

Trends, Practices, and Perspectives in Values and Religious Education

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Two Parts

- 1) 4 Existing Models of Understanding the Relationship between VE and RE
- 2) How I understand this Relationship as Someone Involved in Both

Part One: 4 Models of Understanding

- the Relationship between
 - Values Education &
 - Religious Education

1) Strict Sectarianism

- Values emanate from religion.
 - Religious Education alone is enough;
 - “Values Education” is not needed.
 - It is a secular concept.

2) *Strict Secularism*

- Religion has no place in education.
- Education in basic human values is enough.

3) Sectarian Liberality

- Open to other religions
- Values & Religious Education for all
- Religious Education is catechetical

4) Liberal Secularity

- Open to other religions
 - Values and Religious Education for all
 - Religious Education either optional or diversified, comparative, pluralistic

1) Strict Sectarianism

- Values emanate from religion.
 - Religious Education alone is enough;
 - “Values Education” is not needed.
 - It is a secular concept.

Strictly Sectarianist Schools

- Exclusive to their own religious adherents
- Regard modernity & secularity as threats
- Equate Religious Education with Indoctrination

Can a Catholic School be strictly Sectarianist

- and still call
itself
“Catholic”?

- A strictly sectarianist Catholic school is a contradiction in terms!

SECTARIANISM

- is the exact opposite of CATHOLICISM.

Sectarianists

- Regard adherents of any religion other than theirs as
 - heretics, infidels, pagans, heathen,
 - incapable of achieving salvation.

A Catholic School becomes “sectarianistic”

- When it is “strictly for Catholics”
- When non-Catholics are not welcome
 - Either as students or as employees

2) *Strict Secularism*

- Religion has no place in education.
- Education in basic human values is enough.

A Secularist School

- is intolerant of religion within the school premises
 - No prayers before class, no religious images, symbols, gestures or practices inside school premises,
 - Religion has no place in the public space; it is a purely private affair.

Politically Incorrect Greetings:

- Merry Christmas!
- God bless you!
- Happy Easter!

Politically Correct

- Happy Holidays!
- Good luck!

Expressing Religiosity in School:

- considered offensive to people's sensibilities
- (Meaning: to the sensibilities of the a-religious)

3) Sectarian Liberality

- Open to other religions
- Values & Religious Education for all
- Religious Education is basically catechetical

A School can be unabashedly Catholic

- But tolerant of students & employees of other faiths
- as long as these do not disrespect the School's Religious Orientation

Religious Education

- Includes a catechetical program in preparation for the Catholic Students' reception of the other sacraments
 - First Confession, First Communion, Confirmation
 - Program required of non-Catholics too, but not the reception of sacraments

Most modern Catholic & other religious schools

- Are no longer strictly sectarian, for pragmatic reasons
 - Even INK's "New Era University" now admits non-INK students and employees!
 - Methodist Pre-Schools admit non-Protestants too.

4) Liberal Secularity

- Open to all: religion or no-religion
 - Values and Religious Education for all
 - Religious Education is either optional or diversified, comparative, pluralistic

Philippine Public Schools

- Mostly adhere to liberal secularism.
 - Religious expressions, symbols, gestures, greetings are tolerated
 - Depending on the principal, Catholics are allowed to send Catechists to provide some religious instruction to Catholic students

Instead of Banning Religion in the Public Space

- We tend to be more liberal about it,
 - as long as each one's religion is given an equal opportunity.

**Because we generally
value religion as such**

- Freedom of Religion
for us does not
necessarily mean
- “freedom from
religion”

Freedom of Religion

- is one of the basic advocacies of modernity:
 - Every person's right to exercise religion according to conscience must be respected.
 - including the right not to have one.

Freedom from Religion

- the basic advocacy of secularism
 - It presupposes that Religion
 - is a deception, a falsehood;
 - is nothing but an oppressive superstition that human beings must be liberated from.

