



In the Merry, Merry Month of May

It has been a long winter, hasn't it? Finally, we're past that cruelest month, as T.S. Eliot put it, and into beautiful May. For many of us, may pole dances like the one above were part of our childhoods (or our parents' or grandparents' childhoods). For Catholics, May is all about Mary—devotions throughout the month, the feast of the Visitation on May 31, the memorial of Our Lady of Fatima May 13. Add Pentecost, Memorial Day, Mother's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Armed Forces Day, and International Workers' Day, and the month gives all of us a whole lot of reasons to rejoice and be glad!

"Put your own will in the hands of God..."



... and by doing so, you will come to put that of God into your hands." That gem of wisdom comes from Blessed Marianna Fontanella, an Italy woman religious from about 400 years ago. She may have lived a long time ago, but her challenges weren't that much different than ours are today. (Her solutions surely were; at one point, she put an iron ring around her tongue, and I must say, there are times I'd like to do that with mine!) I'll be blogging a bit more about her later this week in my Wednesday's Woman feature (short profiles of beatified and canonized women).

Wednesday's Women

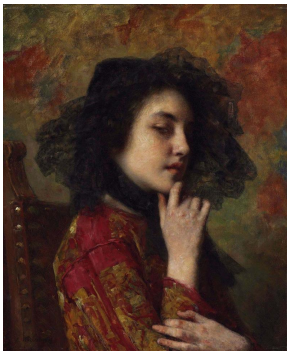
On the Nightstand: *This Sacred Moment*

This book had me at the second line on the back cover: "Any and every situation holds the grace for the transformation called holiness." Ah, but recognizing that in the moment can be so hard. I'm looking forward to a few more positive transformation moments, courtesy of the author, [Albert Haase](#), a Franciscan priest and former missionary to China. The idea of becoming closer to holy right where we are is most appealing, don't you think?



What's on Your Nightstand?

So, What Do You Think?



You may have noticed I'm trying a new, shorter look this month that also should be more mobile-friendly. I'd love to hear your thoughts! Also, a few months ago, I got away from featuring a [Friend in Faith](#) each issue. Would you like to see that return? How about a monthly giveaway of what I'm reading, or something else topical? I'll be mulling over a lot of changes for this ministry once the Proverbs 31 book is to the publisher in two weeks. Please drop me an [email](#)... or tell me in person. Thanks and blessings on your month! –Melanie

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Other ways to keep the conversation going:

