

A Short Teaching on Simulation v Analogous
by Deacon Gerry Palermo

Consider: a cartoon – author unknown but a modern artist

Two fish are partially above water. One fish talking to the other who has on fish SCUBA equipment complete with a regulator and tank of water. “Now remember, you only have enough water for 30 minutes, after that you must come back down”.

Consider: a cartoon – author unknown but a modern artist

Two fish are partially above water. One fish talking to the other who is holding his ‘breath’.
“What are you doing?” He replied, “I heard we fish are evolving to live on land, and I am getting ready”.

In the first case, the fish with the SCUBA gear is attempting to simulate being a resident among the land of air breathing animals. He knows he is simulating and that he is only approximating what actually living above water is like. He is under no illusion that he is just a visitor and will return to his safe and beautiful watery home.

In the second case, the fish “holding his breath”, the fish is attempting to simulate in a profoundly more difficult way. Here the fish is attempting to use what he has to forcefully create what he would like to be. His intention is to make permanent that which he cannot accomplish because his physiology is unable to provide that for him. What he wants he cannot have. He is under an illusion that he can be what he cannot be nor be what he should not be given his physiology.

Now the land animals and the fish are certainly analogous. Both respire, exchanging O₂ to support life (different medium of course). Both curious about the world around them. Both have friends. Both think in terms of the future. Both appreciate the existence and world of the other. Both are analogous as well being beautiful and beloved of God.

How does this apply today?

When we allow simulation to be the replacement of analogous we engage in self deception.

Here are some analogous truths. We all struggle with the sexual context of our being. It is our greatest gift and the most difficult to master of all human characteristics: Gay or straight. But we must master it to be fully human. We must master it to become a true human family.

Transcendence is not the obviation of physicality, transcendence is the fullness of physicality. Please understand the resistance to this idea of engaging in simulation to be the replacement of our analogous being lest we engage in self deception. This point is for all – we must integrate all of us into one human family as humans and accept each other as different where difference is real. If we degrade life to be mere simulation, we lose the hope of real happiness.