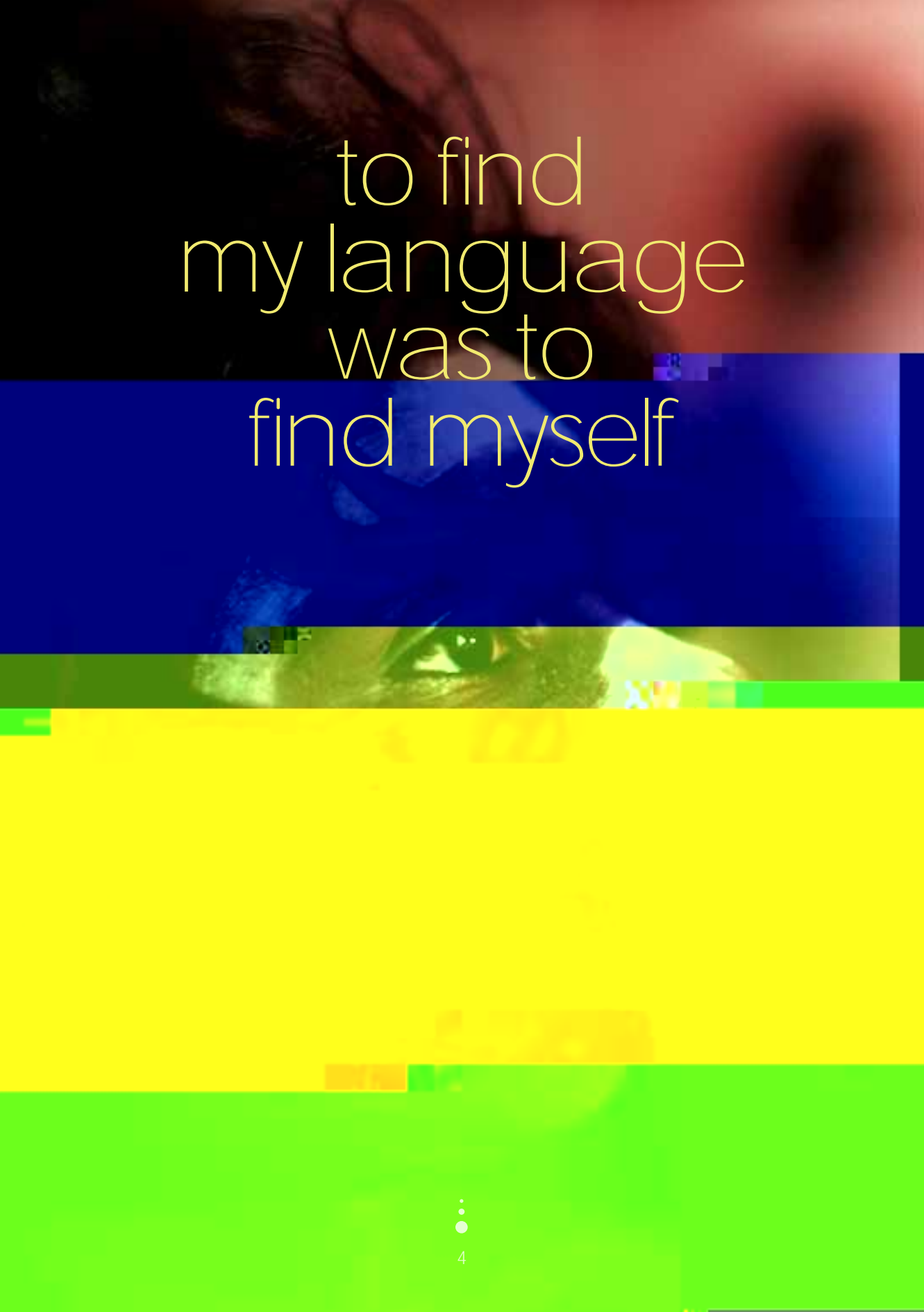
A person is silhouetted against a wall, standing on a pair of tall stilts. Their arms are raised in a celebratory gesture. Behind them is a large, faded mural of a horse in profile, facing right. The scene is dimly lit, with the person and stilts appearing as dark shapes against the lighter wall.

