



## Spring in Winter

Living in the Southern Hemisphere had its challenges. Lent occurs in the Fall and Easter in early Winter. When I lived in the Zulu village, it was always a challenge to find flowers for Easter. However, nature has an amazing capacity for coming to the rescue. Every year, around Easter, there would be field upon field of blossoming Cosmos and so for the Easter Vigil the stark, striped chapel would be transformed by the miracle of these simple, spring-like blooms – white, pink and scarlet, adorning and filling the space.

Spring in Winter. Easter is all about surprise, the unexpected and the turnabout. Death comes to life, the empty grave, the humorous encounters of the Risen One with Mary Magdalene, the women at the tomb, the two on the way to Emmaus, Thomas and the frightened Apostles in the Upper Room, all ‘Spring in Winter.’

There is a lovely idea in early theology that says Resurrection is always in the present tense, so it’s not “Christ is risen from the dead,” but “Christ is rising now, always, bursting forth from the tomb and death.” The feast of Easter is simply to remind and prepare us for the continued “little resurrections or springtimes” in our life. The unkind thought silenced, the caring inner prompting followed, the unexpected shift from sadness to joy,

the breakthrough of the new from within or without. Something as simple a smile or peach blossoms can open our hearts and eyes to the possibility, the miracle of Cosmos in Winter.

*A blessed, joy-filled Eastering to you,*

*Michael*

## Spring!

Spring! And Earth is like a child who has learned many poems by heart. For the trouble of that long learning she wins the prize.

Her teacher was strict. We loved the white of the old man’s beard. Now we can ask her the many names of green, of blue, and she knows them, she knows them!

Earth, school is out now. You’re free to play with the children. We’ll catch you, joyous Earth. The happiest will catch you!

All that the teacher taught her – the many thoughts pressed now into roots and long tough stems: she sings! She sings!

~ Rainer Maria Rilke, *Sonnets to Orpheus I, 21*

## A Passing

Donna Dorn, who many of you will remember from Michael’s retreats for her quiet, backstage assistance and warm welcome at registration, crossed the Jordan after a long Camino with cancer and is now, for sure, in Resurrection.

## Two New CDs Available



The long-anticipated *Camino III* and *Cave of the Heart II* retreats will be available from CD Baby on CD in early April. *Camino III* is the final retreat in that well-loved trilogy, and *Cave II* is the second chapter of what will be three retreats. Both titles are available now as digital downloads.

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

## Retreat Scheduling

If you are an organization, group or retreat center who is interested in booking Michael for an event, please contact Laura Hipke, (818) 248-4747 or [laura@hipkes.com](mailto:laura@hipkes.com).

## Support Needed for Michael

Many are not aware that Michael is entirely self-supporting, receiving no financial assistance apart from his own ministry. Your tax-deductible donation to Hermit Fish, his 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, helps to sustain Michael’s ministry. Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated. FID: 82-2489475

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

## Michael's Upcoming Events

### APRIL

6-10 | **Compassion: Opening the Doors of Mercy**, St. Monica Parish Mission, Santa Monica, CA  
Info: (310) 393-9287

### MAY

11 | **Stillpoint Retreat Day**, Church of Our Saviour, San Gabriel, CA, Info: (626) 385-7242 or [HO@stillpointca.org](mailto:HO@stillpointca.org)

24-25 | **Contemplative Outreach of the East Bay**, Hope Lutheran Church, El Sobrante, CA  
Info: [tiewellynlaw@me.com](mailto:tiewellynlaw@me.com)

### JUNE

5-12 | **Contemplative Ways to Being**, Villa Maria Del Mar, Santa Cruz, CA, Info: (831) 475-1236  
22-30 | **Contemplative Ways to Being**, Mercy by the Sea, Madison, CT, Info: (203) 245-0401

To be added to Michael’s email distribution go to <https://www.hermitfish.com> and scroll to the bottom of the page to sign up.