

Awakening to Beauty VIII

Dear Reader,

This book was compiled by the 2023 Chaminade Scholars cohort at the University of Dayton for our Vocation and the Arts course.

Our cohort, and many other students our age, has been uniquely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We had to build relationships over Zoom, or from a distance of six feet with masks. In many ways, this stunted our growth as a cohort, and we lacked the close relationships that we anticipated building before the pandemic struck. Therefore, it is fitting that our book is themed around Pope Francis's encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, which centers around fraternity and social friendship. In a world where people are often so separated from each other, and where many of us have lacked social interaction for about two years, we have a lot of room to grow in community. This book, *Awakening to Beauty Volume VIII*, seeks to show our perspective on community and the ways that other people can lift our consciences to beauty.

As we read *Fratelli Tutti* and some other related works for our Vocation and the Arts course, we were struck by four key ideas. While these four ideas cannot fully encapsulate all that we have learned, we hope that our presentation of them in this book can serve as an inspiration for others. We hope our unique perspective on these topics can resonate with others or motivate them to contemplate their own views on community, beauty, and hope.

Our first key idea is "The Middle Class of Holiness." Often when we speak about holiness we refer to two extremes: those who exemplify holiness (perhaps by being members of a religious order) or those who are not practicing faith at all. What about the rest of us? Many of us have felt a sense of spiritual isolation in the past two years, and the idea of holiness may seem like a distant goal rather than an everyday reality. How can we pursue holiness in our everyday lives, and how can we see others who represent this "middle class of holiness"?

Our next key idea is "The Pursuit of Vocation in Community." As a cohort we have experienced the majority of our college experience together, which means that we have seen each other experience highs and lows. Most importantly, we have supported each other as we discerned our vocations, and we cannot emphasize enough the importance of having a supportive community when one is discerning their vocation. We hope that anyone reading this book can see how we

have been inspired by others during our vocational journey, and how we hope to inspire others.

Our next key idea is "Finding Beauty in Other People." Our current culture has made a lot of people self-centered and unable to look past themselves to see the beauty in others. Every single person is created in the Image of God, yet we often fail to recognize this innate source of beauty. We wanted to challenge ourselves to seek beauty in other people, not just in art or nature. This leads us to become deeply connected with those around us, and when we are attuned to the innate beauty of each person we can marvel at their place in God's creation. Each person conveys the full glory of God through their very existence, and when we come to appreciate that we find beauty everywhere we go.

Our final key idea is "Cultivating a Sense of Hope." Especially in times of tragedy, hope can seem like a distant memory. How can we cling to hope in times of tragedy? We will not claim to know the answer to this question, but we can acknowledge what brings us hope in life and how hope can raise us from despair. For us, hope is found everywhere, because all of creation is pointing us to a life with God. Nothing else can compare to the hope we find in God, because He guides us and cares for us at every stage of our lives. We hope that any readers of this book can see how the images we have compiled are able to convey God's grace and increase our faith in Him.

Thank you for taking the time to be attentive to our insights and the ideas that we have brought forth in this book. We are truly grateful for every person that we can reach with this book, and we are also grateful for the support from Tom Patterson, Sister Angela Ann Zukowski - MHSH, D.Min., Dr. John McCombe, Dr. Eric Spina, and the entire University of Dayton community. As Pope Francis said in *Fratelli Tutti*, "No one can face life in isolation. We need a community that supports and helps us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead." We hope that everyone may find their place among God's people.

With Peace, Joy, and Love,
- The Chaminade Scholars 2023 Cohort

The Middle Class of Holiness

Having the ability to notice the small things in life and show appreciation for them just by stopping and taking a breath has been rewarding and fulfilling. These are the moments that remind me God is with me.



Jacob Mantle - Dayton, OH



Abby Hentz - Warrenville, IL

I added this photo because I think it not only captures something beautiful but I also think it shows us God's sense of humor through the beauty. I like to think that God has a sense of humor and I see his light-heartedness in these types of moments.



Jill Tore - Dayton, OH

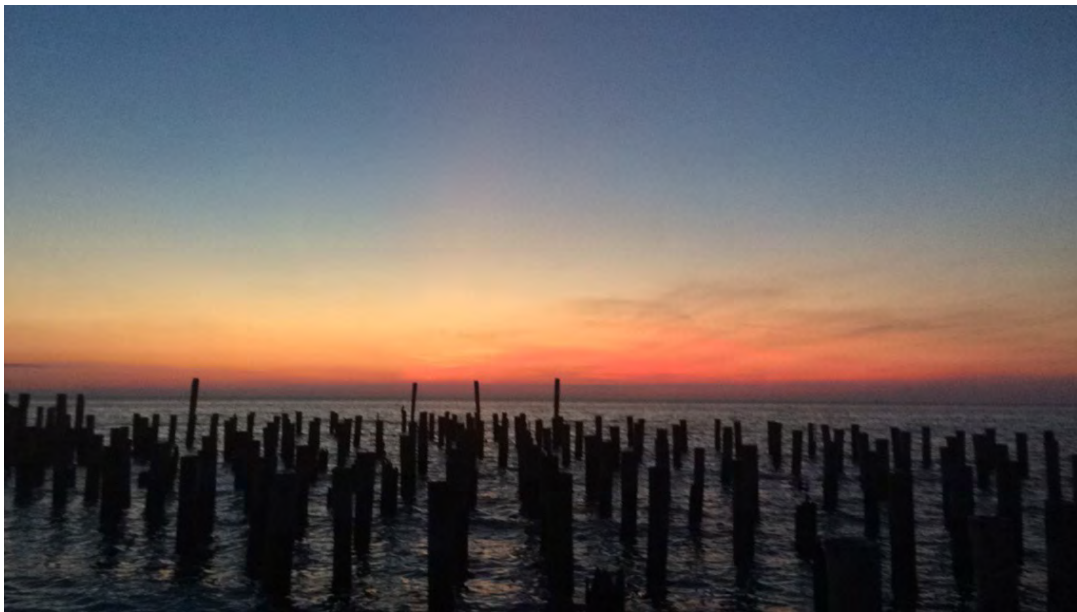
Education and upbringing, concern for others, a well-integrated view of life and spiritual growth: all these are essential for quality human relationships and for enabling society itself to react against injustices, aberrations and abuses of economic, technological, political and media power.