*"We express our gratefulness for the
contributions of those who have come before us.
No matter where we are in our lives we owe a
debt of gratitude to pioneering people who paved
the way, ancestors who gave us life t k pe ave come befo1*







to find
my language
was to
find myself

... a metaphor of voice & language

Cml[`Y` =\oYj\k' k' Yf` 9Zgja`fYde Yf` o` g' oYk' klgd' f' 'ge` ' k' e' gl']j\$ o` g' `Y\ Z]] f` \] f` d\ \ [gfIY[I' o` a` ' k' [mlnj] \$o` a` ' k' [gmfIjQ\$ o` a` ' k' h] ghq` &O` a` ' f` [j] \ a` d` _] f] jgk` a` q` ' k' Yj] \ ` o` a` ' Y` _jgnh' g^kljYf` _] jk' kge] l' f` _g^` k' hYf` \$` k' dkk\$` k' d]n] ' 'g] ` k' e' gl'] j&=Yj d' f` ' k' k' Yj f` _] ' kY` a` l'] ' o' g] \ k2Lg' P' f` \ ` e' q' d' f` _mY_] ' o' Yk' l' g' P' f` \ ` e' qk] d&Cml[`Y` kYf` _Y` kgf` _` D' Y` d' e] f] j] Y` d' d' g` ^'] ' k] f` k] ' g` ^` d' k' k' Y' i' f' gl' ` Yn` f` _]] [] a] \ ` k' d' f` _mY_] ' Yf` \ [mlnj] ' Y' i'] ' ' j]] ' g` ^` k' hYj] f' i' k' Yf` \ _] Yf` \ hYj] f' i' k' &O` ' Y' i' Cml[`Y` o' Yk' h' jgZYZ` d' k' Yq` a` _\$Y' i' d' Yk' i' f' h' Yj] \$` f' l' ` k' k' Y` \ ` Yf` \ ` d]n] d' k' kgf` _\$` o' Yk' i'] Y' i' d' f` _mY_] _] Yn] ` ` a` ' Y' c] q' l' g` ' k' a`] f' l' a` q` &A` k' i'] Y' i' k` a` e' h` d' Yf` \ l'] Y' i' [ge` h` d' p&L` k' k' Cml[`Y` k' l' g' j' q` \$Yf` \] '] k' l' g' j' q' g` ^` k' h] ghq` \$Yf` \ f]] \ k' l' g' Z] `] Yj\ Yf` \ j] khgf` \] \ l' g' f` ' a' k' ' go' f' ' ja` _] Zq` Y` d' h] ghq` ' g` ^` [gf` k[d' f` [] &9' i'] ' k' Y' e] ' l` a` e] \$' i'] j]] Yj] ' Y` d' k' g' d' k' kgf` k' ' g' j' n' k' &9]] ' o'] f' gl' Y` d' g' f' ' Y' i' m] k' i' d`] ' Cml[`Y` 7' D] k' k' hga` f' Yf' l' Yf` \ ` d' k' k' j` a` \] f' o` a` ' h' Yf` ' Yf` \ ` f' l' o' k' l' a`] \$Zm' i' f' g' f] l'] d' k' k' ' n' f` \ ` Y' e] f' i' Y` d'

Reflect – Opportunities for us to discover our story and tradition

- ☪ See, I have engraved you on the palm of my hand. Isaiah 49:16
- ☪ Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is illusion. – Brennan Manning

Respond – Challenges that may assist us to advance towards what can be!

- 👋 How do we articulate our language and how does it empower us for mission?
- 👋 Develop an identity statement for our team, board, school that embraces our language.



the world is God's agenda!

**What's happening
in the world matters to God.
What matters to God,
matters to us**

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g`^Y`O`Z`gl` `Yf` \ `O`h`j`g`h`g`k`a`g`f`&L`] `o`] d`ge`] `]ge` :`]gl`] j`H` a`h`H`f`lg`\$;` gf`_]`_Yl`g`f`
D]Y`] j`g`^l`] ;`] `j`k`l`a`f` :`]gl`] j`k`\$] e`Z`g`l`a` \ `gf`] `km`] ` [` Ydf _] `D` `go` [`Yf` `o`] `Z`]
Z`gl` `h`Y`j`l`g`^l`] `o`g`j`d` `D`h`j`] k`] f`l`g`d` `D`Y`f` \ `q`l` `h`j`gn`a`] `Yf` `Y`d`] j`f`Y`l`a`n`] `h`] j`k`h`] [] l`a`n`] &
L`Y`c`] `k`ge`] [] l`a`e`] `o`a`] `o` `Yl` :`] j`H` a`h`] `Y` \ `l`g` `k`Y`q`&;` gf`k`a`] j`l`]] `a`] Y`k`]]] `] ph`j`] k`k`] k`
j`] d`l`a`f`_l`g`h`j`] k`] f` [] Y`f` \ `Z`] a`_Y`d`] j`f`Y`l`a`n`] &g`j`] p`Y`e`h`d` \$`] \] P`f`] k`h`j`] k`] f` [] Y`k`]]]
Y`Z`a`d`q`] l`g`Z`] a`f` `Y`h`d` [] Y`f` \ `] d`Y`h`Y`j`l`g`^l` `Yl`h`d` [] &L`] `h`d` [] `o`] j`]]] [` Ydf _]] k`
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Reflect – Opportunities for us to discover our story and tradition

