

Tuesday Reflection 15 March 2022

Over the last week, Francesca and I as Catholics have welcomed a Jewish friend, a Muslim family and two Quaker friends to our home and broken bread with them, and have had indirect dealings with Anglicanism and Zen. Reflecting on the experiences and conversations we had, brought home to me once again that there is a common thread running through all transcendental belief systems. The main division in humanity is not between different religions, although these divisions, God knows, are grave enough.

The main division is between those who believe in a Supreme Being and hold spiritual values, and those who see life in purely materialistic terms and deny the spiritual.

It is the materialistic mindset that promotes individuality, division and competition. The spiritual heartset fosters solidarity and is directed towards union and unity - and has very practical consequences.

In the Introduction to their document on Human Fraternity, Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar make this clear:

“Faith leads a believer to see in the other a brother or sister to be supported and loved. Through faith in God, ... believers are called to express this human fraternity by safeguarding creation ... and supporting all persons, especially the poorest and those most in need.”

Michael Townson