

A Journey of Transformation

Becoming a Compassionate Companion

Deacon Mike Walsh

www.itinerantpreacher.org

deacon.mike@stpatrick.on.ca





The Transformation of Mary of Magdala

John 20: 11-18

The Transformation of Mary of Magdala

Then the disciples returned home.

But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been.

And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher.

Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and what he told her.



John 20: 11-18

The Journey of Transformation

- *Definition:*
 - *to undergo a change in form, appearance, or **character**; become transformed.*
- *Areas of Possible Transformation*
 - Individual
 - Family
 - Community

Four Questions of Transformation

3-Joy

What brings joy into my life?

4-Service

Where can I be in service in my life?

2-Suffering

What are areas of suffering in my life?

1-Change

What I need to change in my life?



***The Four Questions in the
Transformation for
Mary of Magdala***

John 20: 11-18

The Transformation of Mary of Magdala



John 20: 11-18

1-Change

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The Transformation of Mary of Magdala



John 20: 11-18

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The Transformation of Mary of Magdala

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Circle One

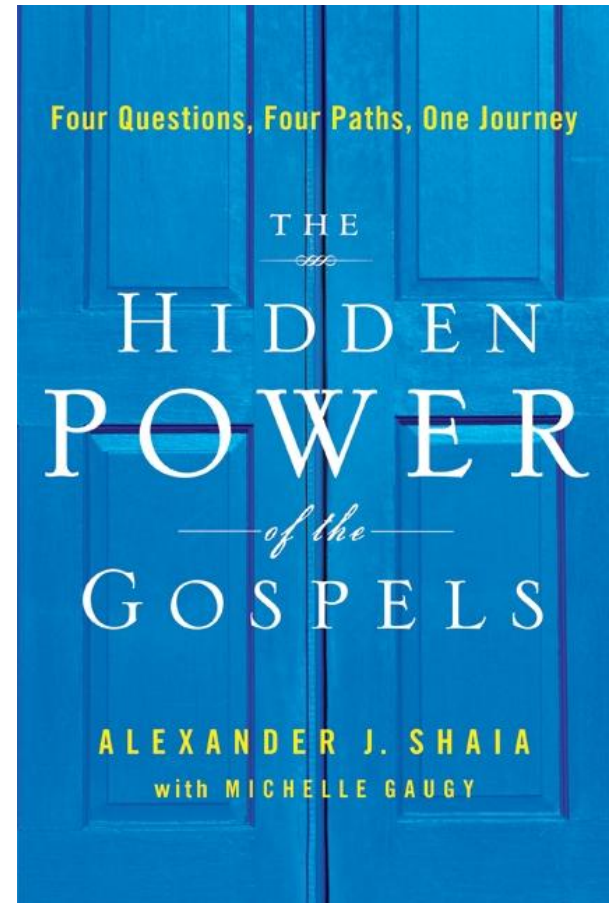
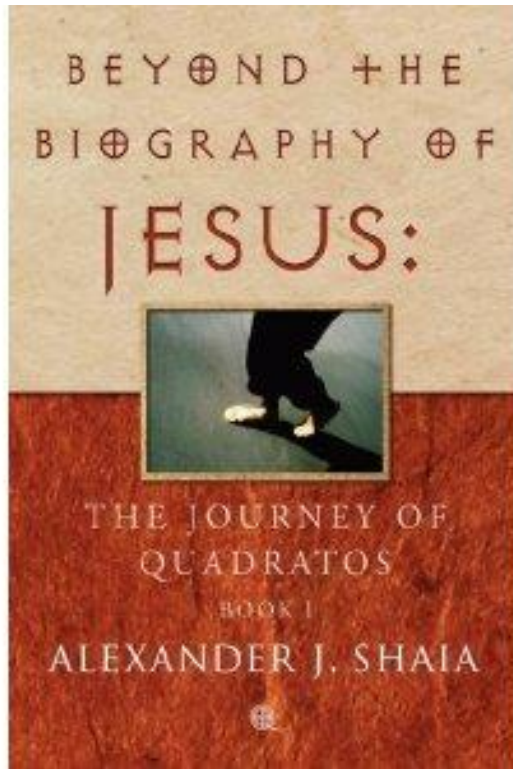
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Beyond the Biography of Jesus

