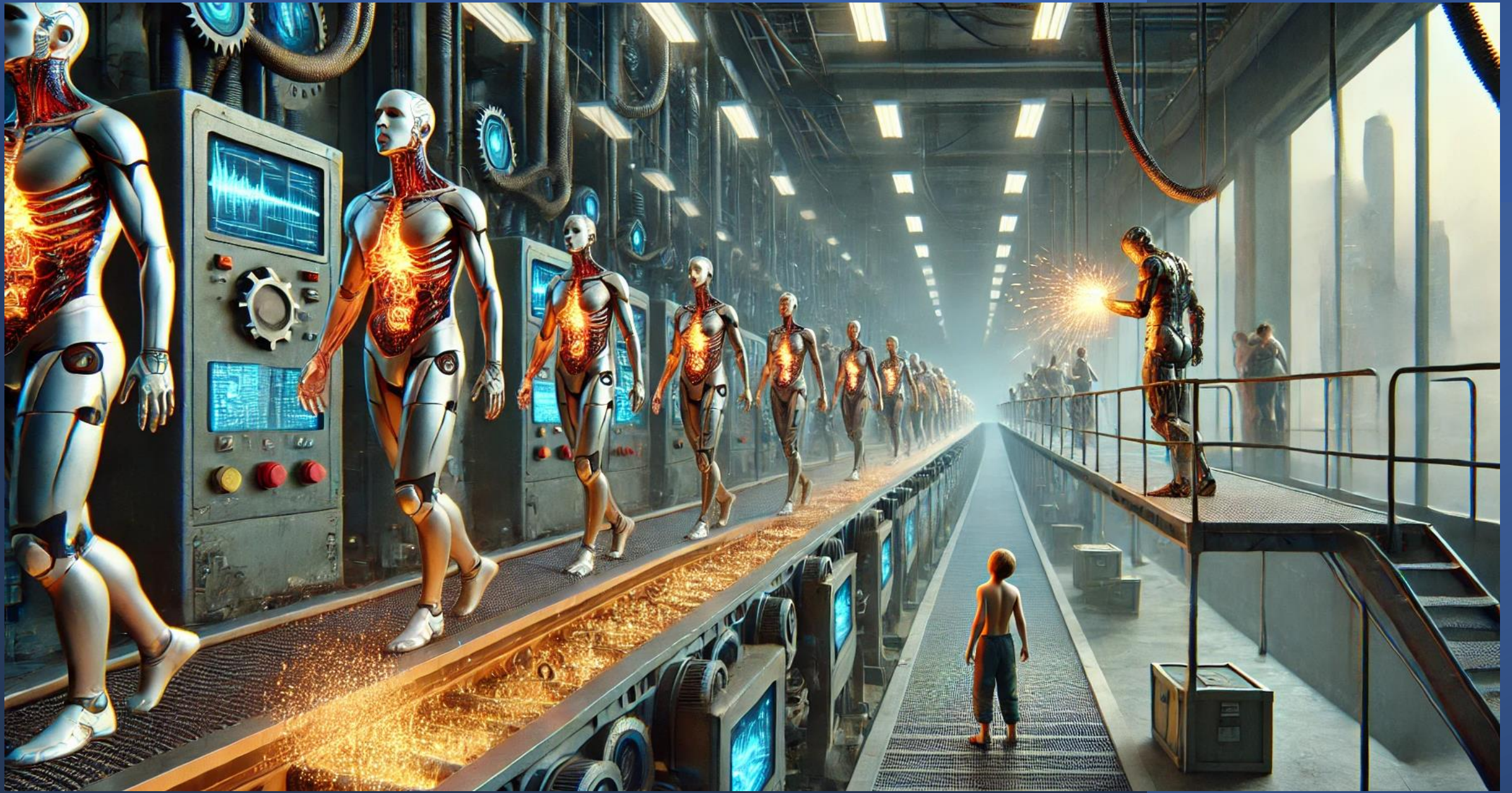


2062









DIGNITY

UTILITY



WHAT IS A PERSON?

