

Three Poems

By **Jeanne Doriot, SP**

Abbey of Gethsemani

The walls of rocks are wearing away
outside this church where psalms crash
against the walls like waves assaulting
an unyielding shore as visitors come and go
and generations of monks descend beneath
the ground, worn to the shape of silence,
fitting snugly into a new heaven, a new earth.

Stephen's Psalm

Brother Stephen Batchelor, OCSO
(February 10, 1962 – July 20, 2009)

With Compline shadows cooling
day's frayed edges into night,
Stephen takes in death with every breath
and softly, quietly completes his life's psalmody.
Keeping vigil, his brothers take up where he left off.

Winter Fast

Safely cowed, monks begin their winter fast.
The cowl is taken on, the fast commenced, the cross
welcomed once again. Far from Lent,
September's Exaltation of the Cross securely cloaks
our monks with a self-denial's season tinged
with intimations of Resurrection, Easter,
Springtime.

All pray for perseverance.

Jeanne Doriot, a Sister of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN, lives in Los Angeles, CA. Her collection of poetry submitted toward her MA degree in creative writing from Indiana University was titled "Diving After Flame," in honor of Thomas Merton. Her poetry and reviews have appeared in several publications, including *The Merton Seasonal* and *Cistercian Studies Quarterly*.



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