

02. Living Advent from the Heart



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RCIA/Cursillo.

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A u d i o C D ' s H o m i l i e s A r t i c l e s

Welcome to my site

Index of Topics



Click on “Liturgy” (left menu)

Then on “Advent”

The rich young man

attracted by the 'life' of Jesus and his companions

wanted to know what he had to do to share in it

'Love God with all your mind.'

metanoia

Loving with the mind requires the heart

So ‘Love God with all your heart.’

For love to penetrate to the heart, we need to

‘Love God with all your soul (longing).’

The fruit of this

‘Love God with all your strength.’

Roman Catechism, Council of Trent, 1545-1563, Preface 10.

‘The whole concern of doctrine and its teaching
must be directed to the love that never ends.

Whether something is proposed for belief,
for hope or for action,
the love of our Lord must always be made accessible,
so that anyone can see
that all the works of perfect Christian virtue
spring from love
and have no other objective
than to arrive at love.’

‘Love with all your heart.’

Seeing with your heart



Jesus' Baptism



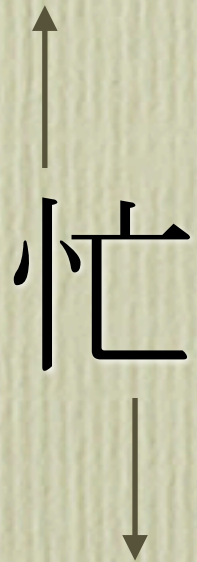
Mary



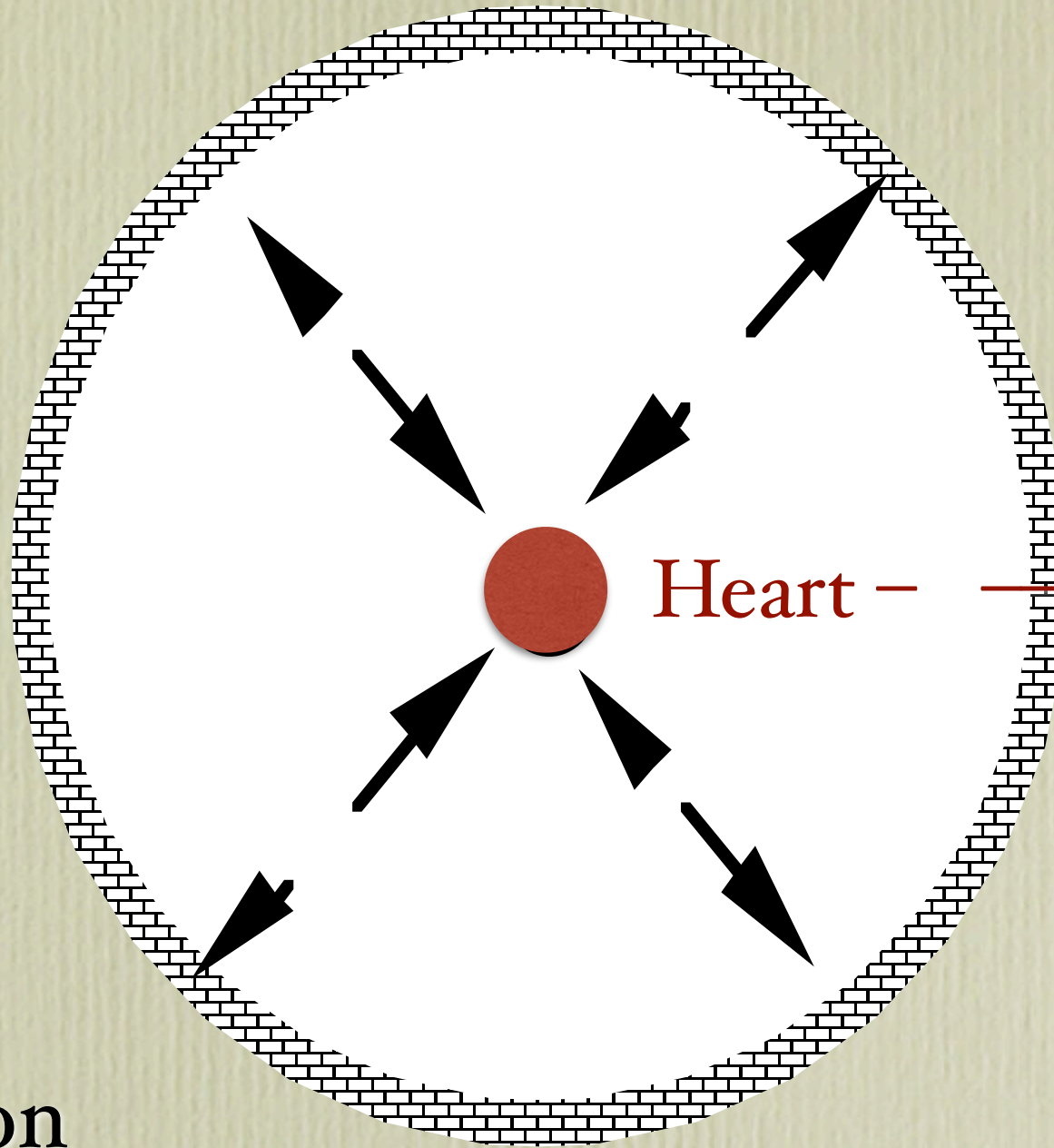
Busy

Iso gashii

Heart



Destruction



Religious
Experience

Re + ligare To bind back

God
Sanskrit **Ghu** ('called' 'calling') + **to** ('The one')

Religious
Experience is



Experience of
Communion with 'God'

God 'The Heart and the Beyond of Everything' (Teilhard de Chardin)