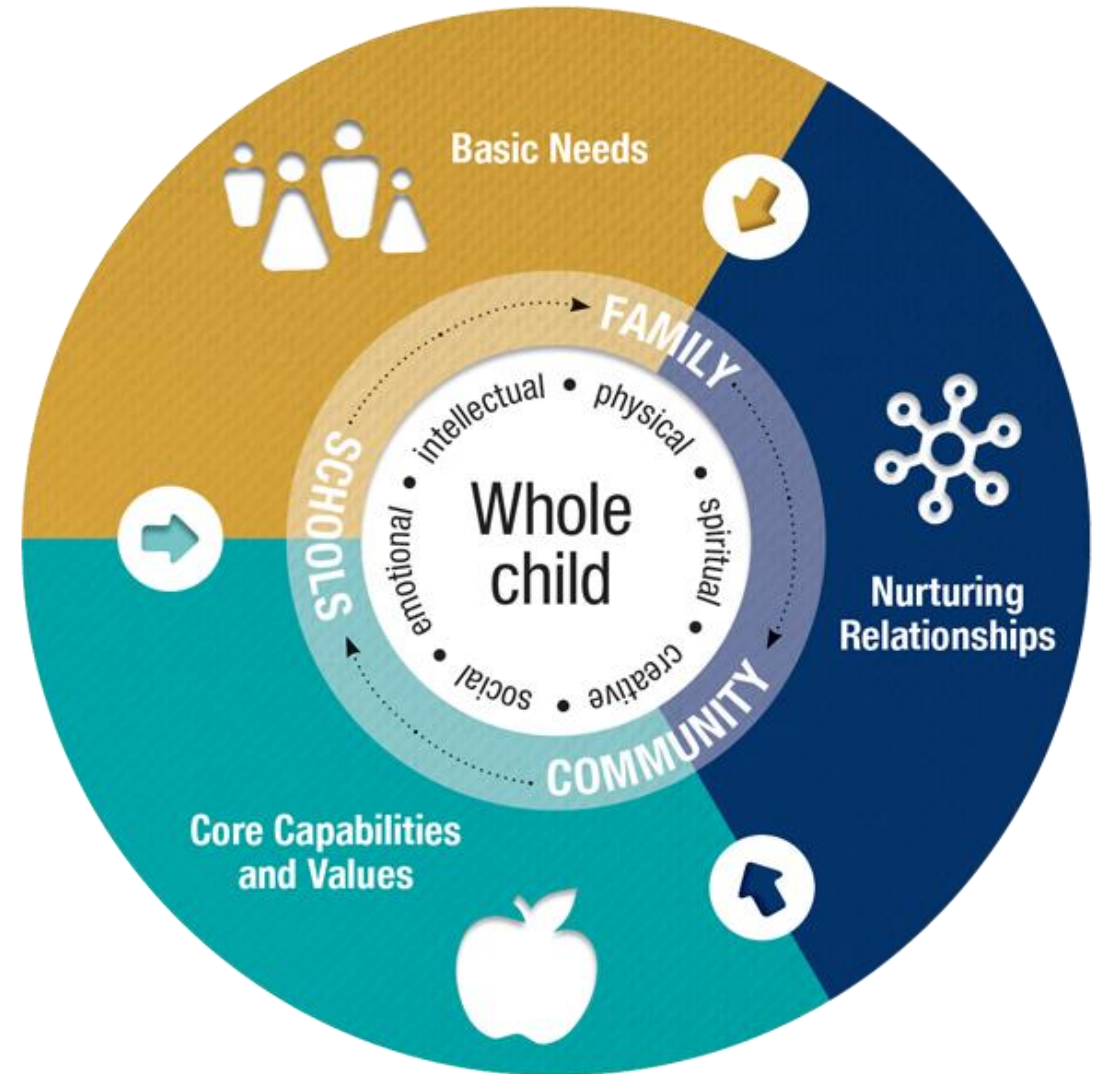
WHOLE PERSON

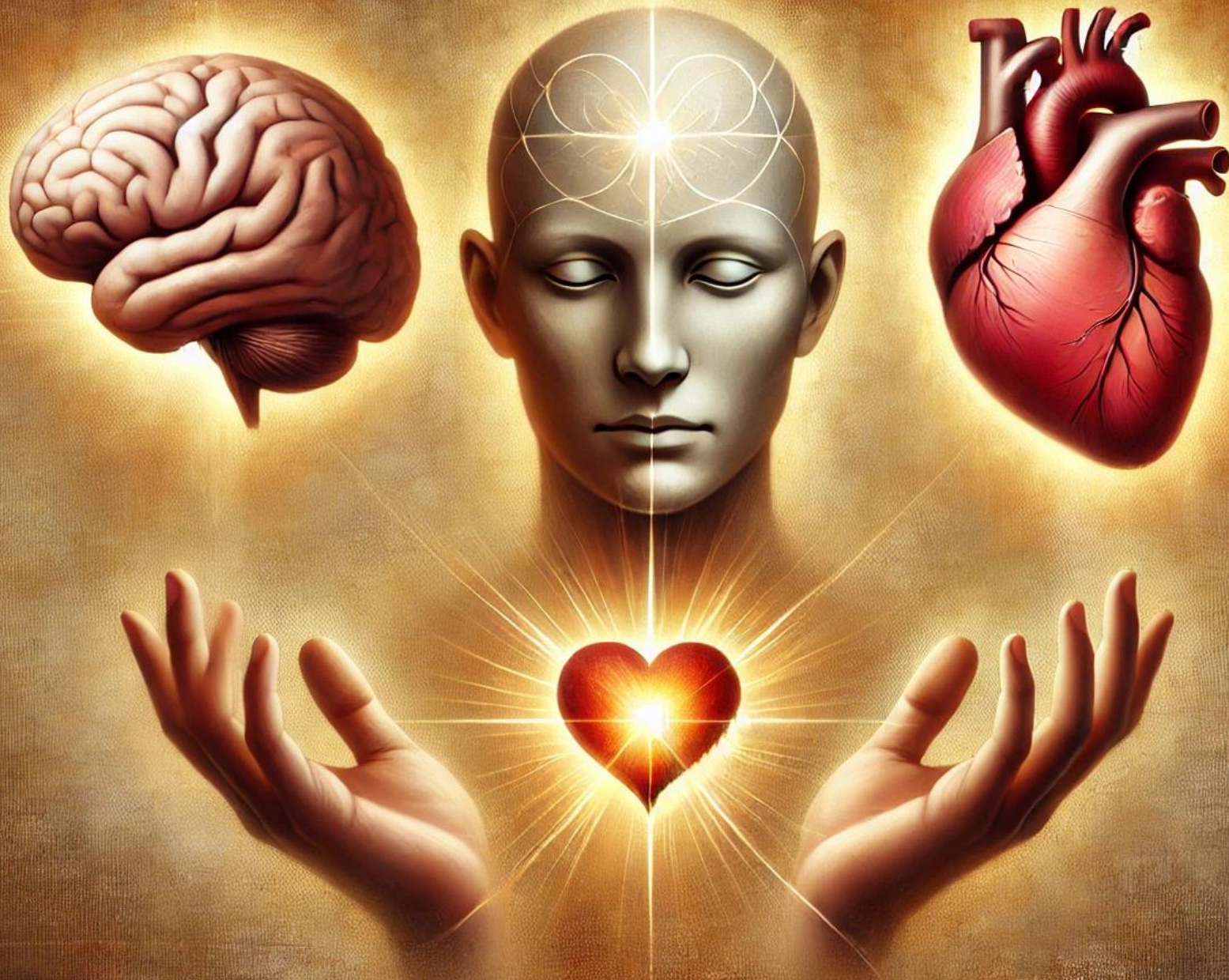


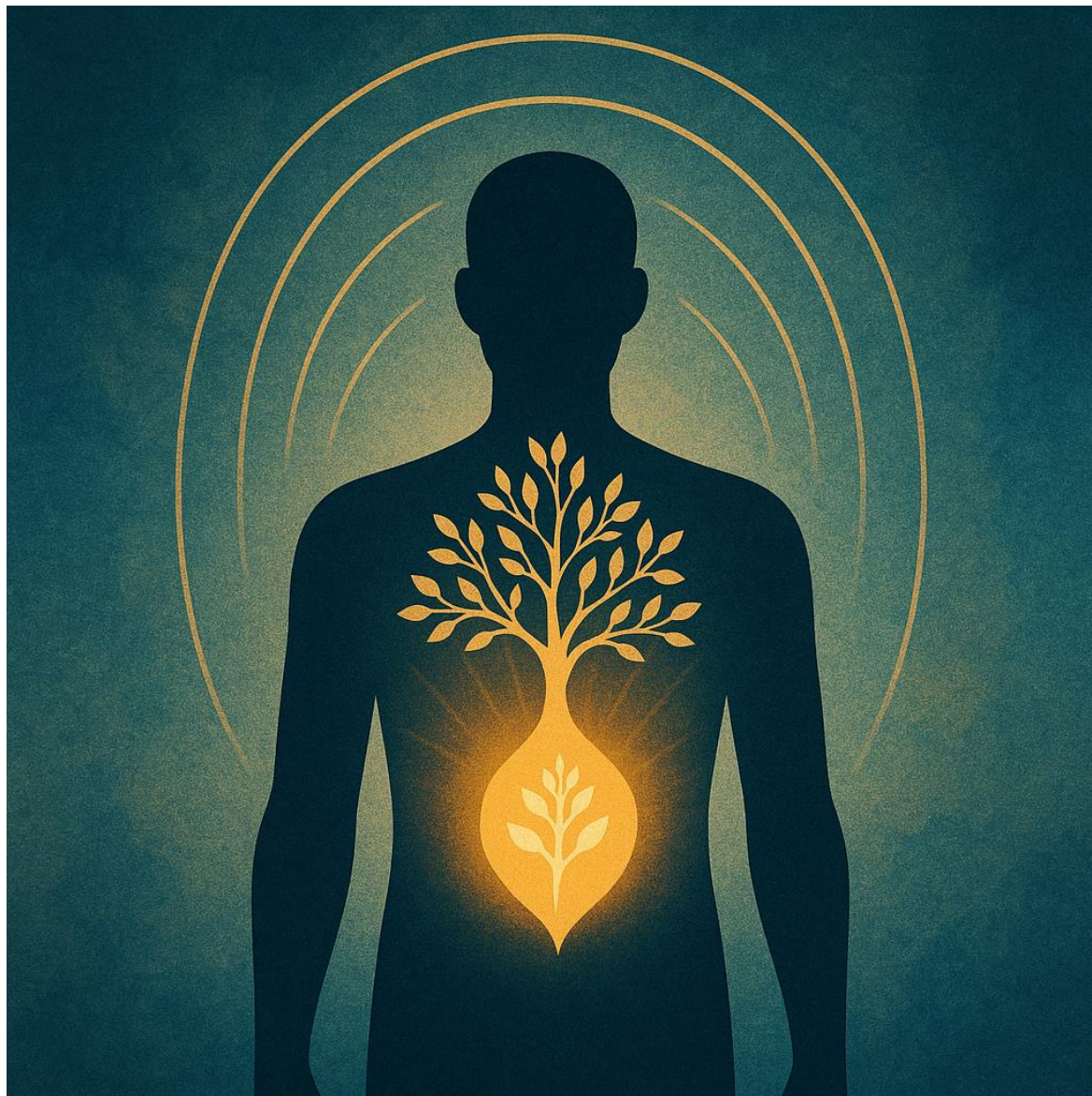
We cannot describe wholeness if we do not know some common ways in which something can fail to be whole.

The outcome of every process of education is some kind of human being, but what kind of human?

Tom Christenson, *Who needs a Lutheran College?*, 'Educating the Whole Person', pp52-67.

