



DOMINICAN SISTERS OF
Saint Cecilia

Founded in 1860—Nashville



LAUDARE, BENEDICERE, PRAEDICARE
TO PRAISE, TO BLESS, TO PREACH

October 2023

OCTOBER

2023

1 / TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME; *Rosary Sunday*

2 / The Holy Guardian Angels

3 /

4 / Saint Francis of Assisi

5 /

6 / Bl. Marie Rose Durocher

7 / *Our Lady of the Rosary*

8 / TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9 / *St. Louis Bertrand*

10 /

11 / Pope Saint John XXIII

12 /

13 /

14 / St. Callistus I

15 / TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

16 / St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

17 / St. Ignatius of Antioch

18 / St. Luke

19 / Sts. John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues, and Companions

20 / St. Paul of the Cross

21 /

22 / TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

23 / St. John of Capistrano

24 / St. Anthony Mary Claret

25 /

26 /

27 /

28 / Sts. Simon and Jude

29 / THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

30 /

31 /

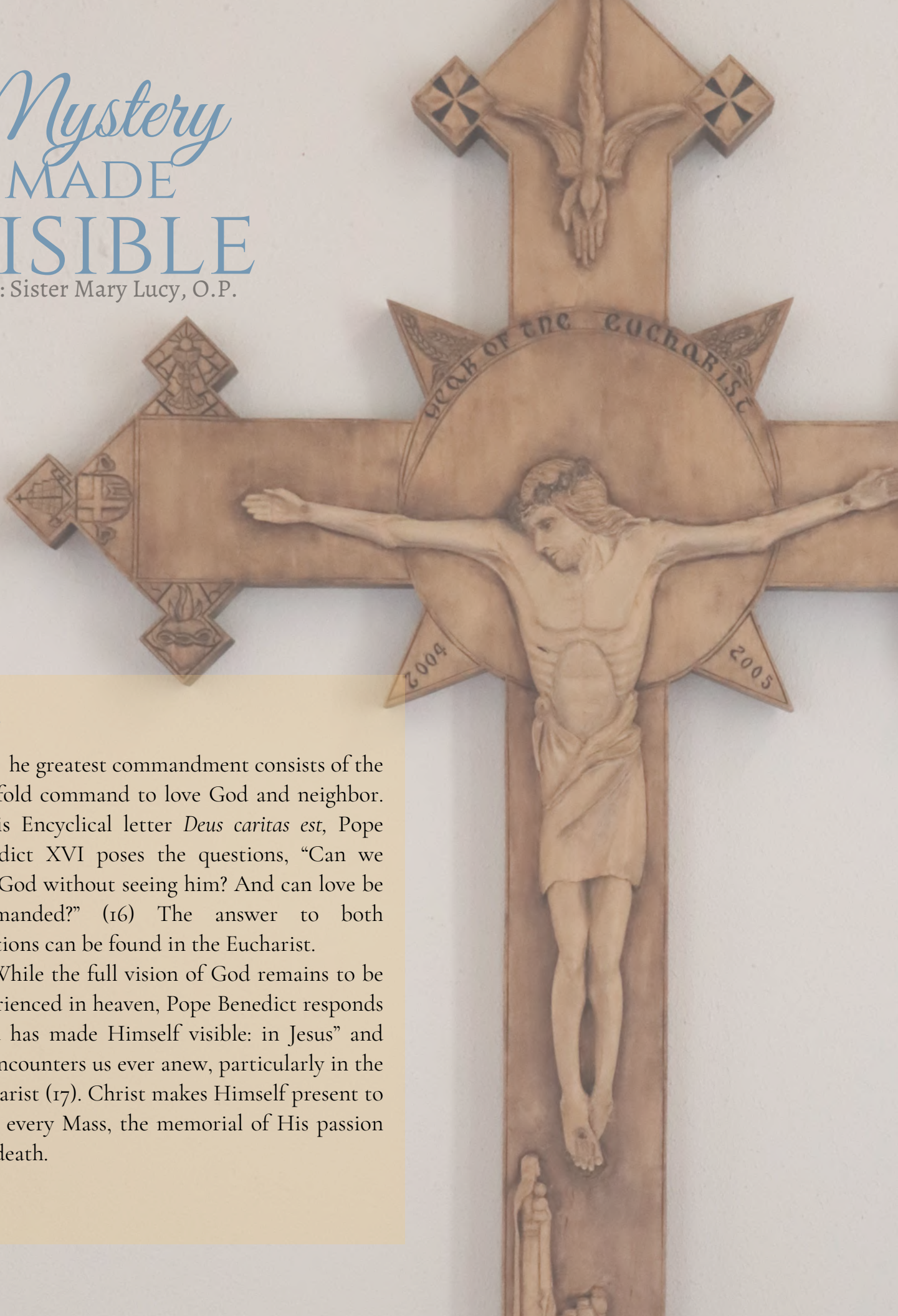
*Celebrations from the
Dominican calendar
appear in italics.*

Mystery MADE VISIBLE

By: Sister Mary Lucy, O.P.

The greatest commandment consists of the two-fold command to love God and neighbor. In his Encyclical letter *Deus caritas est*, Pope Benedict XVI poses the questions, “Can we love God without seeing him? And can love be commanded?” (16) The answer to both questions can be found in the Eucharist.

While the full vision of God remains to be experienced in heaven, Pope Benedict responds “God has made Himself visible: in Jesus” and He encounters us ever anew, particularly in the Eucharist (17). Christ makes Himself present to us at every Mass, the memorial of His passion and death.



When we pray the 5th Luminous Mystery of the Rosary, we meditate on the Institution of the Eucharist when Jesus prepares His disciples for His coming suffering. His Eucharistic Body and Blood reveal the tremendous gift of the love poured out on the cross, a love that conquers death's power and triumphs into eternal life. Love can therefore be commanded because Love has first been given. Through receiving His love in holy communion we learn to respond with the love we have received.

Jesus desires to remain with us always. He desires an encounter with every person in every age. This encounter leads to communion, a living relationship of love. Through the Holy Mass, the sacrifice of the Cross and Resurrection are made present to us and we enter into the mystery of our salvation, uniting

ourselves with Christ's sacrifice of love to the Father in the Holy Spirit. The mystery of God's infinite love is made visible. We gaze upon Him truly present upon the altar and receive His sacred Body and Blood in Holy Communion. By becoming our food, Jesus unites Himself with us and sends us forth to love with His love living in us.



Saints Comment on the Rosary



"FOR A CHRISTIAN, VOCAL PRAYER MUST SPRING FROM THE HEART, SO THAT WHILE THE ROSARY IS SAID, THE MIND CAN ENTER INTO CONTEMPLATION OF EACH ONE OF THE MYSTERIES."

St. Josemaria Escriva

"When alone, the recitation of the rosary is more difficult for me than the wearing of an instrument of penance. I feel I have said this so poorly! I force myself in vain to meditate on the mysteries of the rosary; I don't succeed in fixing my mind on them. For a long time I was desolate about this lack of devotion that astonished me, for I love the Blessed Virgin so much that it should be easy for me to recite in her honor prayers which are so pleasing to her. Now I am less desolate; I think that the Queen of heaven, since she is my Mother, must see my good will and she is satisfied with it."

St. Therese of Lisieux



**"THE ROSARY IS THE WEAPON
THAT WINS ALL BATTLES."**

St. Pio of Pietrelcina

"With the Rosary, the Christian people sit at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer."

