

PLENARY 3
**Re-forming the Formers:
Self-Examination for Teachers**

Introduction: Pedagogical “Heresy”

I. A Formation Audit: Thinking Critically About Our Own Educations

A. Thomas Kuhn, “Normal Science,” and the Secular Novitiate

B. Secular Liturgies and our “Continuing” Education

II. Educational Reform Begins with Us

A. Pedagogical Virtues: Attending to Our Own Formation

B. Christian Worship as Faculty Development

C. Faculty “Life Together” (per Bonhoeffer)

Communal practices to consider:

1. Eat Together

2. Pray Together

3. Think and Read Together

D. Micro-Practices

Let me also suggest a couple of individual practices as ways to sustain the vocation of teaching virtue:

1. Cultivate Reflection Through the Examen

In his *Spiritual Exercises*, St. Ignatius of Loyola developed a mode of prayerful reflection often called the Daily Examen. Often prayed at lunchtime and the end of day, the Examen has five simple aspects:

- 1. Become aware of God's presence.**
- 2. Review the day with gratitude.**
- 3. Pay attention to your emotions.**
- 4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.**
- 5. Look toward tomorrow.**

I think it's easy to imagine a specifically *pedagogical* rendition of such a prayer.

2. Undertake Practices *for* Students *as* a Teacher

Conclusion: Re-forming the Formers ("Apart from me you can do nothing," John 15:5)