The Journey of Quadratos
Dr. Alexander Shaia



<http://www.quadratos.com/quadratos/>

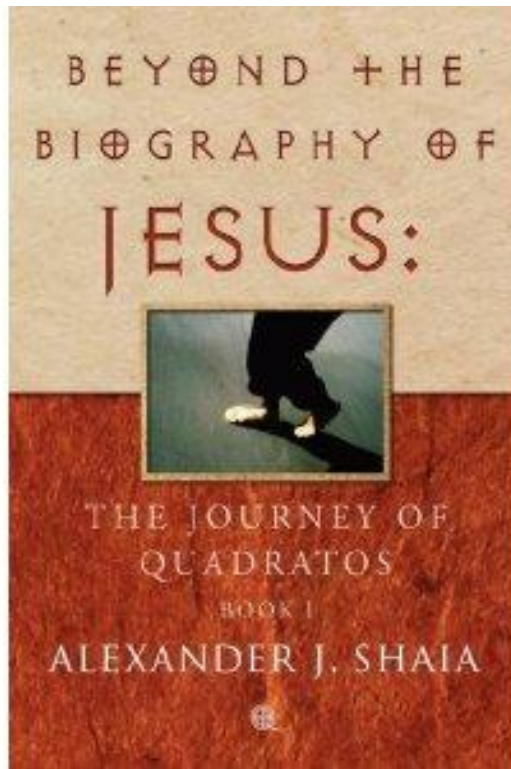
The Journey of Quadratos

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QUADRATOS IS...

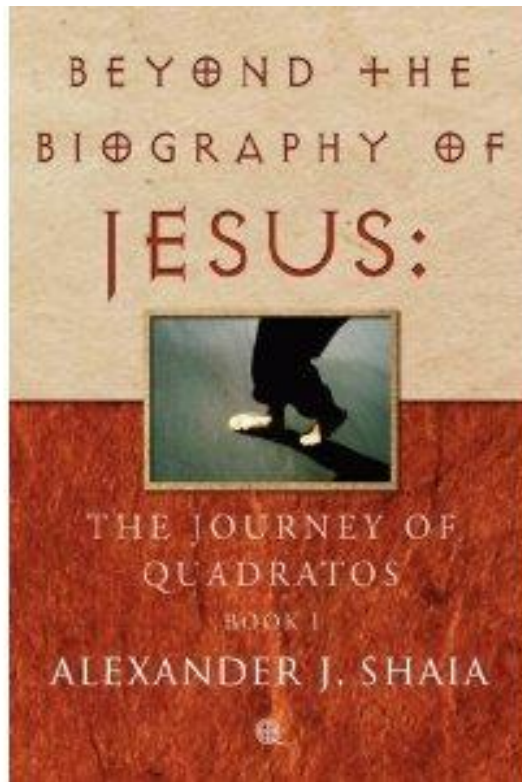
- a new name for the ancient four-fold journey of spirit and transformation.
- At its most universal, the pattern of Quadratos is found in our experience of the four seasons and their cycle.
- Within Christianity, Quadratos provides a deeper understanding of Jesus *the* Christ and a new foundation for affirming early Christianity's choice of four gospels and the ancient - now restored - gospel reading sequence for Sunday worship.
- The four progressive paths of Quadratos correspond to the four gospels and the four great questions of the spiritual life.

The Four Gospels: More than History



- From -'Old' View of the Gospels
 - Historical life of Jesus
 - Written by 4 most accurate eyewitnesses
- To- Beyond a Biography
 - Text composed by 'authors/teachers' for a specific community
 - Each community faced an enormous question
- Questions:
 - Who was it written for?
 - Why was it written?
 - What can we learn?

