Our digital journey from Jericho to Jerusalem

A provocation on the development of the digital world and its associated social issues.

1. Introduction: Recent developments in digital "communication and perception technologies" are shaping important aspects of young people's lives. In this respect, beyond cyber-crimes, more subtle misuses of these technologies have been found to be correlated with:
   - Young people's mental health (depression, anxiety).
   - "Epistemic atrophy".

(I will provide a more detailed report on these two points for further information.)

2. Main contribution: As Christians, we know we can't be inclusive and peace-sowers if we are not joyful and service-oriented, and that such an "evangelic spirit" should also permeate our technological sphere. In other words, our presence in cyberspace ought to be filled with a missionary aim. Discerning the specific way of doing this may benefit from three points:
   - Keeping our eyes wide open to notice our neighbour. Our mission is always an answer to a need that arises from outside of us. You can't hear it unless you pay attention to the outside, unless you put your "echo chambers" in second place and favor instead listening in the first place. God's word may surprise you from where you do not expect. As an example, I will mention how the city Synod came out with the project "educate oneself in order to educate others" after discerning that many of the problems of young people were caused by the lack of generous adulthood in society. This YouTube project had a lot of positive feedback in and out of the digital sphere as an instrument to help educators better realise and embrace their role in society.

   - Keeping our hearts wide open to stop our journey and heal our neighbour. Beware of not seeking your neighbour in our "comfort chambers". As an example, I will mention how, as a university lecturer, I noticed many of my students were not motivated to embrace their careers, and how this difficulty is shedding light to shape a starting point of dialogue, encounter, and mutual positive influence in the digital world and beyond. I will mention how the spirit of the World Youth Parliament is helping discern our actions as a university ministry.

   - Trust God and trust his design. The Providence always has a plan to help you give your life. This confidence in God's goodness may help you to better align your gifts towards your neighbour. Example: I will mention how Providence has influenced my professional choices towards apologetics and LLM immunisation, even if I was initially reluctant to embrace a career in CS.

3. Conclusion: Christian's destiny is the Heavenly Father, which is reachable only through Christ. We could say, in this respect, that reaching the divine has as the first step reaching the human. Every mission, every aspiration, is done step by step. And the first step is to be human, to be balanced, to listen, to pay attention, both in the digital and the physical world. We should always ask ourselves in our daily prayer, What is my next step?