

# CANVAS & THE CLAY

*Seeing The Work of the Divine Artist & Embracing Catholic Living*

September 2021

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## PRAAYER IN SONG

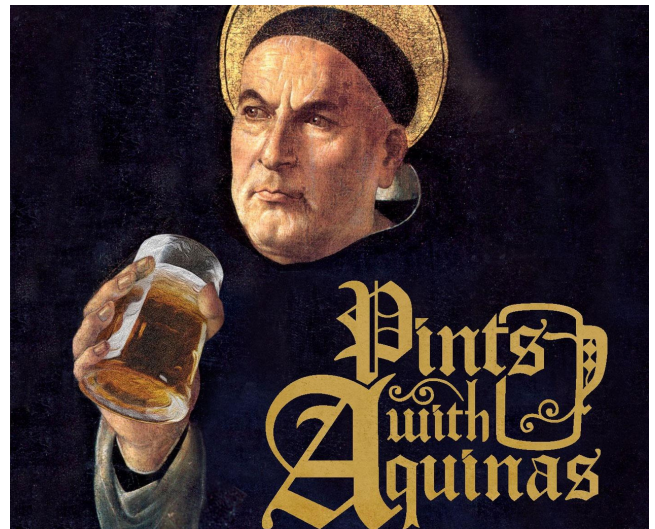
*By His Stripes by John Mark Pantana*

John Mark Pantana, a young singer-songwriter that grew up in a van of Gospel singing parents, despised the thought of praising the Lord. After riding through a roller coaster of sin and graces with the Lord for several years, a grace-filled, prodigal return brought Him into the arms of the Father. The words of the Spirit flowing forth from John's heart loudly within his bedroom closet, quite literally, could not be stopped from his Virginia home. Him, a piano, and the Spirit: that is all that He needed. The depth of his simplistic sound speaks to the heart and thoughts of not only the believer, but Christ Himself. *By His Stripes*, is the first song I heard from Pantana. As the Cross is exalted and the Sorrowful Mother is considered this month, I thought this song would be fitting to draw us back to the memory of the foot of the Cross and the redemptive healing power it brings. When the people gaze on Him, they will see His love, His healing grace, His power to conquer sin. In the words of Pantana "By His Stripes, we are made whole. We are loved, healed and made prosperous. Thank You Jesus. Thank You Jesus."

## TRUTH IN PODCAST

*Episode: Interview with Exorcist Fr. Vincent Lampert*

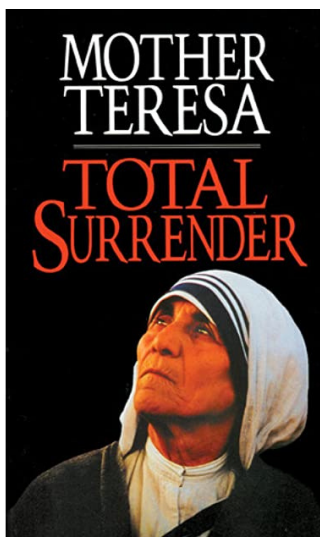
As I was browsing through podcasts, trying to find something new to listen to while I painted my CCD classroom, considering I had already listened to my Poco a Poco guys for the week, I came across this interview. Matt Fradd, a Catholic international speaker, began his podcast platform on this scenario: "If you could sit down with St. Thomas Aquinas and ask Him questions over a cold one, what would it be?" Although Matt started with this idea several years ago, he has started interviewing many Catholics on a wide scope of topics, like this episode on exorcisms. Yes, the spiritual battle is real and exorcists do really cast out the Evil One and his minions in the name of Jesus Christ! It is very difficult to learn about this sort of thing and understand the spiritual realm, as many exorcists throughout the world choose not to reveal their role publicly, unlike Fr. Vincent Lampert from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. This interview I found to be very informative on this healing ministry of spiritual warfare. Fr. Vincent Lampert shares firsthand accounts of his experience and training, addressing topics such as the mental and psychological well-being of certain inquirers, the different forms of demonic activity, and the life of an exorcist. Although it is an eery topic, it is something that we must be aware of. I will end with Father's statement: "It is not so much about what the Devil is doing, but the power of Christ working and redeeming."