The Four Gospels: More than History



- **Each Gospel written for those who believed in:**
 - Jesus the Christ
 - Jesus Lives
- **Each evangelist/teacher:**
 - Composed a 'story' about the dilemma they were facing
 - Set Jesus in the midst of the community's to answer a primary question
- **4 Dilemmas/questions:**
 - Change
 - Suffering
 - Joy
 - Maturing in Service
- **Early Christians got it right:**
 - Right 4 Gospels
 - Right Sequence

FIRST PATH: Matthew

Across time and culture, people have felt a desire for permanence.

First Path ~ Matthew

*Climbing the Great Mountain
of Matthew*

How do we face change?

Hearing the Summons

Shock, Uncertainty, Finally Yes

Autumn – West

Sunset to late evening

Year 1 or Year A

Angel (announces new journey)



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- Matthew writes to the Christian Jews of Antioch ~ 70 CE
- Emperor Vespasian destroys
 - The Temple
 - Jewish Priesthood
 - Jerusalem
- Jewish Leaders flee to Antioch to regroup & rebuild
- Theological rift develops between:
 - Apocalypse
 - Get back to the Law
 - Third Voice- “I have a family to feed-get back to me”

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- **Grace of this Gospel:**
 - Jewish Christians – Time to Change
 - Jesus is leading us to a NEW Reality
 - Inner Temple/Inner Priesthood
 - God is with us
 - God is not angry/did not cause the destruction
 - Primary Intent= God is with us in moments of change
 - New Journey with God

SECOND PATH: Mark

The second path is without a doubt the most agonizing of the four paths

Second Path ~ Mark

Crossing Mark's Stormy Sea

How do we move through suffering?

Enduring all Obstacles

Strained by Opposites, Exhaustion,
Lonely

Winter – North

Late evening to dawn

Year 2 or Year B

Lion (great strength)



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- 1st of the Synoptic Gospels
- Placed 2nd in the Canon
- Rome ~64CE
- Rome Burns 7 Days/ 7 Nights
- Emperor Nero needs a Scapegoat
 - Jewish Christians
- You believe in the Christ- You & your family die in the Circus Maximus
- Leadership Crisis as Paul/Peter Executed

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- **Questions of this Gospel:**
 - Is this the end of the new faith?
 - How do we move through these days of turmoil/ pain/isolation/ abandonment?
- **Grace of this Gospel:**
 - None of us can avoid this path
 - Live through the painful/emotional moments
 - Jesus & the Resurrection are our hope

THIRD PATH: John

*In one electric, life-changing instant, it seems as though everything in us shifts
and a blinding new reality enters.*

Third Path ~ John / Revelation

Resting in John's Glorious Garden

How do we receive joy?

Receiving the Boon

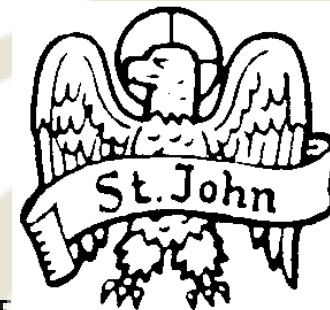
Ecstatic, Calm, Visionary

Springtime – East

Dawn to late morning

Lent to Pentecost – Every Year

Eagle (visionary sight)



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- Last of the 4 Gospels/ 3rd in the Canon
- *Written in Ephesus ~100CE*
- Ephesus is an exceptional place
 - Jerusalem is destroyed
 - Christian Community in Rome is decimated
 - Antioch is struggling
 - Ephesus -Christians are thriving
- New Faith Community says to everyone:
 - All are from God
 - Regardless of your station in life
 - New Vision of the Human Family
 - One Source/ One God

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- **Grace of this Gospel**
 - Each one of us is created from 'God's Breath'
 - Living Jesus the Christ
 - New inner Jerusalem of our heart where no matter there is a place waiting for you at the table
 - Ecstasy or Calm inner stillness
- Potential BUT we must work to receive
- Faith is **Not** mature yet

FOURTH PATH: Luke

The fourth path makes it possible for all our childhood dreams - and our adult hopes and aspirations - to become realities.

