

Salesian Spirituality for Living in Multiple Cultures

Four hundred years ago Francis guided and outlined a spirituality for people to love God fully, and at the same time, to live this spirituality out in family and in work. His life experiences enabled him to package a spirituality living amidst two worlds, both of which he was comfortable with, and both of which would fuel his interior life. Francis' education was diversified. Early on he was educated in Savoy France. He studied humanities and philosophy in Paris, and then he studied law at Padua.

Francis experienced two cultures as an outcome of living at a time of extensive cultural and religious transition. One world involved living with the remnants of the medieval period and the other was living in the awakenings of a modern period often referred to as the Baroque period. By having one foot in the medieval church, he espoused the ancient church with its institutions and teachers. By having his other foot in the modern world, he developed an intuitive psychological perspective that guided him in devising a modern spirituality (Powers 8-9).

Question: Given that we too are impacted by the different worlds in which we live, namely, pandemic, and looking to a post-pandemic, how might we:

1. *Embrace each of them?*
2. *Differentiate between them?*
3. *Integrate both of them into our lives?*