



# Catholic Schools in the 21st Century

**ASPIRE**

MIRIAM COLLEGE  
28 FEBRUARY 2018

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What's  
wrong  
with this  
picture?

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**CARICATURE**  
of Catholic  
schools

"Just shut up  
and believe!"

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**Catholic  
Schools  
in the  
21st  
Century**

**some  
TENSIONS**

Catholic schools as  
**ACADEMIC &  
ECCLESIAL INSTITUTIONS**

Catholic schools as  
**PROXIES  
for families**



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**NEEDS +  
POSSIBILITIES  
IN THE 21st CENTURY?**

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**Don't Get  
Blindsided  
By The Future**

**"65% of today's students  
will work in jobs  
that still don't exist."**

FUTURISTSPEAKER.COM

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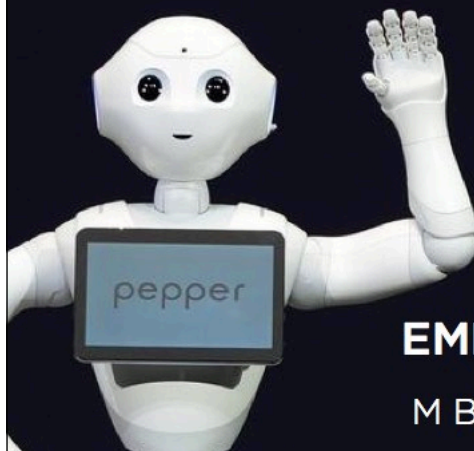
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# WILL ROBOTS TAKE MY JOB?



## “THE FUTURE OF EMPLOYMENT”

(CB Frey & M B Osborne, 2013)

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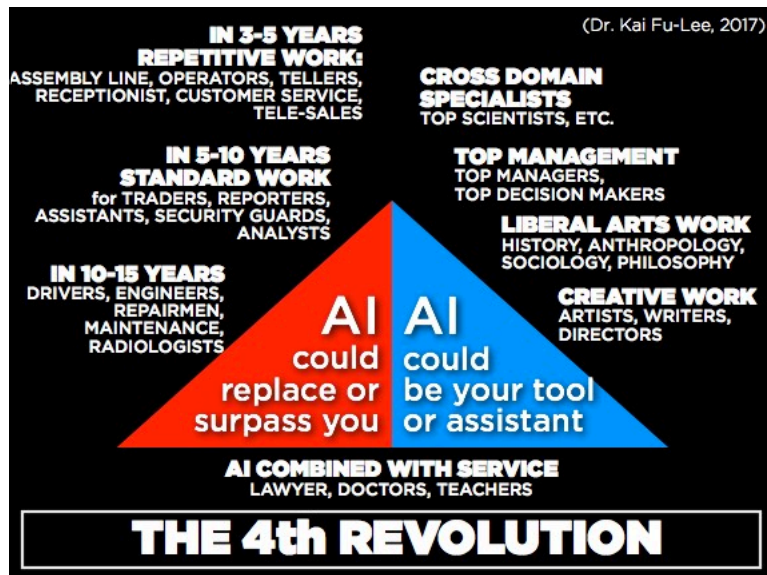
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## social media + communication technology

Not just a great means or tool for communication, entertainment, social interaction or education, but a **powerful reality** that affects our lives + selves.



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**every single minute  
every single day...**

 **Billions of  
Facebook Likes**

**350,000  
tweets** 

**400 hours  
of new video** 

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 **46% of  
Americans  
admit that  
they can't live  
without their  
smartphones.  
(Pew 2016)** 

 **Young adults spend  
1/3 of their waking hours  
on their phone:  
an average of 5 hours a day,  
85 separate times,  
no more than  
30 seconds each time.  
(2015 Study)**



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 **we live in an increasingly  
connected world.** 



 **more & more lead increasingly  
virtual lives.** 

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# 3 ENDANGERED SPECIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE

**VALUES + THOUGHT/TRUTH  
+ SILENCE/SACRED**



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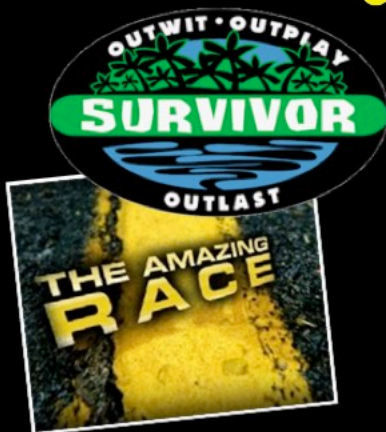
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## ENDANGERED SPECIES OF THE DIGITAL AGE



