

Growth, ethics and participation

special lesson

artistic entrepreneurship 2019/2020

Sacred Art School

the human person

- "Individual substance of a rational nature" (Boethius)
- The notion of person is not only metaphysical but also essentially ethical.
- The rationality proper to individuals belonging to the human species is the foundation of human action.

the human person

- The being of the person is to live a life capable of awakening to reason, and this is proper to every human life.
- The person cannot be reduced to a state, to a situation that is enjoyed only in certain moments. The human being goes through all the stages of his life, from childhood to old age, with all the accidental changes that this means, in the unity of his identity.
- (Robert Spaemann)

the human person

- Peter Singer and Tristram Engelhardt say that men have no rights as men, but only to the extent that they are persons. And for these authors not all men in any circumstance of their lives are persons (neither the fetus, nor the handicapped, nor those in an irreversible coma would be persons)
- That is why it is necessary to define the person well.

meaning in person

- Tomorrow morning at Ataf (the bus company in Florence), Aristide doesn't show up for his shift.
- The foreman replaces him with another driver.
- For the company, the person is considered to be a function of the work he does.
- **REPLACEMENT**

meaning in person

- Nick loves Barbara (and vice versa!). They decide to go on a trip on Sunday. Barbara doesn't show up. What's Nick doing? He replaces her with another one...
- In the relationship of love, the person is considered, is seen-evolved in itself and for itself, not in view of something else, in its unrepeatable uniqueness.
- **UNIQUENESS**

meaning in person

- Two spouses become parents: they wanted so much to have a child. The baby product factory also wants babies to be born. Not for the same reason.
- The factory wants children to be born because they are useful to the company. Parents want their child to be born because fatherhood-motherhood is a wonderful thing. The company manager says: "how useful it is that babies are born!"; the parent says: "how beautiful it is that you were born!".
- **BEAUTY**

meaning in person

- There is a utilitarian way that affirms the instrumental value of the person: "you are worth because you serve, you are useful to ...";
- there is a disinterested way that affirms the absolute value of the person: "you are worth not because you serve something, you serve nothing: you are an end, not a means. You have an absolute value.
- **ABSOLUTE VALUE**

meaning in person

> The absolute **value** of a person

meaning in person

- people are not numberable; they are not part of a series; each one is unique and therefore not repeatable (S. John Paul II). It is an unrepeatable reality. Its value does not increase or decrease "in relation to...": it is valid in itself and for itself.
- **UNREPEATABLE**

meaning in person

- Uniqueness
- Beauty
- Absolute value
- unrepeatability

meaning in person

- each person is **worth in himself and for himself** [and not only for the function he can perform].
- every person is an end that has **absolute value** [and not only a means that is valid for the usefulness it can offer];
- every person is **unique** [and cannot be replaced].

meaning in person

- Everything changes, but in each of us there is the experience that makes him say: "I always remain the same". Our life is not reduced to being the sum of many experiences that are added to one another. We in each one of them have the certainty of our own self who lives each of these experiences. Our biography is a true and proper story because it is lived in the conscious certainty of our own "I" that remains. Indeed, there is the experience, lived above all by those who are no longer young, that precisely in the permanence of this identity, in this being myself, I never grow old. I have not aged.

meaning in person

- a reality that remains in itself;
- not inherent in something else, like color on a wall, but in itself.
- It is a subject, not a predicate that is said of something else.

meaning in person

- H₂O = the chemical composition of two elements. Each quantity of water exists as long as this composition exists. If I decompose hydrogen from oxygen by electrolysis, the water would cease to exist. This is not so of that reality that I indicate when I say "I": it is not the composition of several parts. It does not exist in the composition of the parts that compose it: it exists for itself, and not for the parts that compose it. A reality that is not composta, but simple, is a spiritual reality.

meaning in person

- This is why we can say that every life must be lived and respected for what it is: there is no handicap that can separate the concept of life from the concept of person.
- To be disabled.

meaning in person

How does my body fit into the constitution of my person?

Each one of us performs actions that are definitely of his body: eating, for example. And each of us performs actions that are certainly spiritual: making free choices, for example.

Now none of us is aware that whoever performs actions of the first type is a different "I" from the "I" who performs actions of the second type. The one who eats is the same ego that wants to make its choices.

In conclusion: the person is also his body; and not simply "has a body.

