

Transcendentals
Triumphant

A DIGITAL CATHOLIC JOURNAL



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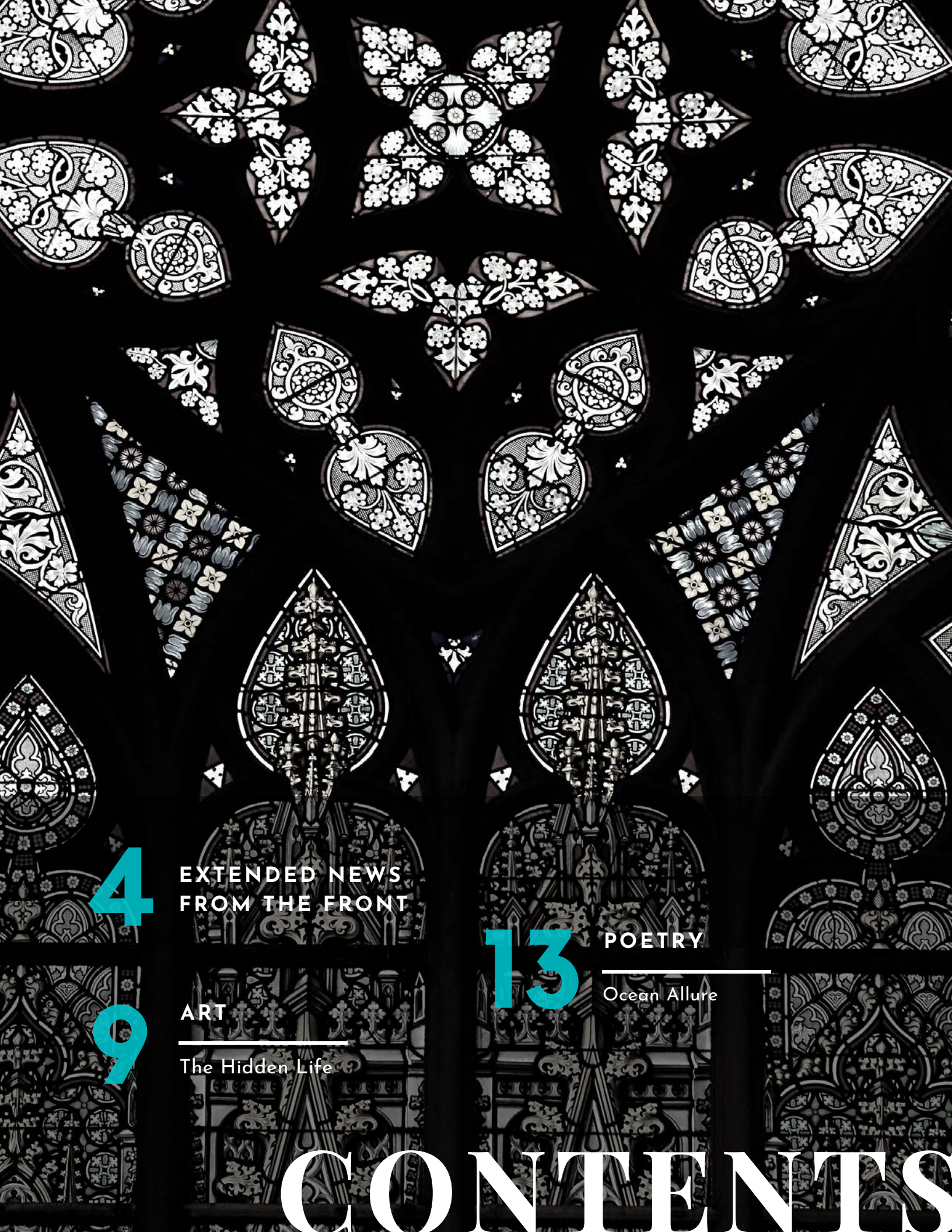
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News From the Front

by Tyler Brooks

During the heat of the pandemic in 2020, Barnabas and I had an ambitious dream: to publish a monthly journal highlighting the talents of our Catholic friends. We noticed that our artist and writer friends used their newfound free time to sharpen their skills...and what they were producing was magnificent. It appeared all they needed was an outlet to highlight these essays, poems, and art pieces.

For months, we would call virtually (pun intended) every day to refine our vision. On the feast of the Transfiguration in 2020, we officially launched *Transcendentals*. There are too

many names to list that helped build the foundation, but know that, in our hearts, we are truly grateful for your counsel. However, I will highlight those who truly kept the project afloat with their fantastic works and great spirit: **Miguel Andres, Jan Bitera, Fr. Stephen Bruzzese, Clif Clemotte, Megan Andres, Celia McCormick, Emily Milan, Joshua Terpstra, and Nolan Toscano.**

A special praise to **Irena Velez**, who not only contributed her outstanding paintings, not only directed our Instagram account, but also designed our beloved logo. An additional one goes to our unsung hero, **Sean Williams**, whose experience in academics makes him perfect for

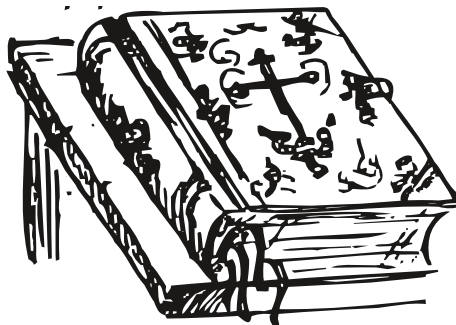
editing our journal. Finally, the biggest thank you goes to **Laura Bell**, who showcased her outstanding talents in design with her custom building the website and our monthly journals (as well as for her patience in having to work with Barnabas and myself).

Since August 2020, we have:

- published 14 journals,
- invited 14 notable special guest contributors from the Catholic public life
- received over 130 official subscribers
- received over 970 Instagram followers
- received over 4,500 unique visitors on our website
- accumulated approx. 80 GB of bandwidth from journal downloads

This past year, we have accomplished the goals we initially set out during those early days of planning. It was truly God's grace that propelled the writers, artists, poets, designers, and editors to create such a magnificent project and sustain it despite the craziness that life throws at us. Balancing work, school, and trying to survive a pandemic while creating this project could only be accomplished through the Holy Spirit. Constantly examining what God wills with this project, as well as what is going on in our own hearts, was the fuel for this project.

Why am I telling you all this? Because the time has come for a period of reflection for *Transcendentals*. After this issue, we plan on publishing December's issue with the goal of it being a "best of" from what we have published. The dream is for this to be in print form, but we shall keep you updated on that.



We have seen what works for a project like this, but we have also seen what doesn't work. While the demand is still there, we have discerned that there is a strong pull for us to cease the monthly publications. Whether that is continued later, or whether we'll be switching to a quarterly release to replace it, will be the subject of our reflection.

More importantly, we will be reflecting on how this project is to be lived out. It has always been our goal to classify *Transcendentals* as a community, a modern guild with many smaller groups across the country, and the journal being the tool to make that vision a reality. Subsequently, our grand achievement would be to make *Transcendentals* a publishing company.

We feel that for our grander goals to be met, a pause on production must be had. Before the plane can take off, many repairs need to be made and upgrades sought out. Therefore, do not be concerned if you do not see publications for the next little bit. It's all part of the plan.

Our social media will still be active, and we will always be an email away. Please pray for this period so that we may live up to our motto: *in spiration*.

Finally, please enjoy our issue, "Church Triumphant", which, by

its title, reminds us that through the resurrection, Christ has conquered death and that its sting is felt no more. As we proceed from All Saints Day and praying for the repose of the souls the next day, we are reminded by the transcendent reality that the Church shares in this victory.

Thank you to all, and, now more than ever, please pray for this project.

Pax Christi,

Tyler Brooks

When hope seems distant and despair close,
look to where Our Lord's grace flows.
Jesus and His Church triumphant through time
Giving us the boldness to make the climb.





"Arising from talent given by the Creator and from man's own effort, art is a form of practical wisdom, uniting knowledge and skill, to give form to the truth of reality in a language accessible to sight or hearing."

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

2501



THE HIDDEN LIFE

ARTIST: BETHANY LAU

MEDIUM: DIGITAL (SKETCHBOOK)

ORIGINAL SIZE: 2048 X 2048PX

Last Advent, I could sense Our Lady drawing close. She wanted to mother me, to be a safe and loving place of rest for me in a season where I was faced with uncertainties and unanswered questions and where I longed to be fully received. This painting is born from my time sitting in the garden of her heart as she tenderly revealed to me so much about faith, femininity and spiritual motherhood. In this painting, I wanted to capture the realness and profound beauty of this season of Mary's life. She is portrayed as a young girl, heavily pregnant, barefoot, her hair uncovered, sitting cross-legged in a garden. Her posture reveals her vulnerability and humanity, but also the astounding vulnerability of Jesus, the tiny baby in her womb. Her hands tenderly encircle her Son and unveil Him to us. Her womb is opened for us to see, because she is a revelation of God's incomprehensible closeness. Her womb is open to us, because in her heart, all nations and all peoples find a refuge and a home.

All the beautiful greenery grows in a circle but find its origins in her person. This symbolizes the garden of Mary's heart, and the source of her strength: her rich, carefully tended interior relationship with God. Everything in her life grew from that place of abundant trust and intimacy. The greenery is shaped like a

wreath, with the colours of advent to symbolize the season through the eyes of Mary. The purple crocuses and blossoms represent the challenges, longing and waiting that Mary must have felt in that season of her life as a teenager who found herself pregnant with the Messiah. They also represent her hope and resiliency in spite of difficulties. The pink roses express the sweetness and unspeakable joy of experiencing her baby growing within her. The white flowers and robe demonstrate salvation and renewal, because she brings us the Light and Saviour of the world. The greenery signifies the everlasting faithfulness of God and the new life offered in her Son. The gold circles and halos represent the royalty and holiness of the mother and child. The doves symbolize Mary's peace and the presence of the Holy Spirit, two gifts never stolen from her, despite the countless forces battling for her peace.

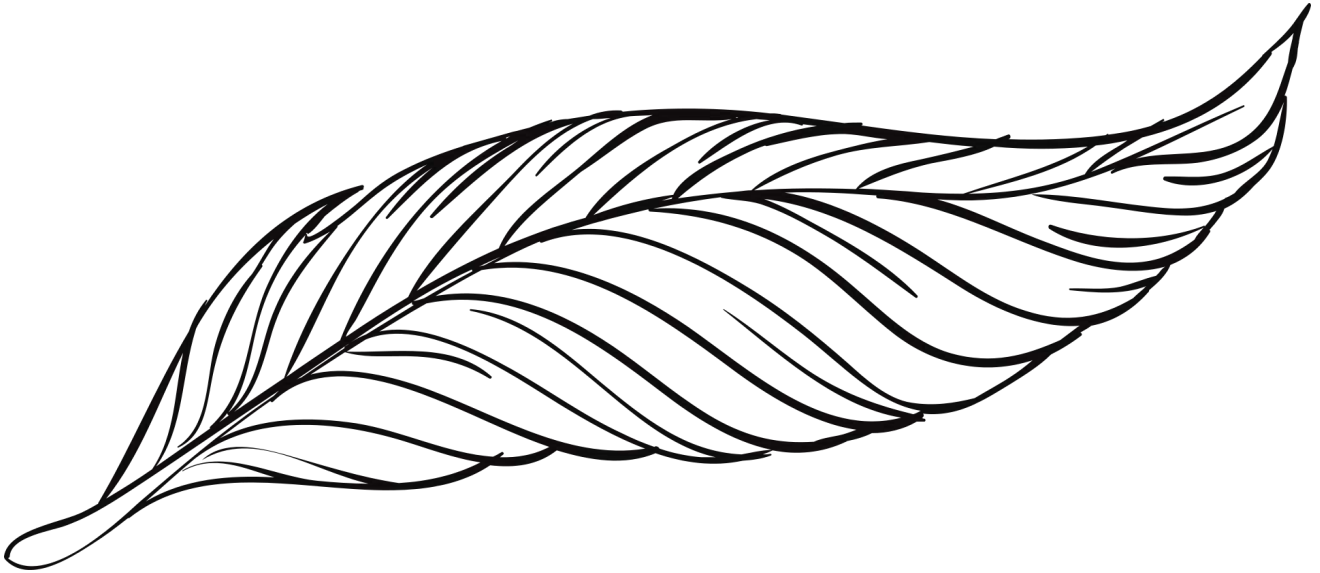
As I worked, I reflected deeply on the hiddenness of Mary's life as she raised Jesus. Such beautiful truths were spoken into my heart, ones that speak so deeply into my life today. The hidden life is not unseen. There is nothing unseen by the eyes of God, for everything is seen and loved and blessed. The hidden life is not a desert but a garden. The ordinary, unnoticed struggles, victories, joys, heartaches, are