The calm before the storm. I took this image after leaving the adoration chapel inside of my home parish. The skies were so grey and dark due to the impending storm. The winds were calm and the air was warm. It was so peaceful outside, even though I knew a storm was coming. Looking back to this reminds me to find the calm before the storm in everyday life.

Even though life can get chaotic and there might be an impending storm, God calls us to find peace in our surroundings, to be aware of holiness in the ordinary, and to lean into His presence.



Allison Herceg - Brecksville, OH



Avery Lewis - Cape Charles, VA

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has set eternity in the human heart. - Ecclesiastes 3



Lily Alton - Surrey, ME

The evening this photo was taken, around this campfire and under the setting sun, my mother, sister, and I spent our time roasting marshmallows and making conversation with a couple we'd never met before. They were staying only a few tents over from us just outside of Acadia National Park, but that was one of the few things we had in common. Still, conversation became easy as the sky darkened. Hearing their stories of how they spent their day exploring the park, resonated with us since ours was almost identical. We all struggled to navigate through some of the difficult hikes and spent most of the day standing in awe of the breathtaking sights. By the time the fire died, it didn't matter that we came from different cities and walks of life, only that we were placed in this moment in time together, to share.

The process of building fraternity, be it local or universal, can only be undertaken by spirits that are free and open to authentic encounters.

Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti



Emillie Boyd - Hudson, OH

I love the Christmas season. It is amazing how cheery and happy people are around the holiday season and that it is a celebration of Jesus's birth. The reunion with family members and the time spent with one another is unbeatable.

To be holy does not require being a bishop, a priest or a religious. . . We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves.

Pope Francis - Gaudete Et Exsultate



Emma Merryman - Dayton, OH



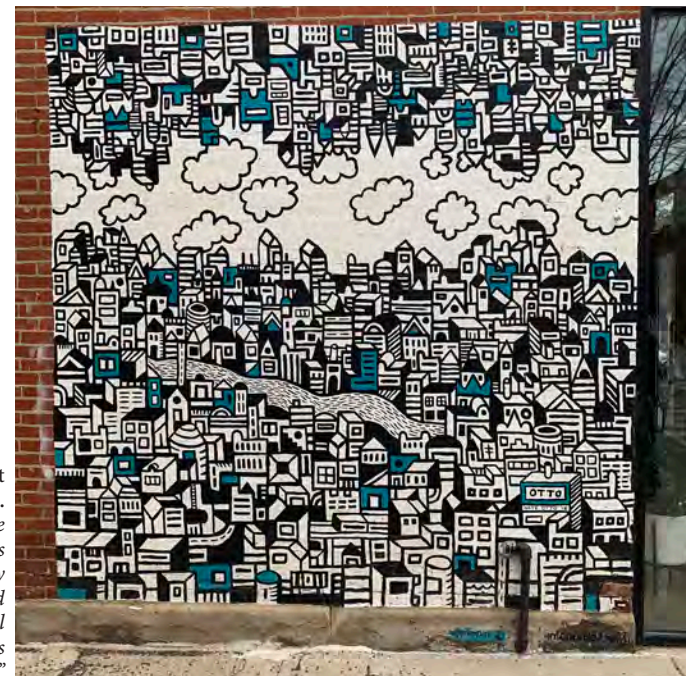
Katie Hay -Nice, France

Feelings are valuable when discerning God's voice.

Learning to acknowledge and name our feelings make it possible for us to use them consciously in our decision-making.

John Neafsey -A Sacred Voice is Calling

The connection of life is most openly seen in urban settings. Like Pope Francis says, "A love capable of transcending borders is the basis of what in every city and country can be called 'social friendship'. Genuine social friendship within a society makes true universal openness possible."



Kevin O'Gorman - Chicago, IL



Matt Hiltz - St. Meinrad, IN

Art must make perceptible, and as far as possible attractive, the world of the spirit, of the invisible, of God. - St. John Paul II



Olivia Parson - Chicago, IL



J. P. Sheehan - Hilton Head Island, SC



Avery Lewis - St. George Island, FL

The truth - that love is the ultimate and highest goal to what we can aspire. Then I grasped the meaning of the greatest secret that human poetry and human thought and belief have to impart: the salvation of humanity is through love and in love.

John Neafsey - A Sacred Voice is Calling



Josie Forsthoff - Englewood, OH

Beauty pulls us up short, but in so doing it reminds us of our final destiny, it sets us back on our path, fills us with new hope, gives us the courage to live to the full the unique gift of life.

Pope Benedict XVI - Meeting with Artists

As the sun went down, the trees created and protected a path out of the woods that was illuminated with spots of sunshine along the way.



Our vocation calls us deeply into exploration of paths less travelled, for it is in doing so that we encounter true hope in Christ.

Let us continue, then, to advance along the paths of hope.

Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti

Abby Hentz - Aurora, IL



Allison Herceg - Perrysburg, OH

Everything can be accepted and integrated into our life in this world, and become a part of our path to holiness.

Pope Francis - Gaudete Et Exsultate



Jill Tore - Carolina Beach, SC

One thing that continuously amazes me is when I am looking out into a vast, large, open space. There is something incredibly surreal to me when I have this perspective and I feel engulfed by the world during these moments. I love these reminders of how the strength conveyed through things like the ocean is what makes it so breathtaking and beautiful.



Josie Forsthoff - Dayton, OH

Liberty becomes nothing more than a condition for living as we will, completely free to choose to whom or what we will belong, or simply to possess or exploit. This shallow understanding has little to do with the richness of a liberty directed above all to love.

Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti

When one part of society exploits all that the world has to offer, acting as if the poor did not exist, there will eventually be consequences

Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti



Olivia Parson - Dayton, OH

Goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day. It is not possible to settle for what was achieved in the past and complacently enjoy it, as if we could somehow disregard the fact that many of our brothers and sisters still endure situations that cry out for our attention.

Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti

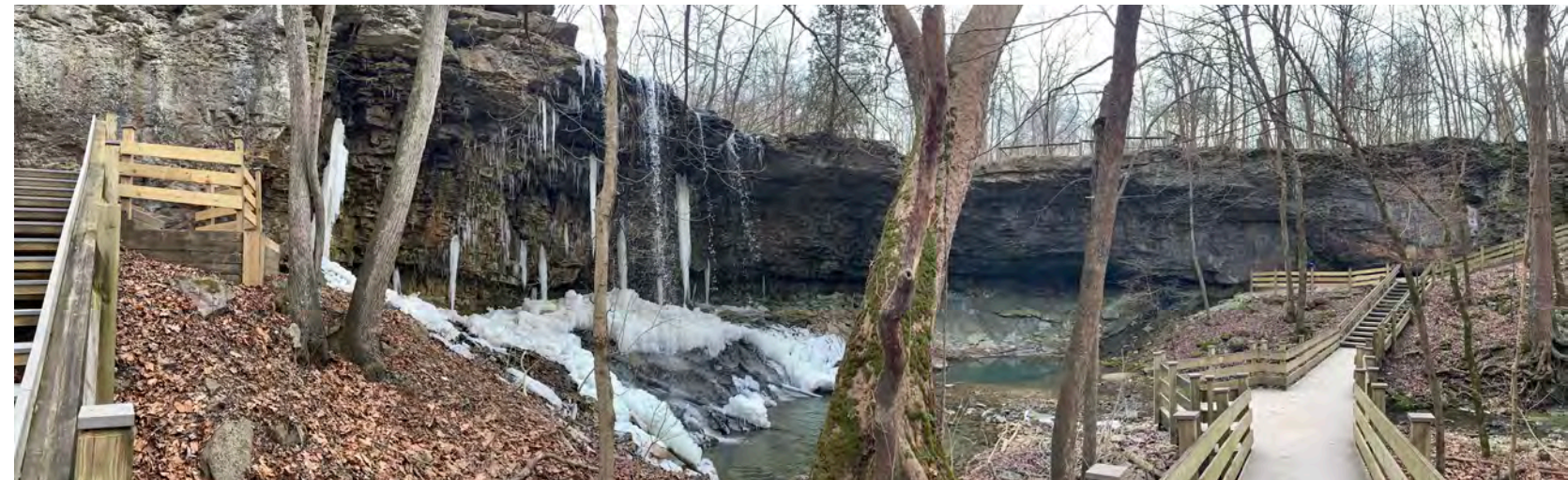


Lily Alton - Zion National Park, UT

This photo was taken just outside of Zion National Park at a campsite for weary travelers wanting to rest while enjoying the beautiful landscape. My family and I stayed there for a couple of nights on our own road trip. Driving up the rocky road when we arrived at dusk, the sight of tents, with their own little lanterns dotting the valley, was striking. The campsite's rules were built on community. The firepits were shared and the main tent was a place for sharing meals and playing games. We were exhausted from hiking all day, but the open arms were just what we needed. Not only were we taken care of, but we got to meet and talk with families from across the country. They traded advice and stories from their experiences in the park with our own and we left with more perspective than when arrived.

Hence there is an aspect of universal openness in love that is existential rather than geographical. It has to do with our daily efforts to expand our circle of friends, to reach those who, even though they are close to me, I do not naturally consider a part of my circle of interests.

Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti



Kevin O'Gorman - Charleston Falls, OH

The Pursuit of Vocation in Community



Here, my uncle surprised my aunt with anniversary dinner. It was particularly special because he set it up in the empty building that is to become their new donut shop later this year. To me, this image is a testament that businesses that serve their community with love are built on a foundation of love. Loved by God, my aunt and uncle pour love into each other in a space that will soon pour love into the community. Small-scale, local actions of love have the capacity to expand far beyond the people involved, making those small actions into universal acts of love. Let us, then, set that example of love!

Abby Hentz - Longmont, CO



Kevin O'Gorman - Dayton, OH

Communal Life gives a deep sense of finding God in the common moments of life and those we live them with. In this, our ideas are made incarnate, as alive and real as Christ's coming.

No one can face life in isolation,... We need community that supports and helps us in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead.
Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti

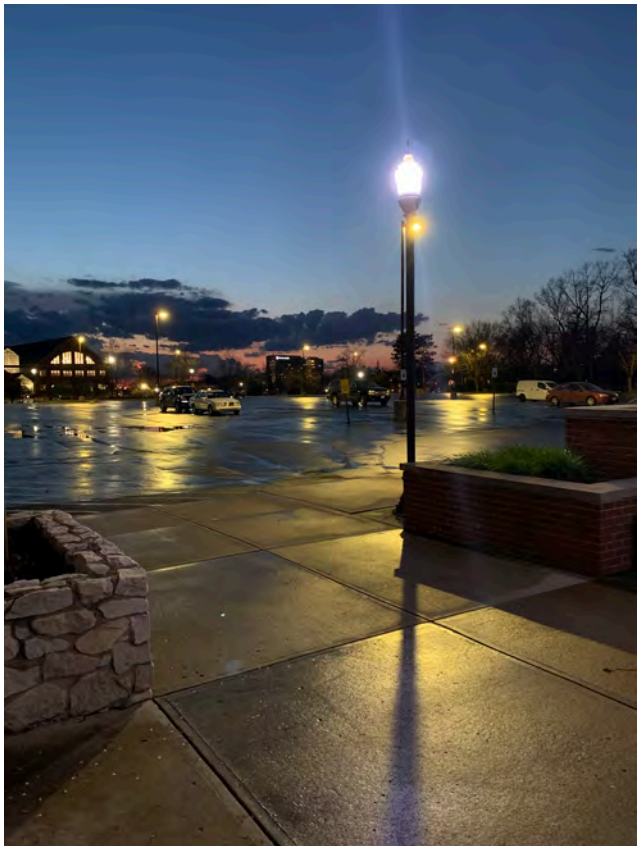


Matt Hilts - Centerburg, OH

In becoming man, the Son of God has introduced into human history all the evangelical wealth of the true and the good, and with this he has also unveiled a new dimension of beauty, of which the Gospel message is filled to the brim.
St. John Paul II
The Eucharist is not only the source and summit of our faith, but also of the beauty of the created world.



Allison Herceg - Cleveland, OH



If the conviction that all human beings are brothers and sisters is not to remain an abstract idea but to find concrete embodiment, then numerous related issues emerge, forcing us to see things in a new light and to develop new responses

Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti

At dusk on campus, it just takes a few lights to illuminate the pavement which is reflective after a heavy rain.

University of Dayton - Dayton, OH - Josie Forsthoff



Avery Lewis - St. George Island, FL

How to attain a destination is always more intriguing (involving, as it does, both ingenuity and labor) than what the destination finally is.

