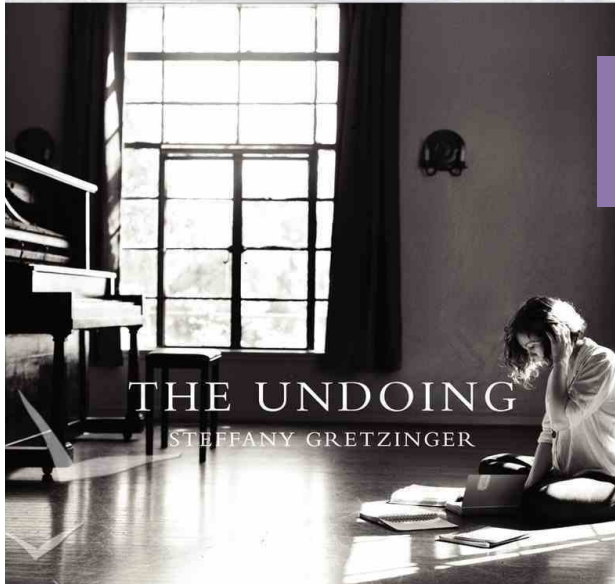


# CANVAS & THE CLAY

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

March 2022

Mary Kathryn Ladnier



## PRAAYER IN SONG

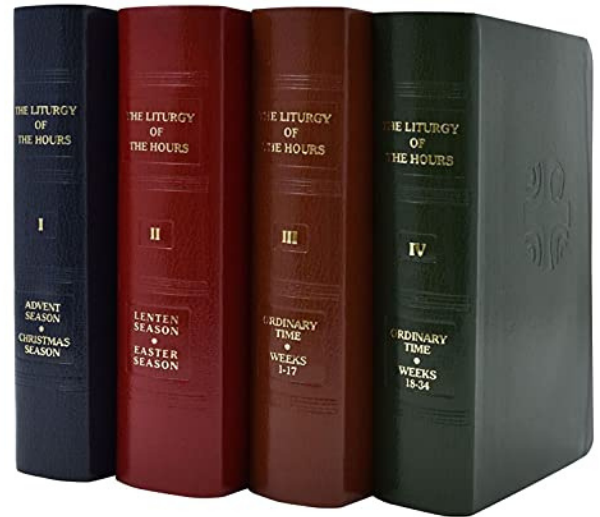
### *Song: Out of Hiding (Father's Song)*

*I came across this song in college in a time of Adoration and Worship... but I remembered being very confused, as I heard the lyrics. It seemed that these words were not sung to the Lord in praise, like most worship songs. Then I realized later that Steffany Gretzinger has prayerfully composed this beautiful poem from the perspective of God the Father. This whole song is made up of His words that are meant to speak directly to our hearts. What is it about? He is calling us to come out of hiding from His presence and love, to no longer stand in the darkness. I chose this song this month for multiple reasons: 1) Lent is a time for us to come out of hiding, from the shade and darkness we hide within. We hear the Father's words: He sees us and knows us better than we know ourselves. He sees our wounds... he sees our shame and our fear to return... yet He still chose the Cross for us in love, before we even knew it was His love for us. He tells us he thought of us when He rose from the grave... that He did it out of love for you... to give you freedom... to give you victory over your sins and wounds. He has come to redeem them and to love us beyond these things that hold us back from bringing ourselves to Him... only if we come out of hiding. 2) The month of March is dedicated to Saint Joseph within Church Tradition. This song may help us to think about the relationship we have with St. Joseph and the ways that he wants to not only lead us to Christ His Son, but also share in the heart of God the Father, a humble loving heart.*