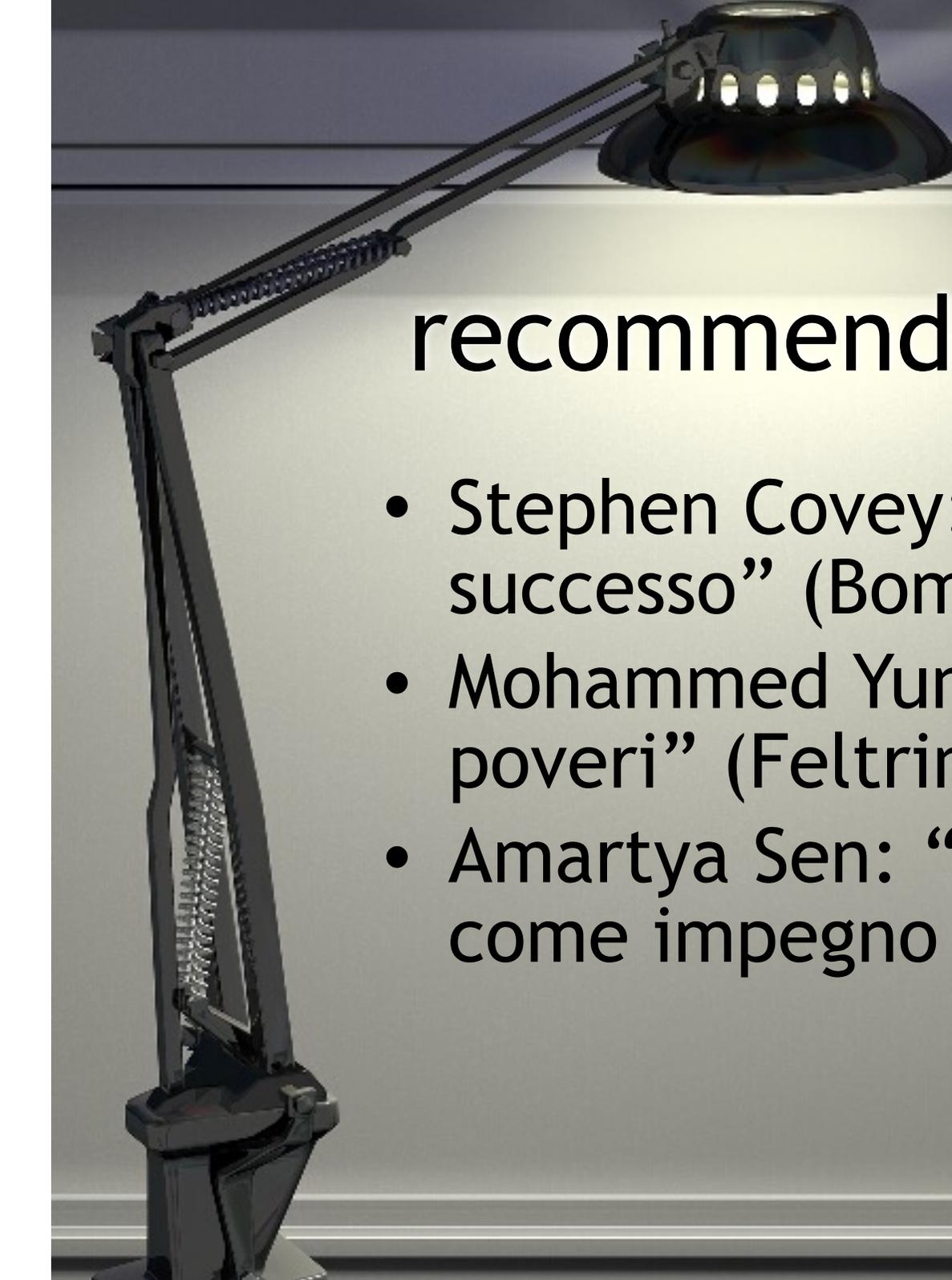
meaning in person

- the person is a subject who exists in a spiritual and material nature. The person is this unity of body and spirit, in the sense of originally concrete, truly unrepeatable.



recommended bibliography

- Giovanni Padroni: “aspetti della complessità e sensibilità postmoderna nelle dinamiche organizzative e del capitale umano” (Giuffré)
- Paolo Pugni: “Lavoro e responsabilità” (Ares)
- Roberto Lorusso, Nello di Padova: “Depiliamoci” (Editori Riuniti)



recommended bibliography

- Stephen Covey: “I sette pilastri del successo” (Bompiani)
- Mohammed Yunus: “Il banchiere dei poveri” (Feltrinelli)
- Amartya Sen: “La libertà individuale come impegno sociale” (Laterza)