



## Michael Tharp: member 2007 until 2016; died May 2016

In lieu of an obituary, here are some of Michael's last posts to the journals.

**Tempus fugit:** Posted by Michael Tharp on Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 6:49:37 PM

Late this morning, I suddenly realized that it was four years ago today that I started my retirement. Wow! Some days it feels like it can't be that long already while on other days I can barely remember having to go to work every morning.

It's funny how we mark the passage of time. Years by birthdays (I can't believe I turned 70!), months by some recurring event (it's chat week again already?), weeks (it's Luminous Mystery day again). And it does really seem like time goes faster the older that you get, maybe because one becomes more aware that the end is drawing nearer. "Keep death ever before your eyes."

I remember one of the monks from my seminary days had an expression, "Tempus fugit et non comebackibus". How right he was!

**Saint Padre Pio:** Posted by Michael Tharp on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 10:14:18 PM

Today is the feast of Saint Padre Pio. A Capuchin of great faith, he would often say, "In books we seek God, in prayer we find him. Prayer is the key which opens God's heart".

In books, we read how God has spoken to others. But it is only in the silence of wordless, contemplative prayer that God speaks directly to me.

**Feast of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta:** Posted by Michael Tharp on Saturday, September 5, 2015 at 11:43:30 AM

God speaks in the silence of the heart, and we listen. And then we speak to God from the fullness of our heart, and God listens. And this listening and this speaking is what prayer is meant to be. - Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

We too are called to withdraw at certain intervals into deeper silence and aloneness with God... to be alone with Him - not with our books, thoughts, and memories but completely stripped of everything - to dwell lovingly in His presence, silent, empty, expectant, and motionless. We cannot find God in noise or agitation. - Blessed Teresa of Calcutta