## TRUTH IN PODCAST

### *Podcast: Divine Office Liturgy of the Hours The Maine Catholic Guide*

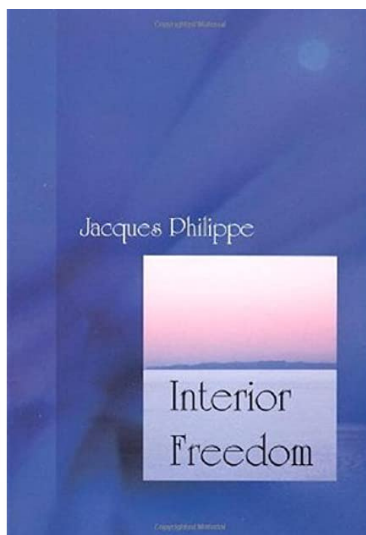
*If you are like myself and Father Dan, you may spend a lot of time inside your car for a lot of different reasons. Driving from one place to another, especially if you are in the car alone, you probably flip on the radio or open your music streaming app connected to the radio to play some music or a podcast. If I timed my driving history for a single day, I would say I spend at least 2 hrs in my car each day. Yes, you read that correctly, AT LEAST 2 hrs, meaning most days, I spend more than this in my car. This is why I drive a Corolla! Over this past year, I began to realize that this is a lot of time dedicated each day to driving, and I began to ponder: "Am I making the best use of my time with each drive?" I began to realize that yes, everyone needs some time to his or her self just singing some songs after a long day with the windows down... but most of the time, we are just trying to fill the space with noise. I began to realize that it is good to sing, but what was I singing about? What would it be like if I turned my singing into a prayer? (hence the section above of beautiful songs to sing) Some times I just wanna sit in silence and converse with the Lord during this time. There were other times where I found myself wanting to pray with the Mass Readings or pray the Church's Divine Office with someone in an audio format, feeling my time stretched thin throughout the rest of the day. So through a search on Spotify, I came across this podcast format put out each day by a brother of ours from Maine! He says himself that he isn't a professional, as you can hear it in some of the audios, but he takes time to do Morning Prayer, the Daily Mass Readings, Evening Prayer and even some other prayer audios each day. It has been very helpful for myself each day when I am driving to work for morning mass. Let's make our cars places of prayer this Lent.*



## WISDOM IN WORDS

### *Book: Interior Freedom by Fr. Jacques Philippe*

*Father Jacques Philippe, a Catholic spiritual master of our time, is known for his short yet profound works on topics that strike a chord deep within the human heart. For Lent, we have provided one of his bestsellers, Searching for and Maintaining Peace, free for your taking; this small treatise has been recommended by many as a helpful guide for navigating newfound peace and confidence in God amidst the restlessness of our modern life. His second bestseller I have been waiting to share with you during this season of Lent: Interior Freedom. Although I had heard wonderful things about this modern spiritual classic, I gave it a browse for the first time this past fall while I was visiting my alma mater for a personal retreat. As I was sitting on my flight, I knew the Lord was inviting me to a renewing of freedom within my heart. Remembering this title, I was fully aware that the Lord was telling me to purchase it as soon as I stepped foot on campus. I went to the bookstore immediately, and as I read the table of contents, it was very clear that this was through the Lord's guidance. Trying to navigate my poverty and need for true freedom of heart, I found myself seeking some extra insights of tangible ways to cultivate the fullness of the theological virtues more readily within my spiritual life. This book does just that! As we accept a greater belief, hope and love of God, we will become truly free. As I finished reading, I knew this book was now a part of my personal list of spiritual classics I will return to through my pilgrimage of life and recommend to many of my brothers and sisters in the future.*





# BEAUTY OF EXAMPLE

## Mother Angelica

*"If you're breathing and you've got two legs, you're called to holiness."*

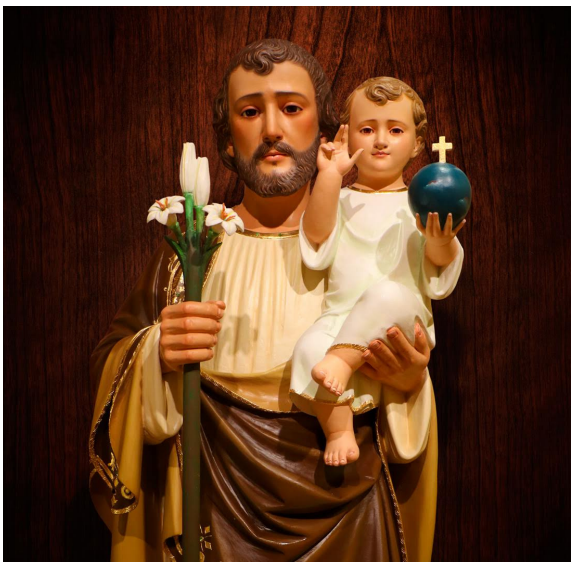
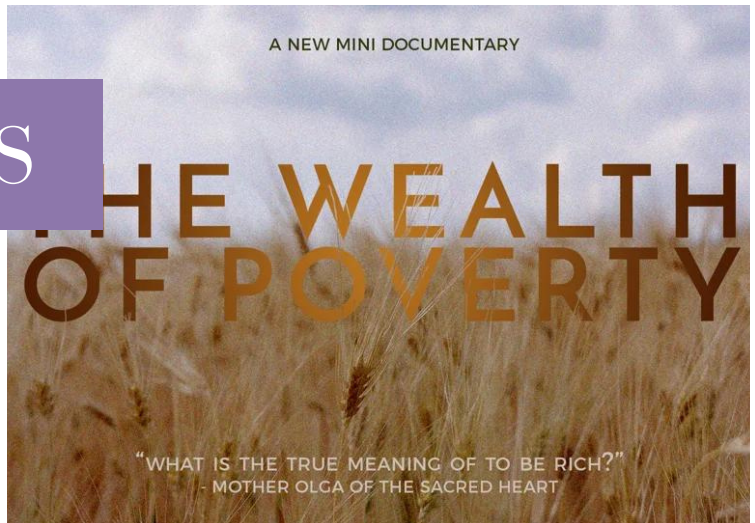
*"If it wasn't for humans, we could all be holy."*

