



God's "primo verde"

Sitting on my deck, as the weather gradually warms, I'm struck by the brilliant green new growth on the trees around me, "primo verde." There is a surge of life in everything – plants, trees, the wild animals are all bursting with life, energy, newness and color.

In stark contrast to the exuberance of Spring is COVID, which has so drastically curtailed our lives in all dimensions – family, social, work and worship. Many of us have not been able to participate in the Liturgy or receive the Sacraments for over a year. I wonder if there is not a lesson or message in this for us, which would be a pity to overlook.

Before the pandemic, we relied mainly on the Parish for our spiritual nourishment and faith support. Then, suddenly, this was reduced to video or "Zoom" masses, leaving us with a sense of loss and disconnection. Could this be Providence at work? Could the pandemic be nudging us into "a time of the Spirit"?

The month of May brings us to Pentecost, that almost forgotten feast, lost, as it often is, among the "the Glorias" of Christmas and "the Alleluias" of Easter. And yet, perhaps now more than ever, it is the feast we need to appreciate and celebrate.

Who is the Holy Spirit but the "Spirit of Jesus," the gift he gives us of his energy, presence and essence. His death and Resurrection have, in fact, freed and released him making him available to us here and now. Deprived, as we are of our traditional forms of worship, are we perhaps being invited to remember, rediscover and resurrect the Risen one in us, which, after all, is the heart of New Testament teaching? The Risen Christ has *Eastered* in you and longs

to be present through you and as you.

We "ooh and aah" over the beauty and energy of Spring, failing to realize that, through the Spirit, we are Spring ourselves. We are God's "primo verde" for the world. By opening ourselves to the Christ energy in us, we become hope, aliveness, joy and beauty bursting, blooming, becoming...

Blessings,

Michael

Green is the Season

Green is the season after Pentecost.

The Holy Ghost in an abstracted place spreads out the languid summer of His peace, unrolls His hot July.

O leaves of love, O chlorophyll of grace.

Native to all is this contemplative summer.

The soul that finds its way through Pentecost knows this green solitude at once as homeland.

Only the heart, earth held and time engrossed, dazed by this unforeknown and blossoming nowhere, troubles itself with adjectives like "lost."

Jessica Powers
(1954)

Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit,
giving life to all life,
moving all creatures,
root of all things,
washing them clean,
wiping out their mistakes,
healing their wounds,
you are our true life,
luminous, wonderful,
Awakening the heart
from its ancient sleep.

Hildegard of Bingen

Michael news

Work continues on Michael's proposed online retreat, now tentatively titled, *Levanté*. He has begun some video testing and is still busily writing. This is proving a slow process as Michael is blazing new trails in the retreat's structure and how it will be delivered. We will keep you informed as things continue to unfold.

"Cave 3" CDs are a "Go"

Michael's *Cave of the Heart 3* retreat CDs are a "Go." Thanks to all who ordered. If you still want in, there's a little time left to pre-order before we go into production. Please allow about four weeks for delivery. Visit: <https://hermitfish.com/cave-of-the-heart-3-cd-set/cave-of-the-heart-5-disc-cd-set/cave-of-the-heart-5-disc-cd-set-myrlin>

We have a limited number of *Cave 3* journals left. These are the perfect companion to the CD set or download of this popular retreat. Visit: <https://hermitfish.com/retreat-journals>

There are yet some retreats in stock on CD. Not every title is available and quantities are dwindling. Visit: <https://hermitfish.com/retreats-cd-sets>

All 13 of Michael's retreats (5 talks each) are available as downloads. Visit: <https://hermitfish.com/audio-retreats>

Your support is appreciated

Michael is grateful 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