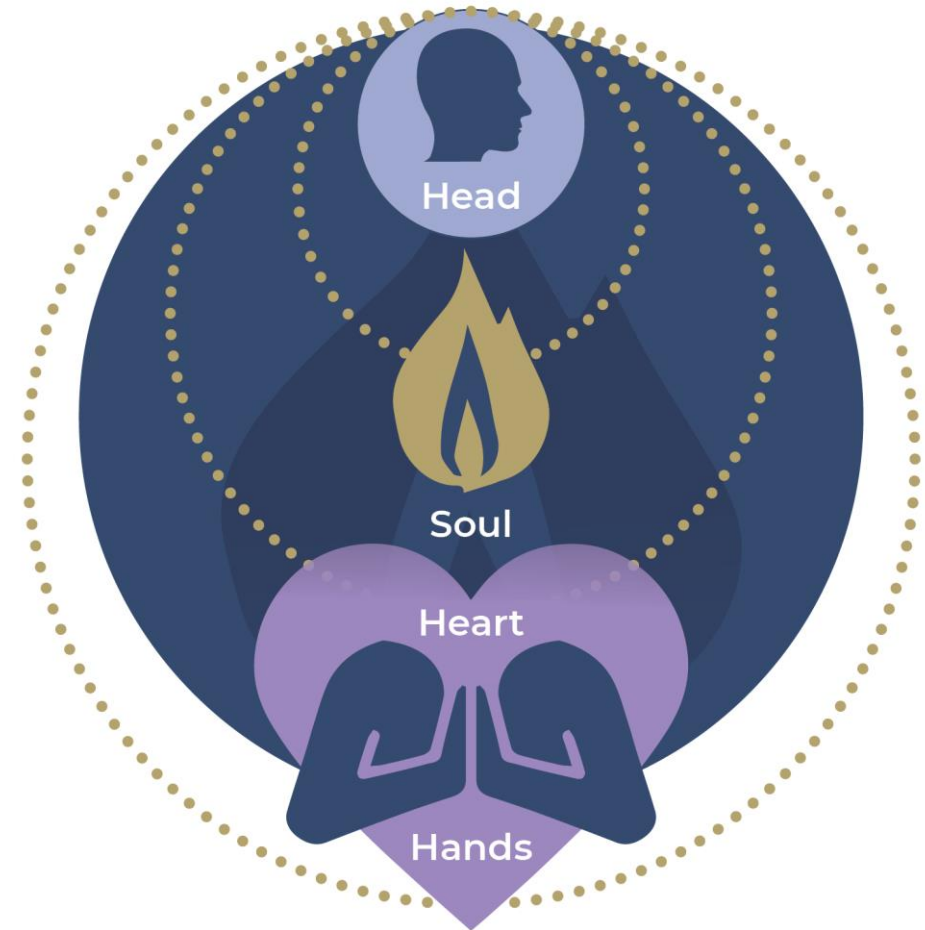






HEAD, HEART, HAND AND SOUL - OUR INTEGRATED AND WHOLE SELF

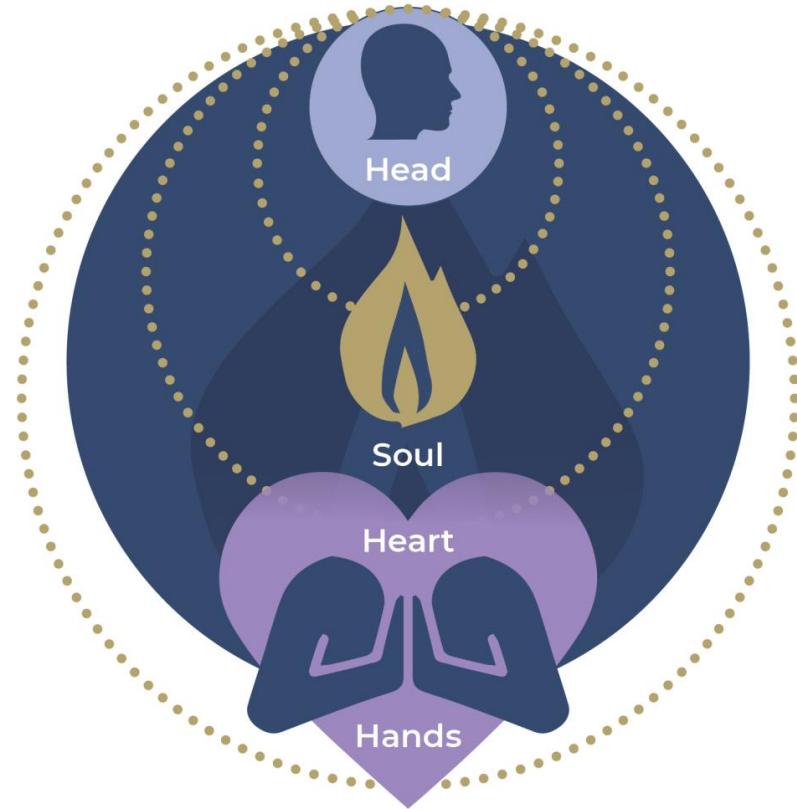
“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Mt 22:37). Soul is inserted between the heart and the head, and the hands are referred to in the second commandment that follows: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself”. (Mt 22:39)



HEAD, HEART, HAND AND SOUL - OUR INTEGRATED AND WHOLE SELF

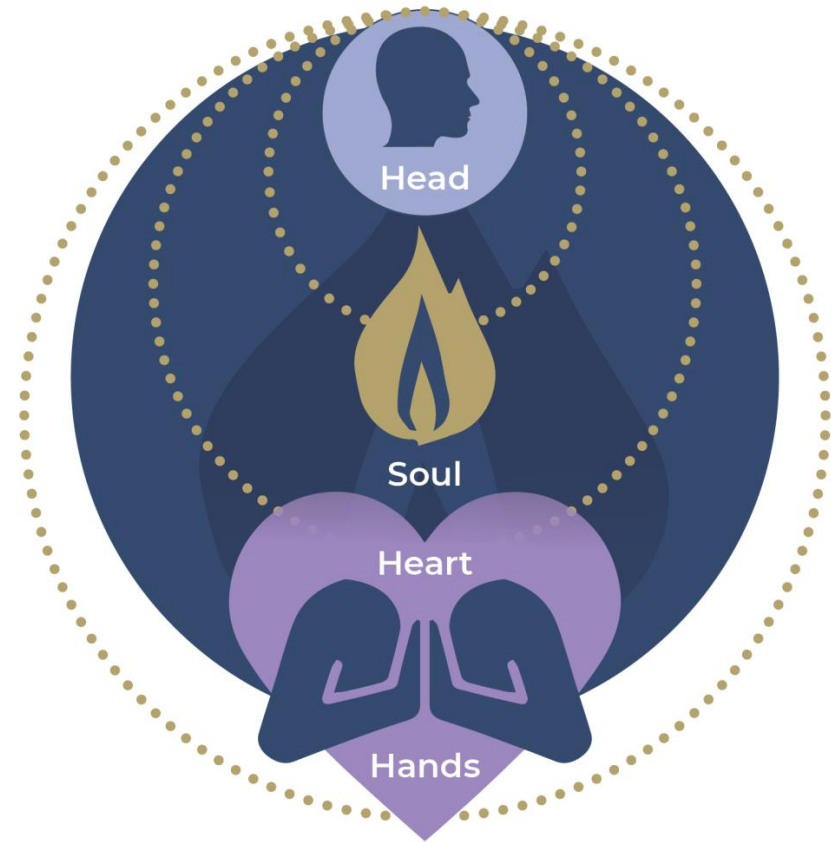
Soul is the entire human person, and most particularly the innermost aspect, that which is of greatest value, that by which we are most especially in God's image.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC], para. 363)