Joyce Carol Oates - The Faith of a Writer



Emma Merryman - Burlington, KY

You are the custodians of beauty: thanks to your talent, you have the opportunity to speak to the heart of humanity, to touch individual and collective sensibilities, to call forth dreams and hopes, to broaden the horizons of knowledge and of human engagement.

Pope Francis - Gaudete Et Exsultate

I like how all of the houses look like complicated puzzle pieces fitting together.



J. P. Sheehan - Boston, MA



Abby Hentz - Dayton, OH

The Marycrest L1:38 team asked its residents, "How do you show love?" The community's responses were on display during the week of Valentine's Day.



Lily Alton - Guayaquil, Ecuador

Las Peñas is a neighborhood in the central part of Guayaquil, Ecuador. The colorful houses stand out against the poverty stricken urban landscape. Guayaquil is a sprawling city that expands outwards, instead of upwards. The bamboo houses towards the boarders were built before land was stolen out from under them. Marks of struggle are littered along the dusty, unpaved roads. But hiking up the 444 steps of Las Peñas to the lighthouse overlooking the city, where this photo was taken, provides an interesting perspective. The colorful buildings can be viewed as an illusion of what the world wants to see, or a small cluster of hope for what the city could become. I personally chose to see the second in this photograph. The colors of Las Peñas don't cover up the pain of the city surrounding it. They draw a contrast to the stark reality of what the city faces. The lighthouse acts as a source of navigation to the people of the city, showing the way to a future where homes are built on compassion and justice.

Jesus trusts in the best of the human spirit; with this parable, he encourages us to persevere in love, to restore dignity to the suffering and to build a society worthy of the name.

Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti



Olivia Parson - Dayton, OH

Our relationships, if healthy and authentic, open us to others who expand and enrich us.
Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti

As Kevin Hallinan defined vocation, it is something that mixes one's passion with what they are good at, what brings them joy, and what will make a difference in the world all together into something beautiful.



Jacob Mantle - Dayton, OH



Katie Hay - Bruges, Belgium

In the dynamics of history, and in the diversity of ethnic groups, societies and cultures, we see the seeds of a vocation to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another.

Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti

Cultivating a sense of hope for the future by standing up for what I believe in and for the next generation. It was so beautiful to see hundreds of thousands of people gather together in order to talk about the negative affects of abortion and how we can both love and support both moms and babies.



Emillie Boyd - Washington, D. C.

Chapel pictures are a classic UD sentiment but I love this one more so because of the snow. It has always been easy for me to see the beauty in the world when it is covered in snow. I think it forces all of us to slow down and take a minute to appreciate the things we are seeing everyday, but see them in a new light. It is a renewal of perspective for me and always serves as a reminder for me to appreciate the everyday beauty I am surrounded by.

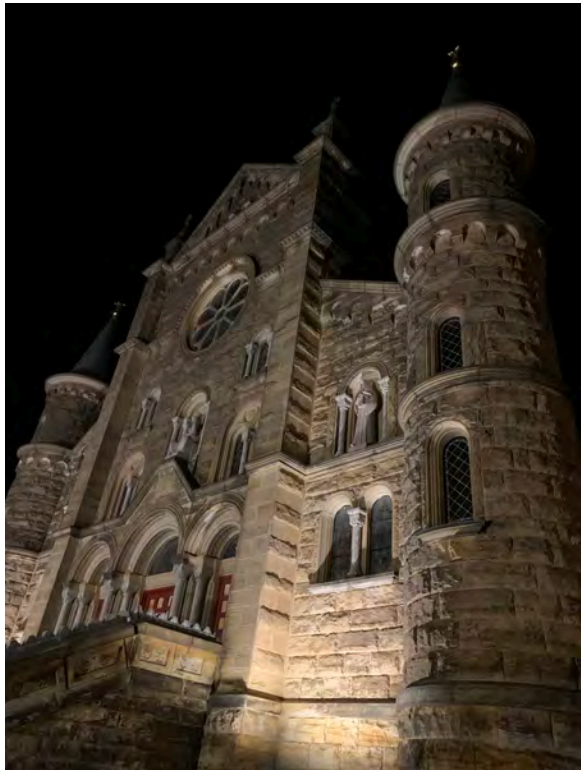


Jill Tore - Dayton, OH



Avery Lewis - Myrtle Beach, SC

Here we have a splendid secret that shows us how to dream and turn our life into a wonderful adventure... dreams are built together.
Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti



Kevin O’Gorman - St. Meinrad, IN

The experience of beauty does not remove us from reality, on the contrary, it leads to a direct encounter with the daily reality of our lives, liberating it from darkness, transfiguring it, making it radiant and beautiful.
Pope Benedict XVI - Meeting with Artists

Community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbors, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good.
Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti



Josie Forsthoff - Dayton, OH



Lily Alton - Westlake, OH

One summer day, I went for a hike with my younger siblings. It wasn't anywhere special or new for me, just a path down the back of our local sledding spot. Usually, snow and forest keeps us from venturing down the trail, but on this evening after enjoying the park, my younger siblings finally convinced my parents to let them explore the mysterious other side of the hill. The only condition being that I follow. It was an easy yes for me, after seeing the excitement on my siblings' faces. I let them lead the way, exploring to their hearts' content. The new side of the hill only had a little forest of trees before opening to the other side of the parking lot. Still, to my siblings, it was a discovery of epic proportions. Walking with my siblings didn't require much of me, but to them it was new path to adventure. A small memory like this one could easily fall to the back of our minds, labeled as insignificant, but it hasn't. The feeling of searching and learning has stuck with us, and now every moment we're together there is a new journey waiting, helping us to strength our bond.

Each person quite spontaneously perceives a duty to accompany and help his or her neighbour.
Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti



Jill Tore - Dayton, OH

This is on my friend's porch in Dayton. Others may see this and think "that is a nice photo" and I do agree. But I think it is beautiful because of the people and memories I associate with it. Beauty can come or be heightened from the significance we give to places and things. So it may not be the best photo but it is stunning in my eyes.



Allison Herceg - Brecksville, OH

Community. What does it mean to be in community with others? I think back to high school sports and teammates. People that you spend nearly every day with for multiple months are ultimately going to shape your experiences. You will grow close to some, but not to others. Teammates are a unique part of community because you are sharing skills and working together toward a common goal. In light of *Fratelli Tutti*, we should all keep in mind that we are working towards contributing to the common good with everyone around us. Although it is sometimes difficult to see, we are all working together and living in community.



J. P. Sheehan - Charlevoix, MI

Finding Beauty in Other People



Create together.

Allison Herceg - Brecksville, OH

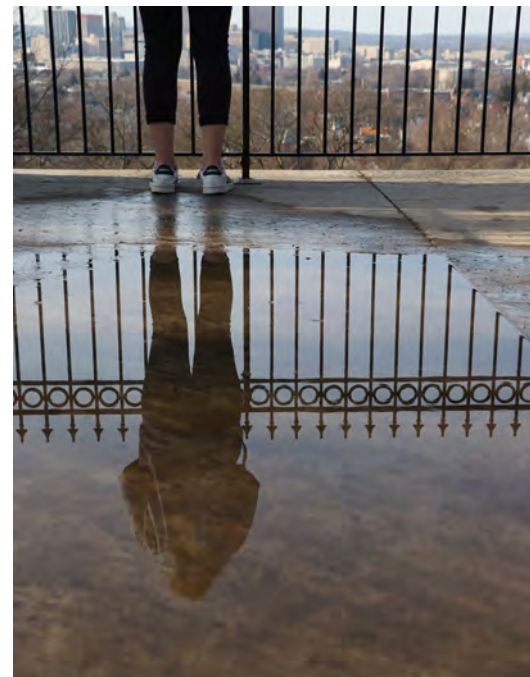


Jacob Mantle - Dayton, OH



Kevin O'Gorman - Chicago, IL

"No one can experience the true beauty of life without relating to others, without having real faces to love." This is part of the mystery of authentic human existence. "Life exists where there is bonding, communion, fraternity; and life is stronger than death when it is built on true relationships and bonds of fidelity."
Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti



Abby Hentz - Dayton, OH



This is the chapel at Daniel's Peace Park and the notes on the walls are prayers or thoughts that others have left as they have visited. This moment was very serene and very intentional. There is a beauty in intentionality and this chapel is dedicated to that way of living.

Jill Tore - Dayton, OH



Josie Forsthoff - Chicago, IL

Beauty, whether that of the natural universe or that expressed in art, precisely because it opens up and broadens the horizons of human awareness, pointing us beyond ourselves, bringing us face to face with the abyss of Infinity, can become a path towards the transcendent, towards the ultimate Mystery, towards God

Pope Benedict XVI - Meeting with Artists.

At dawn, the sun is barely visible, so that the lake and sky become an infinite, indivisible mass that makes each of us feel small.

Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with seizes your imagination, will affect everything... what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.

John Neafsey - A Sacred Voice is Calling



Avery Lewis - St. George Island, FL



Emillie Boyd - Troy, OH

Sweet childlike innocence reminds me of the curiosity that we all once had in exploring the world.



Katie Hay - Edinburgh, Scotland

Equal opportunity is beautiful and good, but how sad would it be if we were to stop there. All of us, who are redeemed by the sacrifice of Jesus, have the responsibility to help others climb the mountains in life, especially those who most reflect God's helplessness on the cross.



Matt Hilts - Red River Gorge, KY



No one can experience the true beauty of life without relating to others, without having real faces to love.

Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti

Abby Hentz - Badlands National Park, SD



Emma Merryman - Burlington, KY

I cannot know myself apart from a broader network of relationships, including those that have preceded me and shaped my entire life.

Pope Francis - Gaudete Et Exsultate

One of the beautiful things about life is that we aren't going about it alone. Every big life-changing moment, every success, has been created in community.

Sonder - The profound feeling of realizing that everyone, including strangers passing in the street, has a life as complex as one's own, which they are constantly living despite one's personal lack of awareness of it.



J. P. Sheehan - Boston, MA



Lily Alton - Acadia National Park, ME

God has created all human beings equal in rights, duties, and dignity, and has called them to live together as brothers and sisters.
-Abu Dhabi



Allison Herceg - Middlefield, OH

What is capable of restoring enthusiasm and confidence, what can encourage the human spirit to rediscover its path, to raise its eyes to the horizon, to dream of a life worthy of its vocation - if not beauty?

Pope Benedict XVI - Meeting with Artists

At the memorial following the shooting in Dayton, community and faith grounded the city's grief amidst a beautiful sunset.



Josie Forsthoff - Dayton, OH

As I was on this hike I was often annoyed at the fact that other people were in the way of my pictures and blocking the beautiful sights. But aren't the people themselves a source of beauty? Once I view the people here as a source of beauty it really enhances this whole picture for me!



Olivia Parson - Cosby, TN



Emma Merryman - Camp Ernst, KY

When I think of "transcendent" experiences in my life, I tend to be reminded of fairly ordinary moments where I was able to spend time with friends or family. It is in those moments where I am able to reconnect with that feeling of joy and wholeness that reminds me of the holiness in our world.



Jacob Mantle - Cincinnati, OH

As a community, we have an obligation to ensure that every person lives with dignity and has sufficient opportunities for his or her integral development.
Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti



Katie Hay - Les Diablerets, Switzerland



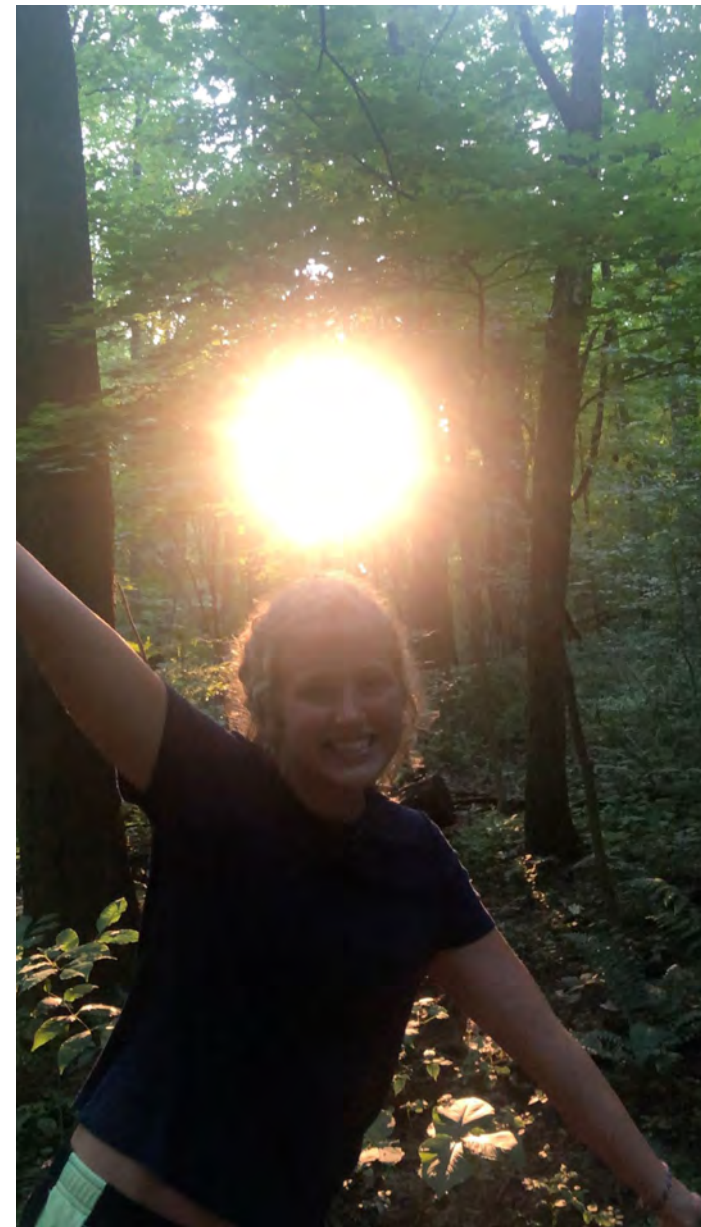
Kevin O'Gorman - Hancock, MI

This was a church I visited in a small mining town. The stunning beauty of this place stuck out when looking at the crumbling town around it and reminded me of God's presence. Like Pope Benedict XVI said in his address to artists, "Beauty is the experimental proof that incarnation is possible."



Lily Alton - North Olmsted, OH

There is a nature reservation barely 5 minutes from my mom's house and one of the hikes is 155 steps up the side of a shale ravine. Here at the top, my mom and grandma are sitting, catching their breath. This day was my grandma's first time conquering the steps as her knee replacement. After months of physical therapy, she finally had the confidence and strength to take on the steps. It took a while, but my mom and I never left her side. Taking in the sight below, the joy on both their faces was radiant in a collimation of conquering the challenges of the past few months together.
...act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen...
Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti



Emillie Boyd - Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Two summers ago, I went on hikes almost every day. I have never felt so refreshed than that summer. Hiking allowed me to grow closer to God and truly appreciate the beauty of this world. It was amazing because even when I hiked the same trail, the hike was never the same because of the temperature or the cloudiness - yet no matter the circumstances, it was always beautiful

Cultivating a Sense of Hope

Beauty reveals hidden parts of God's heart. In both the beauty of nature and the beauty of man's own creation, the heart of our creator God is made more fully known.

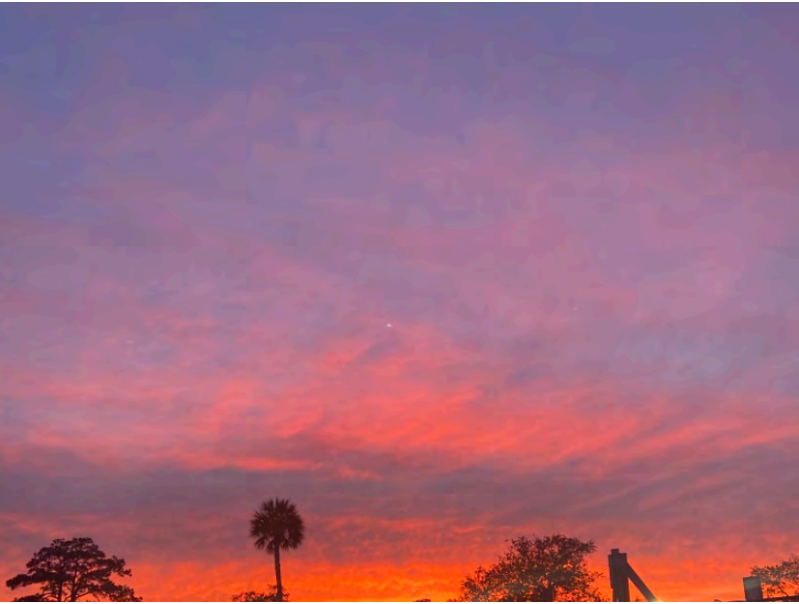


Matt Hilts - Dayton, OH



Jacob Mantle - Dayton, OH

Each day offers us a new opportunity, a new possibility. -Fratelli Tutti



J. P. Sheehan - Hilton Head Island, SC



Sunflowers are my favorite flower. They are bright and yellow. They remind me of sunshine and joy, regardless of what is happening around me. For each of us, there is something that pulls us away from the world and allows us to recognize the beauty of God's creation. I am continuously in awe of sunflowers, especially big sunflower fields, because they are so bright and bring to light all of the goodness around me.

Allison Herceg - Avon, OH



Kevin O’Gorman - Norway, MI

I was very close to my grandfather, and when he passed I felt a strong calling to go back to his grave and hometown. This led to me spending an entire summer serving as a missionary for the diocese there, a place where I didn’t know anyone or had any ideas of what it would be.



Josie Forsthoff - Englewood, OH

Even when they explore the darkest depths of the soul or the most unsettling aspects of evil, the artist gives voice in a way to the universal desire for redemption

Pope Benedict XVI - Meeting with Artists

Although typically shadowed and covered in moss, at the right time of sunset, this overhang becomes beautiful.



Avery Lewis - Steubenville, OH

If we acknowledge that beauty touches us intimately, that it wounds us, that it opens our eyes, then we rediscover the joy of seeing, of being able to grasp the profound meaning of our existence
- Pope Benedict’s Letter to Artists



Emillie Boyd - Pensacola Beach, FL

There are no coincidences in God’s beauty; even nature smiles at that.

Dr. Roger Crum took his students to observe the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on campus, a project that he helped initiate and design. In part, it commemorates King Jr.’s 1964 speech on campus, in which he commented that America still had "a long, long way to go" in terms of segregation in the country. Today, it continues to inspire hope and justice to those who walk on campus each day.

Social friendship and universal fraternity necessarily call for an acknowledgement of the worth of every human person, always and everywhere. If each individual is of such great worth, it must be stated clearly and firmly that “the mere fact that some people are born in places with fewer resources or less development does not justify the fact that they are living with less dignity.

Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti



Abby Hentz - Dayton, OH

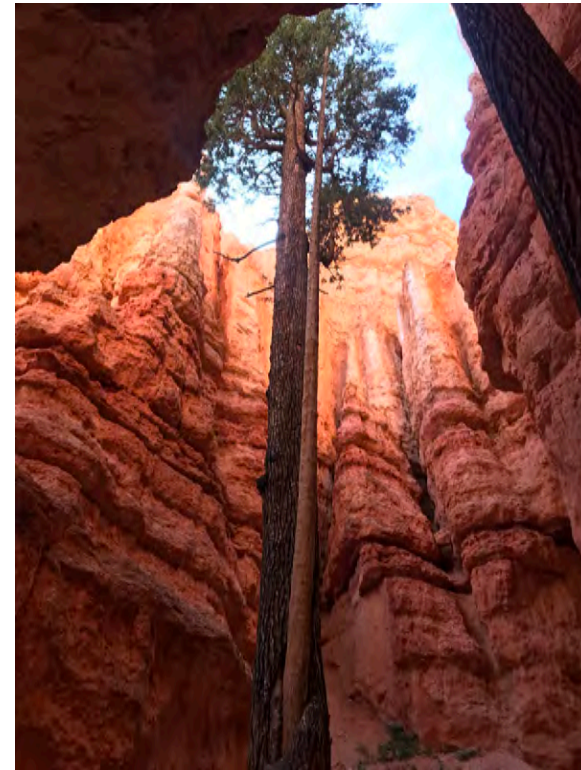


Emma Merryman - Washington, D.C.
I cannot know myself apart from a broader network of relationships, including those that have preceded me and shaped my entire life.
Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti

Woodland Cemetery and other places centered around death have always been one of the easiest places for me to appreciate life and the beauty we have here. Woodland Cemetery, specifically in the fall, shows so much life. It is calming, serene, and pulls you into the present moment which I believe is one of the first ways to begin appreciating the beauty around us.



Jill Tore - Dayton, OH



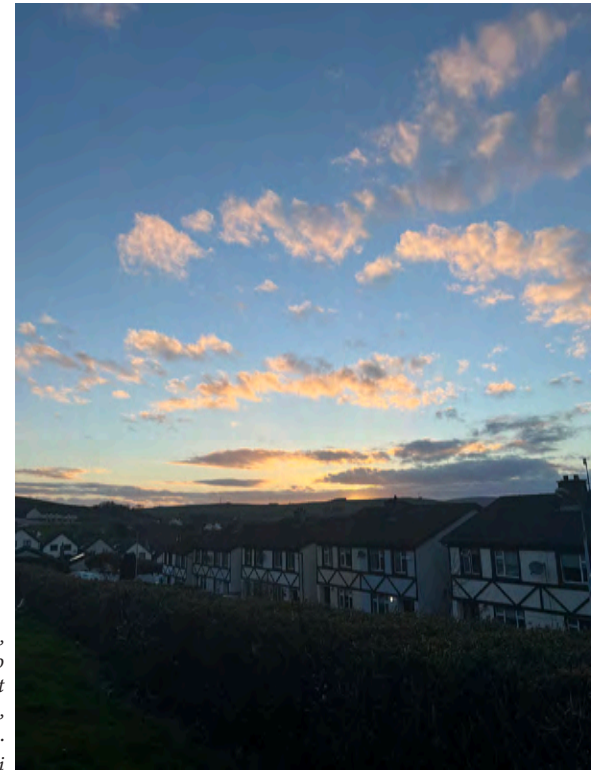
Lily Alton - Bryce Canyon National Park, UT

Bryce Canyon National Park never stops glowing orange. The color is captivating and, hiking down into the canyon, the world is incapsulated by rust colored rocks. That is, until a cavern we past held a surprise. A couple of trees grew together, having fought their way to the sunshine. The sight drew other spectators, inspired by the unique environment the trees were able to grow in. The trees were an example of hope to the hikers. Despite the difficulties of the environment, they've been able to grow and stand strong for decades, even among rocks that are slowly eroding to dust. *Difficulties that seem overwhelming are opportunities for growth, not excuses for a glum resignation that can lead only to acquiescence.*

Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti

Hope speaks to us of a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfillment, a desire to achieve great things, things that fill our heart and lift our spirit to lofty realities like truth, goodness and beauty, justice and love.

Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti



Katie Hay - Wicklow, Ireland



Looking to nature has always filled me with a sense of hope, since it allows me to marvel at all God has made no matter how small it seems!

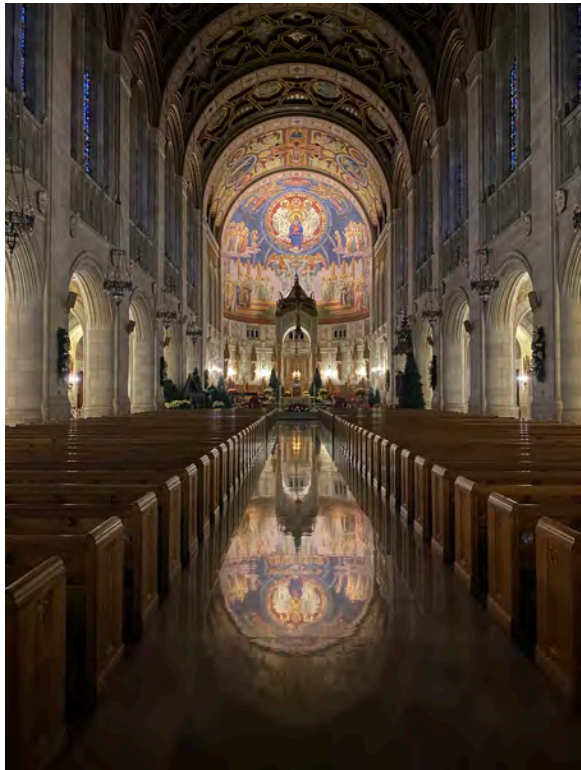
Olivia Parson - Cleveland, OH



Hope speaks to us of a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfillment, a desire to achieve great things, things that fill our heart and lift our spirit to lofty realities like truth, goodness and beauty, justice and love.

Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti

Abby Hentz - Dayton, OH



Beauty pulls us up short, but in so doing it reminds us of our final destiny, it sets us back on our path, fills us with new hope, gives us the courage to live to the full the unique gift of life.
 Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti

Allison Herceg - Toledo, OH



In the stillness of our hearts we are able to learn best. When we stop trying to understand and simply let ourselves be led by the desire for love in our heart, we will surpass any knowledge we can learn by force.

