

## The Beauty of the Saint

Pope Benedict XVI once said that “the most effective defense of the faith is the art that the Church has produced and her saints”.

We live in a unique period in time when the two transcendentals of Truth and Goodness are no longer universally seen as the means to “transcend” this earthly kingdom here below unto the divine. The path towards Truth was embarked upon in order to bring one’s intellect and reality into a peaceful harmony. Now our culture as a whole embraces the words of Pilate, “What is Truth?”, “Well there is YOUR truth and then there is MY truth”.

The journey to Goodness through the paths of a virtuous life used to be appealing to humanity but our culture looks at discipline and sacrifice and says, “What’s the point? I can have more fun doing whatever I want whenever I want.”

But the third transcendental of Beauty...although distorted at times, our culture still LONGS for beauty. You can see it in our new technology with the ultra HD 4k TVs to make beauty more refined. You can see it in our social media with the constant need to be connected with ‘current’, ‘up-to-date’ beauty. In fact, this YEARNING is almost strongest in our culture’s multi-billion dollar pornography industry (bigger than all the major sports businesses combined) where this search for beauty—although terribly warped—is manifested.

My brothers and sisters, as Dostoyovsky once said, “Beauty will save the world” and what the Church requires, in fact, what God through the Church requires of you, asks of you, urges of you is to manifest the beauty of the saint in the world which is so blinded by its lust that it cannot see itself nose-diving our entire generation into utter destruction. Our generation requires saints who will illumine the world with their beauty because they are God’s masterful artwork, crafted in the crucible of suffering and love, to manifest his face in the world.

Jesus is calling each everyone one of us to shine the light of beauty unto this whole world so that all of humanity may give glory to our Father in heaven. The light that will shine from us comes from a life of sanctity to which we are all called—clergy and laity.

*All the Christian faithful, of whatever state or rank, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity (Novo Millennio Ineunte 30)*

But the beauty of the saints do not come from themselves; having been conformed to Christ by contemplating his face day in and day out, they too begin to radiate the face, the beauty of God in this world as St. Paul says:

*And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another (II Cor 3,18).*

In the Eucharist, we behold the glory of the Lord with unveiled faces in the deep recesses of our heart and allow him to shine there so that his light will illumine our whole being and radiate his face, his beauty that the world so desperately needs.

### Radiating Christ

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Thy fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Thy spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of Thine. Shine through me, and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Thy presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus! **Stay with me, and then I shall begin to SHINE as Thou SHINEST, so to SHINE as to be a light to others; the LIGHT, O Jesus, will be ALL from Thee; none of it will be mine; it will be THOU SHINING on others through me. Let me thus praise Thee in the way Thou dost love best by SHINING on those around me.** Let me preach Thee without preaching, not by words but by my example, by the catching force of the sympathetic influence of what I do, the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to Thee. Amen