



Buen Camino

Newsletter of Fr. Michael Fish, OSB, CAM

Bring down the walls

You may have seen *The Green Book*, a recent film which won a number of awards. The story has stayed with me, reminding me of my South African days. During apartheid we built psychological and legal walls. Then, after its fall, we built physical walls around our homes due to the high crime rate. Walls of all kinds may make us feel safer, but they are also stunting, claustrophobic and isolating.

My last visit to the Holy Land was tarnished by the gigantic concrete walls built in Jerusalem and around most of Bethlehem – somber, sad symbols. The Bethlehem side of the wall is covered with angry graffiti. Then, a few years ago, an artist, Ian Knowles, at the request of the Mother Superior of a local convent, painted a huge icon of Mary high above the graffiti.

There she is, beauty amongst anger, frustration and exclusion. The people who daily go to pray before her, call her “Our Lady Who Brings Down Walls.”

As we begin May, traditionally dedicated to Mary, let us ask her to bring down the many walls in our lives and let’s see if we can follow the example of that Mother Superior and artist, and over anger, division and fear, to place beauty and blessing.

Love,

Michael

A few suggestions for the month...

- See *The Green Book* movie
- Have a May Altar (an icon or statue of Mary) as a reminder of the Bethlehem Icon
- A daily decade of the Rosary
- Remember and celebrate the lovely feast of the Visitation on 31 May

A Modern Version of the Magnificat

My soul glorifies the Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour!

For He has blessed me lavishly
and makes me ready to respond.

He shatters my little world
and lets me be poor before Him.

He takes from me all my plans
and gives me more than I can hope for or ask.

He gives me opportunities and the ability
to become free and to burst through my
boundaries.

He gives the strength to be daring,
to build on Him alone, for He shows
Himself as the ever greater One
in my life.

He has made known to me this:
It is in my being servant
that it becomes possible

For God’s kingdom to break through
here and now.

~ English translation from German by
Olga Warnke, IBVM

An evening with Michael

Spend a special evening with Michael on August 22, 2019, at Mater Dolorosa in Sierra Madre, CA. A light supper 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/>

Michael video

There is an excellent video of Michael on his website, excerpted from Fr. Michael Russo’s *Sunday to Sunday* program.

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

12 retreat titles available

Michael now has 12 retreats available. Each CD or download set was recorded live during a retreat and is over 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/>

Michael's Upcoming Events

MAY

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

24-25 | **Contemplative Outreach of the East Bay**, Hope Lutheran Church, El Sobrante, CA, Info: tlewellynlaw@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

JULY

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

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.