- 🌀 Christianity is an alternative way of life. But the great temptation to an alternative community, because it wants to be accepted, is to imitate the dominant culture. – Philip Pinto
- 🌀 Humility will consist in recognizing that being in the universe can teach us what we ignore. – Rumi
- 🌀 If you respect someone and respect their history it's because you believe they belong to the same human race as you do, not to some inferior version. – Amin Maalouf

Respond – Challenges that may assist us to advance towards what can be!

- 👏 How are we really present to the world we inhabit?
- 👏 Do we hold presence and being alternative in balance?
- 👏 As a team, how much time do we spend with areas of society we do not usually engage with?

the Congress through the eyes of the Touchstones

... a vision for education
that is liberating, inclusive
and reaches out in justice and solidarity
within a spiritual context
founded in the gospel.

L'] ; ^ YjI]j Yf\`ak'gnj`Lgm[^ klgf] k'p_nj] \`hjge af` fl d[] jgm_` gm'] ; gf_] kk&
L'] `khajanYdq'g^] ; ^ YjI]j`oYk'j] B] [] \`] jgm_`] `nk] `g^] `Lgm[^ klgf] k&
L' ak`khajanYdq`ak`YI] ^] YjI]g^] ; ^ YjI]j Yf\ [Ydk`nk`'gjo Yj\`lg] ph d]] Zna` af` _
Y`nakaf`'gj] \`n[Ylagf` af`gnj`k[^ ggdk'] Yl`gh] f`k'] ^] YjIk`Yf\`e` af`k'g^] `qgnf` _
'gj`Y`Z]]] j`o`gd` ^'gj`Ydk`L'] `Lgm[^ klgf] k`hjge gl] `Y`nakaf`'gj] \`n[Ylagf`] `YI`
ak` dZ] jYIaf`_ \$af` [dtkan] `Yf\`] Y[^] k'gm' `af` l`nkla] `Yf\` kgd` Yjaq`o`a` af` Y`khajanYd
[gf] pl`'gnf\` \`af`] _gkh] d&O] `o]] Yf\` kladY] [gf] af`nYad] af`na] \`lg] fl] j`af`lg`
] `o`gd` g^] ; ^ YjI]j`lg] ph d]]] j`af`] kk'g^`ak`af] fl`Yf\`] ` d] \`] Ydq'g^
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Reflect – Opportunities for us to discover our story and tradition

Spend some time reflecting on the impact of the touchstones in the life of the school/community:

- 🌀 Liberating Education – We open hearts and minds, through quality teaching and learning experiences, so that through critical reflection and engagement each person is hope-filled and free to build a better world for all.
- 🌀 Gospel Spirituality – We invite all people into the story of Jesus and strive to make his message of compassion, justice and peace a living reality within our community
- 🌀 Inclusive Community – Our community is accepting and welcoming, fostering right relationships and committed to the common good.
- 🌀 Justice and Solidarity – We are committed to justice and peace for all, grounded in a spirituality of action and reflection that calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalised and the Earth itself.

Respond – Challenges that may assist us to advance towards what can be!

- 👋 How do we integrate the Charter Touchstones into our school programs?
- 👋 Consider the role the Touchstones play in the reflection processes in the school/community.
- 👋 Do we embrace the Touchstones within our varied meeting structures?

the rhythm of life

During the Congress the last morning
began in suspense!





Reflect – Opportunities for us to discover our story and tradition

- 🌀 You can muffle the drum, but you cannot prevent the lark from singing. – Kahlil Gibran
- 🌀 I came to set fire to the earth. Luke 12:49

Respond – Challenges that may assist us to advance towards what can be!

