

## *Moment for Good Friday Tears - April 10, 2020*

Tears were coming down my cheeks...I was at the bathroom sink washing out my sinuses...water was also draining out my nose...  
a holy moment.

I had been listening to a NPR interview through my hearing aids via my cell phone...a handy way for me to get news while doing my morning routine

The interview was with famed Tenor Andrea Bocelli...  
from his home in Milan, Italy...about a concert he was going to live-stream from the empty Milan Cathedral on Easter Sunday.

It was just one of those interesting interviews you get from NPR...until his wife wondered whether the interviewer would like to hear a song right then...with me still hanging over the sink. Bocelli suggested "Ave Maria" which I presume he accompanied himself on the piano.

So he began singing...

*"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, Blessed be thou amongst women,  
And blessed by the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God pray for us sinners,  
now and in the hour of our death....  
...Ave Maria...."*

Then the moisture of tears was on my cheeks. I am surprised...  
there is disconnect going on here at my bathroom sink. I don't venerate Mary...  
I don't believe the historicity or theology or much else about those words...  
yet tears appear with "Ave Maria."

I try to explain myself to me.

I thought of him at his piano in Milan where Italy is having the most deaths from the coronavirus in the whole world...and imagined millions listening from around the world...and of what that song means to so many Catholics especially. I get that.

The transcendent moment does not require history or truth or intellectual belief. Such moments come unbidden and catch us by surprise. You can't plan these things. You can't hold them or even express them. Sometimes you can wrap them in a painting or in music or a poem. Even in a song with words you don't believe.

Even at the bathroom sink. Ave Maria!  
For the Moment....