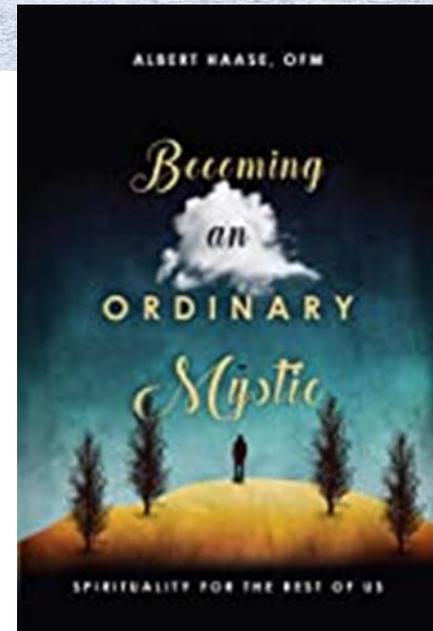
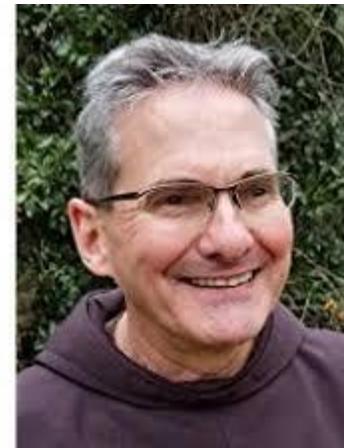




Prayer, Presentation, and Dialogue on
Albert Haase OFM's
*Becoming an Ordinary Mystic:
Spirituality for the Rest of Us.* #9 Inspired
By Jesus: Rediscovering God





Charlotte: “I’m becoming more and more uncomfortable with Pope Francis... I really think he’s betraying God.”

“God expects us to obey...”



Albert: ... “threat to her image of God

A Compass: Your image of God ... one of the most important aspects of your spirituality





How you think about God
...a divine parent
...a friend who watches over you
...a policeman..catching violations
...a heavenly Santa Claus

How you think about God determines the direction your spiritual journey takes.

Charlotte's God: a stern teacher who commands obedience

Her compass was determined by personal religious and cultural factors.



Our idea of God tells us more about ourselves than about Him.

Thomas Merton



God Image Challenged

“That’s not the God I’ve come to know.”





Mandalay Bay resort and casino shooting
50+ died; 500 wounded

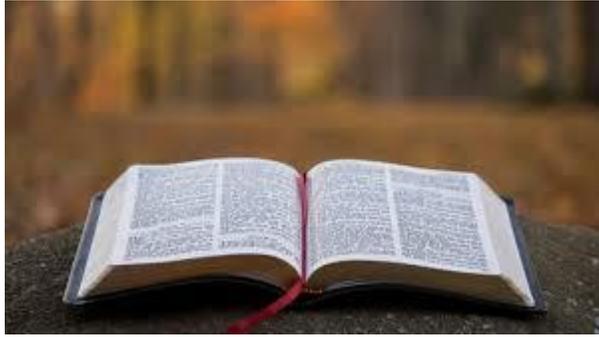
“Why did God allow this to happen?... Is God trying to shake us up and get our attention?”



Inadequate God Images

“God, by definition is ineffable, beyond conceptualization, beyond conceptualization, beyond imagination, beyond language...”





Scripture:

creator, king, a woman in labor
a potter, the protector, a midwife
a fortress, a rock, a nursing mother
a refuge, the deliverer, a lover,
the vine grower, and the good shepherd.

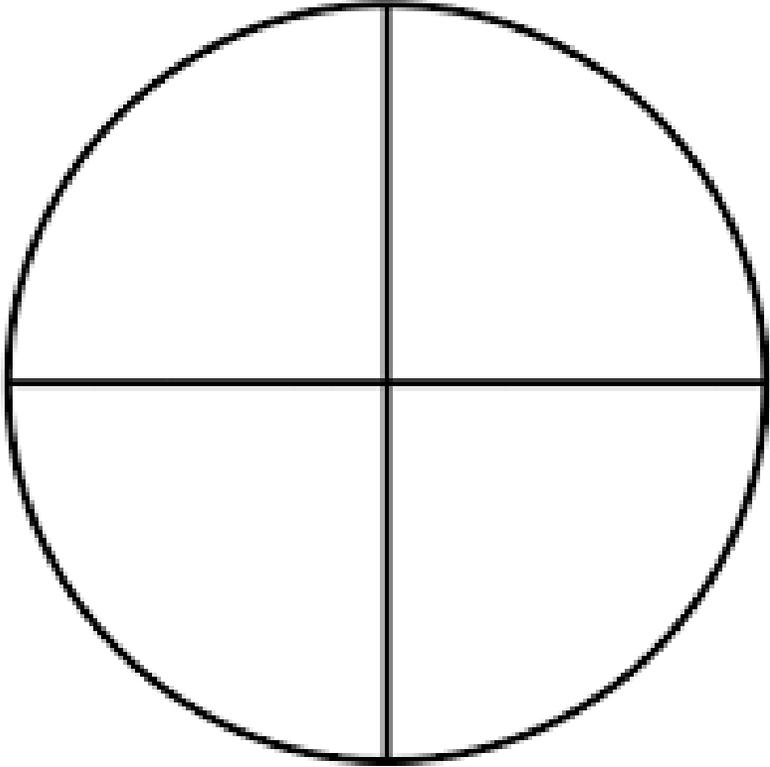
Augustine:

“if you understand it, it is not God”

Rozanne: Someone I can count on to be
there to listen... Points me in the right
direction...

We've lost everything we had but the
most important: our faith in God





Jesus-Inspired Life Compass

a provider

a shepherd

a vine grower

a welcoming father

a diligent woman

an almsgiver

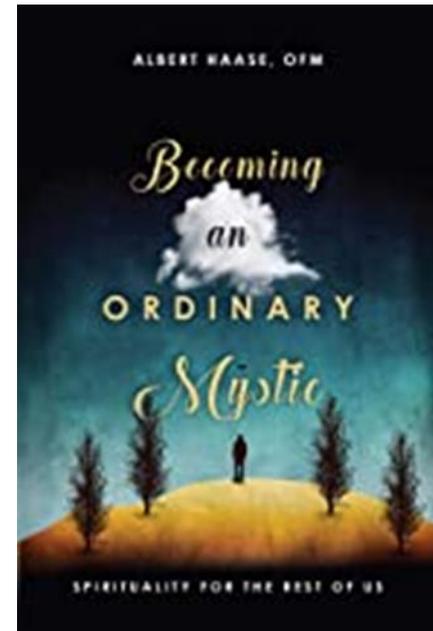
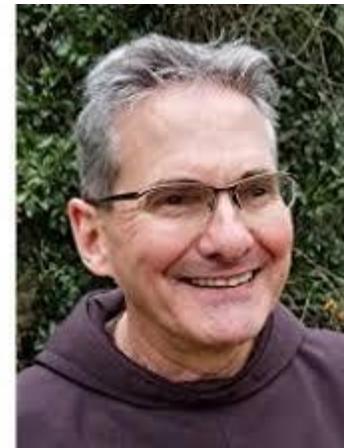
a party thrower

an eraser of debts for those
who forgive

Become mindful of how you got here...
...the timeline of your life



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Words, Silence, and Action: The Surprise
of Mystical Prayer





Fr Albert's ordination in '81 "My prayer is flat..."

distractions, worry, weather...

spiritual attention deficit disorder

"Why do you think distractions are such a bad thing?"

Like conversation with a dear friend we all get side-tracked...

