



August  
2024

Volume 8  
Issue 8

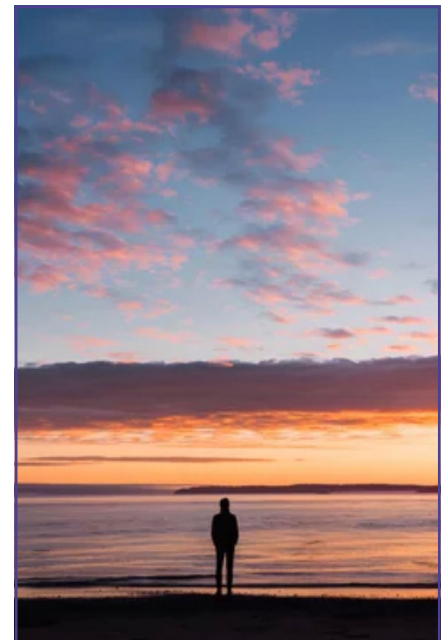
## In this Issue:

Contemplation is . . . Beauty Realized	1
Quotes	2
Update	3
Calendar	7
Resources	8
Prayer	9
Helpful Links	10

# Contemplation is . . . Beauty Realized

By Malcolm Hooe

*We have all heard, and possibly used*, the maxim “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.” It is certainly possible that we could find this true in many circumstances, but for the most part societies settle on a standard or stereotype definition of what is beautiful within each particular society. These definitions encompasses rules or concepts that satisfy the corporate ego, but do not consider the soul. It also allows standards that may be considered beautiful in one group but ugly in a nearby group. Is it possible though, that this could be modified in such a



way that what is considered Beauty is more universal? Would considering the knowledge and the wisdom of the heart make any difference?

The contemplative recognizes the necessity of the heart taking ascendance over the ego. It is this order that opens up our communications with God while it allows us to dwell in His love and peace. It is this indwelling that teaches the heart God’s way of encountering beauty and bringing it to its fullness. As the writer stated in the Creation story, after God spoke each day creating from the most basic to the pinnacle when He created man and woman, “It is good. It is very good.” God in creating all things sees each one:

each rock, each plant, each animal, each mountain and lake, each human from the atoms within to their wholeness and loves the beauty He has imbued in them. We add to that definition with our own God-given creativity, knowledge and wisdom. In so doing we begin to learn that our experience of beauty is at its core a spiritual experience as well as a physical one.

## Quotes

*“The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.”*

*~ Helen Keller*

*“When one door closes, another opens, but we so often look upon the closed door that we do not see the one that has opened for us.”*

*~ Alexander Graham Bell*

*“Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others.”*

*~ Jonathan swift*

*“You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand.”*

*~ Woodrow Wilson*

*“Help us to fix our eyes on worthy things, on your Word, on what matters most in the world. Turn our eyes toward looking at that which is pure and right and excellent and praiseworthy. God, we pray that that is where our eyes would be turned all day today.”*

*~ Psalm 119:37*




## UPDATE

### FROM FRANCINE:



I hope you enjoyed the Summer Fun-d-Raiser. It was very successful and we hope you had an opportunity to win a great item. Thank You, for your participation and to those who so graciously donated items for the Auction. We are grateful for the funds to be able to develop new classes and events for the rest of the year and for 2025.

This month, Via de Dios, is offering the 100 Introduction to Contemplation and the 101 Beginning Contemplation, a 4 week course. Both classes are FREE. Sign up NOW!




**2024**  
**Wednesday**  
**August 7th, 5:30 - 7 pm**  
**Via de Dios**

**Contemplation 100:**  
**An Introduction to Contemplation**

Learn a basic understanding of what Contemplation is and how it relates to Contemplative Living.

One-Day Course Outline:

- Opening Prayer & Introductions
- Contemplation Outlined & Discussion
- Contemplation Praxis: 15 Minute Sit
- Discussion: Praxis Reflection
- Closing: Next Steps



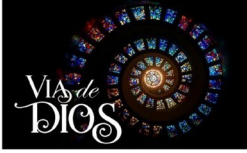
This Free Class will also introduce topics such as: Lectio Divina, The Prayer of the Heart, The Practice of the Presence of God...