- 👋 How do our unique instruments (team) contribute to a common sound (vision)?
- 👋 With whom has this common sound (vision) been shared?
- 👋 Over time do we devote energy into reviewing and improving our own music?

we are the church!

... the Church has always been
an alternative way of life.

Robert Fitzgerald, an Australian Productivity Commissioner, provided a provocative insight. As Brother Philip Pinocchio reminded us, the Church has always been an alternative way of life, Robert Fitzgerald looks at the inner life of the Church, and recognised the growing cynicism of many about institutional Church, and the problems of allowing his thoughts to go unchecked.

Reflect – Opportunities for us to discover our story and tradition

“So many today are critical of the attempt to reassert the former model of church, based on the notion of centralised clerical authority. For many, this is not the solution to our problems but a sure way to increase them. You have the chance, the opportunity and the obligation to show a better way, to shape a better future. But it is crucial to remind ourselves of what a radically different approach to the role of the laity existed for much of our nation’s church life. Pope Leo XIII, around the end of the 1800s said this:
‘It is beyond dispute and quite unambiguously clear that two ranks exist in the Church that are of quite different nature, the pastor and the flock, in other words the leader and the people. The first of these two ranks has the rank of teaching, governing and directing people in life and establishing the necessary rules.’ Of you and I, he said ‘the other has the duty of submitting itself to the former, obeying him, carrying out his orders and paying him honour.’”



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[Redacted text block]

being authentic is an accounting of the heart

The Executive Director of EREA
Wayne Tinsey addressed the Congress
at its conclusion.

If EREA is called, as Wayne said, to an accounting of the heart then his is an accounting of the heart. I named the strength of the freedom of the congregation of Christian Brothers, the creation of the space of celebration priorities, and the commitment of persons that are not easily measured. This is an accounting that needed to be pursued with the same seriousness as the more rational measures in which schools have long been familiar. He spoke of the ways in which EREA could become a national force of leadership in Catholic education generally and in the Edmund Rice network in particular.

Reflect – Opportunities for us to discover our story and tradition

☪ We must not let fear, attachment to the past or seduction by other agendas deter us from being single-minded in our commitment to a vision for Edmund Rice education in which we proclaim education as liberation, as a means of experiencing full humanity and the vehicle of 'good news' to those who are at the margins of our society. Let us continue to challenge one another and have those difficult conversations as we journey into deeper authenticity. To do anything less is to betray the mission we have been given and the foundations upon which we stand. – Wayne Tinsey

☪ Perhaps the day will come where the validity of one's spirituality will be judged not by the correctness of one's theology but by the authenticity of one's spiritual life. When that day comes, an authentically spiritual Buddhist and an authentically spiritual Christian may find that they have more in common with each other than they do with those in their respective religions who have failed to develop their spirituality. – David N. Elkins

Respond – Challenges that may assist us to advance towards what can be!

- ☪ How can we both respond to parent needs and influence their thinking to new and different priorities?
- ☪ How can we serve both those within our communities and those beyond?
- ☪ What is our voice as EREA – and for whom do we raise it?
- ☪ What leadership role are we as EREA prepared to take in rethinking Catholic education?

Sister Cyril Moone's mission has taken on the educational conditions of a nation of over one billion India.

Having taken over a school whose reputation was built on providing an education for the rich and privileged, she began to be challenged by what she called the 'class ceiling of affluence', going on to say that unless doors are open to see it, one does not even see the potential. She told the story of how initially she opened up her school to the street children and slum dwellers, and then opened the doors of her privileged students as she looked for education for the streets and the countryside.

She offered the challenge that the need to interrogate our structures at least as closely as our curriculum if we are serious about inclusion.

Reflect – Opportunities for us to discover our story and tradition

- 🌀 Look very carefully at your structures, and weed out all the structures that are made purely for the convenience of the staff. – Sister Cyril
- 🌀 A way has to be found to enable everyone to benefit from the fruits of the earth, and not simply to close the gap between the affluent and those who must be satisfied with the

a band of brothers

... searching new horizons.

The story of the Christian Brothers is a beacon for the educational mission of EREA. The incredible work of the brothers as pioneered by the Irishman Patrick Ambrose Treacy and his brothers, whose capacities for faith and hard work became so much a part of the charisma of the Australian Christian Brothers.