A state of thoughtless consciousness is not prayer





Distractions are normal and may point to the need for more rest & relaxation... they are a part of your life right now!

acknowledge them/don't ignore them
discern what they are telling you
if urgent, respond
if not, let them go



Ecstasy of Saint Teresa... Bernini's vs.
“...mental prayer is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends...”

Authentic Christian mystical prayer

**not manufacturing pure consciousness

** not magic, ethereal carpet ride

** not soliloquy

A conversation that encourages us to share with God everything about our lives.

...allow time in silence for God to respond
insights & creative thoughts
tweaking our feelings and deepest emotions.

“Come as You Are” Prayer



Praise, Adoration, and Petition



St. Francis in Ecstasy – Bellini
Saying Grace – Rockwell

Marie: breastfeeding (Is 49:15)

Blaise: planting in garden

Intercessory prayer

“Who do I need to think of and pray for today?”

Responding to the unmet need or required duty of the present moment.



What did the passage or text tell me about God's relationship with me?

How did that knowledge touch my heart and move me?

How should my thoughts, words, and actions change as a result of that passage?

Praying with the news





The Entire Human Dimension

Bring everything

Transparency

Social Dimension

Both individual & communal

Personalities... extravert/introvert

Challenge: find techniques that help &

nourish



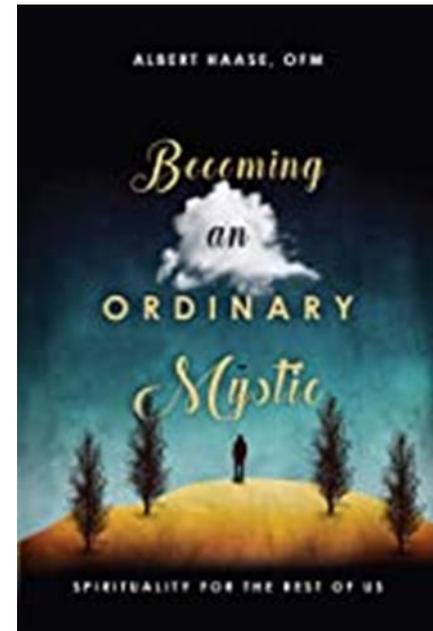
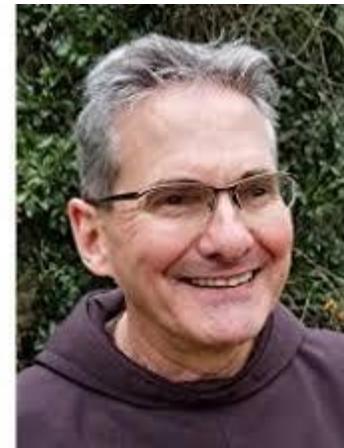
Not just words but silence between



Thy will be done: loving stance of
surrender, sacrifice and service



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Spirituality for the Rest of Us. #11: **Ears to
the Ground; Listening to God**





How do you discern coincidence from a nudging from God? ...the voice of God or your imagination? Daniel

Mt: 4:19 “fisher of people”

Consider becoming a Deacon?



Misconception: God always speaks in otherworldly ways (Paul’s experience on the way to Damascus!) Acts 9:3-9 (a sideshow in the history of spirituality; St Francis, Joan of Arc, St Patrick...)

...can distract us from the more common ways that God speaks to us.

The More Common Ways:

God uses our very lives, every dimension: physical, mental, spiritual, social! Mindfulness can aid in the discernment process:

Physical: things in nature, eagle, soft breeze, frustration at job-site (in China)

Mental: hunch/intuition; imagination; dreams (unconscious). Tom died...

Spiritual: 10 Commandments, Beatitudes

Social: our relationships and social commitments.



Choose a dimension of your physical life:
How might God have been speaking to me? What might God have been asking of me?



What extraordinary experiences has God given to you? How do you honor them? What did you learn from them?



Your very life in its four dimensions is the sacred arena where God speaks.

