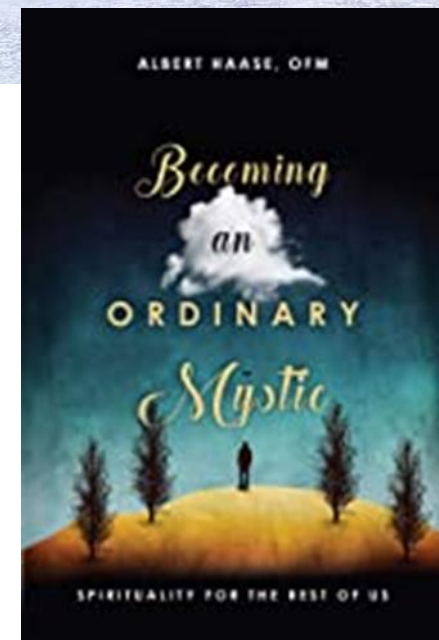




Prayer, Presentation, and Dialogue on
Albert Haase OFM's
*Becoming an Ordinary Mystic:
Spirituality for the Rest of Us. #6 A
Finicky God: Here Today Gone Tomorrow*





Denise in spiritual direction:
“God is so finicky”? One
minute he’s all lovey-
dovey...next he seems to
disappear...
... off I go – only to regret
where I ended up.”

Fr. Hasse: God appreciates
her honesty and transparency



Zack... the spiritual journey is about growing in mindfulness and deepening Jesus' cardiac spirituality of two-fold love. It is not about collecting experiences and souvenirs.

Consolation:

Fr. Felt an uncommon and continual attraction to God and other people... focused outward as I was attentive to the unmet needs of others...

...experience of this deep connectedness to God

The epicenter of the experience lies in God and not in ourselves.

More than emotional high.... Those rare moments when God's ardent longing and enthusiastic invitation to a deeper relationship become palpable...

1st response: gratitude

Mistake to equate consolation with spiritual progress



Zack... the spiritual journey is about growing in mindfulness and deepening Jesus' cardiac spirituality of two-fold love. It is not about collecting experiences and souvenirs.

Desolation:

A person dwells in a state of desolation when she or he is moving away from God's active presence in the world...

resentment, ingratitude,
selfishness, doubt, fear...





The fickle work of Satan

The devil preys on our ego
obsessions... insists happiness is
having them satisfied
Seduction to the seven deadly sins

How to respond

1st remain faithful to our spiritual
practices
2nd not the time to abandon or change
3rd mindfulness...spiritual
intentionality





The Absence of God

Mother Teresa of Calcutta experienced a profound spiritual darkness...felt like God had given up and abandoned her, *the dark night*

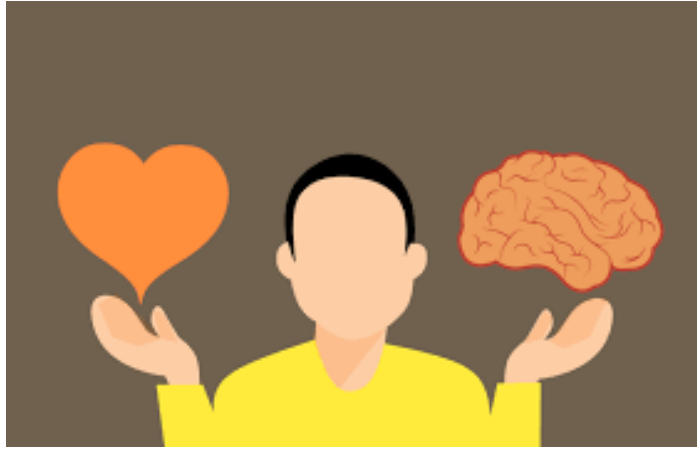
St. John of the Cross



Knee-jerk reaction “Why would God allow this? What have I done or not done?”



“My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.



What to do?