This Australian story has had its highs and lows along with deep regrets; however the contribution of these men to Australian Catholic education cannot be underestimated. EREA has been founded on the shoulders of the Christian Brothers whose mission continues to inspire us today searching new horizons.

"As he (Ambrose Treacy) stood at the threshold of his Australian adventure, he was not to know that he would see more of the country than any of his fellow passengers. In the years ahead his travels would take him from Melbourne north to the Gulf of Carpentaria and west to Kalgoorlie and Perth, with all places in between.....However

Reflect – Opportunities for us to discover our story and tradition

☪ *God's Spirit is on me; he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor, Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, To set the burdened and battered free, to announce, "This is God's year to act!"*.

– Luke 4:18-19

☪ *A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.* – Mahatma Gandhi

☪ *I will meet the uncertainty and challenge of the days ahead with an open heart.*

– Blessed Edmund Rice

Respond – Challenges that may assist us to advance towards what can be!

- ☪ How do we articulate the essence of Edmund's charism in our community?
- ☪ Does Edmund's vision help us to more clearly understand and live out the Gospel of Jesus?
- ☪ As a lay group inheriting the charism of a Religious order, what are the lessons (positive and negative) we need to discern from the story of the Christian Brothers in Australia?



we are
the world

... the limitless possibilities of belonging
to a global community

The Congress experience challenged us to look beyond our shores and provided us with richness such an opportunity offered.

We gathered with our colleagues from around the world as an Edmund Rice Education family representing all continents. This experience opened our eyes to the limitless possibilities of belonging to a global community across the world.

The Director of Caritas Australia Jack De Groot helped us see the potential that his understanding has for how we might educate young people as global citizens.

Reflect – Opportunities for us to discover our story and tradition

“Addressing the structural justice; how our lives are linked to the experience of ‘the poor’; the causes, interrelationship of poverty etc..

We so rarely challenge the structural; we so rarely challenge sense of entitlement; our lifestyles and the sustainability of them; corporate behavior. This is the world our young people need to be educated for. Not a popular message. But without it we ain't going to solve the injustice thing....and the link to Catholic Social Teaching encyclicals etc. is brilliant.

We must prepare our students for a planet under threat. Environment and sustainability and human behaviour are curriculum areas that are therefore essential.

The increasing gap between rich and poor is the challenge in terms of poverty. We talk about the end of poverty.

What about the end of self-serving affluence?

Consistently presenting the world to our young people through the lens of our rich tradition of Catholic values is the work you must do. It's not an option. It's constitutive of the preaching of the Gospel which our schools are here for.” – Jack de Groot

Respond – Challenges that may assist us to advance towards what can be!

- ✎- What might be the key pedagogical principles for a truly global perspective and how might they be applied in your community?
- ✎- How can your community develop mutually beneficial and respectful links with the wider world?
- ✎- What are the connectors between your school community and the EREA National Network?

who do we say we are?

This is how Marjorie E. O'Donoghue, one of the Congressional leaders' captured her personal experience:

**From darkness to light
the mystery is held.
Invitation to truth
alive with God's spirit,
the mystery is held
in fragile vessels. The light shines
that the stories may be told
and the mystery be held
by this community.**

It is a long way from the simplistic summaries and intellectual abstractions that can be so frequent a part of such a gathering. We imagine the Congress as an attempt to engage people, hear and so I, body and mind, in our shared identity. We sang, we listened, we prayed, we thought, we dreamed, we ate and drank, we looked outward, we made symbols, we looked inward. It was a Congress of experience, not of production. The Congress experience continues to advance our goals that can be ...

Congress Blessing

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE FATHER,
OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS
CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD,

THE LORD, GOD,

BENIGN,

BENIGN,

BENIGN,

BENIGN,

BENIGN,

WE PRAISE YOU, O LORD,
OUR GOD, OUR FATHER,
OUR LORD, OUR SAVIOR,
OUR KING, OUR GOD,
OUR FATHER, OUR LORD,
OUR SAVIOR, OUR KING,

THE LORD, GOD,

THE LORD, GOD,

MAKING US TO KNOW YOUR

HEAVENLY KINGDOM AND YOUR

GLORIOUS POWER,

CONSTITUTING US TO BE

HEAVENLY CITIZENS OF YOUR

EMPIRE, AND TO

