



## READING TECHNOLOGY AS A “SIGN OF THE TIMES” IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

“There is no greater disaster in the spiritual life than to be immersed in unreality, for life is maintained and nourished in us by our vital relation with realities outside and above us” – Thomas Merton

### Our Information Environment:

- ◆ **China** will soon become the **number ONE English speaking country** in the world.
- ◆ **India** has **more honor students** than America has children.
- ◆ The top **10 jobs** in 2010 **did not exist in 2004**.
- ◆ There are about **540,00 words in the English language**, almost **5 times** as many as during **Shakespeare’s time**.
- ◆ A week’s **worth of the New York Time contains** more **information** that a person was likely to encounter in a lifetime in the **18<sup>th</sup> century**.
- ◆ More information will be **generated this year** than in the **last 5,000 years**.
- ◆ The amount of new **technical information** is **doubling every 2 years**.
- ◆ Today’s learners in developed countries will have **10 to 14 jobs by their 38<sup>th</sup> birthday**.

In **1900 Great Britain** was: the richest nation in the world with the largest military; the Center of world business and finance with the strongest educational system; it’s currency was the world standard, and it had the highest standard of living. Things change.

### Wiring the World

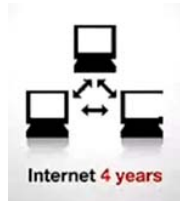
There are nearly 2 billion children living in developing countries. One in three never complete 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

In 2005 the “One Laptop Per Child” Project (OLPC)

set out to provide laptops to these children. The first shipments began in 2007. Kids who had never held a textbook now have access to the world.



The number of Years it took various technologies to reach an audience of 50 million:



### Technology Today

- There are more than **200 million** registered **MySpace** users.
- If MySpace were a country it would be the **5<sup>th</sup>-largest in the world** (between Indonesia and Brazil).
- **12 % of couples married** in the US last year **met online**.
- The **#1** country ranked **for** Broadband Internet Penetration is **Bermuda**.
- **There are 31 Billion** Google searches every month (In 2006 this number was 2.7 Billion).
- There were one thousand **internet devices in 1984; one million in 1992; and one billion in 2008**.
- Today's **21-year olds in developed countries** have watched 20,000 hours of TV, played 10,000 hours of video games, talked 10,000 hours on the phone, and sent/received 250,000 e-mails or instant messages

### For Reflection

- What comes to mind when you hear the word technology?
- What are the advantages/benefits and disadvantages/challenges of technology?
- How has technology distanced us from God?
- How has technology brought us closer to God?
- How has technology changed your life?
- How has technology impacted your view of God?
- How has technology changed your ministry? Your spiritual direction program?

#### Grounding in Truth: Principle and Foundation

"Human being are created to praise, reverence, and serve God our Lord, and by means of this to save their souls. The other things on the face of the earth are created for human beings, to help them in working toward the end for which they are created. From this it follows that I should use these things to the extent that they help me toward my end, and rid myself of them to the extent that they hinder me." – from Spiritual Exercises [23] From *The Spiritual Exercises Reclaimed: Uncovering Liberating Possibilities for Women* by Katherine Dyckman, Mary Garvin and Elizabeth Liebert, Paulist Press, 2001

## Commonly used technologies we may recognize ...



## Commonly used technologies we may not recognize ...



## Technology used in various fields ...

<b>Medical Technology</b>	refers to the diagnostic or therapeutic application of science and technology to improve the management of health conditions. In addition to keeping people alive, technologies such as these can enable people to fully participate in school, community and work activities.
<b>Assistive Technology</b>	is designed to provide additional accessibility to individuals who have physical or cognitive difficulties, impairments and disabilities.
<b>Information Technology</b>	refers to both the hardware and software used to store information. Information technologies provide access to knowledge and resources on a wide range of topics.
<b>Instructional Technology</b>	is a systematic way of designing, carrying out, and evaluating the teaching/learning process in terms of specific objectives, based on research in human learning and communication, and employing a combination of human and non-human resources to bring about more effective instruction.
<b>Productivity Tools Technology</b>	are computer software, hardware, and related systems that enable us to work more effectively and efficiently.

## What types of technologies are best suited for spiritual direction formation programs?