



Buen Camino

Newsletter of Fr. Michael Fish, OSB. CAM

Imagining ourselves as co-creators

Of all the statues Antoni Gaudí, the architect and engineer of Sagrada Família in Barcelona, designed, his favorite was the young, teenage Jesus working at the carpenter's bench. Gaudí loved this because it was the preexisting Word, now become flesh, continuing creation. Those words from Genesis 2:15, "Work the earth and take care of it," was a mandate given to humanity to take the raw material of creation and become collaborators and co-creators, continuing and developing what is. Gaudí believed Sagrada Família was just this, enhancing creation, sharing in God's flamboyant, extravagant imagination and design.

I was recently asked to bless an office space and factory, a simple rite of a blessing prayer and sprinkling holy water. The owner believed his work was important and wanted the touch, protection and inspiration of God. It struck me, during the blessing and sprinkling, how, if we're present, aware and awake, everything we do can be sharing in God's ongoing creation.

We have examples of this collaboration wherever we look, antibiotics (I was on a course for a few weeks recently) their amazing power to overcome infection, the magic of air travel, technology, the internet, modern medicine, are a few examples of human beings taking the basics of creation and running with it. But what about cooking a meal, germinating seeds for this year's vegetable garden, planting daffodil and tulip bulbs, making marmalade, music, pottery, painting? Have you ever thought of the joy this gives God observing us working side-by-side with Her/Him on the assembly line of creation?

This pleasure we give God using our gifts, imagination and time enhancing our world and those around us is prayer. On my daily walk, especially now that Spring

has sprung, I find myself pointing out to God the beauty of nature around me, as the Celts would say, enjoying nature and creation for God. This too is collaboration imitating that Divine tradition we find in Genesis when, after each day's creation, God saw what had become and named it "Good." This proclaiming "goodness" on everything is a blessing just as powerful as the sprinkling of holy water.

There is a lovely tradition of blessing our homes with Easter water so, as we step into May month, still abounding in Alleluias, let us imagine ourselves as co-creators sprinkling blessings left, right and center, seeing goodness everywhere, turning, even the most ordinary, into God's pleasure and prayer.

Alleluia, alleluia,

Michael

The Sabbath

Creation, we are taught, is not an act that happened once upon a time, once and for ever. The act of bringing the world into existence is a continuous process. God called the world into being, and that call goes on. There is this present moment because God is present. Every instant is an act of creation. A moment is not a terminal but a flash, a signal of Beginning. Time is perpetual innovation, a synonym for continuous creation. Time is God's gift to the world of space... We cannot solve the problem of time through the conquest of space, through either pyramids or fame. We can only solve the problem of time through the sanctifications of time. To men alone time is elusive; to men with God time is eternity in disguise. Creation is the language of God, Time is His song, and things of space the consonants in the song. To sanctify time is to sing the vowels in unison with Him. This is the task of humans: to conquer space and sanctify time... Eternity utters a day.

ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL

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

Michael News

Michael has been assisting the Redemptoristine Nuns in arranging for one of their community, Sister Skho, (whom he mentioned in a number of his retreat conferences), to return to South Africa as, sadly, their American monastery has been dissolved due to a number of sisters dying from Covid. Sister Skho will be under the care of the Redemptorists in South Africa.

Caltrans is hard at work on the collapsed section of Hwy 1, just north of the New Camaldoli Hermitage in Big Sur, CA. Fr. Cyprian says it may still take a few months to repair.

We hope to have the *Levante 3* online retreat ready sometime in June.

50th anniversary bookmark

Response to our offer of bookmarks commemorating the 50th anniversary of Michael's first vows has been overwhelming, necessitating two additional print runs. If you requested bookmarks, please be patient and know that they are in the works. Thanks to all who responded.

Thanks for your support

Michael is grateful to 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

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Levante 2 Video Retreats

MAY 18-24 | Home Retreat • Online
JUNE 15-21 | Home Retreat • Online

Levante 2 information:
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Levante 1 Video Retreats

MAY 11-17 | Home Retreat • Online
JUNE 8-14 | Home Retreat • Online

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