

Strategies of Seeding Collaboration

Obviously, the first strategy on my mind here, and in this beginning of a series that is an outreach to individuals, is what you might do about the seeding. And, equally obviously, the first item on that agenda is what I wrote of broadly in the second essay here: thinking, thinking in Faith, about seeding.

You have got this far through my invitation thinkingly, and perhaps your thinking is that I exaggerate both the problem and the need. Then it would be useful all round if you expressed that as part of our combined effort. Indeed, it would be more than useful: it would break the terrible silence that hangs over Lonergan's final suggestion about needed collaboration.

But let me go on here to address those who have thought enough about, say, my inclusion of that fourth piece "Functional Specialties" in *An Introduction to Bernard Lonergan* to want to figure out how it could be tried, by you, realistically, here and now.

What would change?

Well, I would hope that, in regard to the conversion to functional collaboration, you "would make it a topic and thereby promote it"¹: a pretty modest hope, yet, I would say, dangerous for some. So, for example, you are at the mercy of a respected Lonergan authority in a doctorate or in a course: best, then, keep your mouth shut till you are out from under. But when might that be? When you are tenured somewhere??

¹ Lonergan, *Method in Theology*, 253.

But even if you keep silent you may still puzzle over where you might fit in, in the seeding of this colossal move towards effective global progress?

Here is where I wisely hold off from particular suggestions, at least until later, after some exchanges. I would say, though, that it is useful to consider yourself as a somewhat enlightened contributor to the growing public discontent with economic goings-on. The “somewhat enlightened” could be reached by a serious but of thinking about my simple suggestions about two types of firm, or about the true nature of credit. Sooner or later the idiocy of undergraduate degrees in economics has to become publically manifest, and then the pundit sources of law, banking and government will find media mocking them out of effective power.

That, certainly would be a change, a 2020 vision to be expected perhaps in 2020?

But meantime, the question “What would change?” sits there among us. I offer no more on it here: but might I not hear from you in pointers and puzzles?

But at least I can invite you to focus on one offering that is marvelously practical in regard both to a present public crisis and to a broader identifiable crisis in Lonergan studies, one that seems to have little to do with functional collaboration, yet is at the heart of its need. I point you back to the definition of metaphysics in *Insight*, which includes clearly the task of implementation. What I have suggested is a strategy of moving towards some simple form of implementation either, as I already mentioned, in the complex and all-pervasive world of economics, or in some modest zone that is open to you in your career.