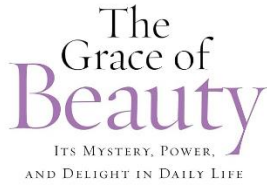


The Grace of Beauty: Its Mystery, Power, and Delight in Daily Life by Melannie Svoboda, SND



Week 4 -Chapters 13-18

Check in Question: What do you see as the strongest or most life-giving part of yourself?

Opening Prayer

Thank you, God, for the beauty of this group,
for the unique strands of DNA that make each one of us,
and for the mysterious way those same strands bind us to one another.
We thank you for the carbon, oxygen, and countless elements
our bodies borrow for this sacred sojourn on earth.
Thank you for all our ancestors,
whose lives and love helped shape this community we share today.
Thank you for the beauty of this amazing world—
we are honored to be part of it.
Thank you for the experiences that have formed us:
for our wins and our successes,
for our losses,
for our joys and our pain—
all that we now bring and share with one another.
Thank you for the beautiful people gathered here today
and for those we will encounter in our daily lives.
Amen.

(adapted from page 76)

Reflection questions:

The questions from Sr. Melannie are thoughtful and good. Here are some of hers, along with a few additional ones. Please pick one or two and share your thoughts aloud.

Chapter 14: The Beauty of Me

1. What individuals in your life have made you aware of your own goodness or beauty?
How did they do this?
2. What are some of the ways you try to help others appreciate their goodness and beauty?

Chapter 15: The Beauty of Prayer

1. Has your prayer ever been a response to beauty? If so, reflect on the beauty you experience. What prayers did it evolve in you?
2. Do any of the quotes found in this chapter touch you? If so, which one(s)? Why?

Chapter 16: The Beauty of Friendship

1. This chapter Gives for graces friendship can bestow: self knowledge, self esteem, a broadening of our perspective, and love. Have you experienced these through the friendships you have? If so, how?
2. Can you say, “God is my friend” or “Jesus is my friend”? If so, what helps you to say that? If not, what prevents you from saying that?

Chapter 17: Say it with Beauty

1. What gifts of beauty have you given to others?
2. Have you ever given or received a gift of a beautiful shared experience? If so, what was that experience like for you? If not, might you consider giving such a gift?

Chapter 18: Beauty and Brokenness

1. How are you ministering to the wounded--even in small ways--in your family, neighbourhood, parish, local community, and beyond?

Closing Prayer

For who and what shall we pray...

Japanese Bowl by Peter Mayer

Next time *The Grace of Beauty* Chapter-19--22