

A scenic view of a waterfall cascading down a rocky cliff, surrounded by lush green and yellowing trees in a forest. The waterfall is the central focus, with water falling from a high point on the left side of the frame. The surrounding forest is dense, with trees showing signs of autumn, with some leaves turning yellow and orange. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

Thoughts On Time

Written By Brother Eugene Trzeczieski

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1. If God created the world and created it out of nothing, why did God create it at the time God did and not sooner or later? What was God doing before the world was created?
2. It is true to say that the universe **began**, but the universe did not begin **in time**. Time is created **with** the creation of all things. So, there is **no time before the universe began**.
3. Behind these questions lie the serious and difficult matter of relation of time and eternity.
4. God is eternal in contrast to all creatures. God is complete and full; nothing passes away from the divine life and nothing is added to it.
5. In contrast to this, all creatures vary and change. There are things which were once true of us but are no longer true of us, and things which are not yet true of us. That is why we have the past, present, and future.
6. The motions of the sun, stars, and planets **do not** constitute time. For if there were no heavens, the turning of a potter's wheel or even our talking would involve the passage of time.
7. So time is not identical with the motions of the heavens. Nor does time exist on its own, independently. For when time is past, it is no more; when it is future, it is not yet. It exists only as present.
8. But the present vanishes to an unextended point when examined closely. Many simply give up trying to describe what time is and instead describe what it is to be a time-conscious or a historical being.
9. For us there is a present, past, and future. What is present, flows through human consciousness and becomes past; and the future comes into our consciousness and becomes present and then past.
10. But once the future has passed through us and become past, it is no more, just as when it was future, it was not yet.
11. The past then exists as memory; the future exists as expectation; and the present exists as attention. For us to exist as temporal beings, then, is to act **now**, with memory and anticipation.

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12. For God all things are present. In God there is nothing which passes away or comes to be. God's **word** of creation does not pass away; for if it did, all created things would pass away too. That word abides forever; it is spoken eternally. It is not subject to time.
13. As man understands it, therefore, God does not think. For thinking comes, dwells and passes on to be substituted for another thought. This implies past and present and obviously the future which is to become the present.
14. The world indeed began, but not because it is preceded by time. It is created with time by God who is eternal. There is an **absolute** beginning of time and the universe because all things depend on God who is ever the same.
15. Because God is eternal, we cannot comprehend the divine in its essence. We may make true statements about God's relation to time and we can make correct statements about God's eternity, but full comprehension is beyond us.
16. Temporal categories are foreign to the divine nature. In addition our very thinking is subject to a temporal order of before and after which makes it impossible for us to reach a point at which God is circumscribed or contained.
17. The object of our thought is not subject to the limitations which hold for all our thought.
18. Time is **not** the circular motion of the everlasting universe. Time is not cyclical, with things repeating themselves.
19. Time is a relationship which conceives and executes with another being. There is no time between stars or stars and void. That is why a billion years in the life of a star really makes no sense. That is a relationship which man gives. The same goes for a millisecond.
20. Time is mind orientated. It is a consciousness of a relationship. An infant has no sense of time. When the infant does have a sense of relationship then there is a relationship and it can identify with that relationship.
21. Time is because I am. It is relative because I have a sense of relationships of things to things and to myself.
22. Time is because I am.

About Brother Eugene Trzecieski



Eighty-two year old Marist Brother and teacher, Br. Eugene Trzecieski, 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 12thgrade "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.