Matt Hilts - Centerburg, OH



Inner strength, as the work of grace, prevents us from becoming carried away by the violence that is so much a part of life today, because grace defuses vanity and makes possible meekness of heart.
 Pope Francis - Gaudete Et Exsultate

A small common bonnet fungi decomposing a fallen tree is the epitome of grace and humility that I aspire to.

Josie Forsthoff - Shakamak State Park, IN



J. P. Sheehan - Cincinnati, OH

I am like a brook that makes no effort to overcome obstacles in its way. All the obstacles can do is hold me up for a while, as a brook is held up; but during that time it grows broader and deeper and after a while it overflows the obstruction and flows along again. This is how I am going to work.
 Father William Joseph Chaminate



Jacob Mantle - Dayton, OH

Each day is a new opportunity to get a little bit better and to be the best version of myself.



Kevin O'Gorman - L'Anse, MI

The witness of the life of the late Bishop Baraga inspired me during my missionary work. His dedication to the people, traveling miles in the snow just to baptize one child or give one sermon spoke to the intentionality and love that God gives to each of us.

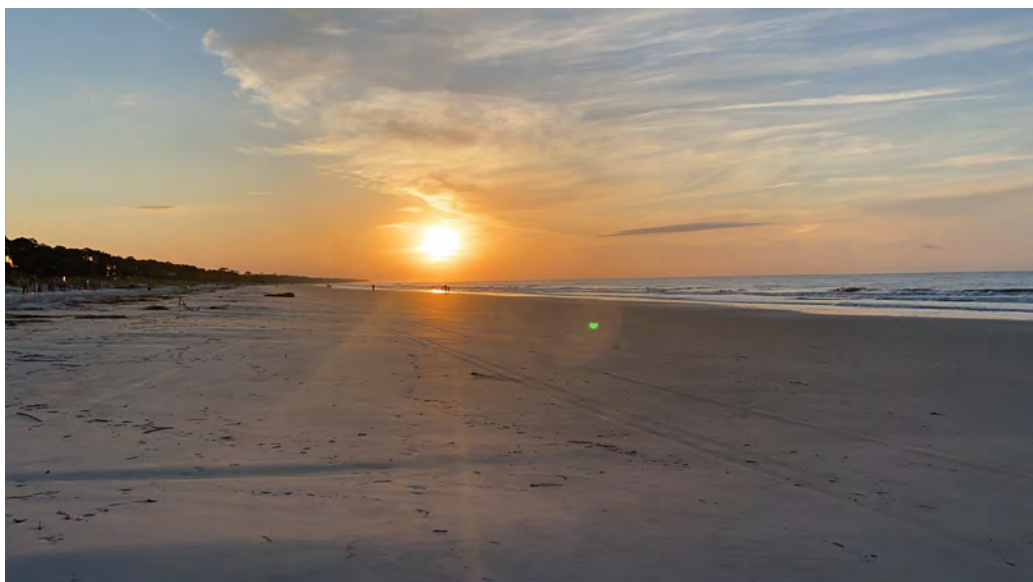


I often find serenity in nature where I can see authentic beauty in landscapes. It really allows me to center myself and is so refreshing.

Emillie Boyd - Blue Hen Falls, OH



Abby Hentz - Warrenville, IL



Allison Herceg - Hilton Head Island, SC

I find so much peace and serenity at the beach, especially during sunrise and sunset. It captures every part of me and draws me in to appreciate the beauty around me. The colors in the sky, the sound of the crashing waves, and the feeling of sand on my feet - all of it just takes my breath away. God grabs my attention in these moments and shows His presence. He teaches me to recognize Him and His beautiful creation.



Top row-Abby Hentz, Allison Herceg, Emillie Boyd, Matt Hilts, Olivia Parson, Kevin O'Gorman
Bottom row-Josie Forsthoff, Emma Merryman, Sr. Angela, Avery Lewis, Jill Tore, Jacob Mantle, J.P. Sheehan
Not pictured (Lily Alton and Katie Hay)

A Final Reflection

The Awakening to Beauty Series has been a publication of the Vocation & Arts Chaminade Scholars over the past eight years. It is our attempt to bring into conversation beauty and justice calling upon divine beauty that summons us to be tenders and creators of beauty. God's beauty is seen most clearly in the peaceful and harmonious relations of the just and merciful community, and all humans have a fundamental need and right to share in and contribute to that unfolding beauty.

Inspired by our study of Pope Francis' encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* (*On Fraternity and Social Friendship*), we are inspired to build bridges and not walls in our relationships with one another. Pope Francis writes: "There is a growing conviction that, together with specialized scientific advances, we are in need of greater interdisciplinary communication. Although reality is one, it can be approached from various angles and with different methodologies." As each of us prepares for our life's vocation and journey, challenges and opportunities, Pope Francis' words enrich our understanding and appreciation of our role in transforming humanity and the earth in new ways. We are called to celebrate the beauty and wonder of life in all forms and stages.

Pope Francis reminds us that "Life, for all its confrontations, is the art of encounter." He speaks of the growth of a culture of encounter enabling us to transcend our differences and divisions. "This means working to create a many-faceted polyhedron whose different sides form a variegated unity, in which "the whole is greater than the part."

In our reading of Makato Fujimura's *Art + Faith: A Theology of Making*, he writes: "To be effective messengers of hope we must trust our inner voice, our intuition that speaks into the vast wastelands of our time. In this way we can train our imagination to see beyond tribal norms so we can take in the vista of the wider pastures of culture." He encourages us to cross tribal norms to see the whole, to navigate in between the walls erected to protect the tribes. We are called to be bridge-builders into the future.

We continue to be challenged by the effects of a pandemic, divisions among people, wars between and among nations. We journey together between the lightning and the thunder. We journey between the flash of recognition of what is happening to us and the reverberations of what we are willing to do about it. The choice is ours!

As Chaminade Scholars, grounded in the charism and vision of our Catholic Marianist Tradition, we seek to be change agents, transformers for nurturing a culture of peace, justice, and beauty in the lives of all we encounter.

For all that has been "thanks," and for all that will be "yes."

Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski, MSHS, D.Min.
Professor – Vocation & Arts Course 2022
Executive Director – The Institute for Pastoral Initiatives