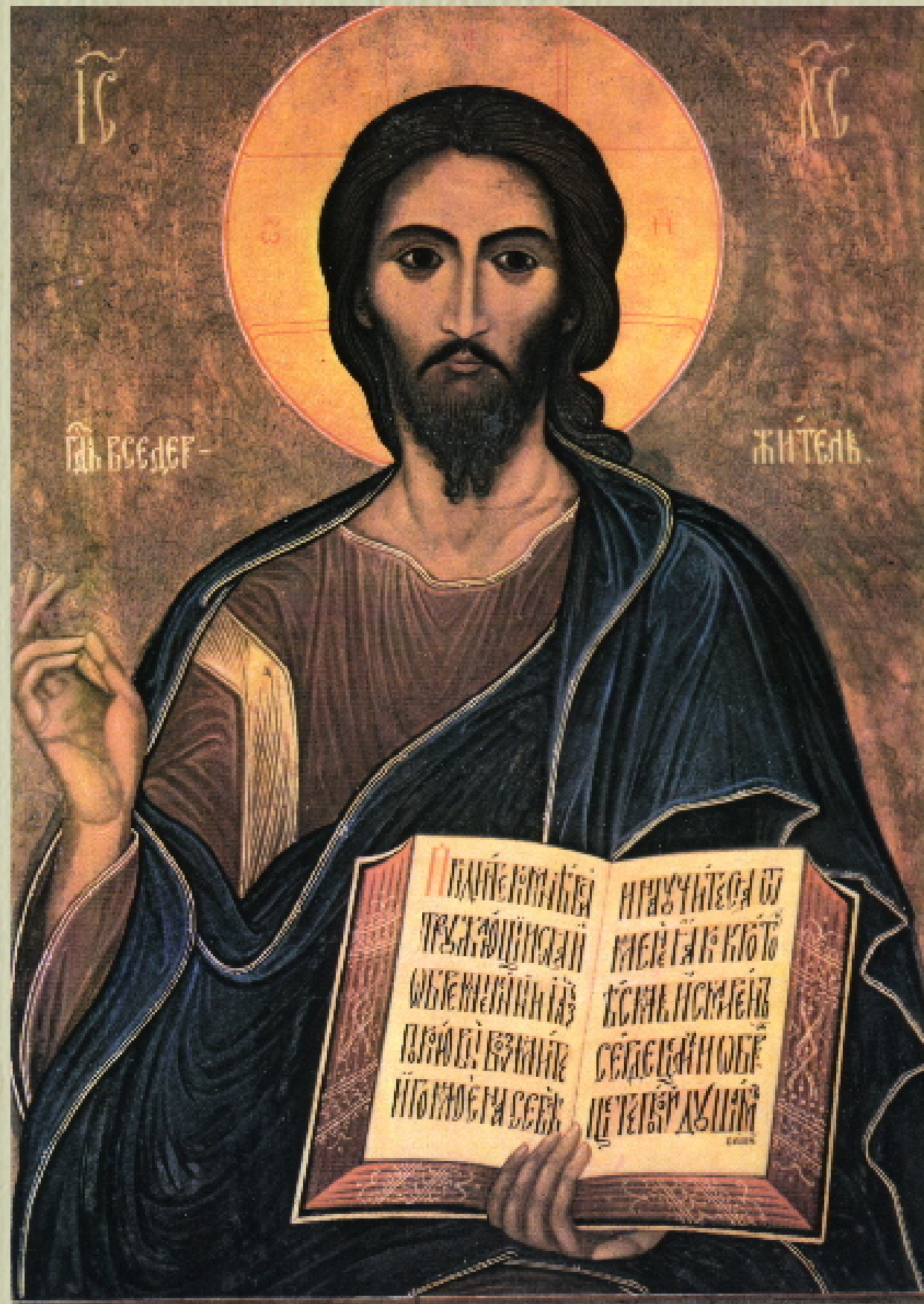
Holy

Gerard Manley Hopkins : God's Grandeur (1877)

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.
And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs –
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and ah! bright wings.

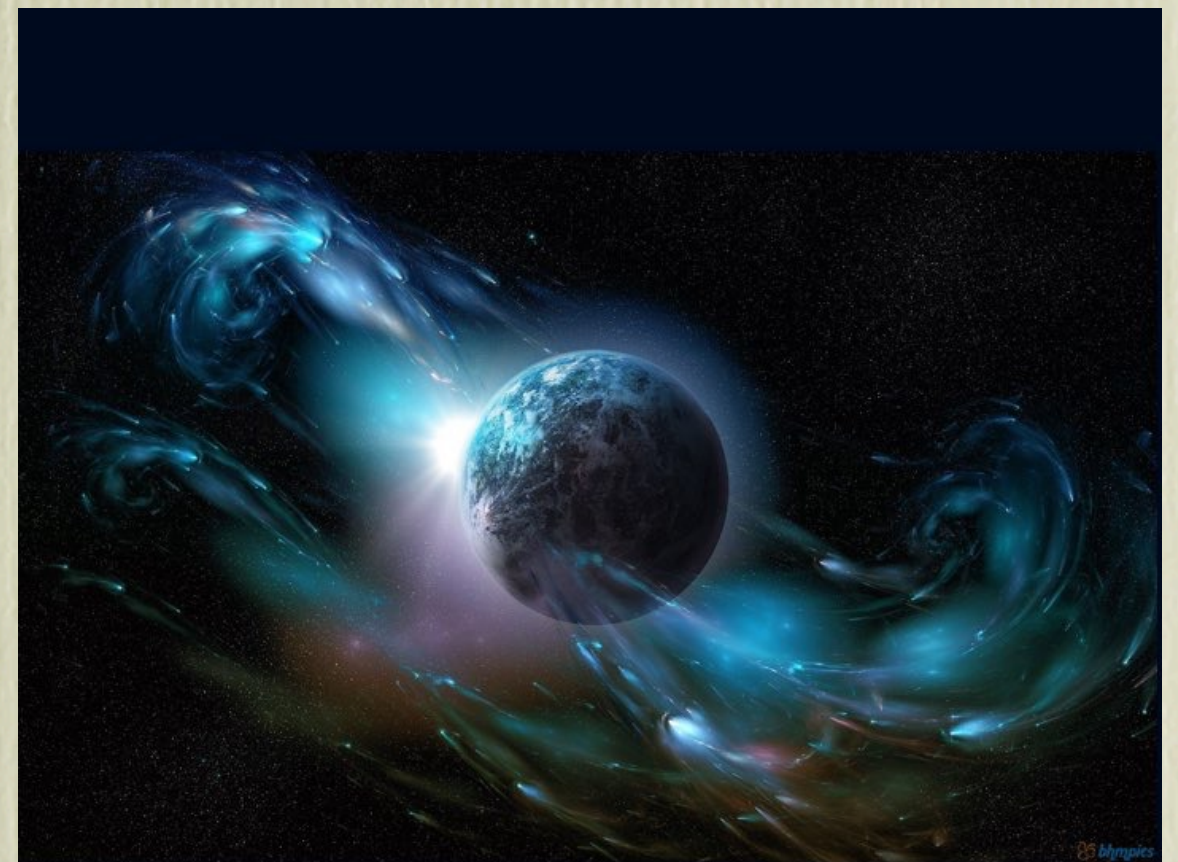
‘Return to the heart! Why are you running away from yourselves?
Why are you getting lost, outside yourselves,
entering on deserted ways?
You are wandering aimlessly. Come back! To where? To the Lord!
It can be done without delay! Return immediately to your heart!
Exiled from your own self you wander outside.
You fail to know yourself,
you who want to know the source of your existence.
Come back! Return to the heart...
See there what you can learn about God,
for the image of God is there.
In your inner self dwells Christ.
In your inner self you are being renewed after God’s image.’

