

The Franciscan "Via Pulchritudinis" or Way of Beauty

Mary Beth explores the Franciscan "via pulchritudinis" or way of beauty as a model for moral reflection and action. Mary Beth will explain how the Franciscan approach to moral living emphasizes the centrality of the experience and discernment of beauty. This is not simply a sentimental approach to life, but calls upon our deepest spiritual gifts and skills to recognize the presence of the divine Artist in our world, in the persons whose lives we touch and in our actions to 'give birth to beauty' around us. We see such actions in Pope Francis and his outreach to the poor, and in Mother Teresa's work, reaching out to those at the margins. Because the Franciscan tradition sees the world through the lens of God's abundant love and generosity, we are invited to act out of spiritual and creative abundance. As a result, we enter into a transformative dynamic that helps us become 'artists' of beauty around us.