

HEALED

BY TRUTH

THE SURVIVOR'S GALLERY

A Testimony of Faith and Art



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Introduction

Art is beautiful and redeeming; things unspoken can be expressed through color, shape, and form. Art is also a wonderful form of therapy, especially for those who have gone through trauma. Each of the paintings in this collection come from the hearts and the minds of survivors of abuse in the Catholic Church. While each of their experiences contain elements of trauma and pain, their artworks reveal a resilient love for both God and the Church. Much still needs to be done to support and care for the faith-needs of survivors and their families. Until then, their artwork is here to speak on their behalf, *“Dear Church, I am here! I want to love God, and neighbor. I want to follow Christ and ‘worship him without fear.’ Please do not forget me.”*

May their *Testament of Faith and Art* lead the way to a brighter and healthier Church!

Taos de Chimayo

Acrylic on canvas

by Dawn Nava



Seeking places of healing and pilgrimage has long been a part of our Catholic identity. As a child, I visited the beautiful *Santuario de Chimayo* in northern New Mexico many times. I remember standing in the long lines of pilgrims, many who whispered and mumbled prayers beneath their breath. Candlelight flicked on the adobe walls as I slowly made my way to the small hole in the church floor where I sank my hands into the cold dirt. I may not have fully understood just how much healing I needed, but I said my prayers and asked God to heal me, and the ones I loved, and even the whole world.

Now more than ever, is a perfect time to recall the great treasures of healing we have in our faith and make pilgrimages to those places we may have forgotten. Even if we cannot travel physically to these churches, we can travel there in our hearts and in our prayers. We need God's healing. The world needs God's healing. And if there's anything that our history with him has taught us, it's that God loves to heal us. But we must ask! We must come to him freely and ask for what we need. After all, we have a wealth of prayers, novenas, and litanies that have filled our sacred spaces for centuries. (*Reflection by Carrie Bucalo*).

Rose Among the Thorns

Watercolor on paper
by Carolyn

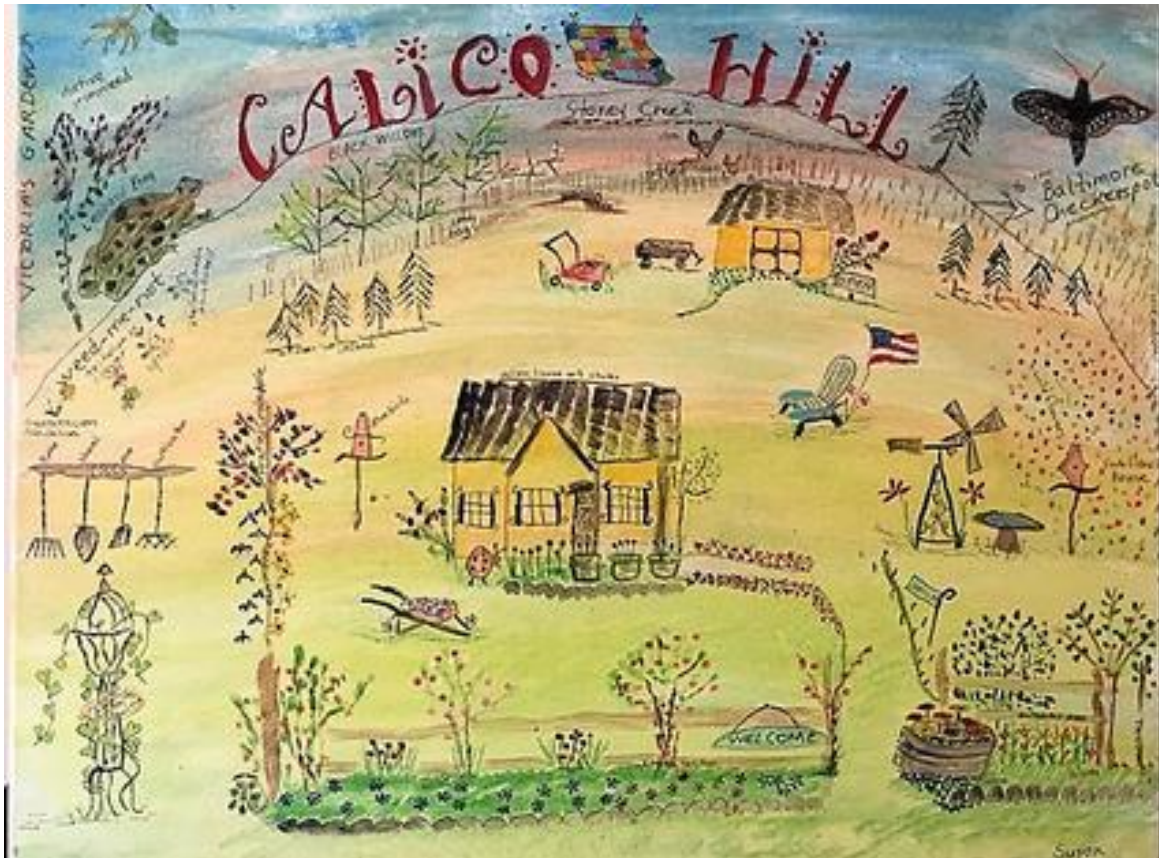


"You will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus," (Phil. 4:7).

"I was prayed over by three different people for physical healing. All three people gave me the same message from God: 'You are a rose among the thorns.' God did not heal my illness. He chose to heal my soul and gave me strength that can only come from Him. God's healing of my soul was the most important choice."

~Carolyn

Hermitage
Watercolor on paper
by Susan H.



"This is my hermitage: a place of peace, healing, growing, and learning...how to be me after abuse. Not just me, but who God wants me to be. *'This is the Garden of Life I have for you.'* But it takes time. Sweet, sweet peace of Jesus. At times elusive, hidden but if we keep totally connected to him- no matter what- He reveals what we need to know."

~ Susan H.

In the Nest
Acrylic on canvas
by an eight-year-old abuse survivor



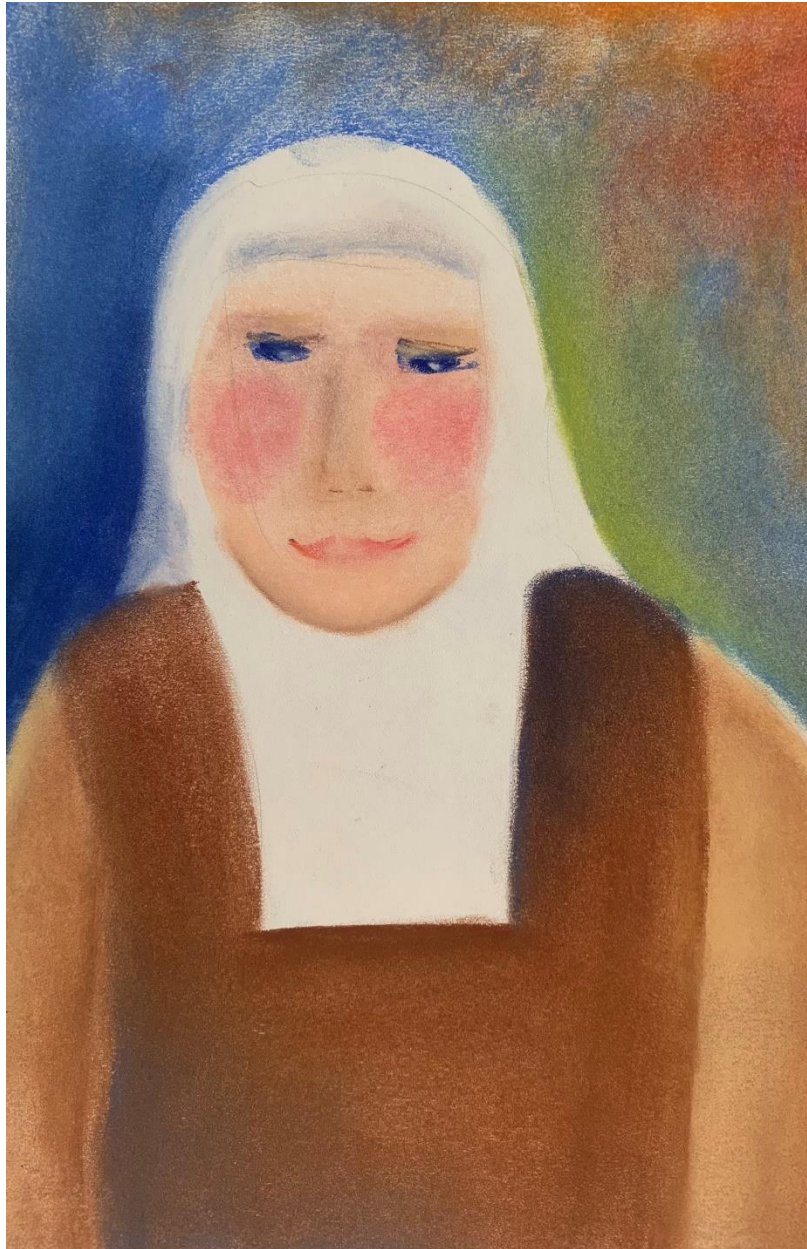
Hope for the World
Acrylic on canvas
by a ten-year-old abuse survivor



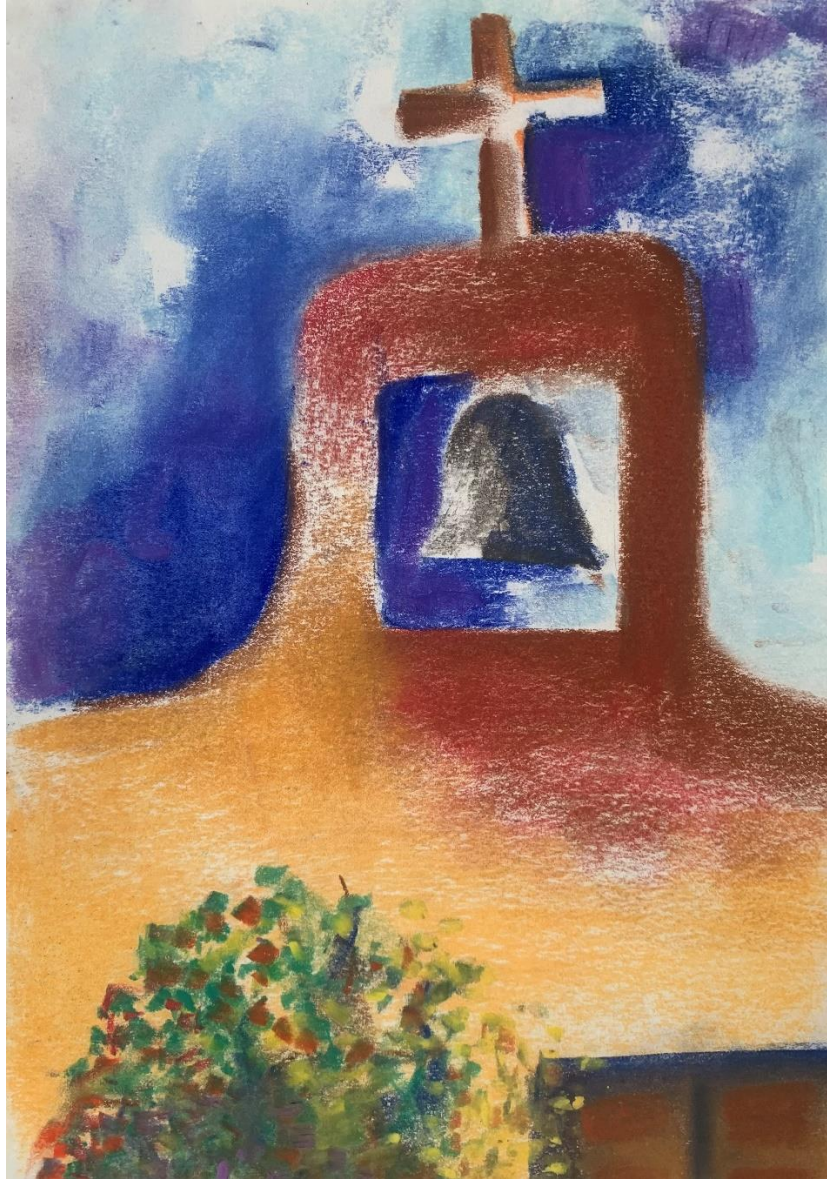
These two young artists, age 8 and 10, survived something no child should have to go through. Abuse from a parent is very hard to heal. Through *The Parish Advocacy Initiative*, these children, and many others, could get the care and the support they need to keep and practice their faith *within* their parish community.

To learn more, visit www.healedbytruth.com.

Self-Portrait as a Nun
Pastel on paper
by Carrie Bucalo, 2003, Carmel of Santa Fe



Bell Tower
Pastel on paper
by Carrie Bucalo, 2003, Carmel of Santa Fe



Irises

Watercolor on cold press
by Carrie Bucalo, 2020



After two decades of speaking out about abuse, and facing my abuser in court, I've discovered that speaking the Truth is always healing. As hard as it is at times, the natural beauty in the world helps me to remember that God has an original plan and an original design for me and for the world. *My Jesus, I trust in you.*

~Carrie Bucalo

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