

## TWO POEMS

by **Gerard Garrigan, OSB**

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### +AUSCHWITZ 1942+ THREE TRAPPISTS

You thought in all those hours  
 Vigils, lauds, prime  
 Terce then sext then none  
 Vespers, finally compline  
 You thought in all those hours  
 You would find  
 Salvation  
 And in the end  
 You were called  
 In the time it takes  
 To wink an eye  
 To switch a valve to "on"

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### THOMAS MERTON, R.I.P.

from half way round your cloister  
 now become the world  
 you flew on love loosed wings  
 to take that Buddha's smile  
 and eyes with light within  
 to a home you'd never seen  
 though so graciously prepared  
 long long before He'd set  
 those two great lights  
 by which we the blind  
 still refuse to see

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**Gerard Garrigan, OSB**, writes: "I am a Benedictine monk of St. Louis Abbey in St. Louis, Missouri. I lived at Sant'Anselmo, the International Benedictine College, Rome, while studying for the priesthood at the Beda College, Rome. I was professed in 1981 and ordained a priest in 1989. I am currently Novice Master, though we have no novices at the moment. I teach Religion in our school. I just started sending poetry out for publication this year."