Fourth Path ~ Luke /Acts *Walking Luke's Road of Riches*

How do we mature in service?

Returning to Community

Gratitude, Integration of Opposites,
Speak Truth w/Love

Summer – South

Late morning to sunset

Year 3 or Year C

Ox (perseverance)



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- The text of the 4th path:
 - We will go to the world seeking transformation;
 - We will do this NOT from a position of power BUT from love;
 - Willing accept injustice;
 - ***We speak softly & do not fear the hard work of transformation.***

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- Largest volume of the New Testament (Acts of the Apostles)
- Divorce between Judaism & Christianity
- New Religion is forming
- Threat to Rome & Existing Social Order
- **Grace of this Gospel:**
 - Responsibility to the Poor
 - All are welcome
 - Raises the Status of Women
- Leads to persecution by the Romans
- Jesus walks with us on the 4th Path
 - Maturing in Service

Loving Your Enemies.

by Martin Luther King, Jr.

The following sermon was delivered at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, at Christmas, 1957. Martin Luther King wrote it while in jail for committing nonviolent civil disobedience during the Montgomery bus boycott. Let us be practical and ask the question. How do we love our enemies?

While abhorring segregation, we shall love the segregationist. This is the only way to create the beloved community.

"We shall match your capacity to inflict suffering by our capacity to endure suffering. We shall meet your physical force with soul force. Do to us what you will, and we shall continue to love you.

One day we shall win freedom but not only for ourselves. We shall so appeal to your heart and conscience that we shall win you in the process and our victory will be a double victory."

<http://www.salsa.net/peace/conv/8weekconv4-2.html>

Quadratos Schema

Third Path ~ John / Revelation

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Second Path ~ Mark

Crossing Mark's Stormy Sea

How do we move through suffering?

Enduring all Obstacles

Strained by Opposites, Exhaustion,

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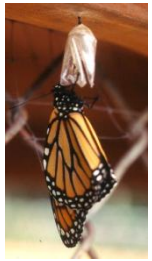
Angel (announces new journey)

A Journey of Transformation

4 Role Models of Transformation



Four Paths on the Journey to Transformation



3-Joy

4-Service

2-Suffering

1-Change

- **The Path:** Climbing the Mountain
- **Requires:** Trust & Courage
- **A Role Model:** Mother Teresa
- **Matthew:** The Beatitudes

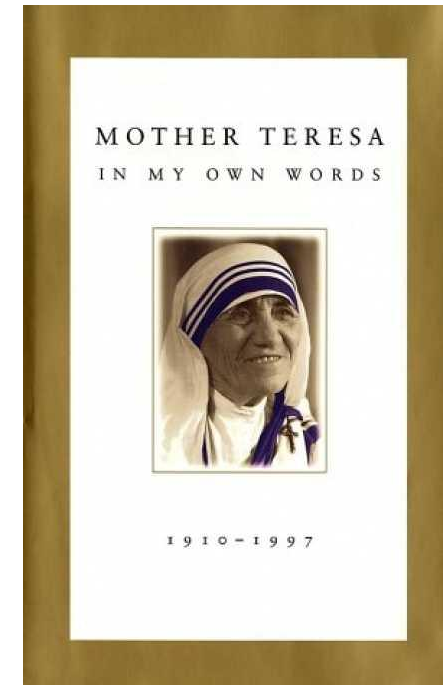
**Lessons: Standards
Goals**

Path 1: Change- Mother Teresa



“[Mother Teresa] loved her cloistered life in Calcutta... In 1947 she traveled to Darjeeling to recuperate, or, as she recalled, ‘to participate in the spiritual exercises.’ On the way, she heard quite clearly a command to leave the convent and devote herself completely to the poor. She describe the experience as a call within a call.”