HEAD, HEART, HAND AND SOUL - OUR INTEGRATED AND WHOLE SELF

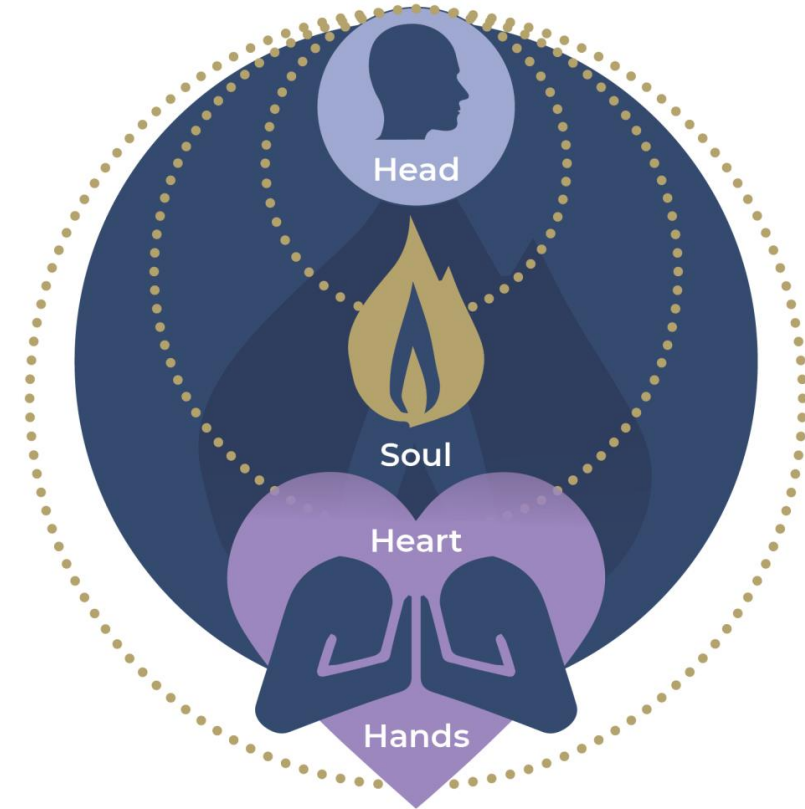
Soul signifies the spiritual principle in humanity. This is our greatest Truth, that we have been brought into being by a God who is love; we have been willed by God, having received the breath of life from God. (Genesis 2:7)



HEAD, HEART, HAND AND SOUL - OUR INTEGRATED AND WHOLE SELF

We reaffirm our mission of integrally educating each individual: head, hands, heart and soul, in a word, in all his or her beauty.

UNESCO World Teachers Day
address (2021)



WHY
BOTHER ?

Experiencing the divine results in an enthusiasm for living and overcomes unhappiness.

William James, The Varieties of Religious Experience: A Study in Human Nature, 1902.



Religion facilitates emotional maturity and offers the hope of transcendent wisdom. Such wisdom is accompanied by heightened consciousness, a sense of inner silence, joy, gratitude and spontaneous morality. To develop wisdom we need constraint, a disciplined morality, charitable concern, and compassionate action.

James C. Harris, "Hagia Sophia (Divine Wisdom)," in Arts and Images in Psychiatry, Archives of General Psychiatry, Vol 66, No. 4, April 2009

Neuroscience suggests that spirituality and religion are deeply *embodied* human experiences—rooted in brain function, shaped by practice, and tied to cognition, emotion, and sociality.



Rowland et al. “School Sector Influences on Adolescent Depression: A Six Year Longitudinal Study.” *Journal of Religion and Health* 60 (2022). 10.



Why would adolescents attending Catholic schools have lower levels of overall depressive symptomology than adolescents in other sectors? It is possible that it is related to the overt tradition and practices associated with the Catholic religious tradition. Prior research shows that when caring behaviour is intrinsically motivated and there are explicit, overt cognitive associations made, meaning and purpose are developed. This may be associated with improved mental health.

Rowland et al. “School Sector Influences on Adolescent Depression: A Six Year Longitudinal Study.” *Journal of Religion and Health* 60 (2022). 10.



(The study found) that belief in a moral order had a significant protective effect on depressive symptomology . . . The measure of belief in a moral order indicates a personal belief in principles such as fairness, justice and charity, practices promoted in many religious traditions.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE

HUMAN

A photograph of a winding asphalt road through a mountainous landscape. The road starts in the foreground, curves to the left, and then continues into the distance. The surrounding terrain is rugged and covered in low-lying vegetation. In the background, there are multiple layers of mountain ranges, creating a sense of depth. The sky is clear and blue. Overlaid on the image is the text "The Hebrew people . . . A people seeking God . . . yearning for God" in a white, sans-serif font.

