



THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

NOVEMBER 2021

WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL

NOVEMBER 2021

Autumn Continues. The leaves are changing color, falling to the ground. Winter is coming. This Journal travels far and wide. We start at home (don't we always?) with the dying leaves underfoot. At this point, in the Autumn of my years, I think about what there is yet to complete in this world.

We take off to look at two different places of worship to ponder the future; a Gothic Cathedral and a Buddhist Temple. Spiritually, geographically and architecturally they are vastly different, but the faithful go to contemplate their lives and what the future holds for them.

Autumn Aspens,
Fremont National Forest



Near the End



Near the End

It is near the end of the growing season. Leaves are being shed from trees and they fall to earth. The earthbound leaves of our Hostas are among the last to give up their annual growth. The dead tree leaves and the dying Hosta leaves randomly arrange themselves before they return to the soil they grew from in this growing season.



















Six Word Project

With courage, gallantry, and intrepid leadership...



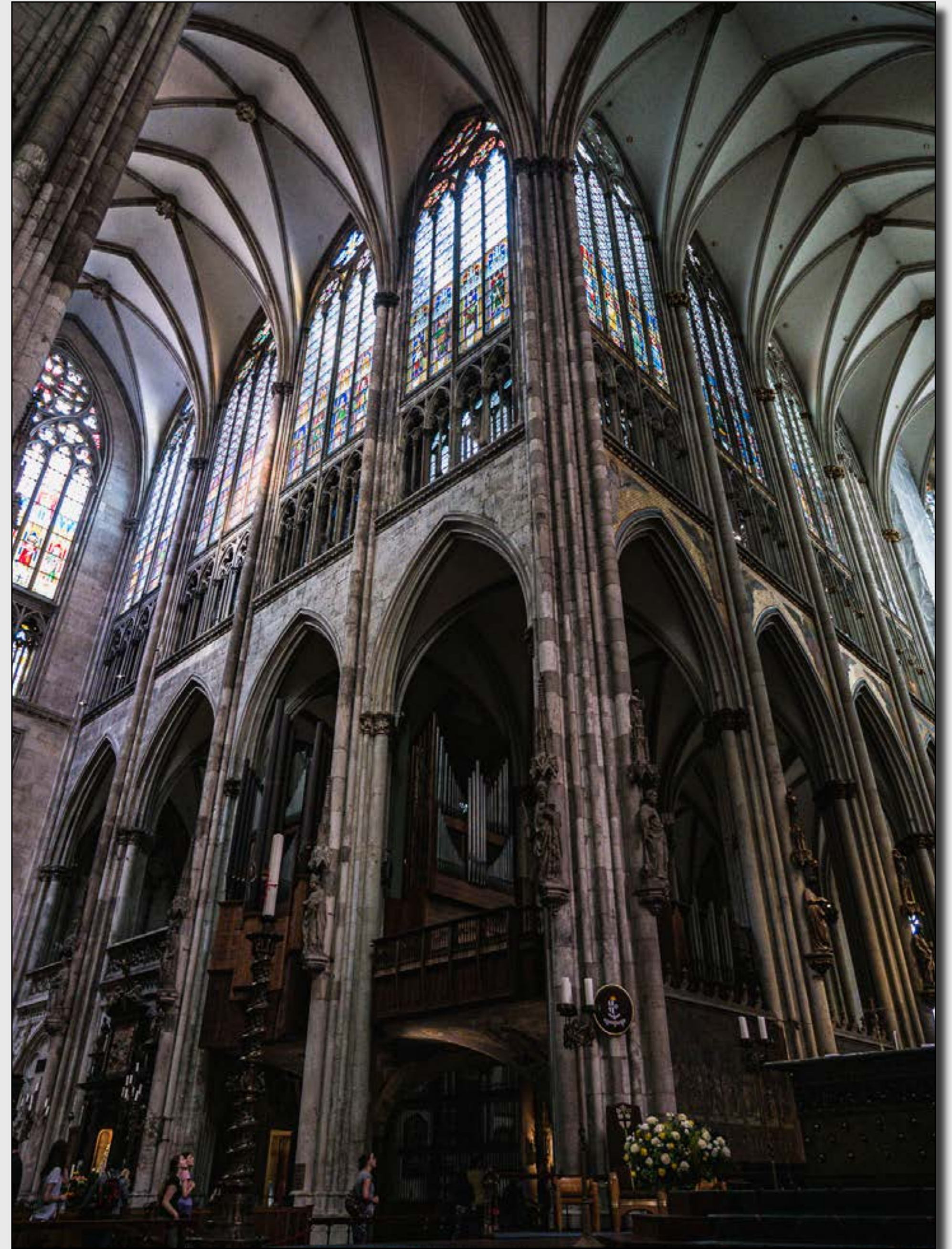
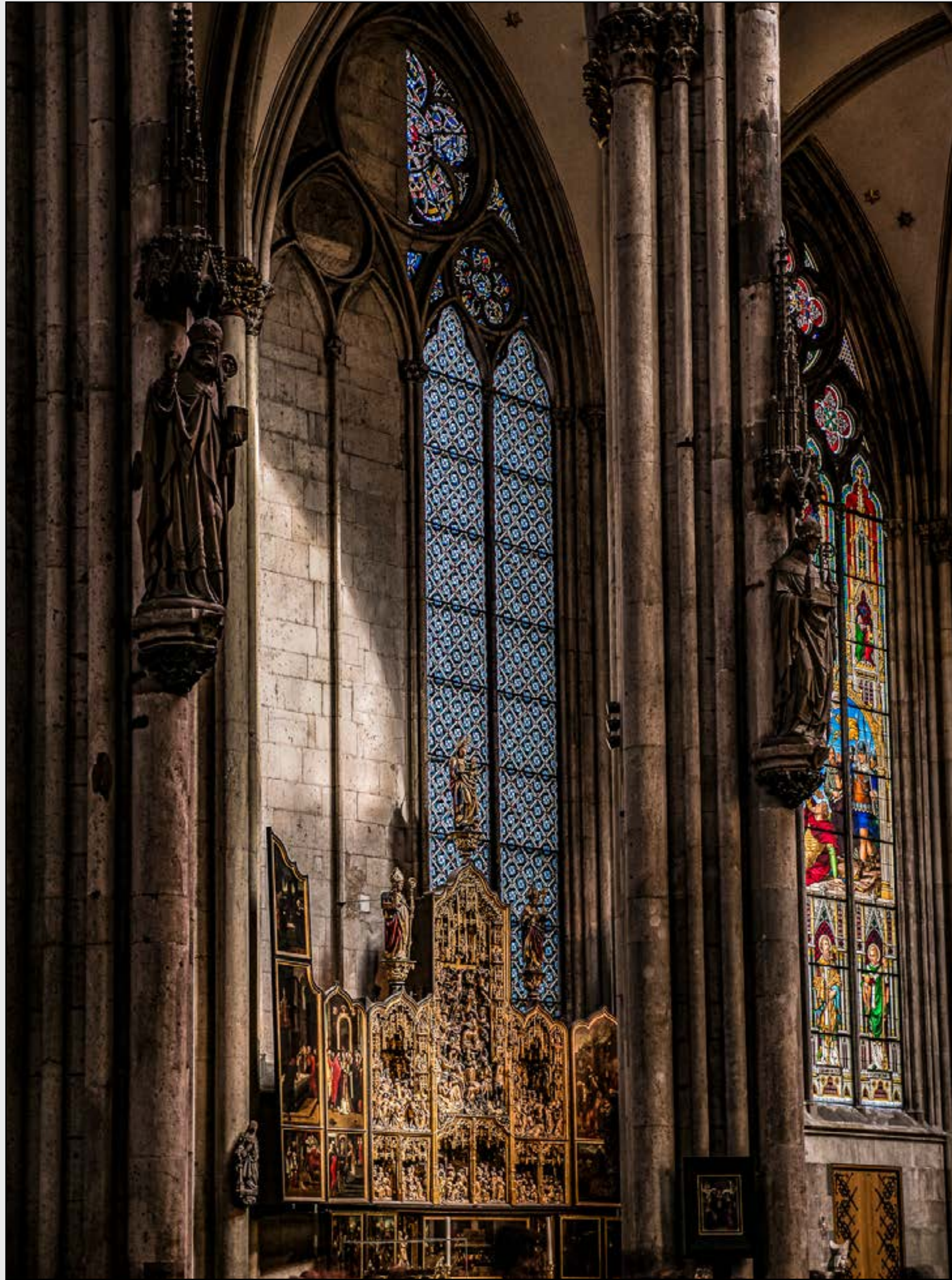
Dedication



