Who is Bernard Lonergan, S.J.?

- Born in Buckingham, Quebec, December 17, 1904
- B.A. from University of London, 1930
- S.T.D. from the Gregorian University, Rome, 1940
- In 1970 received the highest honor given by the Canadian Government, naming him a Companion of the Order of Canada
- Taught in Montreal, Toronto, Rome, Harvard, and Boston College
- First love was economics
- Died November 26, 1984 at Pickering, Ontario at the Jesuit Infirmary; buried in the Jesuit Cemetery, Guelph, Ontario
What is he up to?

- A Jesuit, trained to be attentive to interior movements
- Was fascinated by the working of Aquinas’ mind
- “The intelligence can only be known in its act.” Summa Q. 85
- Read Newman’s Grammar of Assent six times
- Became convinced philosophy was neglecting the subject’s own operations in the search for objective truth
- Called for a “shift to interiority,” the charting of the operations of consciousness to identify intentionality as it moves from meaning to value in human decision
- A second “axial shift”

Charting the Operations of Consciousness

- **Experiencing**: your senses, your own consciousness processing things; notice things; pay attention; listen; watch
- **Understanding**: question to connect data, to make sense of things
- **Judging**: a “yes” or “no” to data as fact, truth, reality
- **Deciding**: evaluating the worth, weighing the value of what you know in order to act on it or not
Clarifying how we come to “know” anything

- The recurrent, invariant, cross-cultural pattern
- Knowledge comes with the judgment
- The judgment is only virtually unconditioned
- The judgment is objective
- Objectivity is reached by authentic subjectivity
- The human process involved in inspiration and infallibility

Distinguishing “knowing” from “choosing”

- Knowing seeks meaning
- Meaning can be verbal, non-verbal, signed, mimed
- Choosing flows from value informed by meaning
- Value is concerned with worth
- Worth gets one to choose, to decide, to act
- A shift from intellect and will to cognitive and volitional operations
Why is this significant?

- Because it calls us to accountability
- We can be called to account not only for results, but *how we got to them*
- This is called *interiority analysis*
- It is morally and spiritually significant
- It calls us to check what we *intend*
- Intentionality becomes morally significant
- Conscience formation becomes intentional
- Can lead to transparent self-knowledge ecclesially, socially, politically, economically, and scientifically

It explains how consciousness works

- From the data of sense to the data of consciousness in my experience
- Through questioning for intelligent understanding
- Arriving at a judgment of fact based on understanding
- To a decision based on an evaluative judgment of worth
Explains how consciousness is informed/formed/transformed

- **Informed**: The questioning is key; if selective, or blocked, the judgment will be rash

- **Formed**: Objectivity is reached in the judgment; if the inquiry is superficial, the judgment will be rash, the result of bias

- **Transformed**: If the cognitive anthropology is accurate, sketching how we come to know, then it provides an explanation of developmental knowledge in any and all disciplines, and across cultures

Provides language for dialogue

- Doctors and medical personnel
- Psychologists and psychiatrists
- Counselors and therapists
- Pastoral Care personnel
- Spiritual Directors
How do we begin?

- Clarifying key terms:
  - consciousness
  - “levels”
  - intentionality
  - imperatives
  - vectors
  - bias

Explaining the levels of consciousness as *self-reflexive*

- Experiencing myself as experiencing
- Experiencing myself as understanding
- Experiencing myself as judging
- Experiencing myself as deciding
- Experiencing myself as being grasped by religious love (God) in “religious” experience
Identifying the contemplative core of consciousness

- Consciousness as the self-aware psychic life force of the soul
- The life force rooted in Divine Mystery
- True even if not known or understood
- The root of my being as creature
- The root of original sin is *forgetfulness*
- Returning to this core is going *home*
- Recovery of this center is the source of authentic healing as distinguished from *cure*

Questions and Answers/Comments