the places of fruitfulness and life. Holiness is found in the garden of our hearts, it is cultivated in the everyday moments of encounter, born from this place of hidden intimacy. And there was never a time when Jesus was closer to Mary than when He was hidden from her, growing in secret in the garden of her womb. Those must have been the moments she cherished most of all, when she could not see Him, but she knew that He was there. This is when she became the Mother of Hope, because every day, she hoped in the things unseen. She believed God was with her, and He was good, even in the loneliness and stress of an unexpected and secret pregnancy. She believed that she would see the glory of the Lord in the land of the living.

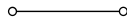
She believed the goodness of God would be gloriously revealed in her life. She believed her tiny, helpless, unborn child would be the Savior of the world.

Let us live in that kind of hope! Jesus is coming! There is renewal and new freedom and new life coming for every heart that chooses to receive Him. He will be born in our lives in a new and glorious way. Yes, Jesus is coming. But He is also already here. Here, in the waiting. Here, in the longing. Here, in the unanswered questions and uncertainties. And He longs to meet you here, too.





**"A poem begins as a lump in the throat, a sense
of wrong, a homesickness, a lovesickness."**



ROBERT FROST



OCEAN ALLURE

BARNABAS NEY

The sun goes down, and all the world seeks rest.
But my heart stirs, and rushes on a crest,
The sea's own crown. The sea's voice calls and chides.
For I am hers; as helpless as the tides.

In her power, I leave the twilight bay.
Sailing to night. The stars showing the way,
Light they shower. There's perfect velvet black,
And pure bright white; above on every tack.

A complete veil, of beauty round.
And I am lost, in splendors newly found.
Senseless I sail, to find some leeward land.
Mindless of cost, to reach the moonlight's sand.

Essence is gone. And all the world seems but a dream.
Strangely I fear, to lose the sunlight's gleam,
To forget dawn, to drift on lotus trades.
So I must go. Sail on before strength fades.

Previously published in "Island Wonders: An Anthology of Verse" - Poetry Institute of Canada, 2012

BIOGRAPHIES



Tyler Brooks

Tyler is a faithful Roman Catholic, student at heart, and passionate nerd. After recently obtaining an Honours Bachelor of arts with a major in History and minor in Political Science at UOttawa, he is now in the Master of Divinity program at St Paul University. He can be found reading history books, hanging out with his friends, and probably discussing theology.



