

# A Treasure Hunt:

Finding God,  
Finding Faith,  
Finding Hope

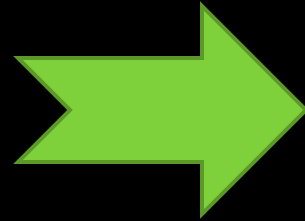


Francine Gikow, OFS  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region  
Fall Formation Workshop  
November 14-15, 2025

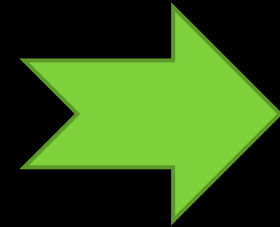
***By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept for heaven for you, who by God's power are guarded through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.***

***In this you rejoice...Without having seen him you love him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. (1 Peter 3-5, 8)***

Find God



Find Faith

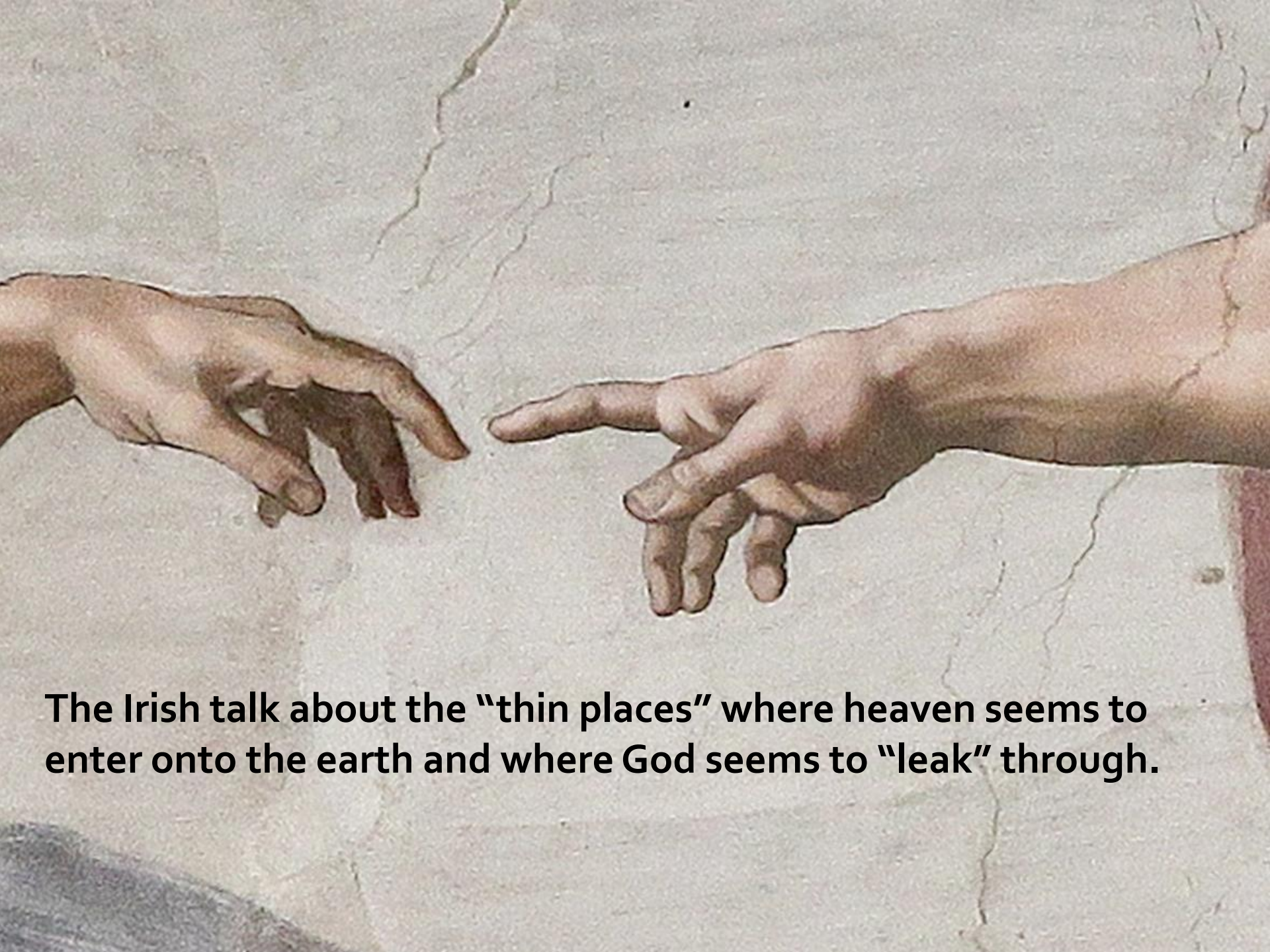


**Find Hope !**

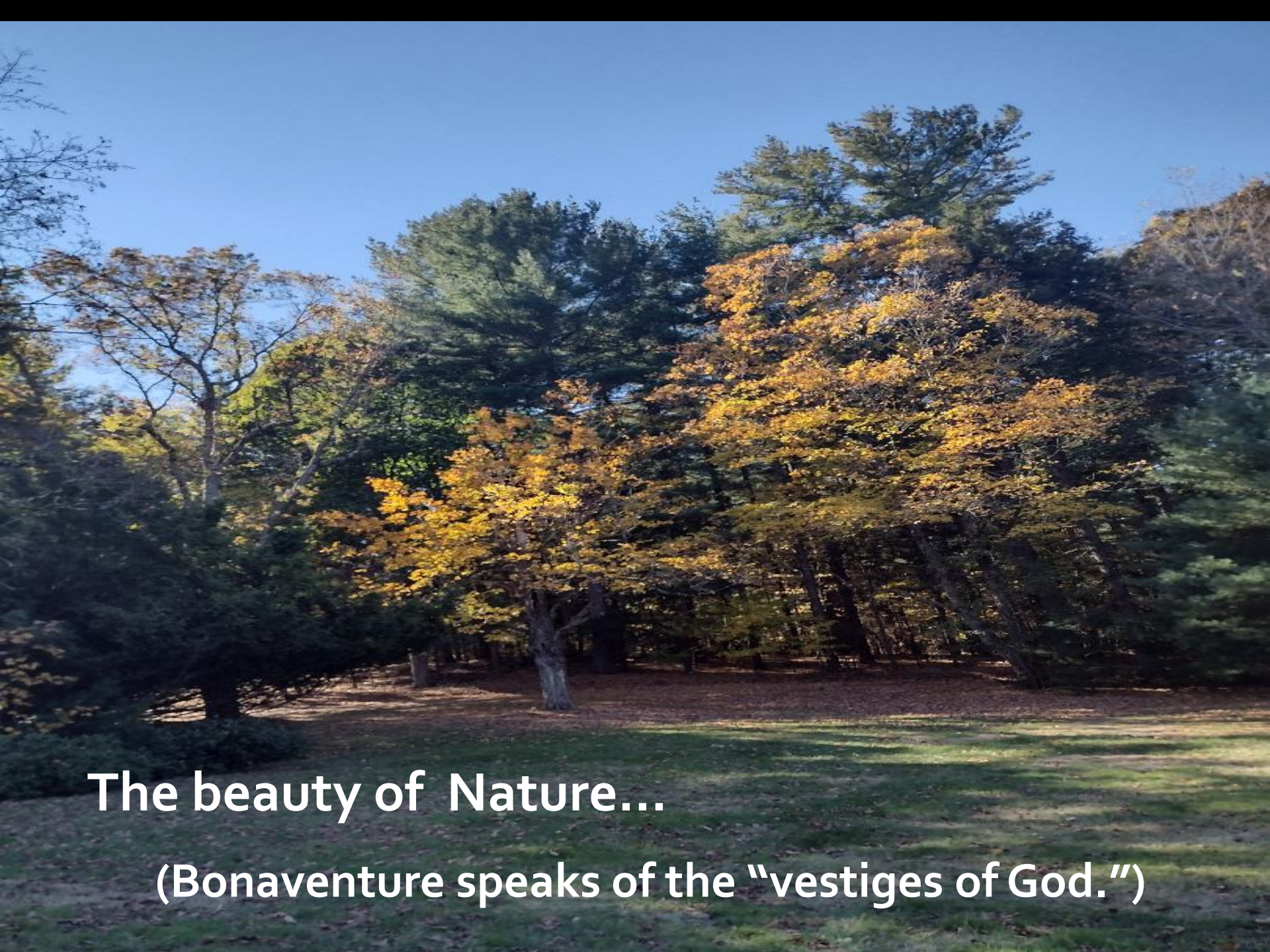


For Christians, Jesus of Nazareth is  
now *the* place  
where heaven and earth meet,  
where the holy is present uniquely  
and forever. \*

*\*William A Barry, SJ , A Friendship Like No Other : Experiencing God's Amazing Embrace. Chicago: Loyola Press, 2008. p.162*



**The Irish talk about the “thin places” where heaven seems to enter onto the earth and where God seems to “leak” through.**



**The beauty of Nature...**

**(Bonaventure speaks of the "vestiges of God.")**



**Through prayer and  
discernment...**

# Through Scripture and the Mass...





Through the sacraments...



**Through our relationships and conversations  
with others.**

# Your task:

- Ask God to help you find him in the “thin places” during the day,
- identify them and savor them
- thank God for them
- If you find agitation, confusion or other negative thoughts in your day, then it is not of God- ignore them and let them go. God’s presence is peaceful, loving and generous. It builds up the body of Christ.