If we are able to establish the innate relationship

- of RE w/ VE, perhaps we will still live to see the day when, even in public schools,
- RE will become either optional or diversified, comparative, pluralistic (At State Expense)

Part Two: How I understand the RE-VE Relationship

- as one who is
involved in
both

Values Education:

- The equivalent of PHILOSOPHY in higher education levels

VE Focus: the Human Person adequately considered

- in all dimensions of human existence:
 - Intra-personal
 - Interpersonal
 - Meta-personal

Its Main Preoccupation:

- our innate aspiration for human authenticity

Kailan tayo:

- Tunay na Tao?
- Totoong Tao?

“A True Humanity”?

- The aspiration for TRUTH goes with
- the quest for MEANING and VALUE as a human being.

Much of Values ED

- is about:
 - What it means to be human (MEANING)
 - What the human person is worth (VALUE)

Jesuit Philosopher
Fr. Roque Ferriols, SJ

sums it up with:

- **PAGPAPAKATAO**

Madali ang maging tao.

- *Ngunit mahirap
ang magpakatao!*

Hindi lahat ng tao

*ay nabubuhay
bilang totoong tao;
Mayroon ding asal-
hayop.*

Ang pagpapakatao

- *ay pagsusumikap na magpakatotoo bilang tao.*

Kailan at Paano tayo

- *nagiging
totoong tao?*

Kapag Nabubuhay na

- *May kahulugan*
- *May kahalagahan*
- *Bilang TAO*

*Kahalagahan:
May DANGAL*

- Hindi buhay-hayop
- Hindi asal-hayop

Kahulugan:
May LAYUNIN

- *May pinaglalaanan/
pinag-aalayan ng buhay*
- *May hangaring
“nakahihigit sa sarili”*

The Human Quest for a Transcendent Goal

- The Human Inclination
- “To Dream the Impossible Dream”

The Human Person

- always trying to transcend his/her humanly determined limits

Like always trying

- “To fight the unbeatable foe
- To bear with unbearable sorrow
- To run where the brave dare not go”

- “To right the unrightable wrong
- To love pure and chaste from afar
- To try when your arms are too weary
- To reach the unreachable star”

- “This is my quest To follow that star No matter how hopeless No matter how far”

- “To fight for the right Without question or pause To be willing to march into hell for a heavenly cause”

- “And I know if I'll only be true to this glorious quest That my heart will lie peaceful and calm When I'm laid to my rest”

ALLUSION to CHRIST

- “And the world will be better for this: That one man scorned and covered with scars Still strove with his last ounce of courage, to reach the unreachable star!”

The Quest for the Transcendent:

- This is where VE intersects with RE
 - If VE is what we call PHILOSOPHY in higher education
 - RE is what we'd call THEOLOGY

VE is concerned about the HORIZONTAL.

- That is:
 - Humankind in relation to self, others, the world

RE is concerned about the VERTICAL

- That is:
 - Humankind in relation to
 - a personal/impersonal God (for the religious)
 - a transcendent reality (for the a-religious)

For us CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS:

- It is not possible to dichotomize between VE and RE
- At the very heart of our education in human values is the quest for transcendence.

To deny this quest is

- To deny the very nature of the human person adequately considered.

THE CROSS

- Our Symbolism for the essential relationship between VE and RE:
- Where the HORIZONTAL line intersects with the HORIZONTAL

For JESUS

- It is the SUMMARY of all religion:
 - LOVE OF GOD (with all one's heart, soul, strength)
 - LOVE OF NEIGHBOR (as oneself)

For us Christians, therefore

- VE without RE is not just incomplete; it is dishonest.
- RE without VE is false, hypocritical, sheer pietism.

Sa atin:

- *Ang pagpapakaBanal at pagpapakaTao*
- *ay hindi pinaghhiwalay*

Ang PagpapakaBanal sa Kristiyano

- *ay pagpapakaTao*
- *na ang huwaran ng pagkatao ay si Kristo,*
- *Ang Diyos na nagkatawang-tao*

Ito ay PAGSUNOD

- *Kay Kristo*
 - *Ang Anak ng Diyos na naging Anak ng Tao*
 - *Upang tayong mga Anak ng Tao ay maging mga Anak ng Diyos*

NEW COMMANDMENT

- That we love one another as Christ has loved us.
- Meaning: that we love one another as God has loved us in Jesus Christ.