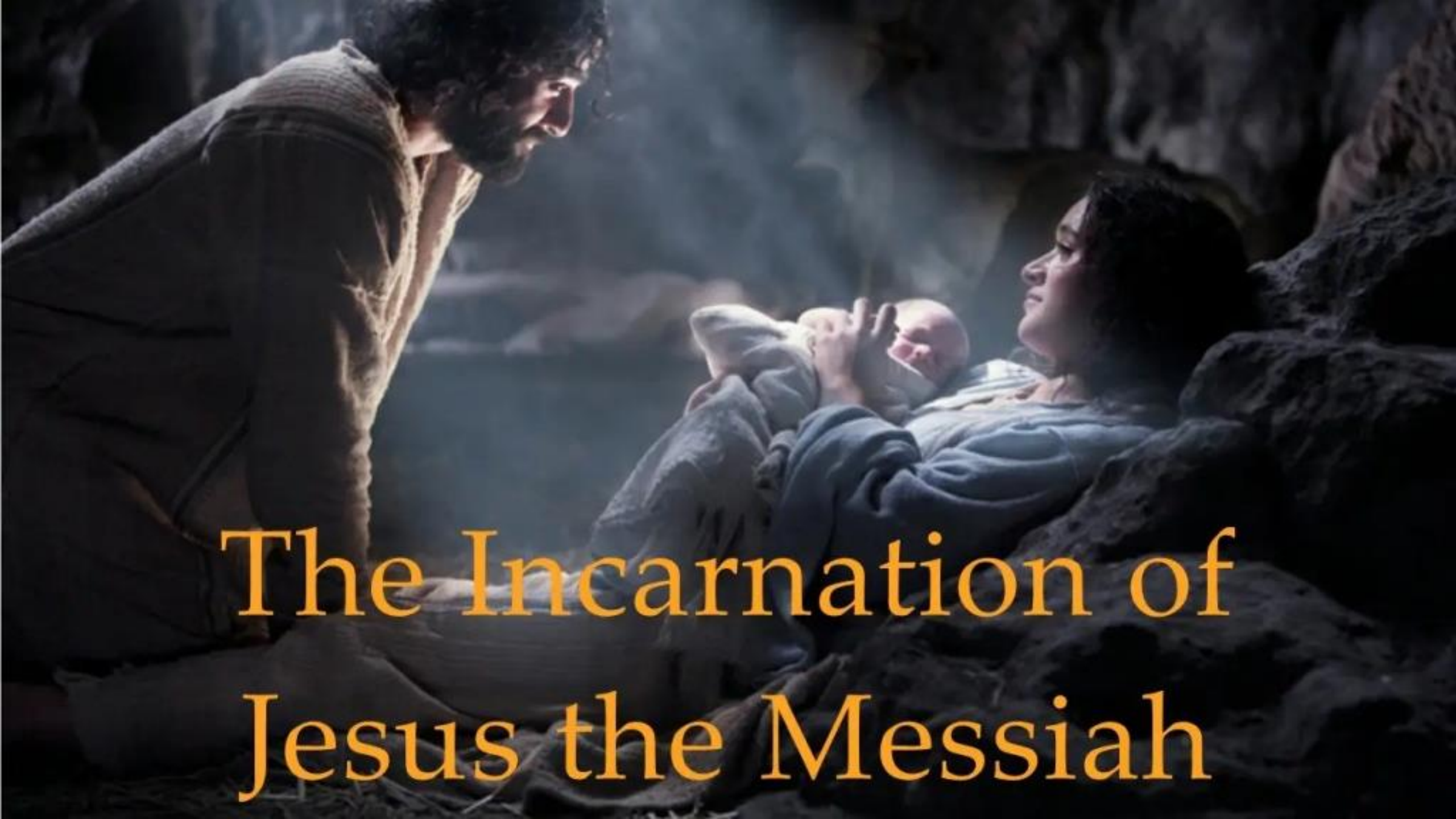
The Hebrew people . . . A people
seeking God . . . yearning for God

A photograph of a winding asphalt road through a mountainous landscape. The road starts in the foreground, curves to the left, and then continues into the distance. The mountains are layered, with the closest ones in dark shades of blue and green, and the farthest ones fading into a hazy, light blue sky. The text "God yearning for union with God's people . . ." is overlaid in white, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

God yearning for union
with God's people . . .

A photograph of a winding asphalt road through a mountainous landscape. The road starts in the foreground, curves to the left, and then continues into the distance. The surrounding terrain is rugged and covered in low-lying vegetation. In the background, there are several layers of mountain ranges, creating a sense of depth. The sky is clear and blue. The text "God wanted to show God's people what God looked like . . ." is overlaid in the center of the image.

God wanted to show God's
people what God looked like . . .



