

GOD IS BEAUTIFUL!



BEAUTY IS GOD!

PART ONE: As God Is Creative, God Wants You to Be Creative!

I started our Introduction with an article from the Catholic Telegraph Magazine by Dr. Mary C. Levri titled If We Lose Beauty, We Lose Our Spiritual Sight. We will continue with Part One by another article from CTM by Dominick Albano titled God Wants You to Be Creative.

Even though we will talk about beauty in its different forms and gifts or talents, we will also talk about right at the beginning that everyone is called to be creative. The word 'Artist' is not just restricted to the professionals and the even the amateurs. Dominick Albano begins his article with a quote from author Kurt Vonnegut's book A Man Without a Country.

The arts are not a way to make a living. They are a very human way of making life more bearable. Practicing an art, no matter how well or badly, is a way to make your soul grow for heaven's sake. Sing in the shower. Dance to the radio. Tell stories. Write a poem to a friend, even a lousy poem. Do it as well as you possibly can. You will get an enormous reward. You will have created something."

Albano mentions that there are three main reasons why people do not create. 1-They believe they can't, 2-they shouldn't, 3-or they are afraid of what other people will think.

And he mentions further that because there are classes and proper techniques, people think that they need to take them first to do the arts well, but also point out that one shouldn't give up running just because you haven't run in a marathon.

We certainly recognize good artists and those who excel, but "...recognizing excellence should never discourage someone from starting or doing." He backs this up by reminding us that we are made in God's image and so God invites us to create. "Creation is an act of God. It is the first, the foundation, and, ultimately, the redemptive."

As I was beginning to start my walk this morning, I was greeted by one of the teachers, the Art Teacher. She reminded me of an exhibition of her Grade School students at Hyde Park Square Art Show. As we chatted while the students arrived, she mentioned how challenging it was to teach art in this time of Covid because of the restrictions that it places on the art class.

We discussed about how important Art and Music was to students, especially in these crazy times, so that the students have some way or medium to express themselves and be in touch with their feelings. I remember well the picture she shared with me from a Fourth-Grade student. She had asked them to draw a picture about a dream they had recently. This particular student had drawn a tree with red autumn leaves and a deep brown trunk that ran up the middle of the picture like a telephone pole. Peeking around the trunk was a well-drawn fox in an orange coat with thin black legs.

I was impressed with the overall drawing. But what really caught my attention was that the whole composition, while drawn on a white piece of paper, was folded like a brochure, one third of the right side was folded over and same for the left side, so that the two sides had to be opened up to view the completed picture. However, the student artist had cleverly cut out a window into the two folded sides so that part of the picture (dream) could be seen through this window. How creative! And this was from a fourth grader! I am sure that a psychologist could have a field day interpreting this child's dream, but the student clearly saw the dream as a window to his inner life.

Could we say that our dreams are a creative force using bits and pieces from our memories to create a peak into our soul? Maybe God is inviting us to practice what

we dream by being creative and feeding our souls with what our hearts desire. As we shall see that desire can be more than just pictures of people or scenery or objects. In our next part for something very different we will look at beauty in mathematics!?!