



EPISODE 10: Sanctuary

God is Beauty, and He will invite us forever to journey “further up and further in,” deeper into the mysteries of His love.

As we reach the end of our pilgrimage journey, we meditate on the times and places of rest, of sanctuary. T.S. Eliot calls the Word of God the “still point” of the turning world, and we are called to abide in Him. The Holy Eucharist calls us to abide in deep friendship with God.

Entering into a church is a small taste of what Heaven will be, and the beauty of these spaces reminds us that we are in God’s presence. Cistercian architecture reminds us to turn inward and to meditate on our hearts transformed by God’s grace.

The Virgin Mary is our most trustworthy guide to the Heavenly Jerusalem. Mary’s contemplative spirit is a model for us as we seek to hear God’s voice in our own hearts. God calls us to “be still” and know that He is God, but so often, we push Him away. The sacrament of Confession restores us and prepares us to meet God as our perfect friend.

The end of our pilgrimage is not St. Peter’s Basilica, but the Kingdom of Heaven. The Way of Beauty

continues on for eternity, as God invites us forever to journey “further up and further in,” deeper into the mysteries of His love.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Cardinal Sarah calls silence the language of God? What are some ways to make silence more a part of your daily experience?
2. Pray the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary and notice how many times she is called by the title of a sanctuary space. How do these titles help you to relate to Mary, and through Mary, to God? How might you turn more often to Mary as a sanctuary in your daily life?
3. Has meditating on all the many ways God meets us in our daily lives helped your spiritual journey? What is your favorite takeaway or mode of encounter to incorporate more often into your daily life?

SUGGESTED READINGS

- Polyphonic chant
- T.S. Eliot, “Ash Wednesday”
- *Pearl* poem
- Gerard Manley Hopkins, “The Virgin Mary Compared to the Air We Breathe”
- Cardinal Robert Sarah, *The Power of Silence*
- C.S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*

Notes:
