

A reflection from *Bread in the Wilderness*
 (Thomas Merton)
 Psalm 34: We know and believe (Waddell)
 Aubade: Bermuda (Merton)
 For the Beauty of the Earth (Traditional)
 Jesus, Good Shepherd (Waddell)
 I Believe in Love (Merton)
 How Can I Keep from Singing? (Traditional Shaker)
 Psalm 128: Blessed are the people (Warner)
 I am the Vine (Warner)
 After the Night Office: Gethsemani Abbey (Merton)
 Light Serene of Holy Glory (Waddell)

A COMPANION TO PRAYER: Side Two
 Lord of All Hopefulness (Traditional Irish)
 Now We Remain (Haas)
 Song: Contemplation (Merton)
 Canticle of the Sun (Haugen)
 The Lord is My Shepherd (Afro-American Spiritual)
 From "The Victory" (Merton)
 Gloria (Brass Ensemble/ Bower)
 Come Close, You Hallowed (Waddell)
 The Road Ahead (Merton)
 Psalm 31: Into your hands I commend my spirit (Waddell)
 Psalm 91: Within the wings of God's embrace (Warner)
 Hagia Sophia: The Hour of Terce (Merton)
 Hail, Holy Queen (Waddell)

A word about the accompaniment: the hymns and psalm settings which were written for unison male voices had to be rearranged for sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. It also meant taking the organ accompaniment and transforming it into a new score for flute and violins, harp and guitar, organ and string bass. This seventy-eight minute cassette recording makes available to the listener a unique blending of voices and instruments from two rather distinct musical groups, which complement one another in a creative introduction to prayer. The interspersed meditative readings of Thomas Merton's prose and poetry are pure bonus.

MERTON IN FICTION

Review of

MASQUERADE

By William X. Kienzle

Kansas City: Andrews & McMeel, 1990

267 pages / \$15.95

Reviewed by **Barbara Sonnenberg**

Relying heavily on his experience as a former priest, William Kienzle's twelfth mystery novel is set on the campus of a Catholic college. A mystery writers workshop is scheduled and the assembled faculty include a nun, a rabbi, an Episcopal priest and his wife, a Trappist monk, and Father Koesler "... whose religious background and periodic contact with the Homicide Division of Detroit's Police Department will provide valuable authentication."

□ **Barbara Sonnenberg** lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, has been active in Merton projects there, and is a librarian at the Cincinnati Public Library's main branch. She has reviewed Merton books for *The Merton Seasonal*, but has stated that she reviews "mostly fiction." This was her chance to do both.

Naive Sister Janet is the nominal coordinator, but TV evangelist and religious publisher Klaus Kreig is clearly engineering the proceedings. All of the authors have published mysteries with protagonists fashioned after their own religious states, and all have been approached to sign on with Kreig's sleazy P. G. (Praise God) Press. Determined to add some authenticity to what is actually a scam, Kreig has unearthed a deeply embarrassing event in the life of each author and threatened to reveal it. Faced with the end of both their religious and publishing careers, all become suspects when murder occurs. Father Koesler uses his powers of observation and deduction to reveal the killer.

The characters are well delineated within a cleverly conceived plot, but Kienzle considerably slows the story line to pontificate on post Vatican II "failures." He laments the lack of vocations, mandatory retirement of clerics, encroaching ecumenism, the easing of restrictions, etc. Lay society is lambasted for its dull mentality and enjoyment of "kinky" sex.

Thomas Merton is portrayed respectfully as a Trappist who entered under the strict De Rance interpretation of the rule and then dies under an easier regime. The monk character wishes to imitate Merton by writing a series of popular mysteries in monastic settings and then be able to produce "scholarly, profound, contemplative Merton-esque writings."

Masquerade provides pleasant summer reading if you don't mind a sermon with your mystery!

CROSS COUNTRY

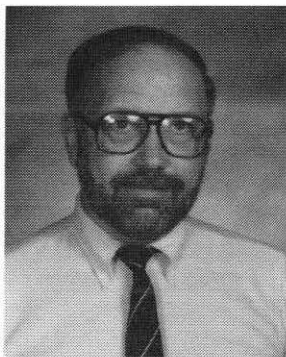
by **R. B. Lasco**

Skiing up the creek trail,
Watching snow motes in sunshine among hemlocks,
Then, at the top, from the spruce plantation
Skied Thomas Merton —
A cowed monk from a pine needle tunnel.

He snowplowed to a stop.
"Father Louis, what is the Tao?"
"Well, the Tao is a ski track
Before
The ski goes through the snow."

He glided away,
Skiing in good wax, but odd form.
My skis go "swish, swish."
His skis slice the snow in Trappist silence.

He began the long, downhill run.
"Father Louis!
Man does not make saints!
God makes saints —
Humans must discover them."



R. B. LASCO

□ **R. B. Lasco** lives in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and works as a media specialist at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, Maryland. He attended a small teachers college in Michigan, taught English in college for three years and in high school for fifteen years, served in the army military in Germany (1966-1968), and recently graduated from Western Maryland College with a degree in library science. He is a founding member of the Mencken Society of Baltimore and loves cross country skiing.