

# THE IDEA OF POLYHEDRON AS COOPERATIVE APOSTOLATE

CLC European meeting

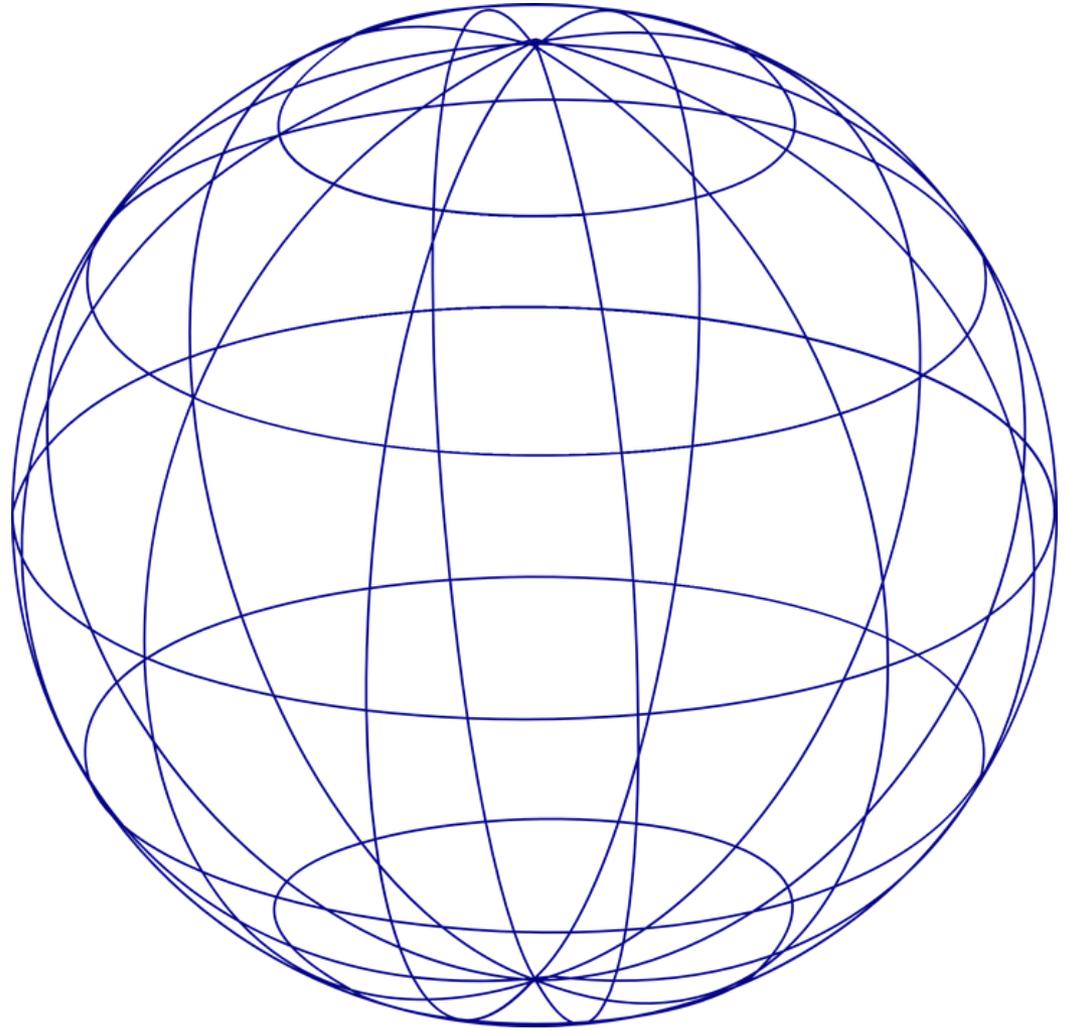
*A kairós* moment

Lille, 1-4 March 2018

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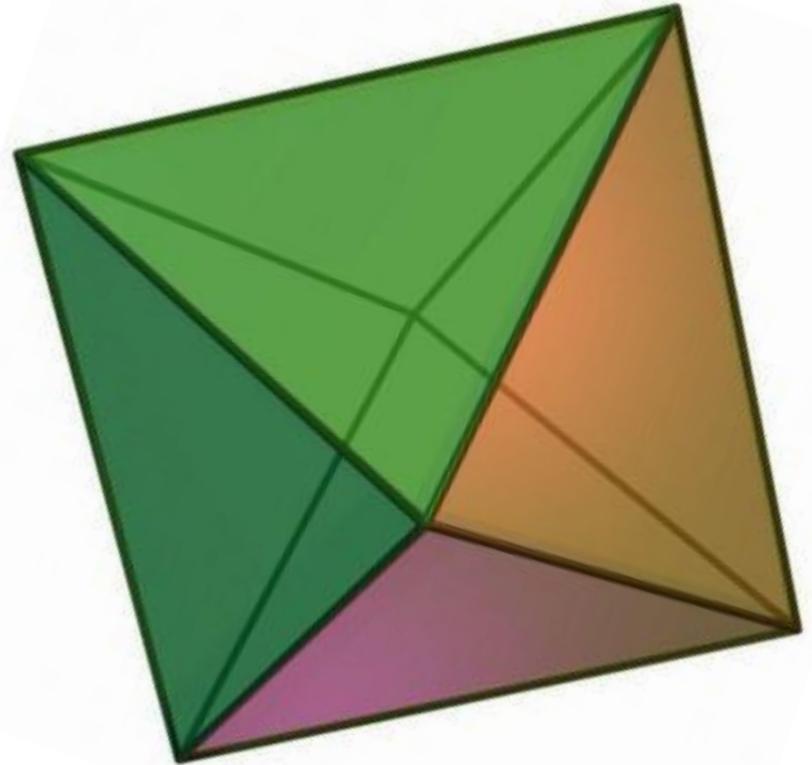
# The sphere

