

CANVAS & THE CLAY

Seeing The Work of the Divine Artist & Embracing Catholic Living

July 2021

Mary Kathryn Ladnier



PRAAYER IN SONG

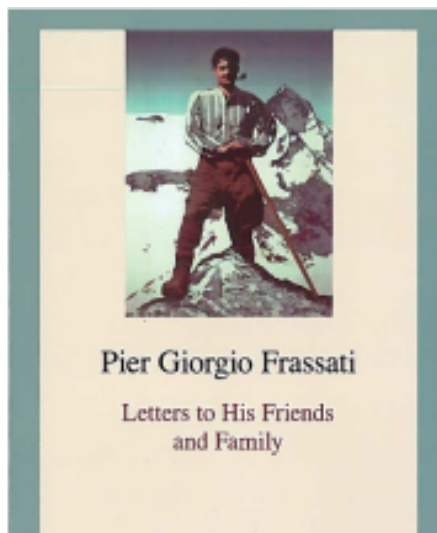
All My Love by Jonathan Ogden

This song I came across several years ago scrolling through Spotify suggestions, and once I heard it, it has been added to the majority of my playlists. I chose to highlight this simplistic acapella prayer this month for several reasons, but in particular to honor and highlight the heart of one of my favorite patroness in festal celebration of herself and her sisters' feasts: Mary Magdalene. She is a perfect model for us of the disciple who is radically in love with her Savior, pouring out her love upon Him in extravagant, public ways, not caring what those around her thought, quite literally! She acquires costly perfumed oils to anoint Jesus several times in her life, even desiring to wipe His feet with her hair! What an act of intimate closeness with the Lord! Others are upset with her actions, yet Jesus tells them to leave her alone, she has chosen "the better part." Ogden brings to life this desire to lavishly pour out our love on the Lord with our whole being, without counting the costs of "wasting our time" or "wasting our lives" on Him.

TRUTH IN PODCAST

Podcast: Ask Father Josh (Q&A Podcast)

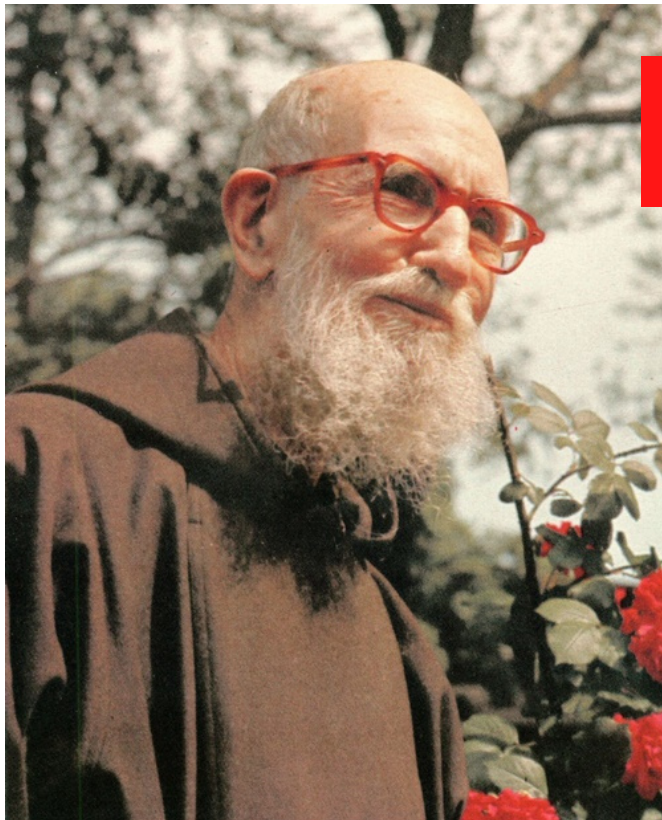
Father Josh Johnson, a Priest and Vocations Director for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, has become very popular within the Catholic world nationwide over the past few years with his work through Ascension Presents and Steubenville Conferences. Before this, he was known as that rapping young Catholic priest at CTK LSU who was reaching young adults in new ways. Seeing his gifts, he has moved to this national platform with Ascension producing practical videos on Youtube, several studies, and this Podcast: Ask Father Josh. This podcast has become a platform for him to answer four or five questions that are on the faithfuls' minds directly through prayer, discernment, and research. The topics range drastically from hot button issues of our world today to scriptural deciphers. He may spontaneously start singing along the way or give you a glory story to see the Lord's goodness working throughout the world. Give him a listen or ask Him a question of your own!



