

TWO POEMS

Occasioned by *ITMS* General Meetings

TWIN

by **Jeffrey T. Kiernan**

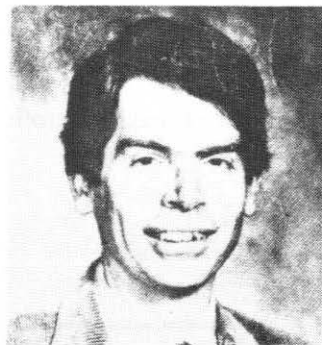
The following poem was written on May 27, 1989, in McGrath Gallery in Wyatt Hall at Bellarmine College. I was sitting on a bench in front of John Howard Griffin's picture, "Merton with Camera." In this picture Merton has his back to Griffin and is taking a picture of the train depot with the sign GETHSEMANI on it. My father, Thomas A. Kiernan, came to mind as I reflected on and viewed this picture. He was a widely read, self-taught man who ended up with a banking career despite offers to join some of the "big bands" of his era as a saxophone player. He included Merton in his reading. He died in 1968 after several years of battling cancer.

Who is this man who has touched me?
 Namesake of my father,
 He, Jazzman — Dad, Big Band.
 Both the same, both of the Dance,
 Both students of the past,
 Yet conveyors of the new to their time
 Of the Treasure they both beheld.

Catholic is catholic!
 Behold! They make all things new!
 As they Dance and Dance and Dance!

(Amen.)

□ **Jeffrey T. Kiernan** is Chairperson of the Religion Department at Notre Dame High School, Fairfield, Connecticut. He also teaches sociology, most recently at the University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, Connecticut. A member of *The International Thomas Merton Society*, he presented a paper, "Merton, Social Justice, and Today's High School Student: Relevance and Understanding," in the session "Teaching Thomas Merton" at the Second General Meeting of the *ITMS* in June 1991. In October 1991, he presented a workshop on "Thomas Merton and Young People: Some New and Old Connections" at the Diocese of Bridgeport's Teachers' Institute.



JEFFREY T. KIERNAN