Our model is not the sphere, which is no greater than its parts, where every point is equidistant from the centre, and there are no differences between them.  
(EG 236)



# The polyhedron

Our model instead is the polyhedron, which reflects the convergence of all its parts, each of which preserves its distinctiveness (EG 236)



# An inspirational symbol

The key idea is:

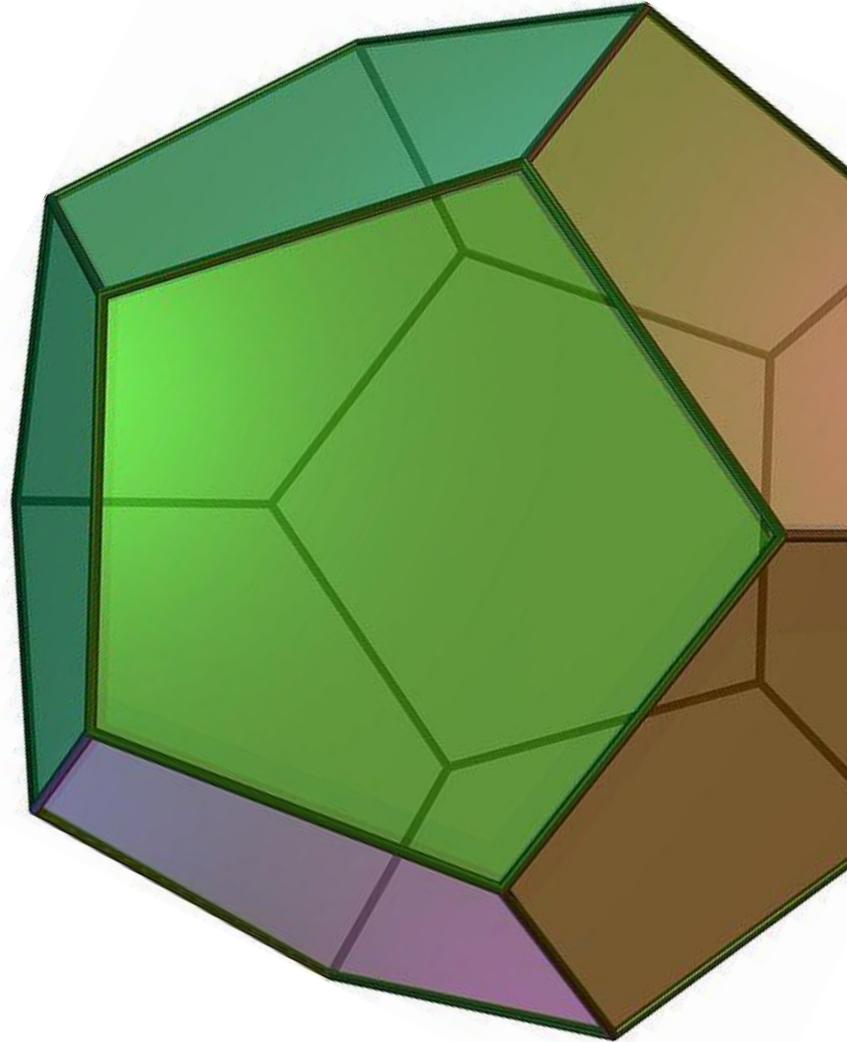
«The whole is greater than the part»

(EG 234-237)

The symbolic force of polyhedron can be referred to:

- political and social life
- Church life
- pastoral activities
- ecumenical relationships

**WAYS  
OF PROCEEDING  
SUGGESTED BY  
POLYHEDRON**



# 1. The reality is complex

The world isn't simple and harmonic as a sphere: nowadays we face the great complexity of the world

We experience that we can't control or foreseen everything

We always risk to miss or misunderstand something and we are aware about it

An integral approach is necessary

=> **Humility**

## 2. Time

Our daily rhythm is fast

But the complexity of our world isn't easy to understand: we need time for knowing the processes ongoing

The *rapidification* isn't natural: «the speed with which human activity has developed contrasts with the naturally slow pace of biological evolution» (LS 18)

=> **Slowness isn't a bad word!**

### **3. The whole is greater than the part**

The common good (in the society, in the Church) is more important than the particular good of a single member

«The whole is also greater than the sum of its parts. There is no need, then, to be overly obsessed with limited and particular questions. We constantly have to broaden our horizons and see the greater good which will benefit us all»

=> **Solidarity and responsibility**

## 4. Unity is not uniformity

Differences between persons and communities can sometimes prove uncomfortable, but the Holy Spirit, who is the source of that diversity, can bring forth something good from all things [...] he alone can raise up diversity, plurality and multiplicity while at the same time bringing about unity (EG 131)

=> **Faith**

## 4. Unity is not uniformity

When we, for our part, aspire to diversity, we become self-enclosed, exclusive and divisive;

similarly, whenever we attempt to create unity on the basis of our human calculations, we end up imposing a monolithic uniformity

To be able to deal with the conflict

=> **Dialogue, trust and respect**

## 5. Every single element is precious

The contribution of every single element is unique and necessary: there is a place for the poor and for people who can be considered dubious on account of their errors

This is true even if it is a very small contribution

As part of a large network event the weakest or smallest elements can affect the whole reality and make a difference

=> **Dignity and resistance / change**

## 6. We are partials

We usually speak of pluralism with fear or appreciation

We should start to think about partiality in order to abandon our sense of wholeness

=> **Self consciousness**

**7.**

It's your turn to discover the richness of the polyhedron!