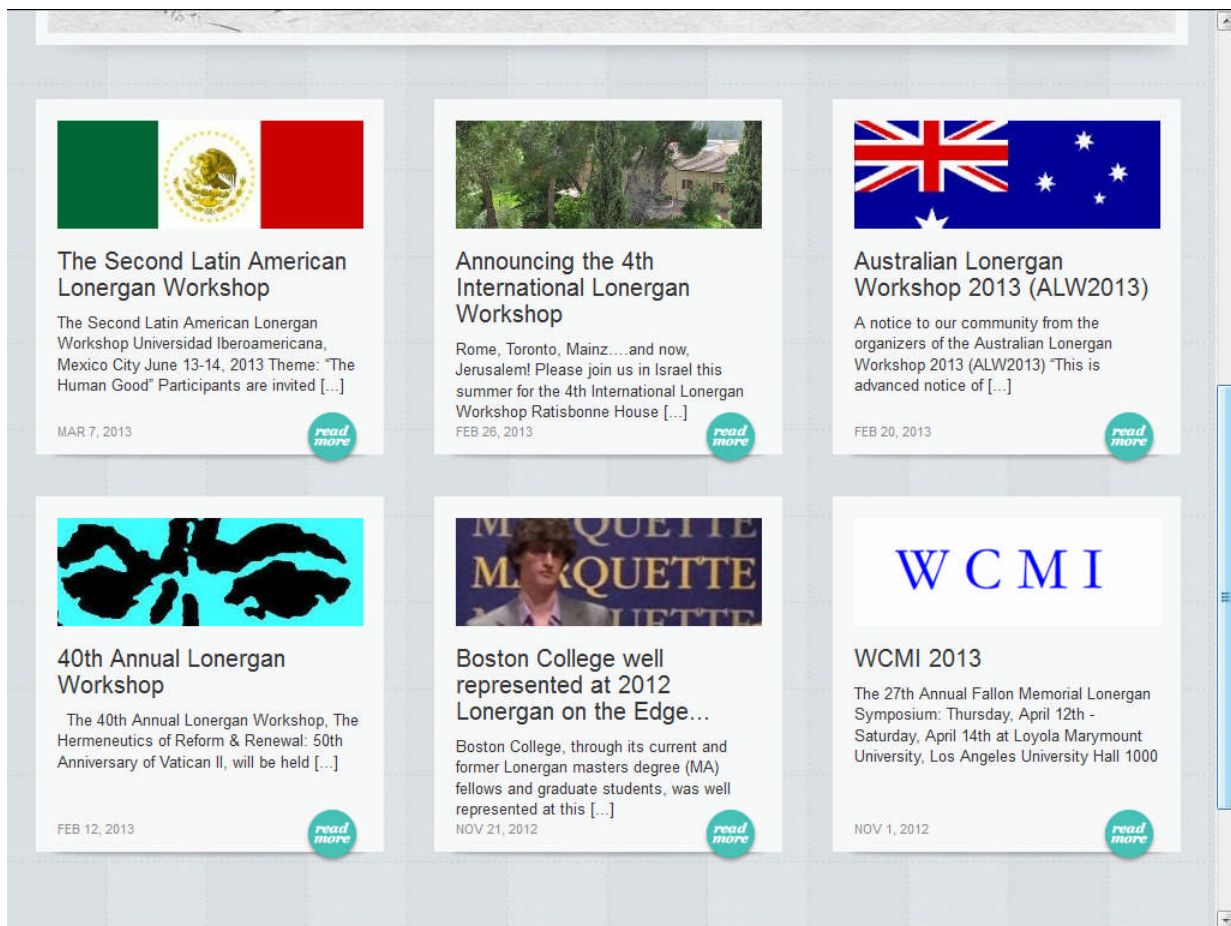


Q 37 Jerusalem 2013 and Lonergan's 1833 Overture

Q. 37 (James Duffy, concluding his Question 31) Jerusalem 2013, too, the “Announced 4th International Lonergan Workshop” is on my problem list. “There is no room for repudiating functional collaboration, and the predominant de facto repudiation is a sad abomination.” [p.4, Q.31]



A.37 There seems little need to enlarge further on the crisis on Lonergan Studies. The conference in Jerusalem is, so to speak, on Fr. Ivo Coelho's home ground. Ivo was the single hopeful voice, regarding functional collaboration, in the 2004 Toronto, echoing my voice in the 1970 First International Lonergan Conference in Florida (making Jerusalem's the fifth such gathering, not the fourth!). He spoke convincingly on the need for functional specialization. (See "Implementations of

Lonergan's Method: A Critique", *Divyadaan* 15/3 (2004), 379-404). But will he have a say in the structuring of proceedings in Jerusalem, or will it be the same old packed muddle of undiscussed papers? Might those preparing for the gathering profit from my advice in Q/A 32? Might the group do some simple version of the 1833 Overture, so that a subgroup could emerge that takes Lonergan seriously? There seems no harm in repeating some of the simple advice of Q/A 32 here.

"I bring up a single telling commonsense question for each participant. it would be best to require an answer from each. [A] distant progress, to be aimed for; [B] roughly, always the same; [C] uncommitted, but I'm interested in e.g. Girard.

Do you view humanity as possibly maturing – in some serious way - or just messing along between good and evil, whatever you think they are?

Jesus and Lonergan give the impression that we could become one [*John* 17: 21 and thereabouts / *Insight* 20: 31st place and thereabouts].

Most Christian thinkers and apostles implicitly stand for [B] or [C]. You might think generally of N.G.O.s in the Christian tradition or various other missionary traditions. I think here, as a good illustration for your consideration, of that solid scholar and pastor, N.T.Wright, whose books I have recommended: a [B] man.

Lonergan shows his seriousness, his [A] stand, by pushing *Insight* Chapter 7 to a conclusion about an X called *Cosmopolis*. He lived his seriousness by pushing on in the twelve years to find a practical answer to What is X? : "A good start is to break up the task of Global Thinking, and I suggest making it functionally collaborative".

If your own answer is [A] then a bit of thinking brings you to see that there must be an X, and it must be some form of division of work that follows Lonergan's pointing.

If your answer is [B] or [C] then there seems little point in mucking round with Girard or Gadamer or Global issues: focus on local concerns and see what might be done to ease the pain or help the Pope, and drop the mental titillations.

If the answer is [A] then we need to take Lonergan's seriousness seriously.

If the meeting is honest and serious, then it needs to break up into two groups, one willing to do serious thinking, the other settling for patching an unseemly garment."