Popular TV shows  
and their hidden  
messages

**Survivor and  
Amazing Race -  
Win at all costs!**

**DANGER #1:  
ENDANGERED VALUES**

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**The Bachelor  
and the  
Bachelorette**



**Love = Shopping  
“Try it on” as  
much as you  
want before  
deciding and  
maybe  
committing.**



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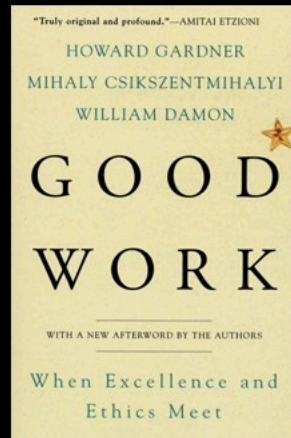
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Disturbing findings of  
**The GoodWork Project**

**For young people,  
the end simply justifies  
the means.  
Do whatever it takes to  
be successful now.  
Be ethical—maybe later?**



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**"Never in  
history have  
there been so  
many ways to  
cut corners."**

- Alan Greenspan on  
human greed

**"Americans believe each person  
should develop his/her own morality  
and not judge others."**

- Allan Wolfe

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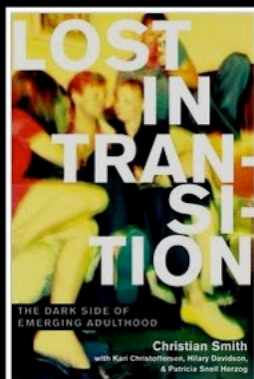
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**Lost in Transition**



by Notre Dame Sociologist  
**Christian Smith**



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**What:** In-depth interviews with 230 young people (18-23 years old) from across America

**Topic:** Their moral lives

**How:** Questions about right and wrong, moral dilemmas and the meaning of life.



Rape and murder are clearly wrong,  
But with drunken driving, cheating in a test, or cheating on a partner: **"I don't really deal with right and wrong that often."**

**"It's personal,"** they said. **"It's up to me!"**



**Respondent X:** "I mean, I guess what makes something right is how I **feel** about it. But different people feel different ways, so I **couldn't speak on behalf of anyone else as to what's right and wrong.**"

## Emotivism

"Depends on whatever makes me happy or how I feel!"



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## EASY OR HARD TO DO THE RIGHT THING?

		EVIL	GOOD
		MORALITY	
PLEASURE	INSTINCT	hard!	easy!
PAIN		easy!	hard!

Are most your decisions shaped by **instinct** or **morality**?

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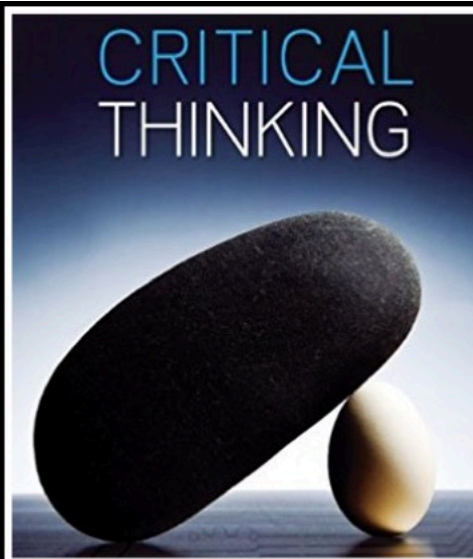
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**DANGER**  
**#2:**  
ENDANGERED  
THOUGHT +  
TRUTH

More  
**crucial**  
than ever?



CRITICAL  
THINKING

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Here's  
**WHY...**



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According to POLITICO's five-day analysis,  
Trump averaged about  
**one lie every three minutes & 15 sec.**  
over nearly five hours of remarks.

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Ms. Kellyanne Conway  
Senior White House Aide  
Trump's Former Campaign Manager

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"It used to be, everyone was entitled to their own opinion, **but not to their own facts.** But that's not the case anymore."

## TRUTHINESS



"Facts do not matter at all. **Perception is everything.** It's all about certainty..."

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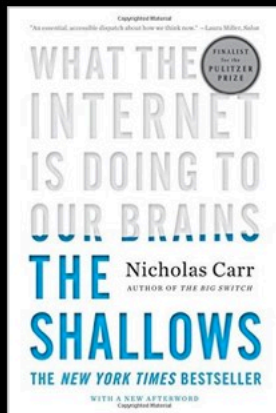
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"...what the Net seems to be doing is chipping away my **capacity for concentration and contemplation.** Whether I'm online or not, my mind now expects to take in information the way the Net distributes it."

