



# Entering the Great Story

*Preaching the Gospel Through Art*



“Jesus taught consistently in parables, and states that the parable is the way in which knowledge of the faith is to be realized in this world (Jn 16:25).

This is possible because reality itself is a parable. Hence, it is only by way of parable that the nature of the world and man himself is made known to us.”

- Pope Benedict XVI, 2006





“I had always felt  
life first as a story:  
and if there is a  
story there is a  
story-teller.”

- GK Chesterton,  
*Orthodoxy*, 1908



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The Lord of the Rings

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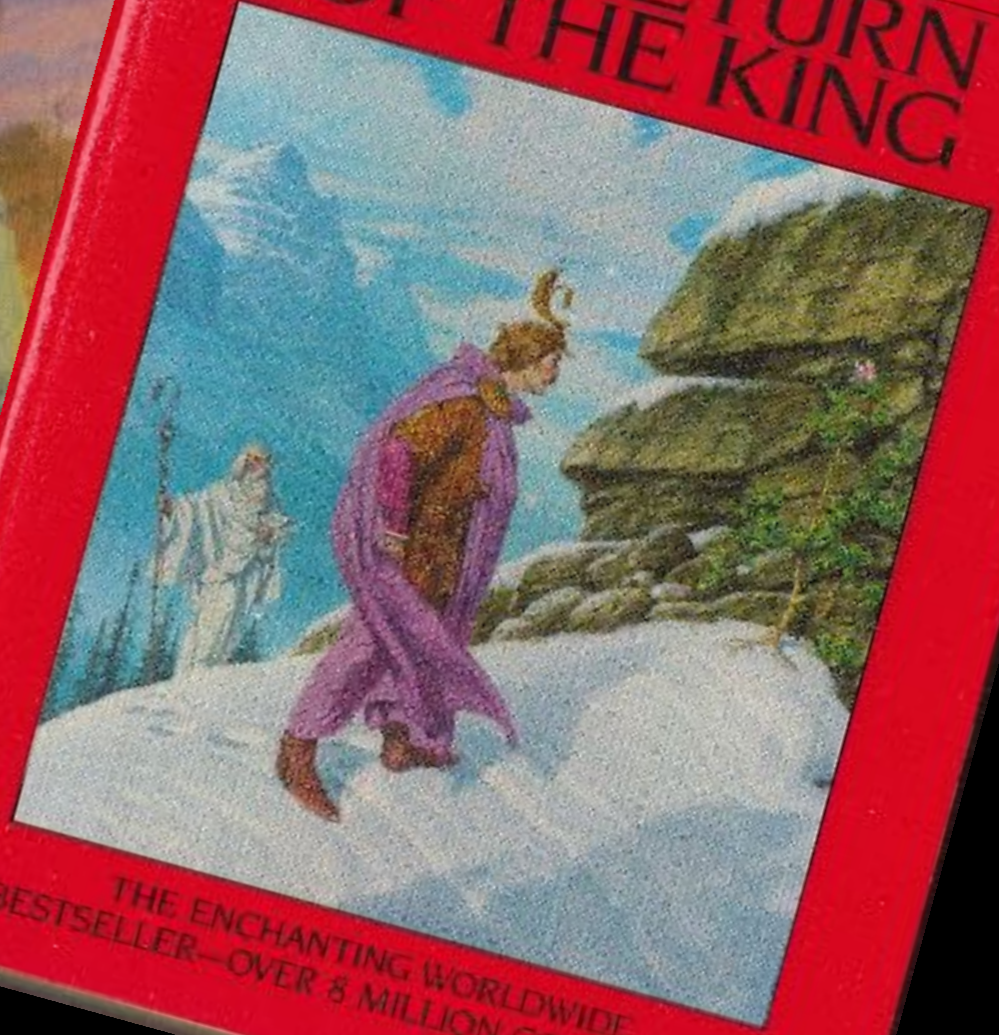
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# Awakening the Ache

“For many people, it’s reading the Tolkien epics that first give them that deep, erotic longing for a transcendent cultural otherness.