“I do not pray for success, I ask for faithfulness.” Mother Teresa



Four Paths on the Journey to Transformation



3-Joy

4-Service

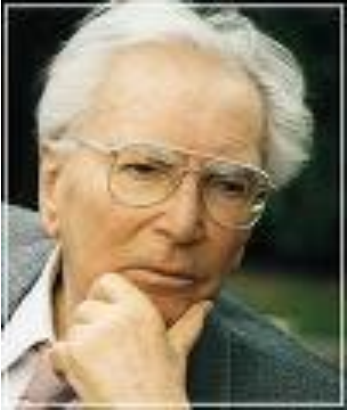
2-Suffering

1-Change

- **The Path:** Cross the Stormy Sea
- **Requires:** Inner Strength & Hope
- **A Role Model:** Victor Frankl
- **Mark:** Storm at Sea

**Lessons: We are not alone
Keep Going**

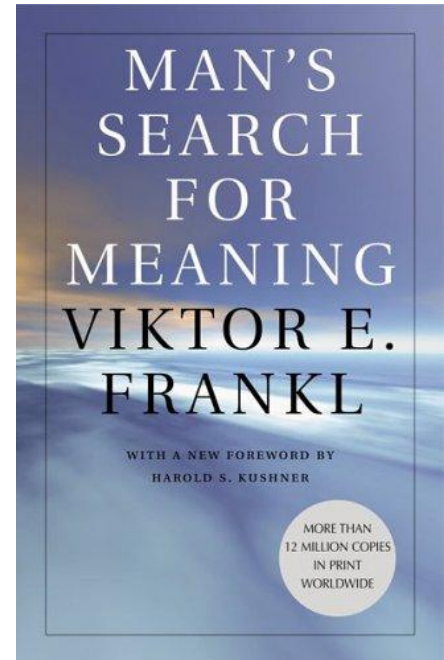
Path 2: Suffering- Victor Frankel



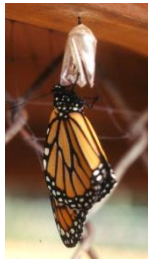
“When Frankel had lost everything he loved, suffered the worst of human cruelty, and stood on the threshold of death, he gave his life purpose and value.”

“We who lived in concentration camps can remember the people who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread...everything can be taken from a person but one thing: the last of human freedoms-to choose ones attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose ones own way.”

“I told my comrades...That human life, under any circumstances, never ceases to have a meaning, and that this infinite meaning of life includes suffering and dying, privation and death.”



Four Paths on the Journey to Transformation



3-Joy

4-Service

- The Path: The Glorious Garden
- Requires: Faith
- A Role Model: Thomas Merton
- John: Exalted Prologue

