



Buen Camino

Newsletter of Fr. Michael Fish, OSB. CAM

The Gospel of June

June is unique. Apart from the Summer Solstice, the liturgical calendar punctuates the secular with a plethora of colorful feasts – Pentecost, Holy Trinity, Corpus Christi, Nativity of John the Baptist, St. Romuald, Sacred Heart, and finally, Sts. Peter and Paul.

I remember being in Rome once for meetings. It seemed like solemnities and accompanying feast day meals occurred every week and sometimes twice a week. The Italians know how to celebrate – pre-prandial drinks, four course meals, special wines – concluding always with “Vin Santo,” desserts, Grappa and Espresso.

This reverence for June seems to exist deep in the human psyche. Some 5000 years ago, in what is now England, people placed huge stones in a circle on a broad plain, aligning them with the Solstice sunrise. This time of year has remained sacred, as humans treasure the gifts of warmth and light.

What do these holy days and this Solstice time have to say to us in our busy, rushed choked life?

- **6/9 Pentecost** – I’ll be with you always, I’m in you now
- **6/16 Trinity** – You are one with Us, We are your home and family
- **6/19 St. Romuald** – Be your restless self, I can work through you
- **6/23 Corpus Christi** – I will feed and care for you
- **6/21 Summer Solstice** – I am your warmth, light and alignment
- **6/24 Nativity of John the Baptist** – I have a plan for you no matter who you are
- **6/29 Sacred Heart** – I love you always
- **6/29 Peter and Paul** – I’m with you in all challenges, daily life as well as suffering and death

June is almost a mini Gospel, a collage of life, reassurance, encouragement and celebration.

Could this special month, irrespective of your spiritual tradition or lack thereof, be an invitation to listen, celebrate and notice how the Beloved is constantly breaking

through the secular and ordinary and laying a table beside slow-flowing waters just for you, leading and inviting you into fruitfulness.

Those Italian Redemptorists and Camaldolese have it right, “Our cup overflows.” How can we, following the example of Mother Nature, share our Summer abundance?

Love,

Michael

Psalm 23

You are my shepherd, I am content
You lead me to rest in the sweet grasses
To lie down by the quiet waters
And I am refreshed

You lead me down the right path
The path that unwinds through the valley
of the shadow of death

I will not fear
For you are with me
Comforting me with your rod and your staff
Showing me each step

You prepare a table for me
In the midst of my adversity
And moisten my head with oil

Surely my cup is overflowing
And goodness and kindness will follow me
All the days of my life
And in the long days beyond
I will always live within your house

Norman Fischer

Opening to You: Zen-Inspired Translations
of the Psalms

Michael's Upcoming Events

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

JULY

8-15 | **Camino Retreat**, Santa Sabina Center, San Rafael, CA, Info: (415) 457-7727

25-28 | **Cave of the Heart III**, Mercy Center, Burlingame, CA, Info: (650) 340-7474

AUGUST

22 | **An Evening with Fr. Michael Fish**, Mater Dolorosa, Sierra Madre, CA, Info: (626) 355-7188

23-25 | **Cave of the Heart III**, Mater Dolorosa, Sierra Madre, CA, Info: karenjudson43@gmail.com

An evening with Michael

Spend a special evening with Michael on August 22, 2019, at Mater Dolorosa in Sierra Madre, CA (Center Outdoor Amphitheater). Amphitheater seating is limited, while additional ground seating will be available. Bring a blanket or low lawn chair in case the amphitheater is full. A light supper with a beverage will be served at 6:30PM and Michael speaks at 7:30. For more information and to purchase tickets (\$35) visit:

<https://materdolorosa.org/an-evening-with-fr-michael-fish/>

Downloads of all retreats

If you prefer digital downloads to CDs, Michael now has 12 retreats available online, while 11 titles are also on CD. Each is a full retreat of more than five hours. Visit:

<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.

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/donate>

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.