



Buen Camino

Newsletter of Fr. Michael Fish, OSB, CAM

Clearing space for the Resurrection

The desert theme this Lent worked quite well for me. The Sahara photo I chose for my phone and computer served to alert me, daily, to the wilderness and Lent.

Driving downtown in Santa Cruz, late February, during a bitterly cold snap, I was particularly aware of the homeless huddled out of the rain and wind. I came home, went through my drawers and cupboard and picked out all the clothes I hadn't worn this winter. (It works, it silences those voices and regrets at parting with them.) I packed them up and took them to a wonderful haven in the Parish.

I had to have a colonoscopy during Lent. This too, was an exercise in emptying, as is my systematic culling of unnecessary files and papers, books too. It has been a liberating and spacious experience, creating, strange as it may sound, more silence. The desert teaches clutter is noise.

This is what Lent is really all about, clearing space for the Resurrection, for freshness, tranquility, encouragement, enthusiasm and vitality to happen in us.

It's important not to expect your inner Easter to coincide with the Liturgical Pascal feast, seldom are the two in sync. Our Easter can happen at any time, in the middle of Lent or long after Triduum. Mine occurred during that cold snap, when, in a field in front of my hermitage, about 200 daffodils, planted by my landlady years ago, decided to brave the icy weather and bloom, brilliant yellow against gray skies. And a message, passed along from the organization to whom I had taken the clothes, that the men were thrilled with my contribution, especially the hardly worn jackets.

Now I can relax into Triduum, already *Eastered*, free to remember especially you and our desert world.

The Lord is Truly Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia,

Michael

Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front

Love the quick profit, the annual raise, vacation with pay. Want more of everything ready-made. Be afraid to know your neighbors and to die. And you will have a window in your head. Not even your future will be a mystery any more. Your mind will be punched in a card and shut away in a little drawer. When they want you to buy something they will call you. When they want you to die for profit they will let you know. So, friends, every day do something that won't compute. Love the Lord. Love the world. Work for nothing. Take all that you have and be poor. Love someone who does not deserve it. Denounce the government and embrace the flag. Hope to live in that free republic for which it stands. Give your approval to all you cannot understand. Praise ignorance, for what man has not encountered he has not destroyed. Ask the questions that have no answers. Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias. Say that your main crop is the forest that you did not plant, that you will not live to harvest. Say that the leaves are harvested when they have rotted into the mold. Call that profit. Prophesy such returns. Put your faith in the two inches of humus that will build under the trees every thousand years. Listen to carrion — put your ear close, and hear the faint chattering of the songs that are to come. Expect the end of the world. Laugh. Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful though you have considered all the facts. So long as women do not go cheap for power, please women more than men. Ask yourself: Will this satisfy a woman satisfied to bear a child? Will this disturb the sleep of a woman near to giving birth? Go with your love to the fields. Lie easy in the shade. Rest your head in her lap. Swear allegiance to what is highest your thoughts. As soon as the generals and the politicians can predict the motions of your mind, lose it. Leave it as a sign to mark the false trail, the way you didn't go. Be like the fox who makes more tracks than necessary, some in the wrong direction. Practice resurrection.

Wendell Berry

Michael news

Michael continues to listen for the Spirit and work on his possible on-line retreat. We hope to test its viability in the coming weeks and will keep you informed.

It's been a year since Michael's return from South Africa. He shared how it sometimes seems like yesterday and other times like years ago. He is staying with solitude for now.

Some retreat CDs available

We have received the remaining CD stock of Michael's retreats from our old fulfillment house. Not every retreat title is available and quantities of some are extremely limited — as few as a half dozen — so don't delay. Visit:

<https://hermitfish.com/retreats-cd-sets>

Given the terrific response to the *Compassion* retreat CD, (thanks to all who ordered), we will be announcing another retreat for pre-order around mid-April. Like *Compassion*, it is another retreat never before made available on CD.

All 13 of Michael's retreats are available as downloads. Each is a full retreat, consisting of 5 talks, totaling roughly 5 hours. Visit:

<https://hermitfish.com/audio-retreats>

Thanks for your support

Michael extends his sincere gratitude to everyone for their continued prayers, good wishes and support. Donations to Hermit Fish, his 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization are fully tax deductible. Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated. FID: 82-2489475

Visit: <https://www.hermitfish.com/donate>

Creative and logistical support for Michael, his *Buen Camino* newsletter and HermitFish.com website are provided by Enigma | LA, enigmala.com

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