

Legacy

In Memoriam: Brother René Richie (4/26/1928–4/10/2011)

By **Anita Rifkind**

I planted a few hyacinth bulbs
 someone left in the little garden
 next to the retreat house
 that I watched Brother René dig
 four or five years ago.
 This spring the flowers were glorious –
 lush, myriad intense colors,
 the culmination of his efforts.
 He must have known how beautiful
 it would be this May.
 A farewell gift – a simple
 reminder of the everlasting
 fecundity of God's creation?
 Give the flowers some water
 please, and pull some weeds
 if you have the time.
 Brother René will thank you.



Anita Rifkind

Anita Rifkind is a long-time member of the Chicago Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society, an urban planner, a community volunteer, a church member, and a wife, daughter, sister and mother. In her free time, she reads history and theology, walks on the prairie or in the woods, visits Gethsemani Abbey and writes an occasional poem.