Lessons: Creation beyond time
Unity for all

2-Suffering

1-Change

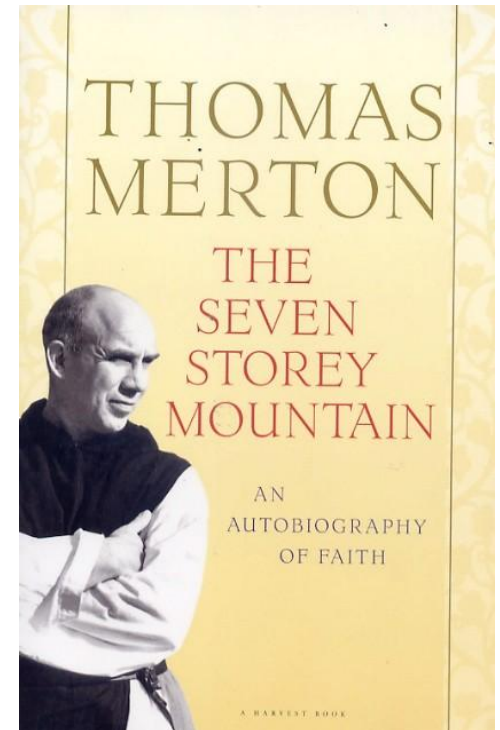
Path 3: Joy-Thomas Merton



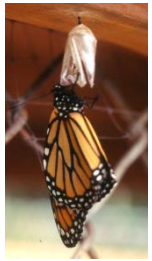
- **Thomas Merton** (1915-1968) His autobiography, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, has sold over one million copies & he wrote over sixty other books
- Merton was converted to Roman Catholicism & in 1941 he entered the Abbey of Gethsemani, a Trappist community of monks
- During his last years, he became deeply interested in Asian religions, particularly Zen Buddhism

“By reading the scriptures I am so renewed that all nature seems renewed around me and with me. The sky seems to be a pure, a cooler blue, the trees a deeper green. The whole world is charged with the glory of God and I feel fire and music under my feet.”

“We are so obsessed with doing that we have no time and no imagination left for being. As a result, men are valued not for what they are but for what they do or what they have - for their usefulness.”



Four Paths on the Journey to Transformation



3-Joy

4-Service

- The Path: Mature in Service
- Requires: Compassion & Love
- A Role Model: Mary Clark
- Luke: Good Samaritan
Prodigal Son

Lessons: Generous Forgiveness
Compassion

2-Suffering

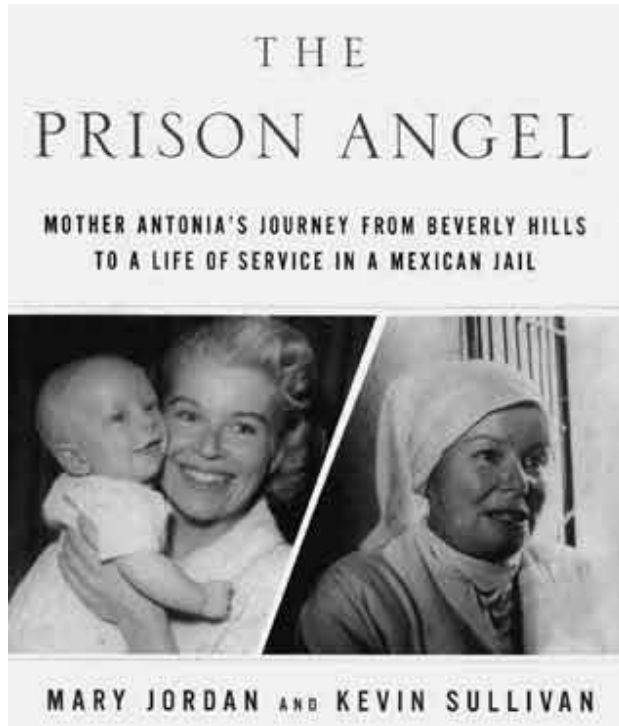
1-Change

Path 4: Service- The Story of Mary Clark



- *Born 1926 to Joseph Clarke and Kathleen Mary Clarke*
- *Mother dies when Mary is 3 years old*
- *Grew up in Beverly Hills California next to Carry Grant*
- *First child died 3 days after birth from brain damage*
- *Mother of 7 other children*
- *Twice married and divorced*
- *Successful businesswoman having inherited the family business*
- *Active in a number of local charities including delivering supplies to a prison in Mexico*

Path 4: Service- The Story of Mary Clark becomes the Story of Mother Antonia



- *Wanted to change her life/ Sold business*
- *No Religious Order would take a 50 year old twice divorced woman as a novice*
- *1977 she donned a Habit and moved to the toughest prison in Tijuana called La Mesa*

In 30 + years she says "I have never experienced on day of depression...never felt hopeless."