Learn more about Via de Dios and the classes offered through the **Institute of Contemplative Studies**

**FREE CLASS**  
**REGISTER BY EMAIL:**  
[ViaDeDios.AZ@gmail.com](mailto:ViaDeDios.AZ@gmail.com)

Via de Dios  
 3615 N Prince Village Pl #101  
 Tucson, AZ 85719


520-954-1811  
[viadedios.az@gmail.com](mailto:viadedios.az@gmail.com)  
[www.viadedios.org](http://www.viadedios.org)



**2024**  
**Wednesdays**  
**August 14 - September 4**  
**3:30 - 5 pm**  
**Via de Dios**

**Contemplation 101**  
 Instructor  
 Christopher Mendoza

Learn the history, tradition, & practice of this lost art that was handed down through the ages from Monastery monks, saints, & ascetics both men & women. Lost for over 500 years this practice has been making a revival. The ancient Desert Fathers & Mothers knew the value of praying in silence. Christopher reveals in these one and a half hour classes, the significance & positive impact it can make in your life in ways you could never imagine. Many people are discovering not only the benefits of practicing independently but participating in community groups that reinforce a way of life which supports priceless virtues.



"Practice of the Presence" will be the required reading. You'll have a chance to discuss, practice & learn what Contemplation is & why it is so important in our lives today. These classes are offered through the Institute of Contemplative Studies a "Greenhouse" under Via de Dios to nurture "Aspirelings" along the Journey/ Pilgrimage to experiencing God.

**4 weeks: FREE**  
**REGISTER ONLINE: [viadedios.org/shop](http://viadedios.org/shop)**

Via de Dios  
 3615 N Prince Village Pl #101  
 Tucson, AZ 85719

520-954-1811  
[viadedios.az@gmail.com](mailto:viadedios.az@gmail.com)  
[www.viadedios.org](http://www.viadedios.org)



## LOOKING FORWARD TO SEPTEMBER, HEADS UP!



Via de Dios is having our 2nd retreat this year on September 7 at Holy Trinity Monastery in St. David, AZ. Register today on our website.



**Humility**  
A Contemplative Retreat.  
Led by Pr. David Drum.

Humility is the secret sauce for virtually everything of value in the Kingdom of God. We'll be interactive and practical as well as theological and contemplative. Together we'll explore topics such as:

- A pre-test on humility
- Who wants humility
- Surprising humility in the Bible
- Can confident and assertive coexist with humble?
- Arenas of humility: family, geography, congregation, City Church, politics, evangelism
- Leveling up means going down

Join us for Teaching, Silent Contemplative time, Social time, lunch, snacks, and all materials. Pr. Dave Drum of J17 Ministries is partnering with Via de Dios to provide information that we need for "living our best life" in today's chaotic world.



**2024**  
**RETREAT 2**  
Holy Trinity Monastery  
Sept 7—Saturday 9am—4:30pm  
Meals & Snacks Included



**Holy Trinity Monastery**  
1605 S St Mary's Way  
St David, AZ 85630



**REGISTER ONLINE—Registration CLOSES August 30**

**Overnight Sept 6: \$100.00**

Includes: a Room for 2 Friday night & Saturday: Continental Breakfast, Lunch, snacks & materials.

**Day Retreatant: \$85.00/person includes all Saturday items**

<https://viadedios.org/shop>

OR Register by email and send a check to Via de Dios  
**Maximum of 20 people**

Via de Dios  
3615 N Prince Village Pl #101  
Tucson, AZ 85719


520-954-1811  
viadedios.az@gmail.com  
www.viadedios.org



## NEW CLASS: SURVEY OF: ST TERESA OF AVILA & ST JOHN OF THE CROSS

There is a lot of interest in this class so be sure to register early.


This 4 week class will be on Consecutive Saturday mornings 9am-12:30pm. Register today on our website or send a check to Via de Dios by Sept 10th.




**Survey of: St. Teresa of Avila & St. John of the Cross**  
Saturdays - Sept 14 - Oct 5  
9 am - 12:30 pm  
Via de Dios

**Survey of: St Teresa of Avila & St John of the Cross**

St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross are among the most influential leaders and teachers in the Western Christian tradition. Yet most people know little about why this is so (even if they might be familiar with aspects of their stories). Their writings are a gold mine of instruction and insight into the inner contemplative path in God through faith in Jesus Christ. The purpose of this class is to introduce St. Teresa and St. John as individuals, placing them in the historical timeframe they lived in, and tell of what they did and are justly known for. Then we will survey the basics of what they modeled and taught about the Way to God within, as well as the outworking of this Reality of union with the Triune God.





This will be a 4 week class on consecutive Saturday mornings, 9 am—12:30 pm. Snacks will be provided. Malcolm Hooe & Jason Caywood, our two instructors, are a wealth of knowledge from their many years of reading, studying, teaching, education & experience.