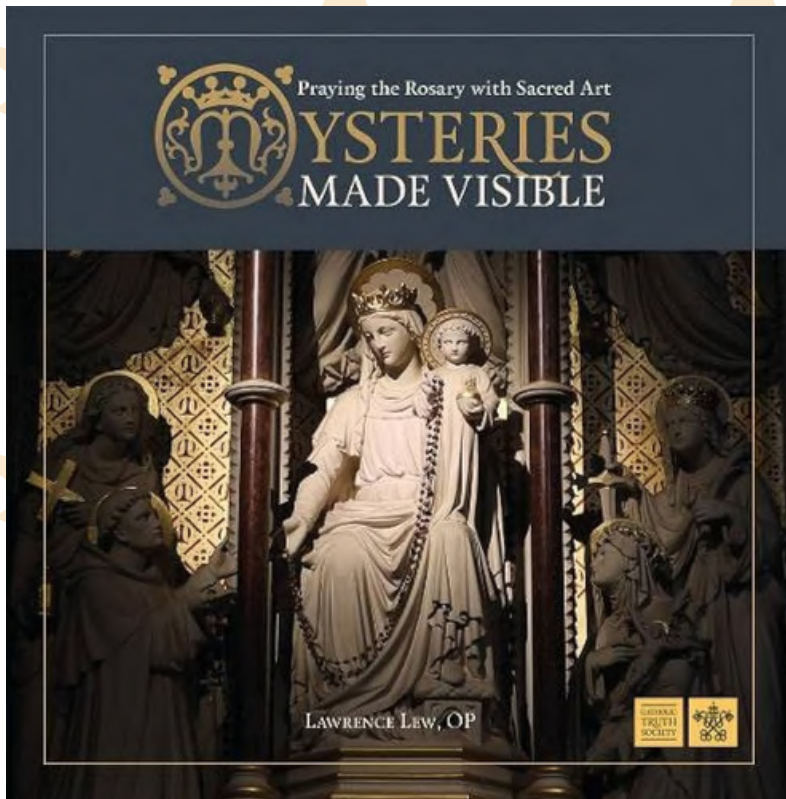
Pope St. John Paul II



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

*Mysteries Made Visible:
Praying the Rosary with Sacred Art*

by Father Lawrence Lew, O.P.



In *Mysteries Made Visible*, Father Lawrence Lew invites us to enter into the mysteries of the rosary through the power of beauty. He combines sacred images with scripture and original meditations to offer a captivating resource for meditating on the life of Christ.

“The words and images in this book make the Mysteries we contemplate vivid and real, helping all of us- those who pray the Rosary faithfully and those who struggle with the devotion - to pray with deeper reverence and greater understanding.”

excerpt from the book cover

The Rosary

By: *Sister Rosaria, O.P.*

For over a decade, my mother Josephine took a 90-minute commute to get to work each day. She was an accountant at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver during most of my elementary and high school years. In order to get to work on time and beat traffic, she would wake up at five in the morning to prepare our school lunches and dinner. We were still asleep when she kissed us goodbye. Though it was hard for her to leave like this, she would pray, “Mama Mary, please take care of my children. They are really yours, and you have just given them to me for a time.” During her 3-hour commute to and from work, she would pray rosary after rosary for us. Pope Francis once said, “Behind and before every vocation to the priesthood or to the consecrated life there is always the strong and intense prayer of someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only through prayer can they persevere and bear fruit.” Each time I hear my religious name, I am reminded that my vocation is a gift that was nourished by countless rosaries, decades upon decades of grace. My mother was my first lady of the Rosary who led me to Christ through Mama Mary.





The Last Supper (c. 1592-1594) by Jacopo Tintoretto in the Church of San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice

VISIO DIVINA

The Church has long used images to catechize and lead us into prayer. Visio Divina, or “sacred seeing,” is a form of prayer that employs sacred art to usher us into contemplation of the mysteries of faith. Below are some suggested steps for Visio Divina based on the resources available through Behold Visio Divina. You can find more suggestions and resources at beholdvisiodivina.com

Visio

Spend time gazing upon a sacred image and praying about how it speaks to your heart. Take the time to notice small details and consider their significance.

Meditation

Read a corresponding scripture passage and spend time pondering on the meaning of the image and scripture together.

Prayer

Make a prayer to God on what has been striking them in the image/Scripture.

Contemplation

Rest in God in a time of divine intimacy.

Action

Ask God how to apply the fruits of this prayer time to your daily lives.

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SAINT CECILIA NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Retreats at Saint Cecilia Motherhouse

for single Catholic women ages 17-30

Come & See
Retreat

Sept. 22-24, 2023

Vocation
Retreats

Nov. 9-12, 2023

Jan. 11-14, 2024

Mar. 7-10, 2024

Jesu Caritas
Retreat

Feb. 23-25, 2024



For more information

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