

A lush green forest path with tall trees and a bright sky. The path is lined with tall, mature trees with thick trunks and dense green foliage. The ground is covered in vibrant green grass. The sky is bright and clear, with a hint of a white cloud or light flare on the right side. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.

Poems and Short Writings

By Brother Eugene Trzeciecki

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What Is Beauty?

What is Beauty? I think I know.

A sunrise or sunset may be
Beautiful, yet it isn't beauty.

A bird's song or a rose may be
Beautiful, yet it isn't Beauty.

The ocean or the sky may be
beautiful, yet it isn't Beauty.

A newborn baby may be
beautiful, yet it isn't Beauty.

The ruins of the Aztecs or possible the Incas
may be beautiful, yet it isn't Beauty.

The night's candle or all the twinkling stars
may be beautiful, yet it isn't Beauty.

All these things may be a part of Beauty
but not Beauty by themselves.

That is why, my friend, you are beautiful,
yet you aren't Beauty.

However, your essence and my essence are
bound together with unbreakable ties.

"You' and "I" are one. And, my friend,
this isn't beautiful, this is Beauty.

I Know Not

I know not who I am;
I know not where I go.
I wander through life aimlessly,
In a vain attempt to grow.

You to me are a stranger;
And I to you the same.
Until I learn to know myself,
I will know you only by name.

How can I love that which I do not know?
Or be aware of that loving me?
Only in the understanding of I
can I love and be set free!

Invitation

I'm giving a costume party,
You're one of the friends I'll ask.
But I warn you before you pass the door
You'll have to remove your mask.

There's a world out there pretending,
So I figure the best disguise
Is to really be the essential me.
They'll never believe their eyes.

I'm giving a costume party.
Inside there'll be only a few,
Because to get into my masquerade
You can only come as you.

Faith

1. Faith: the Mystery of Light. For it enlightens my whole being – makes me see things as they are – not as I would like them to be.
2. Faith: it voids artificiality, penetrates to the very core the basic realities and prevents one from error.
3. Faith: it gives one an insight into the very depth of man, what he really is.
4. Faith: not an idle impulse – but a prime mover in understanding, though I do not comprehend its magnitude and impact.
5. Faith: contact with truth which is neither world nor man.
6. Faith: to judge in its essence without prejudice.
7. Faith: the authenticity of reality and my willingness to accept it in all its richness and fullness.
8. Faith: the destroyer of partiality or half-truths – the seeker of the whole truth.
9. Faith: a conscious act of opening up one's self up to human life and a response to that life; an entrance and a point of departure into the mystery called "I".
10. Faith: a dynamic relationship between the human spirit and the truth that transcends and nourishes it.
11. Faith: the essence of relationship between two beings: I and another human being; I and the Divine. This is the essence of religion
12. Faith: no religion is possible without it; no relationship between two beings.

Yesterday...Today...And...Tomorrow

There are two days in every week that we should not worry about, two days that should be kept free from fear and apprehension.

One is yesterday, with its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains. Yesterday has passed, forever beyond our control.

The other day we shouldn't worry about is tomorrow with its impossible adversaries, its burden, its hopeful promise and poor performance. Tomorrow is beyond our control.

Tomorrow's sun will rise either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds – but it will rise. And until it does, we have no stake for tomorrow, for it is yet unborn.

This leaves only one day – today. Any person can fight the battles of just one day. It is only when we add the burdens of yesterday and tomorrow that we break down.

It is not the experience of today that drives people mad – it is the remorse of bitterness for something which happened yesterday and the dread of what tomorrow may bring.

Let us, therefore, live one day at a time!

A Challenge

Treat others as you want to be treated.

It's akin to compassion and caring as well as respecting all people.

Seek excellence, not perfection.

Always do your very best and give your 100% effort. Doing something perfectly is not the end result desired; doing something to the very best of your ability and talents is.

Be forgiving of self and others.

We are humans and we all make mistakes. It is the truly mature, big person who can forgive and forget.

Take responsibility for your life.

Self-responsibility means knowing that you own your life and you can decide what happens to it. You are the one who pushes you forward and holds yourself back. You have the power to succeed or fail – the choice is yours.

Seek constant renewal.

