

## Honoring the Void

*By Fr. Joseph Veneroso, MM*

O shed a tear or two, if you must, for our time now ended,  
For dreams unrealized and hopes unfulfilled.  
Yet know the love and life we shared remain.  
Even as you do. For a time.

In memory of me, live to the fullest,  
for one minute of mindfulness  
echoes more than a decade  
of mindless busyness.

As for me, I go on to my next adventure.

Confident the smallest atom in the farthest galaxy  
obeys God's command,  
how can we, made of billions of atoms,  
ever be forgotten?  
The One who fashioned us from stardust and seashells  
and breathed in us a living spirit,  
creates, comforts and calls us still  
to rise higher and become more.

And so, despite the emptiness, honor the void  
in tribute to what once was;  
Bless the pain, as proof it was real and  
Light a candle of prayer in the quiet chapel of your soul  
to dispel this hour's darkness.

And only when you are ready, let go of even this.  
Do not be afraid. I shall live on in your heart  
as you do in mine  
and as we do in God's.

Seek me in the sunrise or in the pounding surf.  
See me in the autumn leaves or  
hear me howling in the wintry storm.  
Then you will know, as I now do,  
how yesterday's death  
gives birth to eternal tomorrow.