(Augustine)



Matthew 11:28-29

‘In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was towards [pros] God,
and the Word was God.
The Word was towards God
in the beginning.



All things came into being through the Word,
and without the Word not one thing came into being.



What has come into being in the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.



The true light, which enlightens everyone,
was coming into the world.

God's Word was in the world,
and the world came into being through God's Word;

yet the world did not know God's Word.

God's Word came to what was God's own,
and God's own people did not accept God's Word.

'I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,
to be found by those who did not seek me.

I said, "Here I am, here I am,"
to a nation that did not call on my name.

I held out my hands all day long
to a rebellious people,
who walk in a way that is not good,
following their own devices;

a people who provoke me
to my face continually'(Isaiah 65:1-3).

But to all who welcomed God,
who believed in God,
God gave power to become
God's children.

They were born
not of human generation
or of human striving
or of male power,<

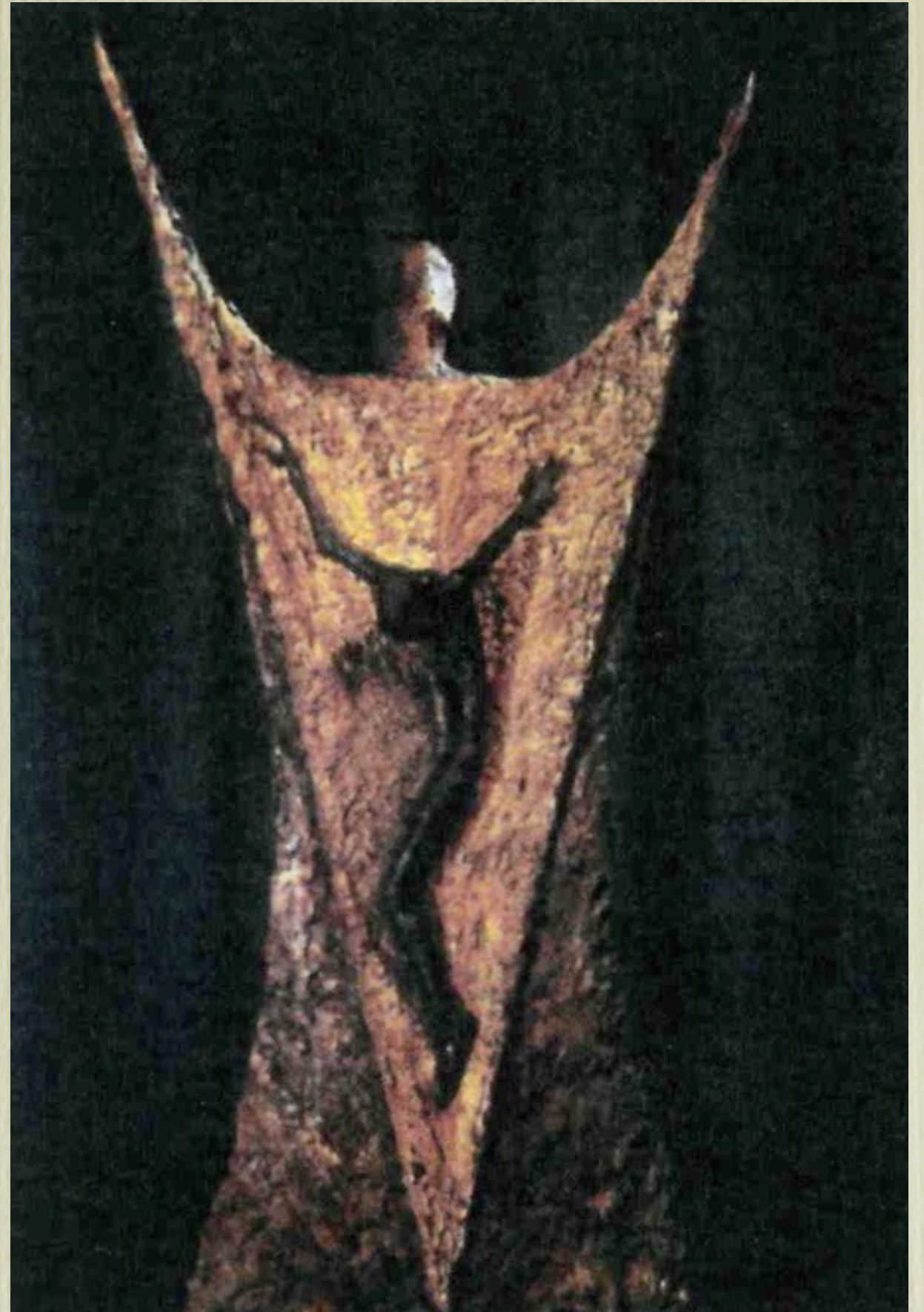
but of God.



