Apse Triptych and Apophasis by Abigail L. Lofte

The painting, *Apse Triptych*, painted by Mark Rothko (1956) and found in the Rothko Chapel in Houston, Texas piques my religious imagination by drawing my attention to the wholly-other, transcendent God. This large-scale oil painting, deliberately without illustration, painted in black, and incorporating various hues and textures is designed to encompass the viewer into the painting itself so that the viewer and painting become one reality. In doing so, the viewer's attention is meant to be exalted toward contemplating the infinite, as one enveloped within it.

The apophatic spiritual tradition enjoys a long history within Roman Catholicism and has been a hallmark of the development of my own spirituality. I know God as total nothingness, complete darkness, a formless void, a chasm I cannot see across. Knowing God through absence comforts me because in it I find a place of belonging. I understand myself within its spacious hiddleness as one totally subsumed into this mystical reality and I know, now, that the nothingness I experience is a something and that, just because I cannot see or feel God, does not mean God is not present or real. Realizing the value of the nothing has been a great lesson for me of understanding God's movement and presence, as well as directing me toward the ultimate Good. This Nothing-Something is my end.

A person's desire to be known and understood drives the quest for ultimate meaning, and I have found that deep and abiding knowing in spiritual darkness within the Godhead. The *Apse Triptych* captures some of this feeling, as it is a canvas covered in darkness but still conveying the dynamism of movement through the emotive power of color. If I am not attentive to my own darkness, it becomes difficult to feel this holy movement and the place within the Interior Castle where God and my soul are in communion. St. Francis of Assisi was once overheard praying what has become one of my oft-used prayers: “Who are you, Lord? And who am I?” The Unknown God, like the immensity of the *Apse Triptych*, subsumes the entirety of my own identity so that God and I become united in that moment as one; in this time I am known and understood as I am. My mind, my body, and my soul are all taken up into the Godhead and, just as I come to know God through contemplation, God contemplates me.

What this has to offer a conversation on women's faith experience in real life is a profound understanding of relationship. God’s and my mutual knowing has taken a great deal of time and energy to cultivate, just as relationships require great patience in developing a shared history. This history provides a feeling of security in which partners feel comfortable sharing with each other and become known in a new way; they are seen, heard, and valued. I am simultaneously everything and nothing with God in the mystical apophasic experience, and I find exciting the possibility of full communion someday with God in the resurrection, who has a face.

**Weekend Mass**

(located in Main Chapel)
- Saturday: 4:30 pm
- Sunday: 9:30 am, 11:00 am & 7 pm

**Weekday Mass**

(located in Women's Residence)
- Mon - Thurs: 12:10 pm

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

(located in Main Chapel)
- Tuesday: 11:30 am -12:20 pm, or by appointment

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Please keep our Syrian Newcomers in your prayers. We are still waiting for SJ3b and SJ4 to arrive.
- SJ1: The Dalaa Family
- SJ2: Al Haidar Family
- SJ3a: Bassel and Majed
- SJ3b: Zeidan Family
- SJ4: Bassel's Parents and Brother

For the Year of Mercy, the Worshipping Community is kindly asked to pray for the healing of First Nations Peoples.

**Quid Novum**

The Road to Discipleship: Feed and tend my sheep

Jesus questions Peter, then commands Peter to feed or tend his sheep. The passage uses two different Greek verbs for ‘love’ to indicate that both love for—and friendship with—Jesus are crucial for disciples. When Peter later writes to community elders, he does so as a “fellow elder.” Peter encourages elders to “tend the flock of God that is under your care, exercising the oversight… as God would have you do it.” He further advises them not to lord it over those in their charge, but be examples to them. Remembering his own failures enables Peter to be a forgiving, compassionate leader. We disciples are called to model Peter, always aware of own failures as we accept any leadership.
Hi, My name is....

Fr Terry Kersch
President

Brian Maraj
Dean

Theresa Robinson
Campus Minister

L’Arche Edmonton

L’Arche Edmonton will host an Art Exhibition on April 22 and April 23 entitled Art from the Heart, at Nina Hagarty Centre for the Arts, 9225 118 Ave. This exhibition will celebrate the culmination of an art project involving our core members (adults with developmental disabilities) who have spent the past several months creating pieces of art under the guidance of art therapist Joyce Aita. The exhibition will be held Friday, April 22 from 3 – 9 p.m. and Saturday from 10 – 4 p.m. A special evening reception will be held on the Friday from 7 – 9 p.m. There is no charge but donations towards L’Arche Edmonton’s Day Program are welcome. The L’Arche Association of Edmonton is a faith-based, non-profit charitable organization that provides family-style homes and a Day Program to adults with developmental disabilities in our community. For more information, contact Maria Mastrih at L’Arche, 780-465-0618, ext. 206.