**REGISTER NOW ONLINE:**

<https://viadedios.org/shop>

Or

**MAIL A CHECK by Sept 10 to: Via de Dios**

4 week course  
**\$40.00 per person**  
**50% off for Members**

Via de Dios  
3615 N Prince Village Pl #101  
Tucson, AZ 85719

520-954-1811  
viadedios.az@gmail.com  
www.viadedios.org

**VOLUNTEERS:**

Are you interested in being a part of the seedbed of Via de Dios' ground breaking life affirming plans? Do you want to be an agent of change and take action? Email: [viadedios.az@gmail.com](mailto:viadedios.az@gmail.com).

**WHAT DOES VIA DE DIOS DO???:**

Look at our Free Videos page for HIGHLIGHTS from several of our past classes. If these Highlights peak your interest and you desire to dive deeper to see what the classes offer, you can purchase selected full-length versions along with the handouts in our web store. FREE VIDEOS: [viadedios.org/free-videos](http://viadedios.org/free-videos)

**WEBSTORE:**

- **DISCOUNTS FOR VIA DE DIOS MEMBERS** on selected items. You will need your member code. If you haven't received your code, please email us. [www.viadedios.org/memberships](http://www.viadedios.org/memberships)
- **FULL LENGTH VIDEOS:**  
Here is your chance to enjoy the events in entirety including Companion materials where available in our store page. [www.viadedios.org/store](http://www.viadedios.org/store)

**PARTNERS & PATRONS:**

We can't say enough about those of you who see the importance of our ministry, who realize that in order to live in a better world we need to make positive changes in ourselves. Changes are slow and when we work together the changes are powerful. *We can only do this work with your help. Consider becoming a Sponsor or a Patron.*

**RESOURCES:**

Check our Resources page and Web Calendar for events offered by various groups & organizations.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

- **ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THRIVENT** financial? If so at NO cost to you, please consider supporting us by selecting Via de Dios as your Choice for your Thrivent dollars. We are one of Thrivent's approved charities.
- **DIRECTORY OF GROUPS:** Find a place or Group that you can join for Stillness/Contemplative/Meditative support. Be in community.

**NEW CHANGES:** Always something new going on.

<https://viadedios.org/directory-of-groups/>

- **VIA DE DIOS IS ON FACEBOOK & LINKED-IN:** Please **Like** and **Share** our messages to help build awareness of the many benefits we offer. Thank You.  
[facebook.com/ViadeDiosTucson](https://facebook.com/ViadeDiosTucson)
- **HELP US AS WE BUILD A COLLABORATIVE NETWORK:** Join Via de Dios in our efforts to enhance lives through our Wholistic Living path and provide training for spiritual growth through our Institute of Contemplative Studies. Consider a monthly gift of \$25.00 [.83 cents a day]. Donate today.

