



# Buen Camino

Newsletter of Fr. Michael Fish, OSB. CAM

[Ed. Note: Michael remains “internet-challenged” – his access being extremely limited. Unfortunately, this has once again interfered with his being able to send his monthly reflection. Life after life is reprised from the June 2018 issue of Buen Camino. Michael and we appreciate your understanding and patience.]

## Life after life

Recently I met a man who had a “near death,” “life after life” experience. Listening to him was like attending a lecture on theology or Christology. With no experience of either discipline, he shared – tears running down his cheeks – struggling and groping for words to describe his experience. After an initial panic and darkness, he encountered light, welcome, acceptance, unimaginable love, embrace, and yet none of these words were adequate.

He became aware of Christ on the cross, arms extended, not in pain but in the same passionate, loving acceptance, radiating light and life which seemed to flow from him. The man shared how profoundly the experience impacted him and changed his life. This experience plunged him into an awareness of the oneness of everything coming from the Source of loving acceptance. It removed all fear of death and replaced it with a longing to experience loving, welcoming acceptance once again.

I have found myself returning to his sharing and coming to the realization that his “life after life” experience is also available to us. His encounter with loving acceptance and radiating light and life are simply terms for the divine dwelling in us, which we call the Holy

Spirit. Could we begin to live in the awareness of that loving, accepting, nonjudgmental presence within us, and open our arms, like Christ, in passionate, loving welcome? I’m certainly determined to give it a try.

Blessings,

*Michael*

## Unison Benediction

Return to the most human,  
nothing less will nourish the torn spirit,  
the bewildered heart,  
the angry mind:  
and from the ultimate duress,  
pierced with the breath of anguish,  
speak of love.

Return, return to the deep sources,  
nothing less will teach the stiff hands  
a new way to serve,  
to carve into our lives the forms of tenderness  
and still that ancient necessary pain preserve.

Return to the most human,  
nothing less will teach the angry spirit,  
the bewildered heart;  
the torn mind,  
to accept the whole of its duress,  
and pierced with anguish...  
at last, act for love.

*May Sarton*

COLLECTED POEMS, 1930-1993

## Michael's trek delayed

We have not had much contact with Michael except to report that he is awaiting Coronavirus developments in Europe. Michael hopes to begin walking the Via Francigena in about a month. We will announce when he embarks. At that point you’ll be able to follow his trek – under the “Travel Log” tab select “Sabbatical Journey 2020?” Meanwhile, please remember Michael in your prayers.

<https://hermitfish.com/sabbatical-journal-2020>

## Retreat recordings help support Michael

You can help support Michael by purchasing a retreat recording. Downloads of all 13 of Michael’s retreats are available, and a few remain on CD. Each is a full retreat, consisting of 5 talks, totaling over 5 hours. Visit:

<https://store.cdbaby.com/Artist/MichaelFish>

## Retreat scheduling on hold

Michael’s schedule has been put on hold until he returns. If you are interested in booking Michael for an event, please email Laura Hipke, [laura@hipkes.com](mailto:laura@hipkes.com). She will follow up with you after Michael is back.

## Support needed for Michael

Michael is entirely self-supporting, receiving no outside financial assistance apart from his own ministry. Your tax-deductible donation to Hermit Fish, his 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, helps to sustain Michael’s ministry. 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](http://enigmala.com)