Mother Angelica... what a woman! Some of you probably remember her alive and well on EWTN. Maybe you even had the chance to meet her in person. She is from Northern Alabama after all! That's right. This beautiful woman, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of Archbishop Toolen, formed a branch of the Poor Clare Sisters dedicated to Perpetual Adoration on some open land on the outskirts of Birmingham. After visiting a Baptist television show, she felt inspired and called to do the same for Catholicism, forming what is now known as Eternal Word Television Network in Irondale, AL. The original monastery of Our Lady of the Angels in Irondale had become too small to hold the order and the thriving station, so they hoped to move to a more rural location. Once the community was donated some farmland in Hanceville, a shrine was dedicated and built for their new home. She dedicated it to the Christ Child after an experience of prayer. Although Mother Angelica's cause for canonization has not yet begun, it is without question that this woman lived an exemplar life for modern times and evangelization. Out of all the things that she did and achieved, it wasn't these things that captured the hearts of her brothers and sisters. It was her constant joy, sarcastic jokes, and profound yet simple statements that drew them to Christ. You could not help but feel his love and laugh within her presence. Many would have never known that she was a woman that underwent much suffering and tribulation in her life. She did not let these things show if she was able to keep them hidden. May we pray to her and continue to look to her example for inspiration. The anniversary of her death is March 27th. She is buried within the Lower Church of the Shrine in Hanceville.

# CINEMA SPEAKS

## Short Film: The Wealth of Poverty

Poverty: a virtue that is so misunderstood. Most of us, especially as Americans, we cringe at the thought of poverty, the impoverished life of men throughout the world begging for help. It is something that needs to be stopped, avoided, removed from our society or even just forgotten about. We have become numb to our brothers and sisters in need, just turning the other cheek. Yet, this isn't the words of the Gospel that Christ speaks. He tells us to embrace the poor, that they will inherit the Kingdom of God. Should I just spend time with them out of guilt for Christ or out of pride in thinking I am "better than them?" No, not at all. 4 PM Media in this short film begins to unpack very well the fullness of this virtue through the witnesses of our brothers and sisters that work amidst the poor daily. They even incorporate video footage from Mother Teresa and Saint John Paul II. The reality is that we are all poor, whether we like to face this reality or not. We are all weak, we are all in need in some form. This is why Christ wants us to spend more time with our brothers and sisters: to teach us more about ourselves and more about who He is. Christ did not come amidst glamour and stately admiration. He came and lived amidst the broken, the poor, the sinner to the point that people began to scoff and judge Him for doing so. He knew He came to love, to meet each heart where they were, without judgment... only mercy. Watch it on Vimeo for free.



# JOSEPH, MOST LOYAL

This month of March, the Catholic Church is dedicated to the intercession of St. Joseph. With his feast falling on March 19th, I invite you to draw close to Joseph. Other than the Annunciation, these are the only two days during the Lenten seasons that we are able to celebrate with Christ. Will we just take advantage of another time to eat meat and celebrate, or have we actually taken time to get to know Joseph? He is an amazing man and he can become one of the most powerful intercessors and protectors in your life, next to Jesus and Mary, if you allow him to enter. I encourage you to pray with the Litany of Saint Joseph. What title or aspect of his heart speaks to you the most? Is it a certain virtue, a certain gift of grace you need within your life? God the Father wanted Christ to have an earthly father to care for Him, to teach Him, and protect Him, along with Mary. He wants us to share in this invitation, to see the beauty of the masculine heart, to experience a foretaste of the heart of His Fatherly love and loyalty for humanity amidst all challenges.