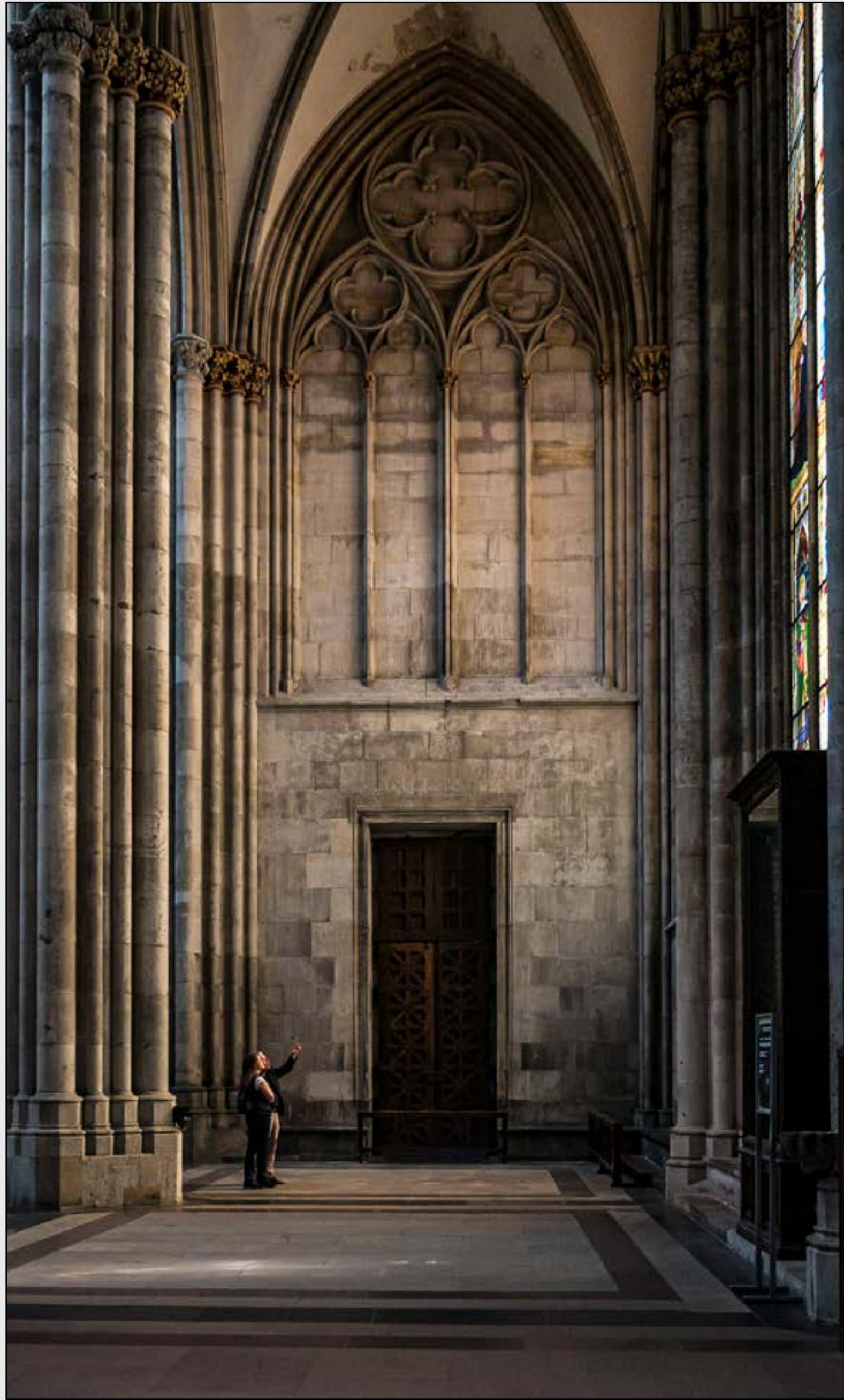
Dedication

From start to finish the construction of the Cologne Cathedral took just over six hundred (1248 – 1880) years. While not under continuous construction, one wonders about the dedication of the thousands of craftsmen that labored their entire life without seeing their work completed. Their dedication was far beyond what we, in modern times, see as dedication. We demand rapid results, immediate gratification, and instant adulation for our efforts which are soon forgotten. These nameless craftsmen were completely opposite in the approach to their work. The results of their effort have lasted centuries.













Six Word Project

He was not an early adopter.





The Destination

The Destination

We always talk about the destination not being as important as the Journey. If that were always true, the destination would not matter. But the destination does matter, if the destination was not important the Journey would not be made. The destination is important because it gives the travelers something to look forward to and marks the Journey's end.

The Journey to the Ten Thousand Buddhas wound through back streets, hills and a steep climb to the hilltop Temple. The Journey was strenuous, challenging and a worthy companion to The Destination.











Postcards from the Creative Journey

December 13, 2020

Delaying tactics

The more I thought about last week's post the more I came up with another take on why it takes so long to finish a photograph. We can take an inordinate amount of time to slave over a photograph to postpone moving on to the next step. We hit that wall of "comfortable incompleteness" and just decide to stay there for a while. This is a deadly position for the creative person. We need to finish and move on; progress and keep moving to the next item on our list.

I have written about the Fear of Completion before. It also goes by the name Comfortably Incomplete. We get to a stage in the project where we have made significant progress, can see the end of the project, can talk with our friends about the work in progress and stay in that wonderful state for a long time. For some reason we don't want to finish.

We engage in delaying tactics. We begin a whole series of arcane and obscure digital editing techniques. We have multiple luminance layers in small sections of the image. We edit at the pixel level to insure image perfection at a level unviewable by the human eye

We may edit our photographs to levels of precision unthinkable not even thirty years ago. We don't always need to, but we have that ability. And we can use that ability when we want to delay completion.

Why do we want to delay completion? I think it is a fear of having to start the next project. We are afraid we've run out of good ideas and the creative well may be dry.

This fear is unfounded. Your next project is there and waiting for you if you finish this project and look for the next.



Bicycle, Amsterdam



American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer, France

A Few Closing Words

Near the End

Two years ago I transplanted our Hostas. That autumn I noticed how they went into dormancy. I was fascinated by the patterns of the leaves. I vowed to photograph them the following year. Last autumn I photographed them when many of the trees above them had already dropped their leaves. The contrast between the already dead leaves and the final changes of the Hostas captivated me. I will go back again this autumn to see what this year's leaves look like.

Dedication

As part of our tour, we had a stop at the historic Cologne Cathedral. There is only enough time in the day to take a cursory look at the place and quickly make those "high grade tourist photographs." As a tourist, we respond to the visual stimuli, raise our camera and record what is in front of us. It is up to us as artists to come up with a deeper meaning to what we have seen.

The Destination

A day of photography in Kowloon included a trip to the Temple of Ten Thousand Buddhas in Shai Tin. The Journey to the Temple was included in the February issue of The Lipka Journal. This month's issue shows The Destination that was worthy of the Journey.



Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last thirty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred juried exhibitions, more than twenty solo exhibitions and have been printed in both *LensWork*, *Black & White Photography* (UK) and F-Stop Magazines.

His website www.joelipkaphoto.com has continuously evolved since it was launched in 2004. His blog *Postcards from the Creative Journey*, published weekly since 2010, feature a photograph and a little bit of writing.

His newest blog, *The Daily Photograph*, is simply that. A new and interesting image posted every morning at 8:00 AM.

COLOPHON

The Lipka Journal, November, 2021

Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

Blog: <http://blog.joelipkaphoto.com/>

Blog: https://joelipkaphoto.typepad.com/the_daily_photograph/

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