



# Buen Camino

Newsletter of Fr. Michael Fish, OSB. CAM

## The Kruger Approach

We have liturgical seasons, Advent, Lent, Easter, each with its own distinct language and rituals. However, I wonder, if we realize we also have our own spiritual seasons which invite change, adaptation and call for flexibility and creativity. We are moving towards the Summer Solstice (Winter for the Southern hemisphere), how does, or can this, influence our prayer?

This invitation to spiritually shift and adapt reminds me of a tradition my family had of visiting the Kruger Nation Park twice a year, a vast reserve, over 2 million hectares in size, where animals are protected and free to roam in wild terrain containing unrivaled diversity of species, flora and fauna. For South Africans, a visit to the Kruger Park calls for a completely different lifestyle layered with longstanding traditions:

Up early, so as to leave the camp as soon as the gates open, 4:30AM in Summer and 6:00AM in Winter. Driving slowly, (speed limit is 30 miles per hour), in the predawn, quiet in the car, as each person, glued to their window, looking raptly into the bush and tall grass for even a flick of an ear or a tail which could materialize into a lion or leopard, a rhino or elephant. Listening intently for a roar, a bark, the nervous chatter of monkeys, alarm calls from birds indicating an approaching predator. Watching herds of impala, wildebeest or zebras to see if they are relaxed or pensive. Driving through the bush for four or five hours, then returning to the camp for brunch and a siesta before starting out again in the afternoon for the same slow, quiet, listening and intense looking. A few days in the Park is equivalent to a two-week vacation. Why? Because the daily routine almost is, itself, prayer.

The Celtic Christians believed the first Scripture was nature and creatures because Genesis says, "And God said 'let there be...'" thus all creation is God's creative word. So for eight or ten hours a day, the Kruger visitor is driving through scripture listening, looking, silent and slow. What would happen if we apply this routine to the other "scriptures" in our life? The Celts believed the second Scripture was the Bible. Could we apply a "Kruger

Approach" to our daily readings as well as to the third scripture, which Jean Pierre de Causade calls "the sacrament of the present moment"? Each day can be scripture wherein God communicates with us. Interesting the theme for the Camaldolese General Chapter, in November of this year, is, "Being present to the Presence in the present." Looking, listening deeply to the roars and barks of our bodies, the various chattering of our mind and heart, the sweet calls of the Spirit, stepping slowly and quietly through our day. Or what about the forth scripture of silence, (God was not in the fire, the earthquake, the howling wind, but in the sound of silence," 1 Kings 19:10-13.) – simply watching and listening to our breath or heartbeat, applying the "Kruger Approach" even here.

The Park rituals of dawn and dusk, when animals and nature are awake, alert, feeding and alive challenge us to reevaluate the spiritual season we find ourselves in now. Are we prepared respond to what the various scriptures are inviting us into? Perhaps then we'll be surprised by spotting the exotic magnificence of the Divine in one of Her many disguises?

*Blessings,*

*Michael*

P.S. Reminder, 19 June is the feast of St. Romuald

## Notes Toward a Supreme Fiction vii (excerpt)

...Perhaps

The truth depends on a walk around a lake,

A composing as the body tires, a stop

To see hepatica, a stop to watch

A definition growing certain and

A wait within that certainty, a rest

In the swags of pine-trees bordering the lake...

WALLACE STEVENS, *Collected Poems*

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

## Michael News

Through Divine serendipity, Michael ended up accompanying Sr. Skho, the Zulu Redemptoristine, to South Africa. There, he piggybacked on the Golden jubilee celebration of his novitiate companion, and fitting in a quick visit with family. If you would like to watch part of the jubilee ceremony, visit:

<https://hermitfish.com/>

## 'Levanté' closed captioned

We have updated all of the *Levanté* online retreats, adding closed captioning for the hearing impaired.

The *Levanté 3* retreat is nearing completion and we expect it to debut shortly. Watch for news of its release via email in the coming weeks. Visit:

<https://hermitfish.com/retreat-brochure>

## Audio retreat subscription

Michael's entire audio retreat library is available online 24/7, via subscription – 13 retreats, 65 talks. Visit:

<https://hermitfish.com/about-the-audio-library>

## Grateful for your support

Michael wishes to thank everyone for your continued prayers, good wishes and support. Donations to Hermit Fish, Michael's 501(c)(3) nonprofit, are fully tax deductible. Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated. FID: 82-2489475

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

### **Levanté 2 Video Retreats**

JUNE 15-21 | Home Retreat • Online

JULY 13-19 | Home Retreat • Online

**Levanté 2 information:**

<https://hermitfish.com/levante-2-schedule>

### **Levanté 1 Video Retreats**

JUNE 8-14 | Home Retreat • Online

JULY 6-12 | Home Retreat • Online

**Levanté 1 information:**

<https://hermitfish.com/levante-1-retreat-houses>

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