## WISDOM IN WORDS

*Book: Total Surrender by Mother Teresa*

This book... the first spiritual read I ever took seriously...as a junior in high school. It isn't very large, but it is full of rich wisdom. As we all know, this woman and now saint is the image of true charity and Christianity to our modern world. No matter the state of one's soul, it is very hard to dislike her. Why is this? She only desired to see Christ in every single person she encountered; she wanted to love and serve Him wholly and radically. "He is thirsting, therefore I must seek to quench His thirst, with something beautiful for God." She understood what it meant to be totally surrendered to Jesus Christ. This 150 page book captures the heart, desires, and spirituality of Mother Teresa, that would soon become the way of life for the Missionaries of Charity. She begins with the needs of our world, the call we are to respond to, and how we are to do so with total surrender and loving trust. She takes time to address the pillars of life her sisters will be rooted upon: prayer and service. Although each chapter begins with direct lines of the Missionaries of Charity's rule, piercing quotes, one-liners, and letters are outlined topically from Mother herself that you can consider for days, no matter your vocation or age. She is a mother for our time, with a lot of simplistic, divine wisdom. Her feast day is celebrated on September 5th.





## BEAUTY OF EXAMPLE

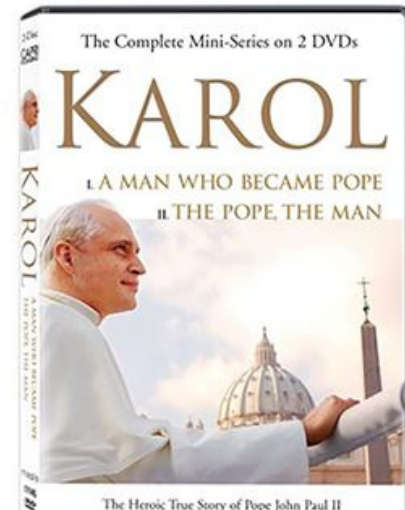
### *St. Matthew the Apostle* *"Follow me."*

*That is all He had to say. Follow me. And this tax collector rose. These life-giving words spoke life into the depths of his soul that he had never experienced before. In the riches of his profession and wealth, this young tax collector, still was searching for life's meaning and his purpose. Although he had performed well and sat among the rich, he felt empty and was even shameful of choosing a stately life to glorify himself. And as soon as Jesus walks into the room and calls him, everything changes. This Jesus of Nazareth had not just called Him to listen to Him, but to follow Him, leaving this way of life. Yet, the Spirit stirs quickly in his heart to rise, without question, to walk in the way of this poor nomad Rabbi. And he doesn't turn back, counting the cost. He freely leaves it all, not desiring to fill himself with things anymore, as it has never fulfilled him as much as this single statement. To walk in his path, following Him... that is what he desired to do. Although he didn't know all the details or what that entailed, he would follow Jesus and be at His service as much as he could. And he would become one of those chosen not only preach but to recount for humanity until the end of time the good this wise Messiah brought into the world, with meticulous narratives, discourses and parables. Follow me. Two words. That is all that is needed to bring forth much fruit, if only we will be open and listen. His feast is celebrated September 21st.*

## CINEMA SPEAKS

### *Movie: Karol*

*Although it has been a while since I have seen this film, I remember watching portions of it while on the bus in Poland for a pilgrimage. We had just left the beautiful shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa and were on our way to the camps of Auschwitz. While I experienced a gut-wrenching sickness in my stomach of where we were about to walk, glimpses of this film brought to life the heart of young Karol Wojtyla, who had experienced these pains firsthand. This country of his... once again experiencing suffering throughout its harsh history. His hiding underground for his studies and the question of rising to a new day. Yet, he was filled with life, with passion and love for His Savior and the Blessed Mother that protected and cared for him! Karol, this young priest that loved the outdoors, the arts, and the youth, would soon become one of the greatest popes of all time. Although some of us may remember him walking amidst us, I encourage you to watch this two part film produced by Polish natives to capture the whole heart of St. John Paul II. It can be found on YouTube and DVD.*



## MATER DOLOROSA

*This month of September, the Catholic Church is dedicated to the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This devotion gives us the opportunity to grow closer to the human heart of Our Lady that experienced much sorrow, watching her own Son die before her very eyes for the sake of you and I. To enter into this sorrowful agony of the Mother's heart, I invite you to pray with the Stations of the Cross, particularly with the 4th and 13th stations. Tradition holds that we practice this devotion of penance as Our Lady herself did, walking the Via Dolorosa daily in memory of her Son's passion and death. The moments of meeting Her Jesus along that path... she will never forget. And after He is beaten before her innocent eyes, His body is placed within her arms one last time before burial, just as He had been placed in her arms for the first time just 33 years earlier. The Pieta, brought to life, in the Passion of the Christ. Here, She looks at you, weeping with and for you saying, "He did this all for you. We endured this sorrow, all for you." I invite you to pray with her gaze. Consider yourself to be sitting with her, holding the lifeless body of your Savior, weeping with her for your sins. She is a sorrowful mother that loves you and weeps with you. Walk with her along the Via Dolorosa. Listen and sing to her the ancient Latin hymn refrains of the poem Stabat Mater. Find an english translation and take each verse to heart. Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us. Her feast follows the Exaltation of the Cross on September 15th.*