And thus Tolkien’s current significance for education, for modern Civilization, is deep.



“Eros is the beginning of human moral life, and Beauty in art and literature are oftentimes more effective than religion in awakening eros within us.”

**Eros**, at its deepest level, is that  
“inner power that ‘attracts’ man  
to the true, the good, and the  
beautiful...”

- St. John Paul II, TOB 39:2

“Religion can just seem like God coming down at us, scolding us, telling us to stay where we are, but just do better.

But real Religion must awaken the movement in the other direction, to make us come out of ourselves and move towards him, fall in love with him.”

“It’s about beginning an adventure,  
becoming a pilgrim, an exile, a lover...

By eros we mean the love that makes  
us forget ourselves entirely and run  
towards the other without any regard  
for ourselves...”

- Dr. Timothy Patitsas, *A Feeling for Beauty...*

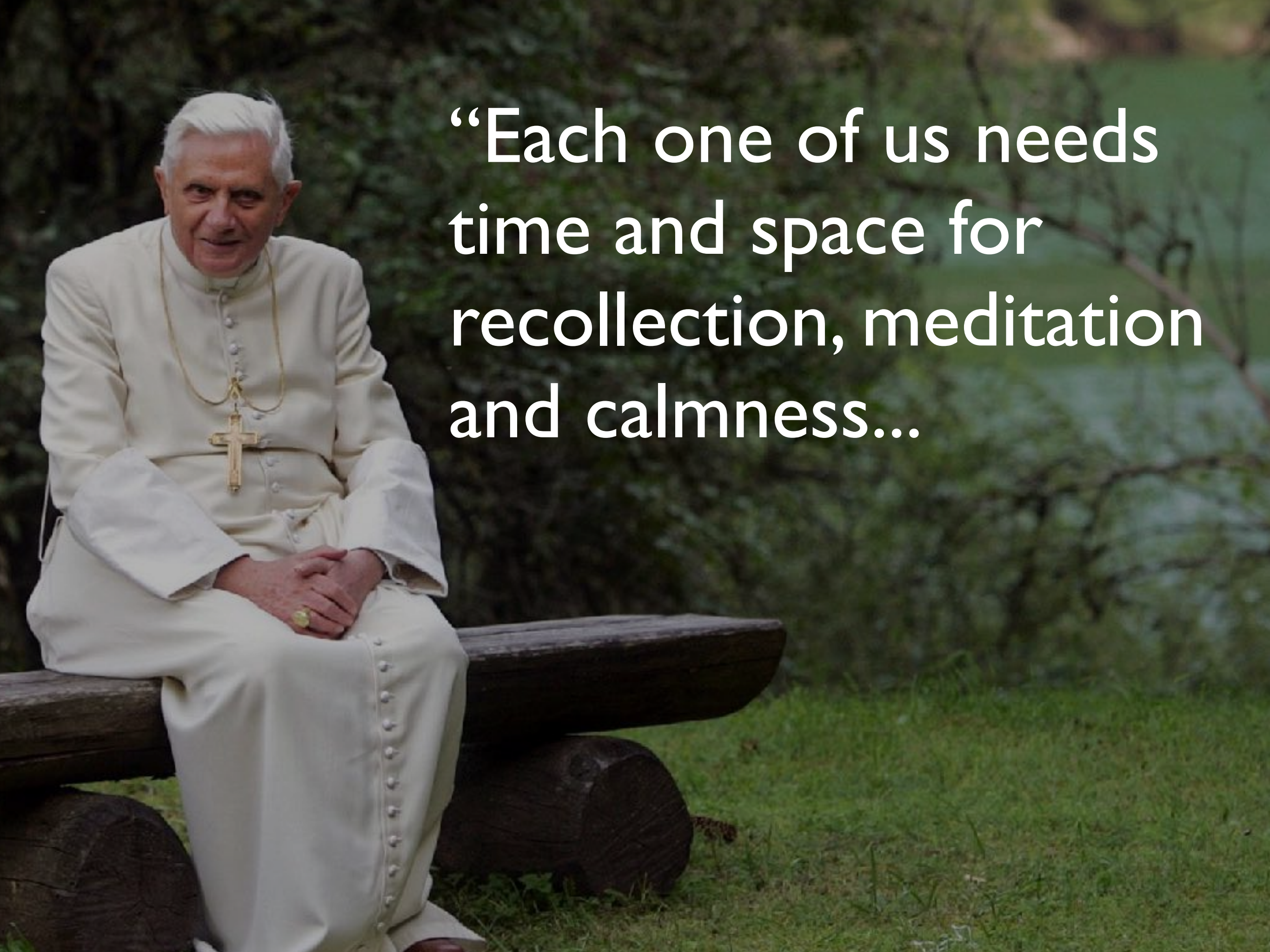


“Our mythology  
may be much  
nearer to literal  
truth than we  
suppose.”

- C.S. Lewis,  
*The Problem of Pain*





A man with white hair, wearing a white cassock and a white zucchetto, is sitting on a wooden bench outdoors. He is wearing a gold cross necklace and a ring. His hands are clasped in his lap. The background is a lush green garden with a large tree and a grassy area.

“Each one of us needs  
time and space for  
recollection, meditation  
and calmness...”



“In fact, this need tells us that we are not made for work alone, but also to think, to reflect or even simply to follow with our minds and our hearts a tale, a story in which to immerse ourselves...”

“... a story in which to immerse ourselves, in a certain sense ‘to lose ourselves’ to find ourselves subsequently enriched.”

- Pope Benedict XVI, 2011

**Evangelization:**  
giving *information* or  
transformation?

# Inculcate...

“To teach, impress by frequent repetitions or admonitions”

from *inculcare*, “to tread on”  
*calcare*, “to trample”

# Education...

*educere* “bring out, lead forth”

from *ēdūcō*, “I lead forth, I raise up”



