

# Hand to the Plow

By Sean Kinsella

*(Regula Benedicti: Prologus)*

Here I am  
A student in this school  
Of service, of strictness,  
Of shared suffering

Suffering in the sharing  
Managing, somehow,  
To be both alone in my loneliness  
And crowded in my solitude

Having fled the world  
And found here the same  
Serpents, thorns, and thistles  
That stung and scratched before

*Monos pros monon*  
Surrounded by  
All the things I thought I left behind  
All the people I thought I said good-bye to

Oh, Jesus, burying the dead  
Is taking all my life

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**Sean Edward Kinsella** received an A.B. in History from Cornell University, an M.A. in Franciscan Studies from the Franciscan Institute, St. Bonaventure University and a Ph.D. in Historical Theology from St. Michael's College, University of Toronto. His poem "The Hermit in His Cave" appeared in *The Merton Seasonal* 31.3 (2006). His article "Where the Grey Light Meets the Green Air": The Hermit as Pilgrim in the Franciscan Spirituality of Thomas Merton" in *Franciscan Studies* 55 (1998) was based on his presentation at the ITMS Fourth General Meeting at St. Bonaventure University in 1995.



**Sean Kinsella**