

Pastor's Corner

Warning: "The Chosen" is inspired but may be addictive



Jonathan Roumie as Jesus in "The Chosen"

I think I am addicted to "The Chosen" online miniseries on the life of Jesus. For years, when I have prayed with the gospels, I have tried to go beyond the words on the page and imagine the real-time sights, sounds, people and experiences. This actually is a way of praying called "Imaginative Contemplation," which was championed by St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits. Praying this way has given me the grace to visualize (in my imagination) gospel scenes in a way that has enhanced my prayer and relationship with Jesus.

Now there is a stunning miniseries, "The Chosen," in which the producers are presenting their own imaginative contemplation of Jesus and the gospels for all the world to see. Eleven episodes have been released of fifty-six episodes which are planned. In "The Chosen," Jesus, as played by Jonathan Roumie, is the most compelling person in history. Divinely knowledgeable and powerful, Jesus is humanly wise, warm, loving, deeply caring and relatable, witty and humorous. He is accompanied by forever-grateful Mary Magdalene, cocky but loyal Simon, Matthew with Asperger's symptoms, inwardly-torn Nicodemus, compassionate Mary, Jesus' mother, and a host of other richly drawn characters. The acting, sets and music are tops. The plots are faithful to Scripture but are embellished with inspired insights and creative, plausible storytelling and dialogue.

The miniseries is produced by Christian evangelicals with a Catholic priest as theological consultant. The series is free of charge and can be viewed on YouTube or 'the chosen app.' It is funded solely by viewer donations. I find "The Chosen" to be extremely moving and impactful. I have watched some scenes and episodes multiple times. I give "The Chosen" a high recommendation with just one warning: You may get addicted! Enjoy the series, and may it propel you to love the living word of God in Scripture and the living presence of Jesus in the sacraments and especially the Eucharist.

God bless all,
Fr. Joe