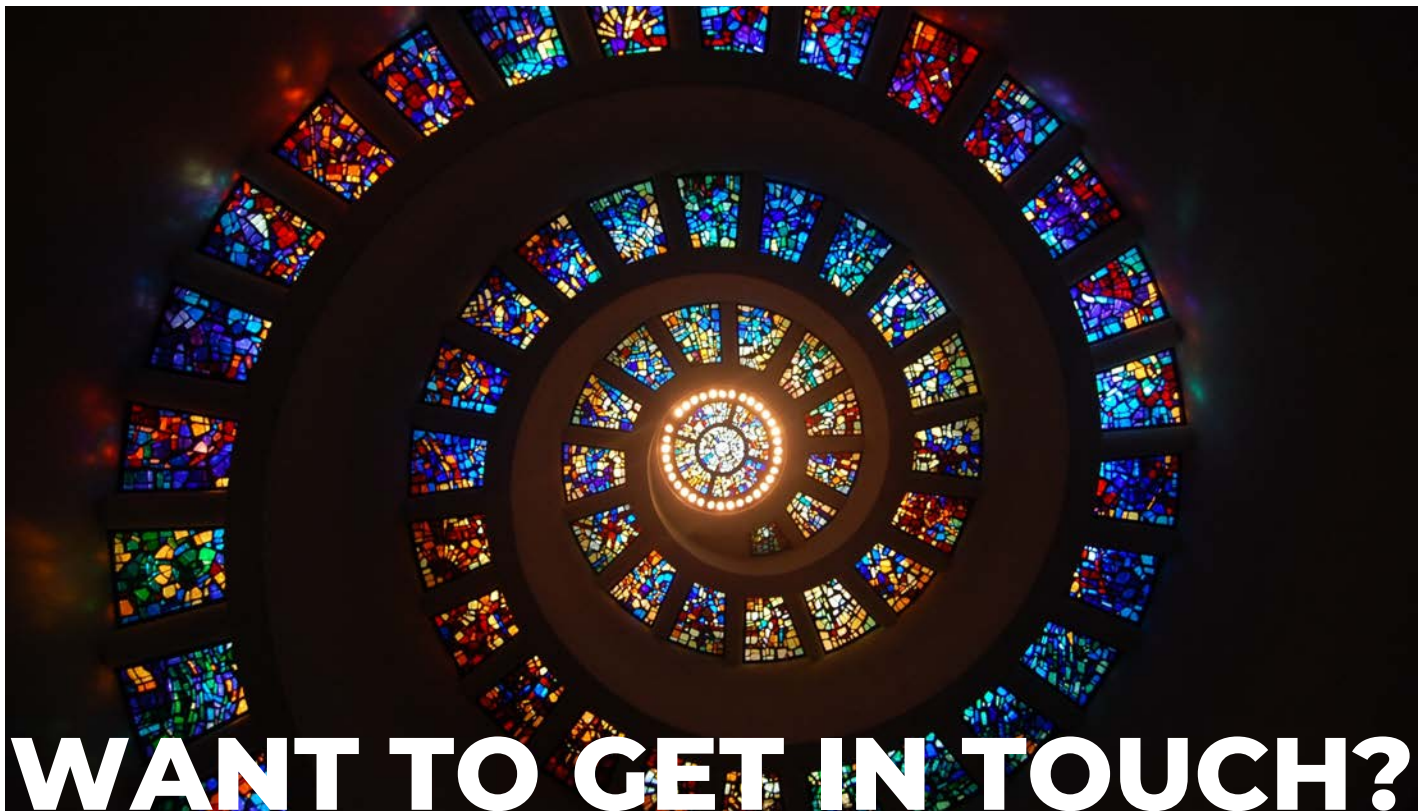
Bethany Lau

Bethany a psychology student, a missionary disciple, writer, poet and jewelry designer but she receives all that she is from the gaze of Jesus. She is captured by the beauty of life, the human person, and the Trinity, and her creations are born from these moments of encounter. She is passionate about ministering to hearts and loves nothing more than a good spiritual conversation. Her dream is to raise up saints for the renewal of the world, so that everywhere Jesus would be known and loved. You can find more of her creative work on Instagram [@bethany__lau](#) and [@adamahdesignsbybeth](#)



Barnabas Ney

Barnabas is a beloved beggar of the Most High King. He enjoys adventuring in the wilds of his native Vancouver Island, but is even more excited to be serving Christ and His Church as a campus missionary for Catholic Christian Outreach. While he holds an MA in Economic Policy, his real joy is in pursuing and contemplating beauty and its One true source.



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Transcententials seeks to promote the timeless truth, beauty, and goodness of the Catholic Faith to a contemporary audience.

Submissions are Welcome!

**Do you have a passion for writing? Are you an artist?
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We are looking for young Catholics to submit their essays, art, and poetry for our monthly online publications.

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