Donate

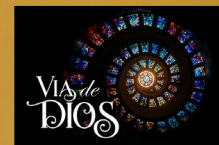


# Calendar



**Contemplation is ...**

**Beauty Realized**



## August 2024

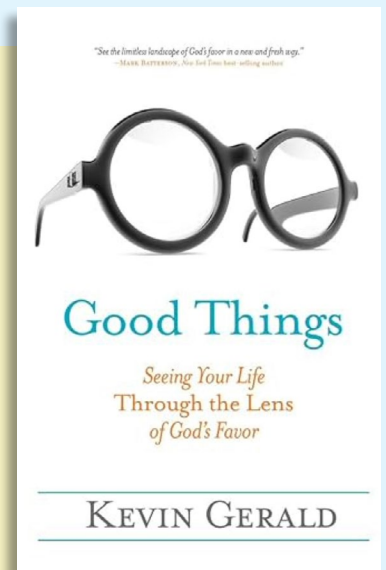
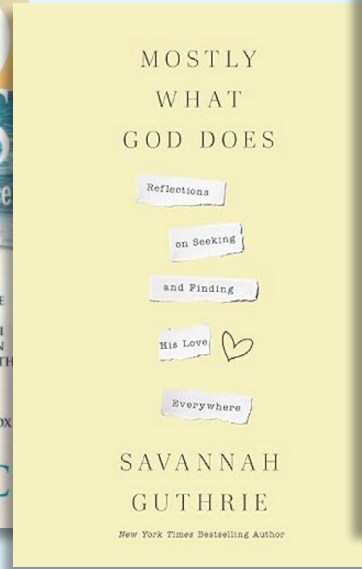
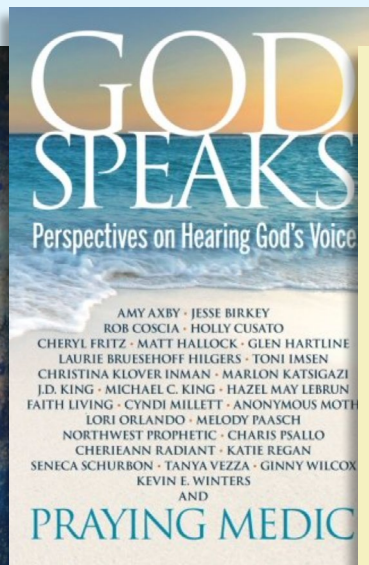
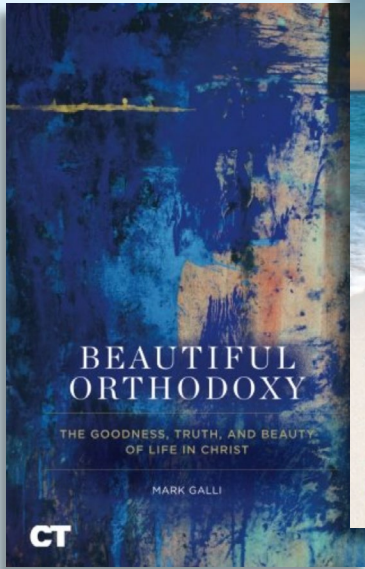
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG Contemplative *1 Check Directory *2 Check Directory *3 Check Directory *4 Check Directory TOURS: By apt	of Grps/ Angiulo of Grps/ Donna of Grps/ Francine of Grps/ Malcolm 520-954-1811			7 DH 102 C-9—10:30 am  5:30pm C Praxis 1	2	3  12:30—2:30 pm Rule of Life
4	5  6pm—CG Nancy's Via de Dios	6  6-7pm *4 CG St Francis de Sales	7 Noon—CG Zoom*1 1-2:30pm- *2 CG Donna—St Pius  5:30pm—100 Contemplation	8 DH 102 C-9—10:30 am  5:30pm C Praxis 1	9	10  12:30—2:30 pm Rule of Life
11	12  6pm—CG Nancy's Via de Dios	13  6-7pm *4 CG St Francis de Sales	14 Noon—CGZoom*1 1-2:30pm- *2 CG Donna—St Pius  5:30pm—101 Contemplation	15 DH 102 C-9—10:30 am  5:30pm C Praxis 1	16	17  12:30—2:30 pm Rule of Life
18	19  6pm—CG Nancy's Via de Dios	20  6-7pm *4 CG St Francis de Sales	21 Noon—CGZoom*1 1-2:30pm- *2 CG Donna—St Pius  5:30pm—101 Contemplation	22 DH 102 C-9—10:30 am  5:30pm C Praxis 1	23	24  12:30-2:30pm— Parresia 2:30—4 pm Rule of Life
25	26  6pm—CG Nancy's Via de Dios	27  6-7pm *4 CG St Francis de Sales	28 Noon—CGZoom*1 1-2:30pm- *2 CG Donna—St Pius  5:30pm—101 Contemplation	29 DH 102 C-9—10:30 am  5:30pm C Praxis 1	30	31  12:30—2:30 pm Rule of Life

# RESOURCES



## August Resources: Contemplation is . . . Beauty Realized

### Books:



### Videos:



Oprah Goes Soul to Soul with Rob Bell | SuperSoul Sunday | Oprah Winfrey Network



Rob Bell / An Introduction to Joy





## Prayer



Each month e-Bulletin will be featuring a theme or topic. Our prayers will be focused on that particular topic. This month the topic is “Contemplation is . . . Beauty Realized.” Will you pray the following?

Heavenly Father, we pray for peace in our country and in the world. We ask for your powerful authority to calm the waters of tension, to inspire individuals to seek you and to prompt people to learn the virtues to be a guideline for a well ordered life.

Amen

If you have a prayer request, please email your request to: [Viadedios.az@gmail.com](mailto:Viadedios.az@gmail.com)



Thank you for supporting Tucson’s only Christian Center, **Via de Dios**. Help us to encourage unity, partner with organizations, promote well-being and spiritual growth through classes, events, and retreats.

Donate



# VIA *de* DIOS



## Helpful Links

Become a Member: [viadedios.org/plans-pricing](https://viadedios.org/plans-pricing)

Donate Today: [viadedios.org](https://viadedios.org)

Email us: [viadedios.az@gmail.com](mailto:viadedios.az@gmail.com)

Via de Dios is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Tax ID # 82-1808624.

Via de Dios  
3615 N Prince Village Pl  
#101  
Tucson, AZ 85719

