



EPISODE 9: Imitation

“The most beautiful thing in this world is the human heart transformed by grace.”

When Hans Urs von Balthasar and Pope Benedict XVI reflect on the Way of Beauty, they consider the Church’s artistic tradition and the lives of the saints. The saints show us that the deep relationship with God that we have been searching for is possible.

Love gives the saints the light to see others as God sees them. They perceive the true beauty of the soul loved so passionately by God. The lives of saints such as St. Francis, San Alberto Hurtado, and Mother Teresa of Calcutta invite us to see the person of Christ in everyone we encounter.

The saints also invite us to meditate on the power of friendship as a way of sharing God’s love with others. St. Philip Neri transformed the city of Rome by “hanging out” with people, and St. Thomas More’s deep friendship with Henry VIII extended even to the scaffold.

The saints also remind us that we are called to a deep life of holiness in every moment of our lives. St. Josemaria Escriva says that the Christian vocation

is making heroic verse out of the prose of everyday life – that ordinary moments are extraordinary opportunities for grace, and that if we can’t find God in these ordinary moments, we might never find Him at all.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Who is your favorite saint? Why? What about this saint’s life inspires you?
2. What are some ways that you can work to see the “angels in the laundry” – that is, the beauty in the ordinary moments of our lives?
3. When you think about the beauty of a “life well-lived,” what does that mean to you?

SUGGESTED READINGS

- *The Second Shepherd’s Play*
- “The Dream of the Rood”
- John Saward, *The Beauty of Holiness and the Holiness of Beauty*
- *The Little Flowers of St. Francis of Assisi*

Notes:
