

## Our Heart's Desire

What is your heart's desire? How do you know? What difference does it make in the way you are living your life, now and forever?

Our heart's desire is something that people who were welcomed recently at the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Holladay, Utah, sense in themselves or have seen it in others and want to know more about it. The conversation they shared inspired this podcast: Welcome Session 1A: Our Heart's Desire. In it, we explore with discussion, music, prayer and suggested spiritual exercises, how we see ourselves and the world, and then, most importantly, the inborn hunger of our heart's desire.

It seems we long for the infinite, for the divine; that there is some element of human existence which draws us beyond ourselves to a happiness which words cannot fully say. We call it "(the) seed of eternity we bear in ourselves." [GS 18,1; cf. 14,2) Acknowledge this longing, this desire of our heart, is a way of starting to acknowledge the Creator, of beginning a relationship which will grow in intimacy until it is true friendship.

The journey of those interested in Catholicism is a conscious cultivation of this seed of eternity, a planting and nurturing where we come to certain knowledge of God. Catholics call this journey, the Catechumenate. During the Catechumenate, we get to know more about God, and hence about who we truly are; as we all learn more about ourselves, we learn more about God.

In order to develop a relationship with God, we have to get to know who God is. Learning about God, doesn't exhaust the mystery of God. Yet, the church teaches that God can be known because of the created world and by human reason. Thus, not only do humans have the seed of eternity as their heart's desire, but, also we have the capacity to comprehend God's will on earth as it is in heaven.

This conversation invites people who are interested in Catholicism, to do what everyone who responds "yes" to God's invitation does—open our hearts to God so we can see with our heart's desire, hear with our heart's desire, and be touched by our heart's desire. Our heart's desire is God-given to every human being that each and all may live the fullness of life —this is our faith!

## Something Else

### SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:1-5	God reveals his name to Moses: "I AM"
Exodus 34:5-7	God is merciful, gracious, steadfast, faithful and forgiving
Deuteronomy 6:4	God is one
Psalm 19:1-41	creation itself proclaims its Creator's existence
Psalm 119:160	God is truth
Psalm 135	God is almighty
Wisdom 13:1-5	God is the author, and source of beauty and goodness in all created things
Jeremiah 32"17	For God, who created everything, nothing is impossible
John 1:1-4	God the Father made all things that exist through the Son
Acts 17:28	
Hebrews 1:12	God is eternal and holy
Romans 1:18-32	God can be known even without divine revelation, and denying God's existence leads to darkened minds and sinful lives
1 John 4:8	God is love

### CATECHISM

#'s 26-49 Man's capacity for God

*The desire for God, 27-30*

*Ways of coming to know God, 31-35*

*The knowledge of God according to the Church, 36-38*

*How can we speak about God, 39-43*



### PRAYER

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, 52A

God gives light to everyone who comes into this world;  
though unseen, he reveals himself through the works of his hand,  
so that all people may learn to give thanks to their Creator.

Sacramentary, Opening Prayer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Christmas

God of power and life,  
glory of all who believe in you,  
fill the world with your splendor  
and show the nations the light of your truth...

Sacramentary, Alternative Opening Prayer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

Father of light,  
in you is found no shadow of change  
but only the fullness of life and limitless truth.  
Open our hearts to the voice of your Word  
and free us from the original darkness  
that shadows our vision.  
Restore our sight  
that we may look upon your Son  
who calls us to repentance and a change of heart...

Sacramentary, Preface of Eucharistic Prayer IV

Father in heaven,  
it is right that we should give you thanks and glory:  
you alone are God, living and true.  
Through all eternity you live in unapproachable light.  
Source of life and goodness, you have created all things,  
to fill your creatures with every blessing  
and lead men to the joyful vision of your light...

Sacramentary, Preface 43, Holy Trinity

We joyfully proclaim our faith  
in the mystery of your Godhead,  
You have revealed your glory  
as the glory of your Son

and of the Holy Spirit:  
three Persons equal in majesty,  
undivided in splendor,  
yet one Lord, one God,  
ever to be adored in your everlasting glory...

Sacramentary, Eucharistic Prayer IV

Father, we acknowledge your greatness:  
all your actions show your wisdom and love.  
You formed man in your own likeness  
and set him over the world  
to serve you, his creator  
and to rule over all creatures.

INPRINT

Prayers from the Ark & The Creatures' Choir, Carmen Bernos de Gasztold,  
Penguin Books, 1979, ISBN 0 14 042.200 5

Seeds of Peace, William H. Shannon,  
The Crossroad Publishing Company, 1996, ISBN 0-8245-1557-9; 0-8245-1548-X

The Silent Cry, Mysticism and Resistance, Dorothee Soelle  
Fortress Press, 2001, ISBN 0-8006-3266-4

What Makes Us Catholic, Thomas H. Grooms  
Harper Collins, 2003, ISBN 0-06-063399-9

*(email requests of any of the following)*

WS1A1     What Does Your Heart Desire  
WS1A2     Attributes of God  
WS1A3     Does God Exist

QUESTIONS



Do you believe in God?

Do you know people who do not believe in God?

Why do people not believe in God?

What Does Your Heart Desire?

Why do humans desire to know God.

How do you experience an inborn hunger for God.

*What can you learn about God by looking at this person in the picture to the right?*

We believe we can know God exists because of creation and our own inborn hunger to be with our creator. From the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator.

What words do you use to describe God?

LET US PRAY

Oh, God, we know that you are with us and that you behold all we say and do. Now grant, that by the light of your Holy Spirit, we might be earnest in our journey of faith and loving toward others. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.