Care for our Common Home

Edmonton Social Justice Institute Invites you to join us for Care for our Common Home: A Faithful Response to Today’s Ecological and Social Crisis. Keynote speaker is Jennifer Henry, Executive Director of KAIROS. Sessions run Friday April 8, 7-9 p.m., and Saturday April 9, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at The King’s University, 9125 - 50 Street, Edmonton. For more information please visit sjedmonton.wordpress.com.

Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide

You are invited to join us at Holy Family Parish, 75 Poirier Avenue, St. Albert, for informative and interactive sessions on the above topics on two Sundays, April 10 & April 17, from 12:45 p.m to 2:45 p.m. The guest speaker will be Dr. Arnold Voth, a physician from the Royal Alex Hospital in Edmonton, who has done 20 years of research on this subject. Topics to be included are:

- The meaning of life and death for the Christian and non-Christian
- A brief overview of the history of euthanasia
- The Supreme Court’s Decision - what is wrong with this decision?
- What does this new ‘law’ mean and why should we care?
- Critical care and end of life care

Music Ministry

Can you sing or play an instrument? Music ministry is always looking for new recruits.

9:30 and 11 am Masses
Tegan Hryciew
Stjoesc.music@gmail.com

7 pm Mass
Theresa Robinson
Theresa.Robinson@ualberta.ca

4:30 pm (Sat.) Mass
Cerina Lee
jlee7@ualberta.ca

Sunday Coffee or Brunch

There is often free coffee in the Boardroom following the 9:30 am mass. Brunch is served in the cafeteria follow the 11 am mass for a cost of $7 person. Why not join us?

St. Joseph

O God, you love your people and bless the ordinary lives we quietly live. As you blessed Saint Joseph, bless what I do, however hidden and simple it may be, and let all I do be done with love. Amen.

Music

Tegan
9:30 & 11 am Music

Cerina
4:30 Sat. Music

Fr. Glenn
Chaplain

Fr. Don
Lecturer

History of St. Joe’s

At the invitation of Henry Marshall Tory, first president of the University of Alberta in 1926 the Catholic community under Archbishop John Joseph O’Leary founded an affiliated College on the University campus. Guided by the Christian Brothers, St. Joseph’s College housed up to one hundred men in a handsome brick building that included a chapel, dining room, classrooms and library. Though its affiliation agreement, the College offered university credit courses in Christian apologetics, ethics and philosophy. Beginning with the College’s first rector, Brother Rogatian, in those early years Christian Brothers on staff taught in several faculties of the University.

In 1963, Archbishop John Hugh MacDonald invited the Basilian Fathers to assume administrative responsibility for St. Joseph’s College. During the next decades, its academic offerings were considerably expanded. Further, chaplaincy services assumed greater prominence on campus. Only recently, its residence gained an annex, St. Joseph’s College Women’s Residence. Today, with a core faculty of Basilians, lay women and men and excellent library, St. Joseph’s College offers undergraduate courses for credit in all U of A degree programs. Of particular importance are offerings in religious education for future teachers in the province’s Catholic school system. Other areas of instruction include philosophy, science and religion, history, ethics and theology.

Outline: AMORIS LÆTITIA – The Joy of Love by Pope Francis

“I will begin with an opening chapter inspired by the Scriptures, to set a proper tone. I will then examine the actual situation of families, in order to keep firmly grounded in reality. I will go on to recall some essential aspects of the Church’s teaching on marriage and the family, thus paving the way for two central chapters dedicated to love. I will then highlight some pastoral approaches that can guide us in building sound and fruitful homes in accordance with God’s plan, with a full chapter devoted to the raising of children. Finally, I will offer an invitation to mercy and the pastoral discernment of those situations that fall short of what the Lord demands of us, and conclude with a brief discussion of family spirituality.” (AMORIS LETITIA #6)

Book Club

Time / Date: Monday April 18 at 7 pm.
Location: Classroom 1-01
Book: “Physics of the Future: How Science Will Shape Human Destiny and Our Daily Lives by the Year 2100” by Michio Kaku

Edmonton Archdiocesan CWL Convention

All CWL members are invited to join us at Holy Family Parish on Friday, April 22, and Saturday, April 23, for this year’s Diocesan Convention. Convention information including registration forms are available on our website http://www.edmontoncwl.org. Registration deadline is April 8. For information and to register, please contact Mariette Huot at 780-962-4599.

Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia

There is still time to write to your Member of Parliament and/or Member of the Legislative Assembly to add your voice to the considerations being made as we approach legalization of assisted suicide in Canada. To find the name and address of your MP, visit the parliamentary website at http://goo.gl/mSO7aA. To find the name and address of your MLA, visit the legislature website at https://goo.gl/Zhl8qA.