WISDOM IN WORDS

Book: Letters to His Friends and Family

Who is Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati? Why is he our youth group patron? This is one of the first ways I got to know this dear friend of mine firsthand. This book published by Pauline Press compiles Pier Giorgio's letters that he wrote to His friends and family throughout his short lived life of 24 years. Although there are some books written by his sister and other biographers, you can't get to know a saint any better than from his own words. I personally read these letters while traveling to his home in Northern Italy. We stayed there in his basement for several days and meet his niece that is still alive, Wanda. You will see throughout these letters that Pier Giorgio was just an ordinary young man striving for holiness. He loved to be outdoors, hiking or skiing. He struggled in school. Although his family was well off, he would rather be removed from his status as the Senator's son amongst his friends. He was known for being a jokester, wagering with those throughout the town that he played pool with that if he won, they would have to go to Mass with him the next day. His joyfilled heart radiated throughout the town. John Paul II, seeing his example, named him the world patron of the youth. With every word, he will come to life before your eyes until his last breath. His feast is celebrated on July 4th internationally.



BEAUTY OF EXAMPLE

Blessed Solanus Casey

"We must be faithful to the present moment or we will frustrate the plan of God for our lives."

This was said by a man who endure many hardships throughout his life, yet he saw everything as a gift from the Lord. A young man of Wisconsin in the late 1800s, Bernard, at the time, worked on his family's farm along with other trades. Upon seeing the harsh conditions of sin in the world, he longed to do something about it. This drew him to enter the high school seminary for the diocesan priesthood, yet they required much study in the German language. Struggling with this, he was asked to leave and consider joining a religious order. He became a Capuchin Friar and was given the name Solanus. To his disdain, the Capuchins also were German speaking, so his difficulties in his priestly studies continued, yet his superior had mercy on him. They chose to ordain him, but limit his priestly office to being a mere doorkeeper at the convent, feeding those who came to the door physically and spiritually. Although he was unable to preach or hear confessions, the doorstep would be flooded with individuals seeking the guidance of this humble friar wherever he was assigned: Detroit or New York. His reputation as a man of prophecy and healing spread throughout the cities, to Catholics, Protestants, and even Atheists, yet he took his ministry seriously with great love. He thanked the Lord daily for the gift of being a doorkeeper to serve his two greatest loves in the footsteps of Jesus and Francis: the sick and the poor. His only desire was to serve his brothers and sisters in need day and night until he died at the age of 86 in Detroit in 1957. Pope Francis beatified him in this same city just four years ago. May we too seek to give all the glory to Our Lord in thanksgiving for every path of life and mission that he leads us to, even if it isn't what we would have hoped for. His feast day is celebrated on July 30th.

CINEMA SPEAKS

An Ordinary Martyr: Blessed Stanley Rother

Martyrs ... they gave their lives a long time ago or if now, it is in countries we aren't necessarily close to. Think again. This short film I came across recently of this priest from Oklahoma who gave his life out of love for his flock in Guatemala in 1980. Only twenty short minutes long, this film will make you consider yourself, "If the Lord invited to me to be killed tomorrow for his sake, would I be okay with it? If I knew someone was coming to take my life for my beliefs, would I flee for safety or would I chose to stay and die for love of Him?" We are called to this radical love of a Martyr. Watch this short on Youtube for free from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. His feast is July 28th.

AN ORDINARY MARTYR

The Life and Death of Blessed Stanley Rother



BLOOD OF CHRIST

This month of July, the Catholic Church is dedicated to taking the intimacy we have found in the Sacred Heart of Jesus to a deeper level by being washed in His Precious Blood. This devotion to His Most Holy Blood stems from an adoration of the wounds of Christ on the Cross, particularly the side wound which when pierced, His Sacred Heart poured forth a stream of blood and water. This month, I challenge you to look at the depictions of Christ Crucified in your home. Do they look realistic? Is there a drop of blood on him? If not, why is that?... Maybe you have a tendency to shy ways from the bloody depictions of our Savior, to see him bruised, beaten, and bloodied out of profuse love for you. We may never be comfortable with them in this state, but should we be? Was He comfortable for us? Every drop of His Sacred Blood was poured out for you. He thought of you at this moment. His love was intentional and sacrificial, beyond our comprehension. I encourage you to find at least one realistic depiction of Him to place in your home. If Our Lady chose to wipe away this blood with her own veil and embrace Her Son, blood and all, why would we not want to do the same. Return to the ancient prayer of the Anima Christi this month, so you may be hid within His wounds.