

# CHANGE MANAGEMENT - REFLECTION



I ask for what I desire as we begin this topic



I pray that my entire being become open to God's grace



I imagine these texts being addressed to me, and note my response

## Grace: That we are able to change at a pace that is guided by the Spirit

Those who crusade against hellenistic stoicism contaminating the Christian faith, including Martin Luther, have taught us to sing: 'Change and decay all around I see. But thou who changest not, abide with me'. His intention was perhaps to contrast the fickleness of the human heart with God's steadfast love. But the words, as they sink into the depths of our being through repeated singing, could elicit from us a stoic response to the world around. The infinite chasm that yawns between creation which is 'change and decay' and the creator who 'changes not' makes us subscribe to a spirituality that invites us to anticipate, here and now, our eschatological fulfilment in a Being that knows no becoming.

It was within such a theological framework that Cardinal Ottaviani strove to be *semper idem*, 'always the same', like the God of Aristotle, the Immovable Mover! Never to change was also the ideal he proposed for the Church! Thus, our pilgrimage on earth is not to end up in a permanent city that would replace this impermanent one, as St Paul would have us believe (Heb 13,14), but in an unchanging state of beatitude; the Risen Lord's gift to us would not be an incorruptible body in place of our corruptible one, as the same St Paul hoped (1 Cor 15,42), but one that would neither change nor decay.

Indeed should change be so neatly equated with impermanence and perishability? Surely, change is robbed of its spiritual or rather, its Spirit dimension if God is expelled from it. Outside a changeless God, all is going to be godless change!

### The Spirit Dimension of Change - Aloysius Pieris SJ

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

I am able to differentiate between what is temporary and that which is eternal? What space do these two dimension play in my life?