# **“When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer”**

Walt Whitman (1819–1892)



When I heard the learn'd astronomer,  
When the proofs, the figures, were  
ranged in columns before me,  
When I was shown the charts and  
diagrams, to add, divide,  
and measure them...





When I sitting  
heard the astronomer  
where he lectured with  
much applause in the lecture-room,  
How soon unaccountable  
I became tired and sick,



Till rising and gliding out  
I wander'd off by myself,  
In the mystical moist night-air,  
and from time to time,  
Look'd up in perfect silence  
at the stars.

Walt Whitman (1819–1892)

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking up at a starry night sky. The person is positioned in the lower center of the frame, with their back to the viewer. The sky is dark with numerous small white stars. The foreground shows the dark silhouette of the hill and some distant trees or structures.



We don't want to be lectured.  
We long to be *lured*.





# What Moves You?

“A theologian who does not love art, poetry, music and nature can be dangerous.

Blindness and deafness toward the beautiful are not incidental: they’re necessarily reflected in his theology.”

- Pope Benedict XVI

# A Pilgrimage of Desire

Eros “becomes a pilgrimage, an ongoing exodus out of the closed inward-looking self towards its liberation...

Through self-giving, and thus towards authentic self-discovery and indeed the discovery of God.”

- Pope Benedict XVI



The Ideal Meets the Real







“Many young people seek to compensate for this loneliness with substitutes of various kinds...

**Prisoners of the fleeting moment**, they seek to ‘consume’ the strongest and most gratifying individual experiences at the level of immediate emotions and sensations...”

- St. John Paul II, *March 25, 1992*

“... A wealth of information  
creates a poverty of attention...”

- Herbert Simon,  
Nobel prize recipient, 1971















“All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone.”

- Blaise Pascal

# Communication

Radio

Internet

E-mail

Smartphones

Social Media

# Communion

Affection

Attention

Friendship

Family

Love