The Incarnation of Jesus the Messiah

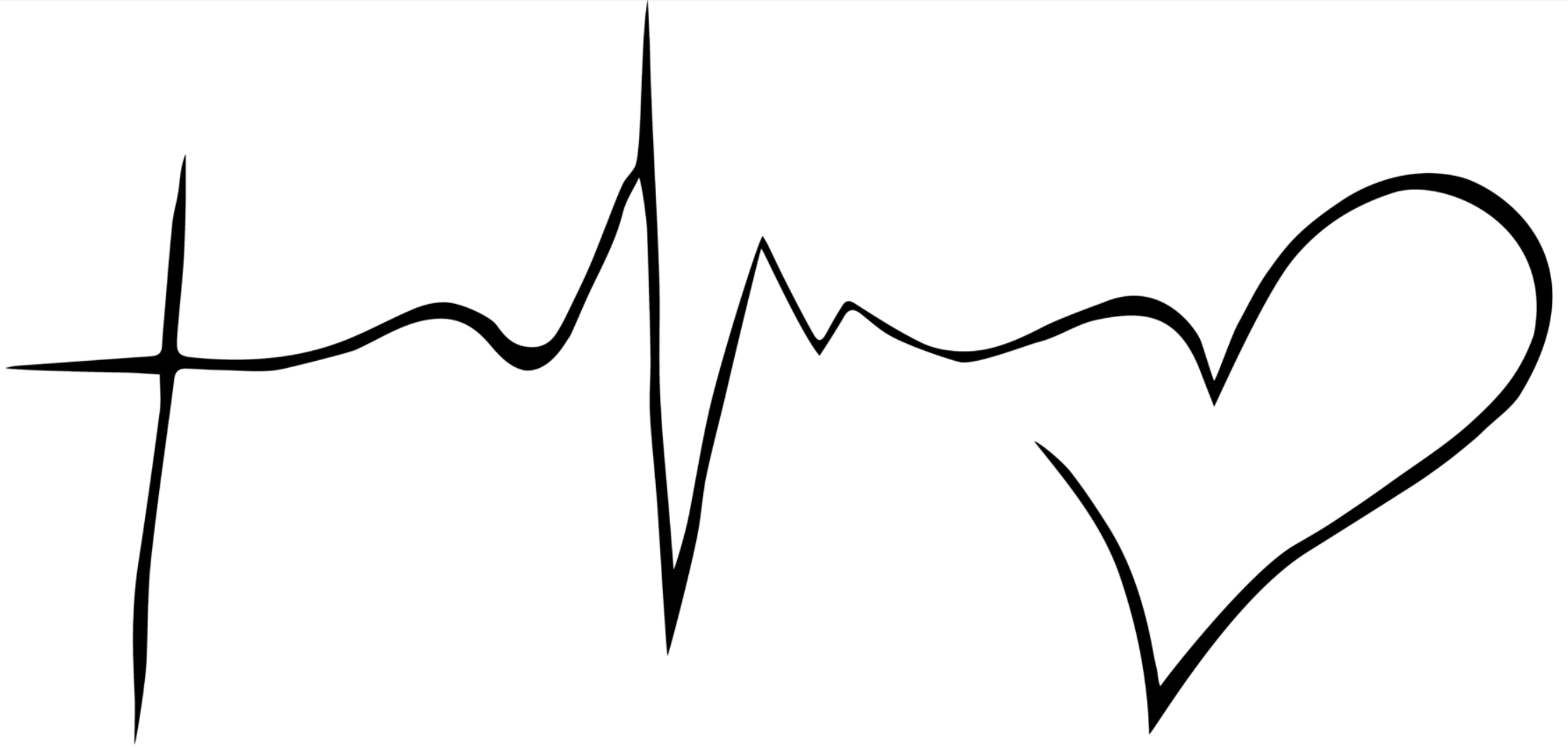
GOD INCARNATE

JOHN 1:14-18

In Jesus, God became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen God's glory, and the glory of God's son, full of grace and truth.







FAITH x HOPE x LOVE





FRANCIS
*Bishop of Rome
Servant of the servants of God
to all who read this letter
may hope fill your hearts*

hope

... does not disappoint ...

(Romans 5:5)

