



Rosa Mystica Reflection

(October 19, 2020)

Connecting to Our Shared Humanity Throughout Time

In our first talk, “Art as a Carrier of Faith”, Fr. Cameli spoke of the idea of newness. Specifically, in the United States, newness is often seen as being better than tradition. To do so, however, limits our ability to access human experience helpful to our future and sense of stability.

This year is remarkable for forcing a new way of living for all of us. Our lives became more nonlocal (i.e. Zoom). We also became acutely aware of the butterfly effect, how very small changes in our complex world created very large effects (i.e. viruses and international travel). While many parts of our daily existence shifted, we still share our humanity, just on a different, more elastic scale; although it can be a struggle to adapt to this new reality. This can give way to its own suffering.

Retrieving Marian art is not so much a way to preference tradition over novelty, but to broaden our time horizon and become more elastic in our understanding and compassion towards our fellow humans. Mary in her many depictions is Our Lady of Perpetual Help. She reminds of a basic fact that suffering is a part of being human, however that may look over the centuries. To recognize this fact can help us to transmute our own suffering. It may also help us feel a little less lonely in the now.