

Your work is your creation

Whenever I speak of Art, I cannot but think and speak of God, the Father of all artists and the source of all creations.

Art starts in God. He is the origin of all beauties. He made the universe. He created it. He formed nature. He was its artist. This whole universe comes from Him and it is at the same time source of inspiration for artistic creativity. The Italian poet, Dante Alighieri, once said: "Art, as far as it has the ability, follows nature, as a pupil imitates his master, so that art must be, as it were, a descendant of God". In that sense God is the First Artist.

When God created the universe, He made it out of nothing (*Ex nihilo*). Then God saw that everything was good! This was the creation, and creation was beauty. God is the Creator who created everything out of nothing.

The human being *is* like God. He is created at the image of God to be at His likeness. Though the human is a creature enjoying the characteristics of God's image, yet he/she is ever called to be a creator in the likeness of God. That's how Tryon Edwards, the American theologian of the nineteenth century, put it: "True art is reverent imitation of God".

On the other hand, Aristotle affirmed that the aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but the inner significance. As a matter of fact, the work of a creator has been always characterized by an inherent mystery only him is fully understanding of. Anyone else, beside the creator, has been continuously invited to delve step by step into this mystery to understand its aspects. The fair appreciation of the creator's work is positively correlated to the understanding of its mystery and the feeling of the artist's emotions. Didn't François Delsarte say: "The object of art is to crystallize emotion into thought, and then fix it in form"?

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