The Word became flesh
and lived among us



and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's
only son,
full of the gift of truth.





From his fullness we
have all received,
grace upon grace.

‘God’s love has been
poured into our hearts by
the Holy Spirit who has
been given to us.’
(Romans 5:5)



‘The heart of God descends
in haste to his creation,
with the weight of an infinite love,

and the heart of creation rises
towards God,
drawn by an attraction
that dominates all others in it.

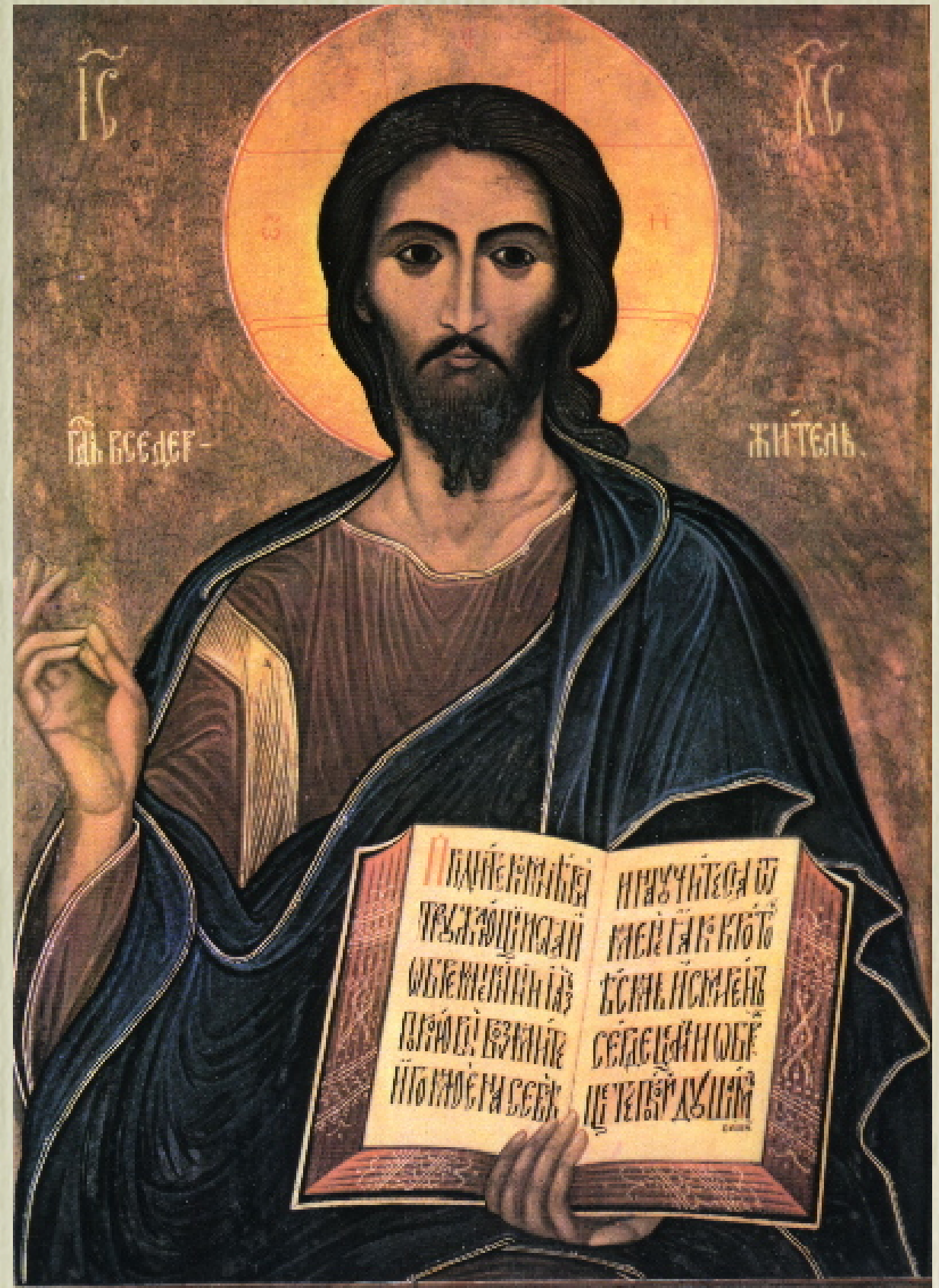
It is in Jesus
that these two hearts meet,
and they unite so profoundly
that the two hearts become one.’

