

THE PROPHET MERTON

—by Gary Young

Thus it was that Merton appeared out of the desert
 Proclaiming a baptism of goodsense nonsense.
 America went out to meet him in great numbers
 And confessed to being his fans
 Whether he threw them out or in.
 He was clothed in Levi-Cistercian
 And wore a leather belt of satire for whopping.
 His food was nails and green grapes.
 The theme of his preaching was:
 “One more powerful than I is chasing me
 Though I cannot find His footprints.
 I have baptized you with puns.
 He will baptize you with fire.”

Gary Young is a Resurrectionist priest. For several years he has taught English studies at Weber High School in Chicago. During the 1985-1986 school year, he will be on sabbatical and preparing an anthology (textbook) for students comparing the Bible and other literature. He is currently living at Resurrection Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. A native Missourian, he holds graduate degrees in literature and theology from St. Louis University. He did the cartoon, “Cheshire Merton,” featured on the cover of this issue of *The Merton Seasonal*.



GARY YOUNG
 Self-Portrait