

Art Spotlight



Cast Your Net Again (oil on canvas) now hangs in a theological seminary in Bethlehem, gifted to them by The Rt. Rev. Richard Chartres, the Bishop of London (ret.). The painting seeks to highlight Jesus' promise to all of new beginnings.

CAST YOUR NET AGAIN

- Artist Daniel Bonnell

BY BISHOP PAUL-GORDON CHANDLER

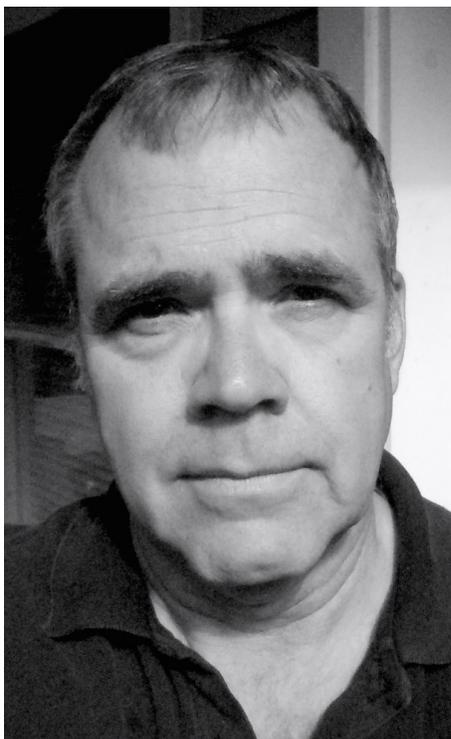
I have long been an admirer and patron of artist Daniel Bonnell's work. I first met Daniel back in 1990, when I was living in Colorado Springs, and we became close friends. I found his art profoundly spiritual and moving, as the colors, lines and forms of expressionism in his paintings illuminated for me in fresh ways the beauty of God, drawing me into that deeper dimension. Ever since then, wherever we have lived, Daniel Bonnell's paintings have adorned our walls. I have often used his paintings in worship as well, such as in sermons or as visual focal points that provide a window into seeing God in new ways for worshippers. I have also had the privilege of having four of Daniel's paintings in a little book I wrote for Church Publishing on the season of Advent titled *Songs in Waiting*.

A lot of Daniel's art is focused on how Jesus, through his life and ministry, reveals to us the beautiful nature of our Creator. "Each painting is a devotion, a phone call home to God," says Daniel. He goes on to explain, "My artistic process is born out of contemplative thought and the writings of the mystics. Most of my painting discipline is sitting in silence." Two of his paintings are now hanging in the newly renovated entrance lobby of our diocese's office in Casper. Both of these paintings draw the viewer's attention to Jesus' constant comforting presence with us throughout life's journey.

***"Each painting
is a devotion,
a phone call
home to God,"
~Daniel Bonnell***

Christ on the Journey (oil on canvas), by Daniel Bonnell, is now in the lobby of the diocese's office.





Daniel Bonnell

Daniel Bonnell holds a BFA from the Atlanta College of Art, where he studied painting under the renowned New York abstract expressionist painter, Ed Ross, and an MFA in Painting from the Savannah College of Art and Design, in Savannah, Georgia, where he now lives. His postgraduate studies were under the tutelage of the legendary photographer Ansel Adams and the renowned designer Milton Glaser. However, he credits his artistic approach and worldview to what he has learned from the late French Dominican monk, Pere Couturier, who inspired such great painters as Henri Matisse and Fernand Leger to create sacred art. The paintings of Daniel Bonnell are found in over 100 countries around the world and publications in over 30 languages.

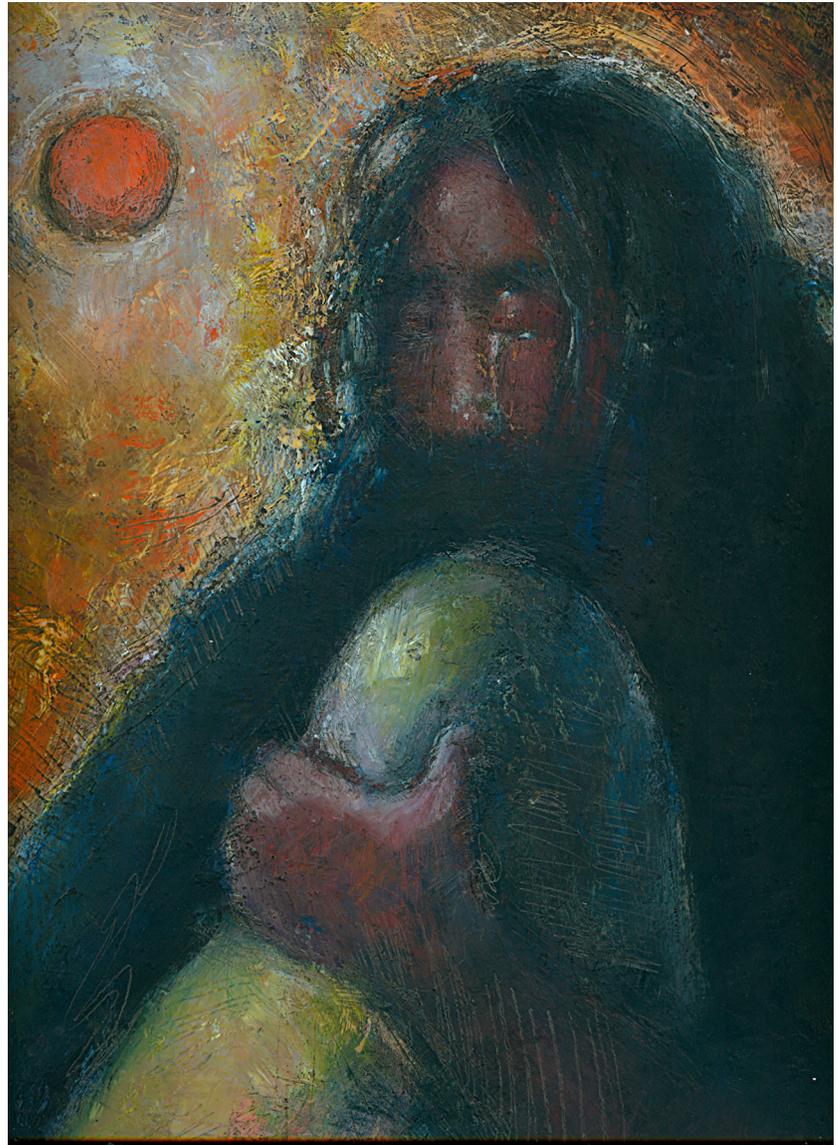
His work has been selected for its profound spiritual insight by numerous religious leaders, including the Archbishop of Canterbury. His art has been shown internationally in cathedrals such as St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem, St. Paul's Cathedral in London, National Cathedral in Washington D.C., and the Cathedral of St John the Divine in New York City. And his paintings

are found in churches, convents, and cathedrals throughout Israel, the United Kingdom, and North America. He is the author of the book *Shadow Lessons*, about teaching art in the inner city of Savannah to at-risk high school students. A collection of his paintings has also been published in the book *The Road Home: A Journey in Art and Music*, and he is a featured artist in Anglican theologian Alistair McGrath's excellent book *The Christian Vision of God*. He has received numerous awards, including most recently, *The Brother Nathan Cochran Award in Sacred Arts*.

Interestingly, while Daniel's preferred medium was oil painting on canvas during the first part of his career, he now paints and draws primarily on grocery bag paper with mistint house paint, because of what it symbolizes, its semiotics. Daniel explains it in this way; "To me, painting on grocery bag paper, something that was once a utilitarian container, it is a form of anti-commodity, an anti-art, that I find makes it more sacred. Working on modest surfaces with humble means permits this spiritual direction in a very natural manner. All real beauty finds rest on a stage of humility - even a grocery bag. This manner of working becomes a creative conductor that allows my process to become centering prayer - a means to listen - and to be held by God."

You can view Daniel Bonnell's artwork at: www.BonnellArt.com

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~Daniel Bonnell



Christ the Comforter (oil on canvas) by Daniel Bonnell is now in the lobby of the diocese’s office.

SPECIAL OFFER to the Diocese of Wyoming!

Daniel Bonnell used to offer his paintings to be downloaded digitally for financial support. However, over time, he has come to see art not as a commodity, but as an offering. Now, he invites all churches and non-profits to download a high-resolution digital image of all his artwork for free – to be used on service bulletin covers, as retreat art or worship aids, on websites, book covers, etc. All gratis!

All images are available in digital format gratis to churches and non-profits at:
BonnellArt.com