Rather than searching for logical reasons
The ordinary mystic searches for an appropriate response to the dark night

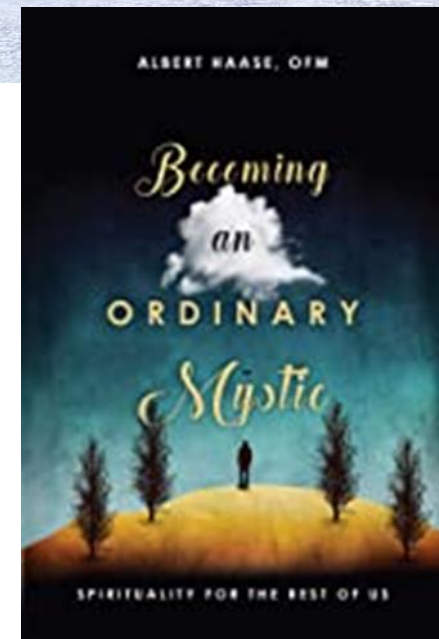
Feelings are an unsure guide in the spiritual life.



Let go of our beloved, trusted, and time-tested images of God



Prayer, Presentation, and Dialogue on
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*Becoming an Ordinary Mystic:
Spirituality for the Rest of Us.* #7 Groping
in the Dark: Walking By Faith Not Sight





Groping In The Dark: Walking by Faith, not Sight.

Fr. Hasse: After 10 yrs. in China returned to the United States.

Coming home/stranger in a foreign land.



Taught at Quincy University for two years... self-image tied up being a missionary to China



Times of Questions and Confusion

Unlike a dark night that suddenly descends (absence of God)

Times of profound confusion, questioning and anxiety.

...become self-absorbed

We are pushed down steps to dark, sweltering basement...stumble and struggle to find a ray of light.

Like Exodus, “Why did you bring us, children, and livestock...to kill us?”

Philip and Ann... 3rd child Julie 72 hrs.
Sally/husband’s infidelity





Sue and Andy's faith shaken by phone call by adoption agency... little boy found in dumpster... brain damage.



“I need some time.
“What’s wrong? Will he return? What did I do?”

Responding to Mystery

How do we respond to such times of disorientation?

Live in the present and allow the future to unfold in its own way and time.

vs. cling to self-image

“This will make me a better person.”

“God is trying to teach me a lesson.”

“This is God’s way of disciplining me.”

NOT... Scripture* reveals that logic cannot illuminate what can only be found beyond its light, in the darkness of faith.

**Book of Job; Joseph (Annunciation)*

Mystery demands at least passive resignation..





To befriend and walk with mystery is to embrace the blindness of faith.

Faith is a verb; not a noun

It is a way of living; not simply believing.

..our response to God's invitation to a deeper relationship.

Like Peter's agonizing and precarious step into the water.



Fr Medard: "baby steps"
Put one foot in front of the other.

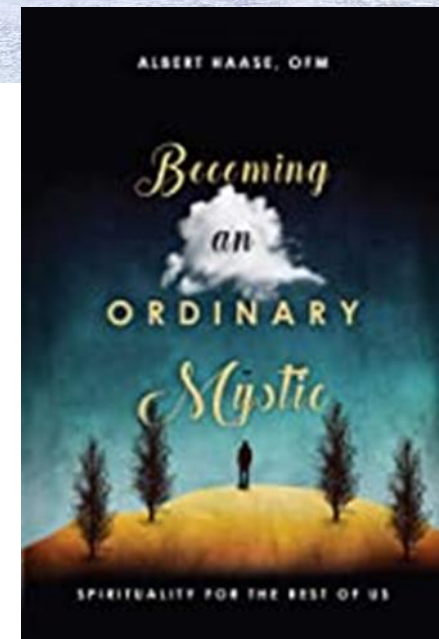




My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.



Prayer, Presentation, and Dialogue on
Albert Haase OFM's
*Becoming an Ordinary Mystic:
Spirituality for the Rest of Us. #8*
Challenging the Ego: Forgiving God,
Myself, and Others





Challenging the Ego: forgiving God, Myself and others.

Counseling for anger of father's suicide. ...struggled to accept God's invitation to forgive.



Self-preservation and self image...

Forgiving does not mean forgetting

Forgiveness is not a feeling but a decision.

A process...

...forgive God, myself, or others:

Forgiving God is a radical act of faith and fidelity that forges a footpath to freedom from the ego

Sit

Call to mind the presence of God

Bring present situation to this presence

Know you will not understand

Breathe: “*acceptance*” “*surrender*”





Forgiving Myself CPR

confession

pressing (the stop button)

relaxation



Forgiving Others

pray for the betrayer/enemy

prodigal sons