



Rosa Mystica Reflection

(September 28, 2020)

Art as a Carrier of Faith

For more than 2000 years, Christians have reached into the experience of Mary, Mother of Jesus as a model of a patient, compassionate guide in the midst of suffering. Mary is an archetype for the highest virtues of the human condition. With each generation that passes, artists, writers, and followers reinterpret her image to bring meaning, beauty, and a sense of stability to the world around them.

We face an unprecedented moment in human history. How many worldviews and value systems can we access each day through news, internet, and our daily life? We can find more online in a few minutes than what took previous generations a lifetime to discover. Having so much knowledge can overwhelm our senses.

Beauty can travel through the senses and reach people's hearts, carrying a new awareness and faith, often beyond words. Through beauty, we relate to the most aspirational human values and can become better versions of ourselves for each other. ***As Vatican Museum Director, Dr. Barbara Jatta writes, "It can help to understand the role that beauty can play to overcome moments of discouragement and fear."***