(Jules Chevalier, ‘The Heart of Jesus’, page 76).

John 1:17 'The Law [Torah] indeed
was given through Moses;



The gift of truth
came through Jesus, the Messiah.'





John 1:18

‘No one has ever seen God. It is God’s only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, who has made God known.’

Lover

Jesus

Love God



God's Spirit

Loving

‘The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all’(2Corinthians 13:13).





Knowing that God is **Spirit** reminds us to be attentive to the divinely inspired movements of our own heart: movements of longing as we yearn for closer communion with God whose Spirit inspires us; movements of wonder and praise as we rejoice in God being with us. It reminds us to be sensitive to these movements in every man and every woman.



Knowing that God is **Word** reminds us to be attentive to the words and actions through which God speaks to us, and the words and actions through which we respond to God. We learn, too, to reverence the sacred ground of each person's Spirit, and be attentive to each person's Word, as together we journey towards God who is the Source ('Father', 'Mother') of all.



Knowing that God is **Father/**
Mother reminds us to open
our hearts to God's love and
to treat every other person as
our brother or sister.

‘As you, Father, are in me
and I am in you,
may they also be in us ...
so that the love
with which you loved me
may be in them,
and I in them’(John 17:21,26).



- ‘I am in the Father
and you are in me
and I am in you’(John 14:20).
- ‘I pray that they will be one
as we are one,
with me in them
and you in me’(John 17:21).

‘I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me’(Galatians 2:20).

‘All of us, with unveiled faces,
seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror,
are being transformed into the same image
from one degree of glory to another;
for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit’(2Corinthians 3:18).

An Obedient (Listening) Heart

‘Want only what God wants’(Teresa Interior Castle II.1.7).

‘The soul remains under his touch like a lyre, and all His gifts to it are like so many strings which vibrate to sing, day and night, the praise of His glory’(Elizabeth of the Trinity, Last Retreat).

A Free Heart

John of the Cross (Ascent I.II.4) reminds us
that a bird cannot fly if its leg is tied,
however thin the thread that secures it.
Even the slightest attachment must be broken.



A Loving Heart

- ‘Love one another as I have loved you’(John 15:12).

A Humble Heart

‘The word humility comes from “humus” –
fertile soil ... capable of making good use
of the rubbish we tip into it,
capable of transforming our refuse into wealth,
of accepting every seed,
giving it body, life, growth, to become fully itself
without denaturing it ...
Like the rich silent, creative earth,
we should offer ourselves to the Other.’

Anthony Bloom ‘The Courage to pray’, page 11

A Silent Heart

‘Our greatest need is to be silent before this great God with the appetite and with the tongue, for the only language the hears is the silent language of love.’(John of the Cross, 22nd November 1587).

‘Activism takes cover under numerous and often noble excuses: necessities of life, urgent duties of one’s state, fear lest a certain milieu win and dissipate people, joys to be had in generous action which opens up and enlarges one’s power, the aridity and apparently useless abjection of prayer, and above all a great pity for those around us whose misery is a constant appeal to our Christian charity.’(Fr Marie-Eugène OCD, I want to see God, page 420).

A Believing Heart

A heart open to welcome grace

A Heart open to welcome the Holy One

‘The soul is God’s most beautiful creation.
So then, soul, so anxious to know the whereabouts
of the One you love so that you may seek Him
and be united to Him,
know that you yourself are His dwelling place,
his secret chamber, the place where he lies hidden.
Rejoice and be glad, for all you ever wanted,
all you ever hoped for, is so close as to be within you.
You cannot be without Him.’

(John of the Cross Spiritual Canticle 1.7).

Therese of Lisieux

“Prayer is a surge of the heart;
a simple look turned towards God,
a cry of recognition and love,
embracing both trial and joy.”

Teresa of Avila

“Prayer is an intimate sharing between friends ...
taking time frequently to be alone
with we One who we know loves us.”

“Look at him. He never takes his eyes off you.”