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Theological Synthesis: *Theology of Communication: God's Good News of Salvation*
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OUTLINE

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The text of the Introduction and Conclusion follows.

INTRODUCTION

As in any other body of text, the introduction, though the first one to appear, is often the last to be written. This very introduction to my own synthesis of Theology is not an exception.

I have chosen to view Theology from the lens of communication — and, consequently, blend various theological strands from the same vantage point — not because it has been my comfort zone. Far from it — communication is one elusive subject that is too hot to handle. “Elusive” is the operative word here. And it is so perhaps because communication is not a single subject in itself. Communication stands on various disciplines that impinge on the most fundamental aspects of our humanity. Within the body of communication science come anthropology, linguistics, philosophy, psychology, sociology, and the list is endless.

Communication is indescribable, not just because it is abstract or inexplicable. But perhaps, because it is so commonsensical that we tend to *not* notice it. Like food, water, and shelter, which surround us and make our day-to-day existence possible, I daresay, without communication, we cease to exist.

It is one important component of our daily *human experience*. As I pounded on my keyboard to produce the previous sentence, I recalled the input of our teacher in Fundamental Theology, “All human experience is a *religious experience*.” It is here that we are able to encounter God and His vestiges. This encounter itself is a beautiful ingredient for theologizing.

The introduction of a paper does one important job: it functions as a window to the text. It provides a sneak preview which reveals the features of what is inside. However, let this introduction carry out another function —

A disclaimer.

This theological synthesis *does not* — and perhaps, even better, *cannot* — represent what I have learned over the past four years in my encounter with the Divine Master through the instrumentation of the Divine Science. The ink emblazoned on the forty or so pages of this manuscript is, at best, an approximation.

CONCLUSION

This paper explores the Theology of Communication.

It takes off from the very origin of life, the Trinity, and concludes where everyone is destined for all eternity — back to the very source of life and everything that is in it — the Trinity.

Between these two moments are inestimable dynamic exchanges involving God and the human person, and, also, the members of humankind as they interact among themselves. Here, we find the vertical and horizontal ways of relating, and of communicating.

In the introduction of this paper, I noted that this synthesis would only approximate the inputs I gained over my past four years in the theologate. I do not wish to take back what I said. Let me repeat it here: This synthesis will not in any way be an indicator of the theology I know.

This is because Theology is not a mere subject whose fruits could be sized up by merely looking at my general weighted average of grades for the past four years, or by checking how lucid and formidable my understanding of the theological formulae is, as manifested in this synthesis paper.

More than the quantitative bases of someone's "theological" worth, I think, we ought to look at the quality.

The basis should depend on those two ways of relating, and of communicating I mentioned above. My knowledge of Theology should be seen, and experienced in the way I relate with God through my prayers, and in the way I relate with others, which is, as my rector puts it, my love story.

This is because this faith in the Triune God is based on the experience that God has communicated Himself totally and without reservation to us. He communicated not just something of Himself to us humans, but literally *His very self*.