Living life is like being on a highway that is under construction all the time. You can only improve to the degree that you recognize and work at overcoming the negative aspects of your life. This takes work, sacrifice, commitment, self-awareness, and honesty.

Something To Think About...

1. Give people **more** than they expect and do it cheerfully.
2. Memorize your favorite poem.
3. Don't believe all you hear, don't spend all you have and don't sleep all you want.
4. When you say, "I love you" – mean it.
5. When you say, "I'm sorry," look the person in the eye.
6. Never laugh at anyone's dreams.
7. Love deeply and passionately. You might get hurt but it's the only way to live life completely.
8. In disagreements, fight fairly. No name calling.
9. Don't judge people by their relatives.
10. Talk slowly and think quickly.
11. When someone asks you a question you don't want to answer, smile and ask: "Why do you want to know?"
12. Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
13. Call your mom.
14. Say, "God bless you," when you hear someone sneeze.
15. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
16. Remember the three R's: **Respect** for others; **Respect** for self; **Responsibility** for all your actions.
17. Don't let a little dispute ruin a great friendship
18. When you realize you've made a mistake, take **immediate** steps to correct it.

19. Smile when picking up the phone. The caller will hear it in your voice.
20. Spend some time alone.
21. Embrace change but don't let go of your values.
22. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
23. Read more books and watch less TV.
24. Live a good and honorable life. Then when you get older and look back,
you'll enjoy it a second time.
25. Trust in God but lock your car.
26. A **loving atmosphere** in your home is so important. Do all you can to create
a tranquil and harmonious home.
27. In disagreements with loved ones, deal with the current situation. **Don't
bring up the past.**
28. Read between the lines.
29. Share your knowledge. It's the way to achieve immortality.
30. Be gentle with Earth.
31. **Pray.** There's immeasurable power in it.
32. Never interrupt when you're being flattered.
33. Mind your own business.
34. Once a year, go somewhere you've never been.
35. If you make a lot of money, put it to use helping others while you are living.
That is wealth's greatest satisfaction.
36. Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a stroke of luck.
37. Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.
38. Remember that your character is your destiny.

About Brother Eugene Trzeczieski



Eighty-two year old Marist Brother and teacher, Br. Eugene Trzeczieski, has worked at Christopher Columbus High School for the last 43 years. Br. Eugene became a Marist Brother at age 17, as soon as he graduated from high school. He started his teaching career in 1950 at New York's St. Ann's Academy and later taught at Archbishop Molloy High School, NY, and worked at the Marist Brothers Training House in Esopus, NY, as the Director of Novices. Over the years he has served Columbus as Academic Dean, Treasurer, Teacher of Latin, Philosophy, Humanities, and English. He was also a key leader in Columbus extra-curricular activities, moderating the National Honor

Society for 25 years, creating the school's Student Activities Committee, and founding the Columbus Arts Society for Adults and the Erasmus Culture Club for students. For years he also was in charge of the gardening and landscaping of the school's campus, a job he loved because of his great passion for nature.

Br. Eugene taught at Columbus from 1968 until 2010. Thousands of alumni from the last five decades remember him most for his famous 12th grade "Philosophy of Being" class, which he taught for 43 years straight. In fact, Br. Eugene holds the title of the teacher who taught at Columbus for the most number of years. Many alumni will also remember that Br. Eugene enlivened the campus with his beloved pet, Brandy, a St. Bernard that won the hearts of all the students and became the school's mascot.

Although he no longer teaches, Br. Eugene is still very actively engaged at Columbus, handling all of the school's paper copying and keeping the school archives, a collection that he started in 1968 and that today contains hundreds of bound books and files which he neatly organizes. It was Br. Eugene who came up with the idea to publish the school's first history book to commemorate the school's 50th Anniversary in 2008. He wrote the book entitled "50 Years Exploring Christopher Columbus High School" with co-author and fellow teacher, Mr. John Lynskey.

Around Columbus Br. Eugene is respected and loved by faculty, alumni, and students. He is known as a wise and gentle man who is demanding, kind, and inspiring. He always referred to his students as gentlemen, and never found the need to send a student to detention. Early in his career he came up with a quote that he began teaching to his students; "A mind made noble, leads a noble life." It has been his motto ever since.