

# NIREC VIRTUAL LECTURES

## ANTHROPOLOGICAL FOUNDATION OF CHARACTER



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# COULD YOU RECOLLECT

- **When you met a person for the first time. Just seeing, you, the person detested you for *whatever reason unknown to you?***
- ***You tried your best to please the person but to no avail. How did you feel?***
- ***Have you done same to someone?***
- ***What was your reason?***
- ***Could this have to do with colour, tribe or religion:***

# HOW DO YOU ASSESS A PERSON'S CHARACTER

- Who is the greatest warrior in the world?
- A person who has absolute control over his or her temperaments.
- How did we acquire these temperaments?



WHEN DO I BEGIN TO TEACH  
MY CHILD WISDOM?  
(SOCRATES)





# HOW OLD IS YOUR CHILD? (SOCRATES)

- THE MAN WHO ASKED THIS QUESTION SAID,
- MY CHILD IS FIVE YEARS OLD.
- SOCRATES RESPONDED,
- YOU ARE SIX YEARS LATE ALREADY.
- MEANING: THE FORMATION OF CHARACTER IS FROM THE CRADLE,
- YES, FROM THE WOMB OF THE MOTHER.



# THINK ABOUT THE FOLLOWING TO KNOW YOURSELF

- How old were your mother and father when you were being conceived?
- How was the relationship between your parents?
- What events surrounded your birth?
- What were your mother's complications?
- Under what conditions did you grow up?



## KNOWING YOURSELF

- What were your fears and phobia?
- What are your frequent ailments?
- What is the genetic disease in your family?
- What is the common temperament in your family and community?
- Under what religious environment were you born?





# DEBRIEFING AND RELATIONSHIPS

THE HUMAN PERSON IS DIFFERENT FROM  
ANIMALS BECAUSE OF:

1. INTELLIGENCE
2. SOCIAL
3. SPIRITUAL
4. RELATIONAL
5. DIALOGUE



# DIALOGUE AND CHARACTER

- The human being who is the subject of dialogue must
- Understand himself or herself.
- Work on the self by self examination
- Your parents and relatives can debrief you through the Events that surrounded your birth and growth
- An unexamined life is not worth living.



# DIALOGUE AND CHARACTER CONT.

- Sometimes the human person does not even properly understand himself or herself hence the need for:
- Intra-personal dialogue,
- inter-personal dialogue,
- inter-cultural dialogue,
- inter-ethnic dialogue
- and Inter-Religious Dialogue.



# WHY STUDY ANTHROPOLOGY?

- The study of anthropology is important
- Every religion is attended by culture
- God reveals himself to a people in their own context .
- Grace builds on nature and does not destroy it.



## TO BE A ROLE MODEL

- The knowledge of God, the awareness of his presence and the ultimate union with God is the essence of life on earth.
- Jesus is a testimony of a perfect life well lived. He is a role model for all who love peace.



# YOUR HERITAGE CAN DEFINE YOU

- Factors that come into play in understanding a partner in dialogue:
- HERITAGE AT BIRTH
- CULTURAL HERITAGE
- RELIGIOUS HERITAGE

# HERITAGE AT BIRTH

- The formation of character begins from the very day conception takes place in the womb of a mother. The condition of a pregnant mother has a lot to contribute to the formation of the child. Pregnant mothers react differently to the environment and persons. This according to some psychologists could affect the fetus.



## **HERITAGE AT BIRTH**

### **THE LABOUR ROOM**

- The period of birth has a lot of influence on the baby.
- If a mother is in the process of delivering, clasps her legs while the head of the baby is already coming out, the baby is likely going to suffer some psychological defects like:





## HERITAGE AT BIRTH PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS

- Fear of narrow spaces. Such a child may not be able to pass a military test and may not be a valiant soldier
- The baby will be afraid of heights. That is to say, may not be able to live in a storey building or climb high mountains.



## HERITAGE AT BIRTH MEMORY STORE

- In the early stages of life, the external manifestations that are stored up in the memory of a baby could have some positive or negative effect when the baby becomes an adult. For instance:
  - Aversion for selected persons
  - Detest some noble actions: E.g, sex if rape was a first experience.



# HERITAGE AT BIRTH

## DEBRIEFING AND HEALING

In the process of growth, there is need for debriefing and healing of memories considering:

1. Language
2. Environment
3. Parenting
4. Role Models

# HERITAGE AT BIRTH PERSONALITY DISORDERS

These could lead to personality disorders that could affect behaviour at adult such as:

- **ADHD:** - *Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder:* Hyperactivity and the inability to focus
- **CD:** - *Conduct disorder:* Individual's violation of societal rules and norms
- **ASPD:** - *Antisocial Personality Disorder*  
– Disregard for the rights of others.



# PERSONALITY DISORDERS

## OTHER CAUSES

**Some of the causes of these personality traits are:**

- Inheritance
- Aggressive family environment
- schizophrenia, psychosis
- Depressive illness (eg. In some adopted or street children).

# RESULT OF KNOWING ABOUT PERSONALITY DISORDERS



- Knowing about these disorders calls for patience with a partner in Dialogue.
- The help needed maybe pathological, anthropological or psychological.
- Saul thought that killing Christians was good in the sight of God until he encountered Jesus.
- Some terrorists may be suffering from one or two of this personal abnormalities.



## HERITAGE AT BIRTH

### HOW DO I HEAL MYSELF?

- In the process of self discovery, it is important that we ask our parents or relatives about the events that surrounded our births.
- Feed on positive thinking that would replaced some of the ugly experiences that could have been stored in the mind.



## RELIGIOUS HERITAGE

- WHAT DO THE CHRISTIANS TEACH THEIR CHILDREN?
- WHAT DO THE MUSLIMS TEACH THEIR CHILDREN?
- WHAT DO THE ADHERENTS OF ATR TEACH THEIR CHILDREN?





## DIGNITATIS HUMANAE (DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON)

- The dignity of the human person is ultimate in every aspect of dialogue.
- Second Vatican Council made a declaration on religious liberty, *dignitatis humanae*, 7 December, 1965 with the following principles:
- All human beings are bound to seek the truth *and the right to religious freedom*



# **DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON, PRINCIPLES**

- Religious communities have the right not to be hindered by legislation or administrative action on the part of the civil authority in the selection, training, appointment and transfer of their own ministers, in communicating with religious authorities and communities in other parts of the world, in erecting buildings for religious purposes, and in the acquisition and use of the property they need.



# **DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON, PRINCIPLES**

- Islam also preaches freedom of religion and promotion of human dignity. This should guide Christians not to see the religious riots in many parts of the world as the true teaching of Islam.
- No matter what happens, we should be fully conscious that we all belong to the same human family.