

REFLECTION ON PRELIMINARY REPORTS

We've heard the data from these reports that we've written twice so that we can mark the pegs that we have already placed in the ground, however tentatively, as we move forward. We've looked at nodal points, as we were getting deeper into the particulars and at these documents in order to discern more the meaning and implications of the reports. When you've got a massive amount of data like this, it's helpful to look back and mark what we have done and where we're headed with it. I'm going to say a bit about what it seems to me we have done.

What I've basically got to say is that these documents are good. This is a document we ought to frame. I'd like to back that up with a few particulars.

The Regionalis Dynamic. I've been in entire GRAs that did not come up with the substance that is in those few pages that you did in two days. I remember particularly the GRA in which I worked on ontological love, in which we did fourth-level triangles on both sides of the end of the wedge-blade. You've never seen that document since. This regionalis work is going to stay with us because we got something said in that about what the coalition is for and what it does. I feel now that I can answer the questions of several people in budding coalitions. In our part of the world people ask, "What do you want to do?" When you say, "Well, we want to do a couple of LENS, a couple of forums, an Assembly or so and get people together," they say, "That's fine, we like that. But what are you going to do? What is that out to do? What are you out to occasion? What do you expect to see in five years?"

We've got the start of an answer to that in that Regionalis Dynamic document. I cannot believe that they have sorted out for us at least the beginning work on what each element of the coalition can be expected to produce--can be catalyzed to produce, if you will. This work tells us what we can and cannot expect of the particular sectors. I simply couldn't believe that they came up with a dynamical triangle, even if it's only down to the second level, that guides us in knowing what we're putting in history. That is an incredible piece of work. It's telling us what the New Social Vehicle looks like and I believe is the start of the screen for deciding which structures we will want to permeate and why. We've been calling for this kind of screen, this strategic targeting screen, and now we've at least got the start of it. That's an incredible piece of work.

They not only did that, they went on to interpret the meaning of all the regional consult documents--issues, trends and mandates--to say what's happening around the globe (which is the present state of that regionalis dynamic). They then did a third piece of work, which said how are we doing in relation to our history-long catalysis of that dynamic, by laying out all our programs and plotting them and discovering imbalances and gaps. This is not to say it's a final piece of polished work, but it's a hook into the future for us.

Now the Primal Community document got a bit side-tracked. The only issue is that the document had the wrong name on it. If you were to call that document Urban Revitalization, you could see that it is an incredible piece of work. It's

work on that in Section II-C. The instruments group identified what those things are that need to be pushed through, commonized, or created but the Movement Training group did the job of laying out the context for our concern with training in a way that will keep it missional and futuristic.

Now the Pluriform Order group had an enormous job. Things in that arena have ranged all the way from the shape of the ritual life of the pluriform House, to how long we keep somebody's name on the special assignments list. This group walked around in that spaghetti bowl and separated the sauce from the noodles. I always find it a bit embarrassing to look around inside our corporate gizzard. Whenever anybody suggests or even hints that we are in a kind of vocational malaise that some other Orders I know of are in and are headed for the sort of paralytic introspection that yanks them from service to impotence, I just want to throw up. That is not where we are. We have in this last ten days experienced the grandeur, the power and yes, the unity of this body of people in history. We have some adjustments to make, but we've got no special problems. What this group did was to point out where we need to make these adjustments and that fine tuning, and also what is going to take forty years and what we have to fine tune right now. They even went so far as to suggest the composition and dynamics of the Regional Team that is in fact in place. We were shocked that we know so much about what is already in place that we just really discovered and activated.

Finally, the state of the movement the Pluriform Order articulated on our behalf not only gestalted the positions and learning in the three master strategies, which is a tremendous job in itself, but they went on to hazard a statement on our spirit edge that throws the vocations question into a profoundly history-long context. The question underneath this is not simply what do I do with my life. That has been decided for a long time. The decision now is to claim time itself and give our lives to a creation which will extend beyond our lifetime, the completion of which we will not see. We raise the question, "What am I doing here?" in the face of that creation, which is not looming over the horizon any more but is tearing out of the cave like a bear. The vocational question is not coming out of collapse, it is coming out of sheer opportunity, possibility and necessity.

From that group let me read for you the statement of implications from the State of the Movement:

1. Pluriformity is our edge, diversity is our future.
2. We can permeate any structure in the world. The wraps are off structural permeation and now it's a question of strategy. Unless we relate structural permeation to our whole strategy, how do we use the incredible advantage we have gained this year? This is why I am pleased with the work on Regionalis.
3. The Band of Twenty-four relating single projects to one global demonstration has given us a firm and profound base on which to stand. Now the future of demonstration lies in clusters of projects around the piece of geography.
4. The team dynamic, that is the Regional Team, will be intensified and extended in order to begin to deal with the immense task revealed through the Regional Consults. The religious house structures need