- bring “God moments” back to share.



# Your treasure map: Handout

# Prayer: Psalm 42

*As a deer longs  
For flowing streams,  
So longs my soul  
For you, O God.  
My soul thirsts for God,  
For the living God.  
When shall I come and behold  
The face of God?  
My tears have been my food  
Day and night,  
While men say to me continually,  
“Where is your God?”  
These things I remember  
As I pour out my soul:  
How I went with the throng,  
And led them in procession to the house of God,  
With glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,  
A multitude keeping festival.  
“Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
And why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
My savior and my God.*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Was it difficult to find the “thin places” for you? Ask God to help you find him.
- Did you encounter any “thin places” to meet God? How? Where? Describe what you found.
- How does this experience help you with your faith and hope?



## CREDITS:

Most pictures and graphics were from Pixabay, except for: Michaelangelo's Creation of Adam (Wikimedia Commons- public domain) and nature slide 6 which was taken by the author.

## MUSIC:

*"There Is A Longing"* by Anne Quigley, Spirit and Song, Disc 9 , OCP downloaded 10.29.2025.

*"Open My Eyes Lord"* by Jesse Manibussan, Album: Rise Up and Sing, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. OCP, downloaded, 11.14.2022.

*You Are My Hope."* by Christopher Walker, Album: Glory Bound, OCP, downloaded 10.29.25