Spes non confundit

hope

**In the heart of each person, hope dwells
as the desire and expectation of good
things to come. (v)**

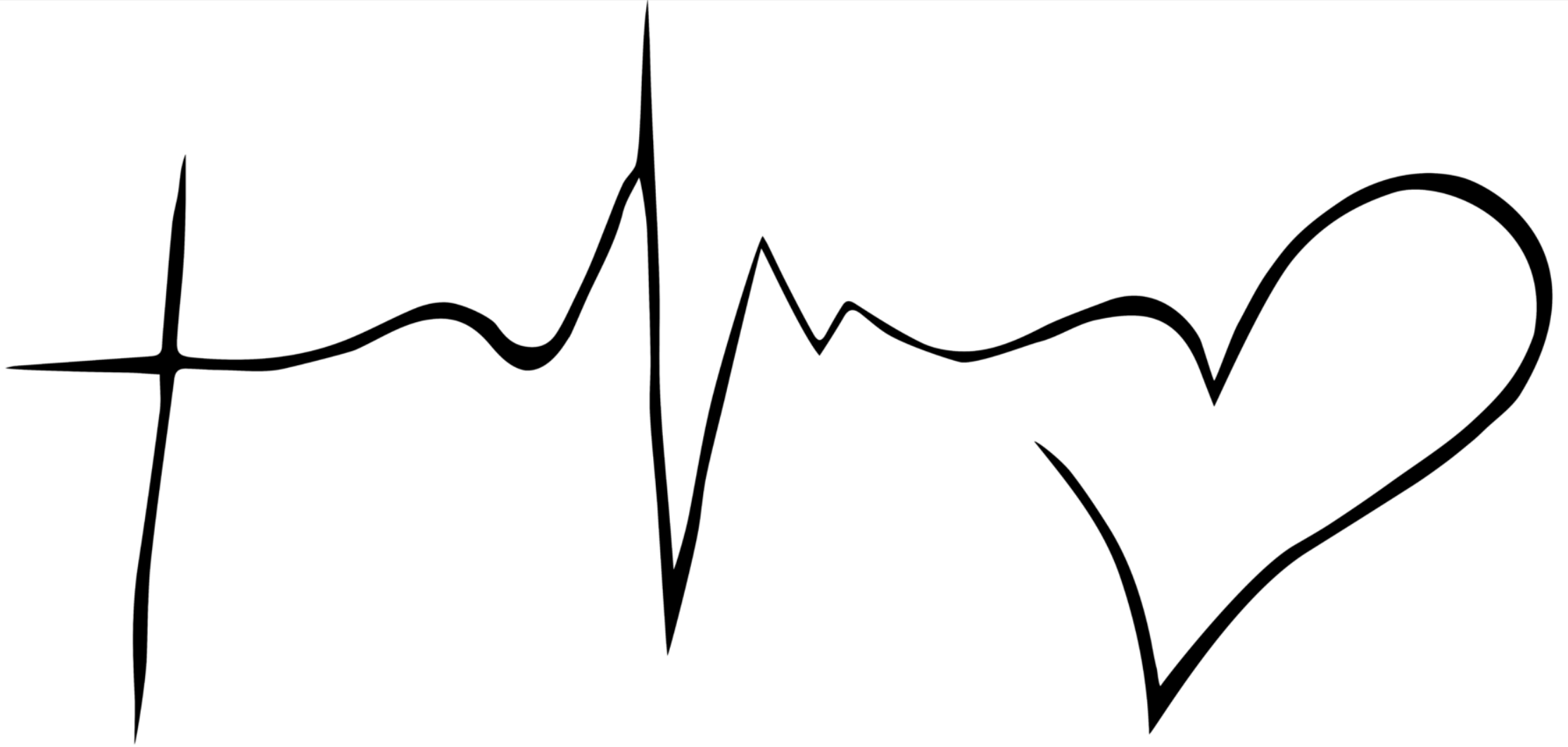


—hope—



HOPELESSNESS





FAITH x HOPE x LOVE



GOD
is missing

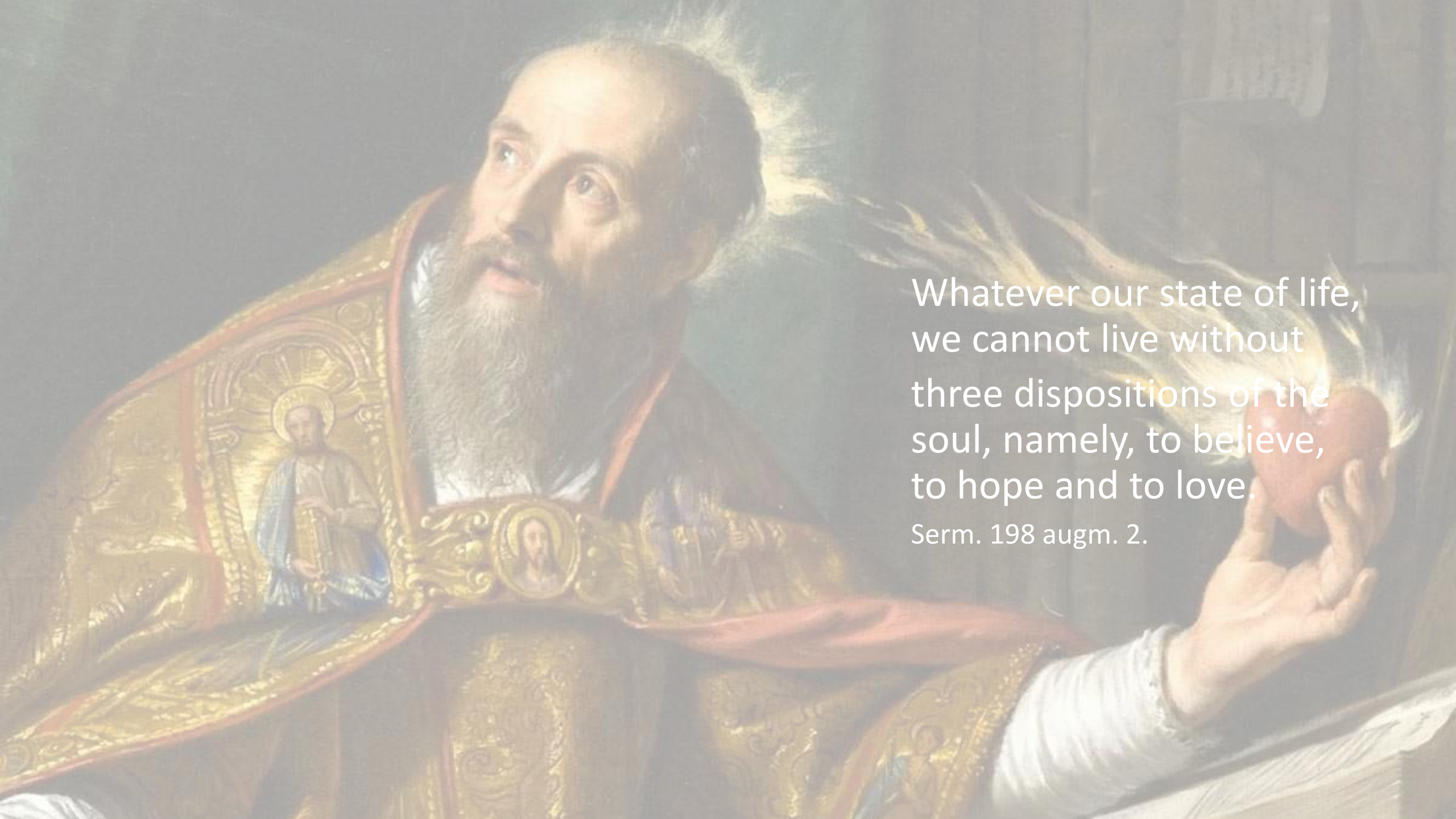
The transcendent has been rendered redundant
We have numbed and ignored our spiritual instinct



hope

**God's word helps us find reasons for
hope. (VI)**





Whatever our state of life,
we cannot live without
three dispositions of the
soul, namely, to believe,
to hope and to love.

Serm. 198 augm. 2.

hope

... is born of love. . .

(VI)



GOD IS LOVE

1 John 4:16 ESV



GOD
GAVE







Truth is a reflection of God's nature: God is love, in whose image and likeness we are made. God became incarnate in Jesus, who is the Truth. It is found in the dialogue between faith and reason.





Beauty is a reflection of God's creative power and presence in the world. We encounter beauty in art and nature but also in acts of love and goodness. We encounter and understand God through the experience of beauty in creation and worship.





Goodness is the nature of God, from which a moral order is realised. God is the ultimate source of goodness. It involves acting in ways that promote human flourishing, love, and justice. The teachings of Jesus emphasise love, compassion, and service to others as central to living a good life.



BUILD
A CIVILIZATION
of love

Vocation to Love

**Love is the fundamental
and innate vocation of
every human being.**

(CCC 2392)



COMPASSION

The word "COMPASSION" is rendered in a bold, stylized, cursive-like font. The letters are a light yellow or cream color, outlined with a thick, dark red or maroon stroke. The word is set against a background of a light-colored brick wall. Surrounding the word are numerous splatters and blotches of orange and reddish-orange paint, giving the impression of a graffiti-style mural or a hand-painted sign. The splatters are of various sizes and shapes, some radiating outwards from the word, others scattered around it.

Compassion is the imprint of
God on the soul.

God is our future. We are in
God's hands.

Thursday 19 October 2023, Prayer for
Migrants and Refugees



