



Time Begins Again

Thoughts for the New Year harvested from my notebooks

“Trust time. Time is music, and the space out of which it resounds is the future. . . . Entrust yourself to the grace of time. You cannot interrupt music in order to catch and hoard it. Let it flow and flee, otherwise you cannot grasp it. You cannot condense it into one beautiful chord and thus possess it once and for all. Patience is the first virtue of the one who wants to perceive. . . . For look: you cannot grasp the melody’s flight until the last note has ended.”

—Hans Urs von Balthasar

“If you wish to gain the habit of patience, you should not avoid the people, things, and circumstances which particularly try your patience. Meet them with a good will and the resolve to submit to their unpleasant effect on you, but at the same time prepare yourself to suffer them with unshakeable calmness of spirit.”

—Lorenzo Scrupoli

“. . . it is inescapable for a disciple of Jesus . . . to stand in his own weakness and therefore in temptation. Since Jesus suffered and endured our weakness, and died on account of it in order to rise from it, the power of God lies deeply concealed in every human weakness like a seed that will germinate in

faith and surrender. As long as we go on resisting our weakness, the power of God cannot come into its own within us. . . . For the miracle of God’s omnipotence and our conversion does not lie within our reach.”

—Andre Louf, OCSO

“What is laudable is not being *unable* to sin, but being *unwilling* to do so. . . . To be able to want what is harmful to you is at once an impotent and mighty power, and the more you want it, the weaker you will be Among all the works of man, the greatest is to want what he ought to want. The more a person wants this, the more he attains it; and the more he attains it, the more he wants it—to desire what is really good is in fact to attain it.”

—Guigo the Carthusian

“. . . we should not be astonished to find ourselves imperfect, for we should never see ourselves otherwise in this life; nor should we let this upset us, as it cannot be helped, but rather let it be a cause for humility, for this is indeed the whole point of our being left with imperfections”

—St. Francis de Sales

“As love grows stronger, so does the desire to praise increase. . . . The heart that loves little always sees little or . . . nothing to praise.”

—Mother Mary Francis, P.C.C.

“Have an intimate desire that His Majesty grant you what He knows you lack for His honor.”

—St. John of the Cross

“Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset.”

—St. Francis de Sales

“To God pertains the business that His servant undertakes. Therefore, God watches over it with great fidelity. With hope in Him rather than in ourselves, we must dare to undertake the endeavor of the service of God”

—St. John of Avila