**Spring**

By Jan Middlebrook, SFO
Enfield, CT

About 5:30 AM on Easter a multitude of birds were chirping excitedly as they started to perform as the darkness of night slowly slipped away revealing an incredible early spring pageant!

The sun’s kisses welcomed the blossoms on the trees, bushes, and ground as they were burgeoning forth. The blooms in their early spring garb reminded me of their winter garments decorated with the beauty of sparkling snow and ice, but as I recalled the challenges associated with winter, I was most grateful for spring.

The moving concert of various species of birds were happily performing with enchanting solos popping up all over so beautifully and effectively throughout the area. It seemed as though Angels had to be directing this scene, so calmly and reverently until the chorus broke out seemingly in great bursts, “The Lord is Risen!” and “Spring is here!” and I responded in my heart with Robert Browning’s poem: “God’s in His heaven…All’s right with the world!”

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**Above All Else**

By David Seitz, SFO
St. Louis the King Fraternity
White Lake, Michigan

Lord,
Teach me to desire you
Above all else

Teach me to desire you
More than I desire sin

Teach me to desire you
In your Holy Word of Scripture

Teach me to desire you
In the community of your Church

Teach me to desire you
In the service of others

Teach me to desire God Alone
In the silence of my soul

Teach me to desire you
Above all else

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**Touch**

By Mary Whalen, SFO
Roswell, NM

Walking along
On a path I knew
Stepping on leaves
Of red and green and golden brown
Reaching for a falling leaf
My arm touched a sleeve belonging to a man
He had the face of Jesus
Did he come to gather leaves or did he come for me?

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The best poem of 2006

When I born, I black
When I grow up, I black
When I go in Sun, I black
When I scared, I black
And when I die, I still black

And you white fellow
When you born, you pink
When you grow up, you white
When you go in sun, you red
When you cold, you blue
When you scared, you yellow
When you sick, you green
And when you die, you gray

And you calling me colored?

The poem above (from the Internet) was nominated by the UN, as the best poem of 2006. It was written by an African kid.

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**The Game**

By John J. Trause, SFO
Assumption Fraternity
Wood-Ridge, New Jersey

**GODISNOWHERE**

The good news came to us this Thanksgiving Day, that our home team had won the game at this late hour. Rushing in the door as is the ritual, our friends come piling in the living room and huddle close together as they struggle to remove their coats. The noise sounds now in the dining room of who did what and who scored when, what this one did and that one didn’t, replaying each and every move upon the field here at the table. But I am left out here and hear nothing from you, my friends, of me. Yet here I am, and I am the good news and the thanksgiving.

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**The Master Artist**

By Mary Clare Potthast, SFO
St. Bonaventure Fraternity
Jacksonville, FL

**Winter white, summer green**
And many colors in between;
A rainbow world is what I see,
Its colors blended skillfully.
Spring is done in pastel shades,
Autumn shines in red and gold;
A master artist is at work
Making each new scene unfold,
To please our eyes and lift our hearts,
So let’s give thanks
When each day starts,
For all the beauty that we see,
God’s great gift to you and me.
Attention SFO poets:

TAU-USA is having another poetry contest. The first place winner will be announced in the winter issue of the TAU. All other poems may be published in other issues. The contest begins now and ends on Oct. 15, 2009.

- Poems may be on any topic and of any length, but shorter poems are preferred.
- Poems may be spiritual or secular.
- Poems may be humorous, serious.
- Specific topics could be: Poems about Our Lord, Christmas, Lent, Easter, the Holy Spirit, and Franciscan topics or poems about the four seasons or anything.

Here are the rules:

1. Please send your poem to the Editor:
   Frances Wicks, SFO
   3307 Quail Meadows Drive
   Santa Maria, CA 93455
2. Put you name, address and region’s name on the back of your poem. Do not put your name on the front of the poem.
3. You may send in as many poems, as you like at one time.
4. Poems received by the Editor will not be acknowledged by mail, but chosen ones will be published.