

Hours of the Universe Discussion
November 18, 2021
None - Pages 147 to 199

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

**What attracts your heart and mind from the readings?
What do you wish Ilia had developed more clearly?**

Interesting Quotes from and related to None Chapter 23 - Despite the News,
We Belong to One Another

John Donne "No Man is an Island" (English writer, 17th century).

Nature works along lives of cooperation and organization; while humans work individually, according to principles of competition and power. (think about The Hidden Lives of Trees example cited by Delio).

We need to find a way to harness the mystical currents of the established religious traditions and refocus them on gathering the human community into a common spiritual center so that cooperation and working together for the future may be enkindled.

Interesting Quotes from and related to None Chapter 24 – Praying in
Teilhard’s Universe

St. Francis of Assisi - "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy."

Prayer is God’s breathing in me by which I become part of the intimacy of God’s inner life and God becomes the active living presence of my life.

Prayer expands my field of energies so that the more deeply I am related to God, the more expansive are my relationships, which energize and unite and thus contribute to the work of evolution.

I do not leave the world to find God; rather, God is the power of matter into which I am pulled.

Interesting Quotes from and related to None Chapter 25 - Contemplation and Vision

Dorothy Day "Love and ever more love is the only solution to every problem that comes up"

Contemplation is training the mind to focus on divine things. Because the world of matter weighs on us, we must withdraw from the world and turn inward where the divine light shines.

It is not that we must contemplate in order to act; it is rather that action must lead to contemplation, and contemplation must lead to new vision, and new vision must lead to new structures of relationship.

Action can lead to a fallacy of misplaced concreteness, as if action alone will actually change structures. The only thing that can change structures is the power of love.

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Interesting Quotes from and related to None Chapter 26- Eucharist and God's Love

Nature does not work according to fixed essences or autonomous existents. Rather nature is a choreographed drama, or better yet, a symphony unfolding life, where even the seasons express the different movements of nature's flow.

This is Eucharist in an unfolding universe: the bringing together of diverse elements, people, ideas, values, and traditions in the breaking of bread and the sharing of wine, toasting together to the fullness of life. When we share this together, God appears in our midst as Life itself, and we rise up together beyond the resistant forces around us and within us. This is the Body of Christ.

Interesting Quotes from and related to None Chapter 27 Teilhard's Troubled Worship

Thomas Merton "Technology is not in itself opposed to spirituality or to religion. But it represents a great temptation."

The church continues to issue documents on global warming, as well as immigration, economics, and other current issues, but few people are reading those documents. It is sad to think that if the church died tomorrow, the world would likely express its sympathy but not attend the funeral.

In the Middle Ages the great cathedrals were packed with people searching for an experience of transcendence; today, the Apple Store is packed with people looking for the same experience.

The advertisements for Apple are emblems of a culture that has adopted technology as a de facto religion, a religion that celebrates the cult of the individual.

Interesting Quotes from and related to None Chapter 28 – Can Consumer People Be Christmas people?

“Maybe Christmas (*he thought*) doesn’t come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more.” — **The Grinch That Stole Christmas**

Francis was not so much interested in material things but in the *gift* symbolized by the material good. A gift is something freely given, a personal expression of love flowing from one person to another, symbolizing a bond of unity or belonging together. Francis received graciously from others because each gift was, in an sense, given by God, whether the gift was a mountain, a palace, a small donkey, a loaf of bread, or a smile. For him, the gift expressed the giver. The gift itself was not so important as was the giver of the gift because each gift freely given is a gift from God.

Material poverty was not an end in itself but a means to living in radical dependence on God and thus on one another since God lives in our neighbors, our family members, community members, and the people we meet on the street or in the mall.

As long as we condone a culture of possession, we reject the gift of life. We may celebrate consumer Christmas, but we are not Christmas people. The person who possesses and controls cannot receive, and the person who cannot receive cannot give thanks.

Interesting Quotes from and related to None Chapter 29 - Internet Easter

Hence he (Teilhard) saw the rise of the computer could also bring a renewed sense of religion, one that embraces the earth as the place to find God.

To this end I think internet religion may be a sign of a new religious consciousness on the horizon. It is not the same as the old religion; it can lack the warmth of the smells and bells and friendly neighbors seeing their way into the pew. And yet, online I can attend different liturgies around the world; I can explore different religious traditions. I can hear prayers and participate in rituals I would never otherwise discover.