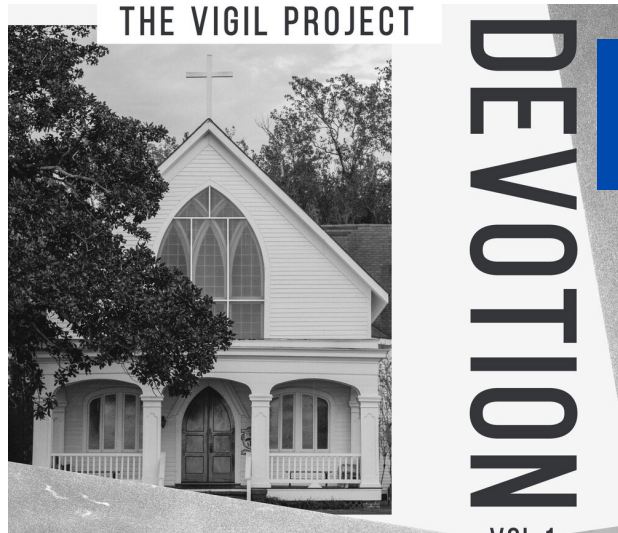


CANVAS & THE CLAY

Seeing The Work of the Divine Artist & Embracing Catholic Living

May 2021

Mary Kathryn Ladnier



PRAAYER IN SONG

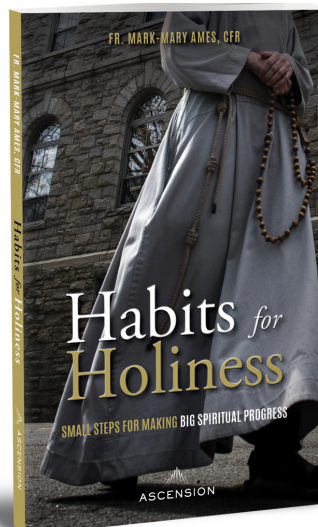
"Oh Mother" by the Vigil Project

The Vigil Project, a group made up of young southern catholics, even some such as Greg & Lizzy from our own archdiocese, began several years ago to form beautiful music that speaks to the roots of the Catholic heart. Finding this song last year, I was in love. It is so hard to find beautiful songs about Our Lady! The instrumentation and the lyrics honor her so well! Taking us to the foot of the Cross with John and Mary, we embrace her as our Mother to lead us closer to her Son. We hear also Jesus' refrain to us "Behold your son. Behold your Mother." She is your mother. She isn't distant or removed. She is right by your side.

TRUTH IN PODCAST

Episode: "The Power of Play and Leisure"

Abiding Together is a infamous podcast that began to impact women internationally through three friends, in different vocations, three years ago through their lives, conversations, and book studies. Now on their ninth season, they take time this 16th episode to examine the need for not only rest, but play in our lives. Play, I'm not a child anymore! I don't need to play. No, We all need time to rest and play. What is Play... it is the recreation that brings us beyond ourselves into joy. If we don't rest well and embrace leisure, we can't continue to go on. We weren't just made to work our lives away. You aren't wasting your time, you are being human. Put down the schedule, the clock, and the to-do lists, and enjoy being a child of the Father.



WISDOM IN WORDS

Chp. 1 "Prayer: Life in Relationship with the Lord"

Fr. Mark-Mary Ames, CFR stationed in the Bronx, New York as a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal known for his work with Ascension Presents has released his first book to give us concrete ways to grow in holiness through aspects of Franciscan spirituality with short yet profound stories and reflections. He will not only make you think, but will also give you good laughs throughout! This chapter on prayer has already impacted me greatly. He takes time to examine how prayer is like food, how to pray, how to overcome different excuses we make, and how we can sanctify not only our day but our week, month, and year. I highly encourage picking it up! Also, the CFR podcast, Poco a Poco, is beginning a series with it now, so pick up your copy and jump on before they are sold out from Ascension!



BEAUTY OF EXAMPLE

Saint Philip Neri: the Patron of Joy

"First, let a little love find entrance into their hearts, and the rest will follow."

Philip Neri moved from Florence to give up a life as a businessman to surrender his life to the Lord in Rome. Living his life for many years as a layperson dedicated to God, known for winning people over very easily with his jovial personality, he had no thoughts of becoming a priest until his spiritual confessor recommended it! He later would become a phenomenal confessor Himself. Many people thought that his jocular personality could not lead to a serious and intense spirituality... False! This patron of ours soon formed a new religious center and order, the Oratorians, that never shyed away from growing in holiness, spending extra hours in the afternoon dedicated to prayer and spiritual conferences, with joy along the way. This month, let us embrace our patron's heart of striving for holiness with joy, jokes, and laughs along the way! His feast day is May 26th, so celebrate with some cake or a toast!

CINEMA SPEAKS

"Servant of the South"

This new documentary produced by 4PM media, a Fairhope local yet internationally known Catholic media company led by Daniel Johnson, brings to life the heart of Bishop Michael Portier, the humble first Bishop of our Archdiocese. After watching this fifty minute film with my family, filled with testimony and history, you can't help but be thankful for His sacrifice, love, and service to our ancestors to root Alabama in Catholicism. Without him, Mobile would not be what it is today. Watch it on Youtube for free from the Archdiocese of Mobile's Office of Religious Education Page.



HAIL MARY

This month of May, the Catholic Church is dedicated to the invocation of our Blessed Mother. There are so many things you can learn from her. You can never stop growing in relationship with her. This month, I encourage you to grow in your relationship with Mama Mary. Converse with her in prayer beyond a mere Hail Mary. Pray prayers to her you have never prayed to her before, like the Litany of Loreto. Actually meditate on the Rosary beyond mere recitation. Look into the Marian virtues, and choose one you would like to grow in with her help. Look into what it means to be consecrated to Mary, and consider taking this step in your life. The list of ways to get to know her goes on. If you shy away from Mary, maybe ask the Lord why that is so and how to draw close to her. She will not hinder your relationship with the Lord. She only wants to draw you closer to Him, to the intimacy she experiences with Him. She desires not to be on the level of her Son, but a servant to Him for her sons and daughters all the days of her life.