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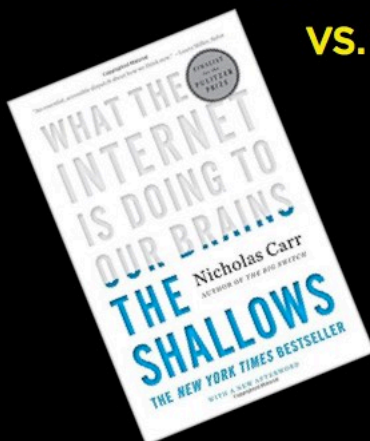
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## DEEP READING vs. SKIMMING



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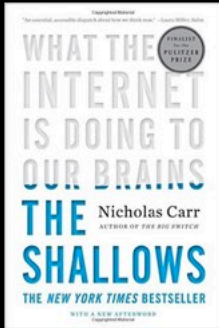
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## An ecosystem of interruption technologies

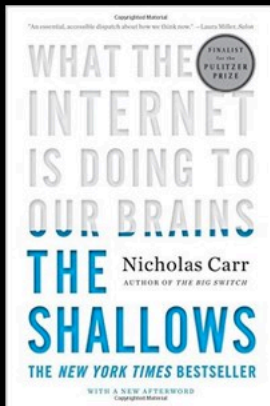


...when we go online, we enter an environment that promotes  **cursory reading, hurried and distracted thinking, and superficial learning**. It's possible to think deeply while surfing the Net, just as it's possible to think shallowly while reading a book, but that's not the type of thinking the technology encourages...

N Carr. The Shallows

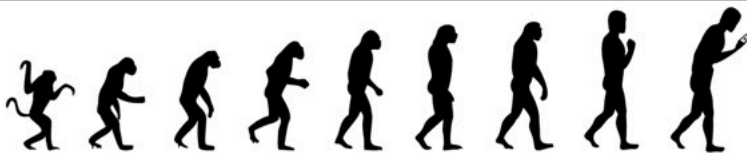
## An appetite for soundbites & info-nuggets

**"A DISTRACTION SICKNESS"**  
A Sullivan



Calm, focused, undistracted, the linear mind is being pushed aside by a **new kind of mind that wants and needs to take in and dole out information in short, disjointed, often overlapping bursts--the faster, the better.**

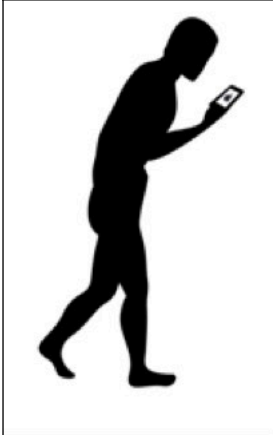
N Carr. The Shallows



What we're experiencing is, in a metaphorical sense, a reversal of the early trajectory of civilization: We are evolving from **being cultivators of personal knowledge to being hunters and gatherers in the electronic data forest.**

N Carr. The Shallows





Are you more a  
**cultivator  
of personal  
knowledge**  
or just  
**a hunter/gatherer  
in the electronic  
data forest?**

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### THE PROBLEM ...

	High Access	Limited Access
Minimal Quality Control	Internet	Oral Tradition
High Quality Control	???	Printing Press

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PLURALISM  
≠  
RELATIVISM

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## A "POST-TRUTH" AGE?

"Never in history  
have there been  
so many accounts  
and claims to  
truth."

- Howard Gardner on  
the digital media



"Everyone is right as long as  
it feels right!"

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### ***HORROR VACUI***

\* The Internet has created  
a fear of empty spaces.

\* We can get an addiction  
not only to validation  
but also to information,  
entertainment, and every  
form of stimulus.

**DANGER #3:**  
**ENDANGERED SILENCE**

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“the death of  
silence”



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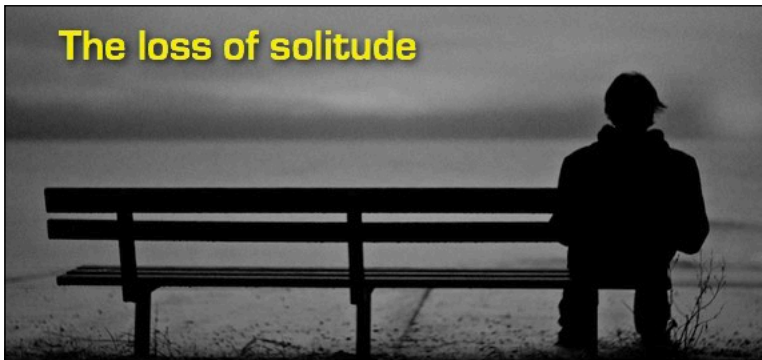
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## The loss of solitude



Feeling my feelings alone,  
by myself and with myself.  
Being alone with my feelings  
without instant distraction  
or digital support

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## The loss of our sense of the sacred

“The reason we live in  
a culture increasingly  
without faith is **not**  
because science has  
somehow disproved  
the unprovable,  
but **because the white  
noise of secularism  
has removed the very  
stillness in which faith  
might endure or be  
reborn.**”



Andrew Sullivan (2016)

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# GLOBALIZATION



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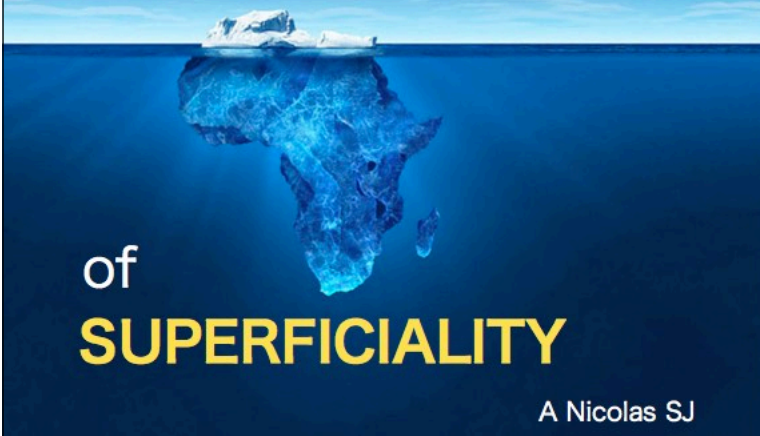
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# GLOBALIZATION



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The greatest threat  
to faith today is not  
hedonism but  
**distraction.**

We need a  
**digital Sabbath.**

A Sullivan

Threat to depth,  
to quality of life,  
to meaning in life



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ENDANGERED

VALUES  
THOUGHT+TRUTH  
SILENCE  
+ SACRED

ENDANGERED  
SPECIES  
IN THE DIGITAL AGE

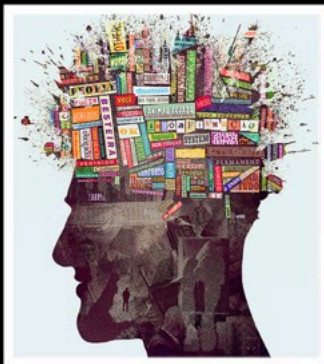


The **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**  
In the 21st Century are called  
to **protect**  
these endangered species  
and provide them  
an environment to **flourish**.

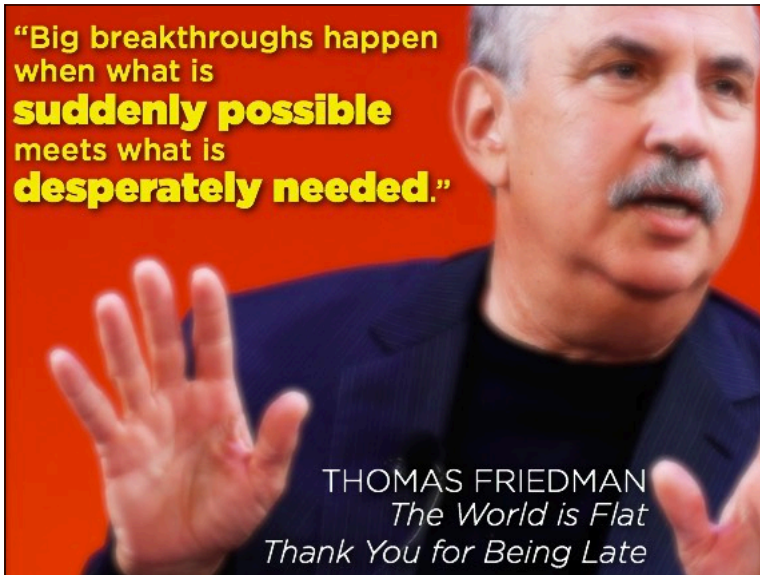
ENDANGERED  
VALUES  
THOUGHT+TRUTH  
SILENCE  
+ SACRED

What is  
**Knowledge**  
especially in  
morality, science,  
& religion?

**FACTS**  
**OPINION**  
**JUDGMENT**



"Big breakthroughs happen  
when what is  
**suddenly possible**  
meets what is  
**desperately needed.**"



THOMAS FRIEDMAN  
*The World is Flat*  
*Thank You for Being Late*

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**desperate** NEEDS +  
**sudden** POSSIBILITIES  
IN THE 21st CENTURY?

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