Path 4: Service- Mother Antonia

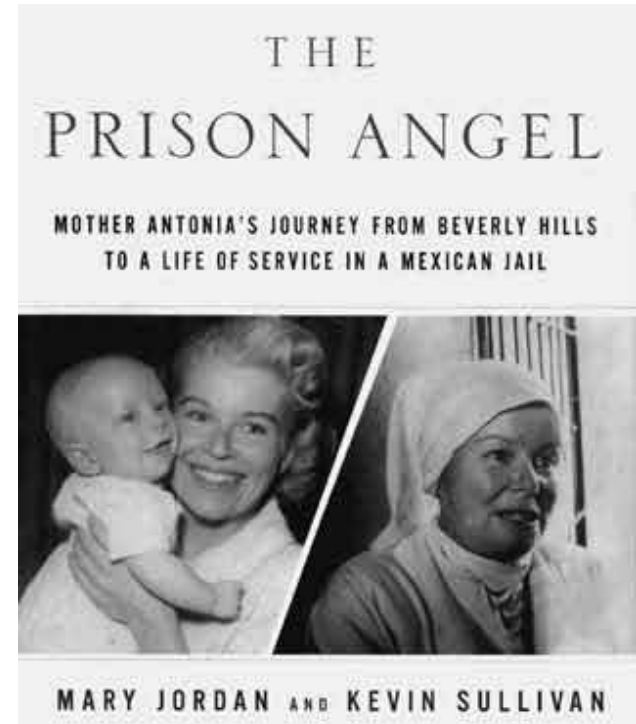


Mary Clarke's astonishing transformation from an affluent life in Beverly Hills to an inspiring ministry of caring for -- and living with -- the poorest prisoners in one of Mexico's most dangerous jails.

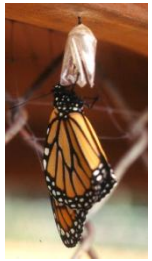
"Frank a transsexual yells to Mother Antonia... "Mamá! Mamá! Mamá!" , embracing her as if hugging his own mother. Mother Antonia says that nobody has a tougher life, in the prison or outside, than the transsexual.

"You love the unlovable," says Frank, a prisoner who is waiting for her at the heavy mesh door of her cell, which is only a few steps away from the holding cell for the newcomers.

"I love the people whom other people think are unlovable," she says."



Four Paths on the Journey to Transformation



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- Requires: Faith
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- John: Exalted Prologue

Lessons: Creation beyond time
Unity for all

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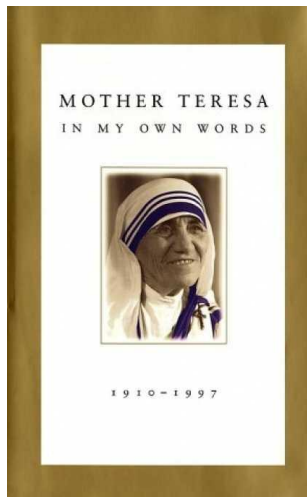
A Journey of Transformation



Luke 5:12-13

While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy....

Jesus reached out his hand *and touched the man*. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him.



“Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work.” *Mother Teresa*

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To our most bitter opponents we say: ***"We shall match your capacity to inflict suffering by our capacity to endure suffering. We shall meet your physical force with soul force. Do to us what you will, and we shall continue to love you.*** We cannot in all good conscience obey your unjust laws because noncooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good. Throw us in jail and we shall still love you. Bomb our homes and threaten our children, and we shall still love you. Send your hooded perpetrators of violence into our community at the midnight hour and beat us and leave us half dead, and we shall still love you. But be ye assured that we will wear you down by our capacity to suffer. ***One day we shall win freedom but not only for ourselves. We shall so appeal to your heart and conscience that we shall win you in the process and our victory will be a double victory.***" <http://www.salsa.net/peace/conv/8weekconv4-2.html>