



Chapter 7: You Make What You Want

VOCATIONAL LITURGIES

Everything Matters

It's not just nature, it's **creation**.

Commission: Image

“The *image Dei* designated the royal office of calling of human beings as God’s representatives and agents in the world, granted authorized power to share in God’s rule or administration of the earth’s resources and creatures. Imaging God thus involves representing and perhaps extending in some ways God’s rule on earth through ordinary communal practices of human **sociocultural** life.” (Richard Middleton in *The Liberating Image*)

Commission: Unfold

“It’s also why we need to beware of monsters: our creational impulse can turn into Promethean striving. Our cultural creations can outstrip us, even at times when the culture-making impulse is suffused with the best of intentions. And so we need to appreciate that culture is not neutral or benign—it is not simple a ‘good.’ More importantly, we need to remember that creation—especially *our* creations—**does something to us.**” (Smith p. 174)

Commission: Occupy



“We are made to be **makers**, but as makers we remain lovers. So if you are what you love, then you make what you love. Your cultural labor—whether in finance or fine arts, as a fireman or a first-grade teacher—is animated less by ‘principles’ that you carry in your head and more by habits of desire that operate under the hood of consciousness.” (Smith p. 174)



Star Wars

Tradition *for* Innovation



“Everyone **designs** who devises course of action aimed at changing existing situations into preferred ones.”
(design guru Herbert Simon, p. 179)

Tradition *for* Innovation

“In sum, the innovative, restorative work of **culture-making** needs to be primed by those liturgical traditions that orient our imagination to kingdom come. In order to foster a Christian imagination, we don’t need to invent; we need to remember. We cannot hope to re-create the world if we are constantly reinventing church because we will reinvent ourselves right out of the Story. Liturgical tradition is the platform for imagination.”
(Smith, p. 181)

Liturgical Examples

“Kneeling in **confession** and voicing ‘the things we have done and the things we have left undone’ tangibly and viscerally impresses on us the brokenness of our world and should humble our own pretensions.” (Smith, p.180)

Liturgical Examples

“Pledging allegiance in the **Creed** is a *political act*—a reminder that we are citizens of a coming kingdom, curtailing our temptations to overidentify with any configuration of the earthly city.” (Smith, p. 181)

Liturgical Examples

“The rite of **baptism**, where the congregation vows to help raise the child and come alongside the parents, is just the liturgical formation we need in order to be a people who can support those raising children with intellectual disabilities or those with the calling and encourage to adopt special-needs children.” (Smith, p. 181)

Liturgical Examples

“Sitting at the **Lord’s Table** with the risen King, where ***all*** are invited to eat, is a tactile reminder of the just, abundant world that God longs for.” (Smith, p. 181)