

To Whom Does Andragogy Belong?

- **Paraphrasing the Words of Robert Frost:**

“We belonged to Andragogy before

Andragogy Belonged to Us”

Paraphrase of Robert Frost's "Our Gift Outright"

Delivered at the USA Presidential Inaugural Ceremonies of JFK & LBJ, 1961

Frost, Robert. (1995). *Collected poems, prose, and plays*. New York: Henry Holt and Co.; Library of America; Penguin Books USA Inc., p. 897.

Paraphrased by John A. Henschke; January, 2004

**[Preamble: Andragogy – The Art and Science of Helping Adults Learn.
Pedagogy – The Art and Science of Teaching Children.]**

"My Gift Outright"

Andragogy belonged to me before I belonged to Andragogy.

Andragogy was my longing desire in living, teaching and learning for a few decades

Before I was her educator. Andragogy was mine

In undergraduate school, in graduate school, in theological seminary, in clinical training, in parish ministry, in doctoral studies, in university faculty

But I belonged to Pedagogy, still captive,

Possessing what I still was unpossessed by,

Possessed by what I now no more possessed.

Something I was withholding made me weak

Until I found it was myself

I was withholding from the dynamic, vibrant idea of Andragogy,

And forthwith found new educational and living possibilities in surrender.

Such as I was I gave myself outright

(The deed of gift was many deeds of dialoguing with others about Andragogy)

To Andragogy vaguely realizing a new idea embodying teaching, learning, & living

But still unstoried, artless, unenhanced,

Such as Andragogy was, such as she will become.