

The Cardinal officially opened the Spiritfest festival with words of encouragement, hope and inspiration. Following the opening ceremony Rev. Paschal McDonnell imparted his views and words of wisdom which he sub-divided into seven sections with all. Rev. Paschal talked about the longing of the heart having different meanings for different groups of people. The Greeks believe in the Nostros and the Vikings Wanderlust. The French talk about disquietude and Erik Fromm refers to the longing heart like a dark room for one hour a day. Easwaran views a longing heart as a nameless need while St. Augustine thinks that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. A Contemporary Society is like a Cosmic Egg – Coherent world which is shattered picture into pieces. Nihilism gives a sense of society that is uncertain and un-centred. Pluralism often quite opinionated and hostile and antagonistic. Political correctness is evident in Dr. Ivan Patterson's work. To search for meaning is a call to holiness and integrity. There is a Mysterium Tremendum that is alive and attractive for example the minister of the word is when the Word is made flesh in Christ. A good example of this is Chapter Seven in the Wind in the Willows book. Rev. Paschal went on to talk about the uniqueness of Christ among the religious leaders and how Jesus Christ belongs to humanity. The Church is described as scaffolding like John the Baptist and uniqueness is similar to the Jews, Buddhists, Hindus and Muslins etc. The way that the original purpose is the eventual destiny and the resurrection is a disclosure of the meaning. The Word was made flesh and its identity is individual to each person and the incarnation is humility of his birth in a manger. Christ's passion is the sacrificial love of Calvary on the cross that gives us our mission and message of love and power. Christ faced the temptation on the Cross and some think that this temptation is the same as Christ's temptation in the desert.

Franciscan theology of Christ is like Bonaventure's books of incarnation and Tereeyes thought of the flesh, mind and Contemplative Soul or Heart. And the Vine images are connection to this idea. Francis and Christ's testimony are both a gift and that the leper embracing the shadow. San Domino stated 'Go repair my church' as a sacrament of creation is the outward sign of a hidden divinity with the Eucharist being the spirit of prayer and devotion.