

# Parapsychology v. Pastoral Care

- Parapsychology- study of psi or psychic experience (Greek = unknown)
- Extrasensory Perception (ESP):
  - telepathy
  - clairvoyance
  - radiesthesia
  - (pre)(retro)cognition
- Psychokineses (PK)
  - (macro) (micro) telekinesis
  - teleportation
  - psychic healing
  - Recurrent Spontaneous PK
  - OBE, NDE, \_\_\_\_\_
  - Subjective paranormal experience

- Pastoral Care- Care given as a sacramental act of God.
  - Life after death
  - Assurance of God's presence
  - Awareness of the holy; sacred space
  - Faith, safety, good, evil
  - Grace: giving and receiving
  - Agency and change
  - Communion, relationship, estrangement, grief
  - Alignment with divine purpose

# Hauntings



- Refer to a location or object.
- Repetitive image recorded on the environment.
- May have tragic or deep emotional overtones.
- The image has little intelligence of its own and does not interact with the observer.

# Apparitions

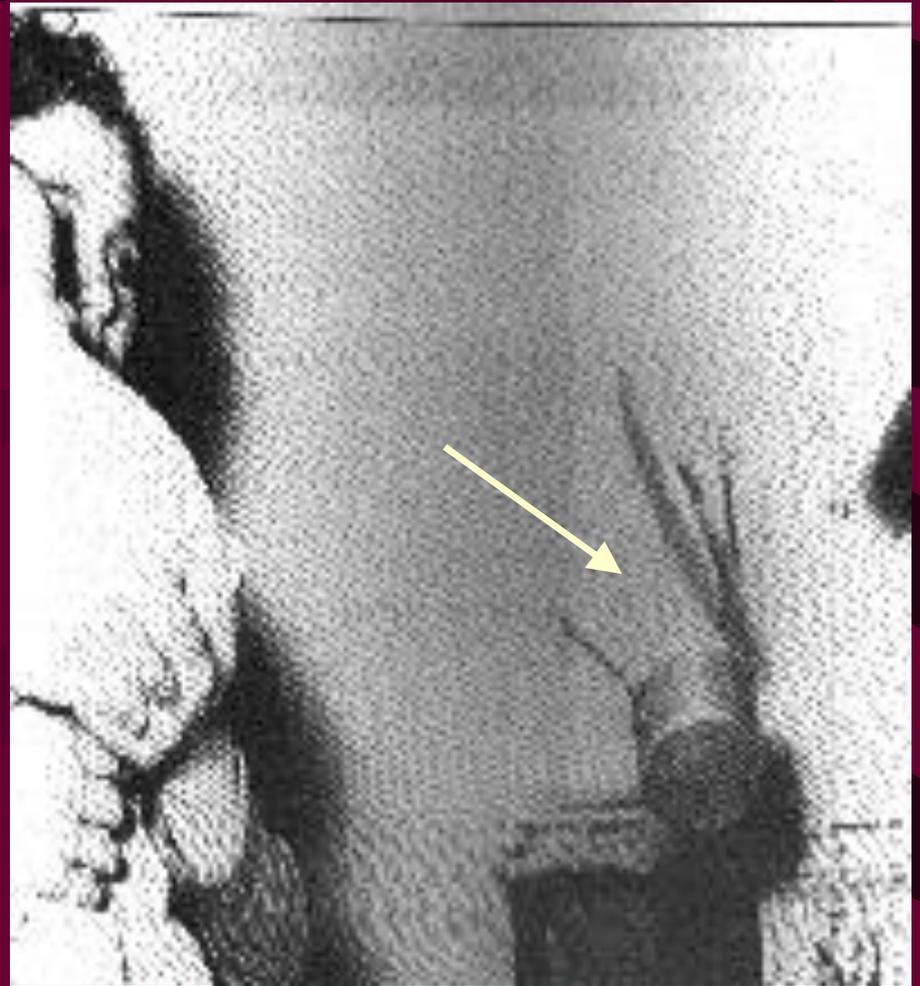


- A dead person.
- Can appear “solid.”
- Has personality, mind, and spirit.
- Interactive with the observer.
- Frequently has a personal connection to the observer.
- Frequently experienced near time of death.

# Poltergeist

- Recurrent Spontaneous Psychokinesis (RSPK)
- Emanates from a living, present human agent
  - typically an emotionally disturbed adolescent
- Can be thought of as sacramental: an outward and visible sign of an otherwise invisible reality,

e.g., **Anger**



# Normalizing the Experience

Haunted House

Sacred Space



Apparition

Guiding Spirit



Poltergeist

Mechanically Cursed



# Decoding by the Observer



Fear is defining and counter-productive

# Decoding by the Observer

Fear is defining and  
counter-productive



# Decoding by the Observer



Faith is defining and healing

# Decoding by the Observer

Faith is defining and  
healing



# What to Do?

- Elicit story
  - CISM model may be helpful
  - Target the “ghost” or the receptor?
- Non-anxious presence
  - normalize the incident
  - measured response
- Remember “Subjective paranormal experience:”
  - Remain open to all possibilities
  - inc fraud, post-mortem survival, misperception, mental illness
- Redirect toward pastoral care
  - *e.g.*, organize by Pruyser, Hopewell, Fowler
  - How have people been changed?