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To A Missionary Who Died at Home

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TO A MISSIONARY WHO DIED AT HOME¹

Cothrai Gogan,
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Cothrai Gogan, C.S.Sp., is a Spiritan of the Irish Province. He has worked as a missionary priest in Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Tanzania, Mauritius, and Kenya, where he is currently chaplain at Star of Hope Children's Home in Ruiru. Cothrai has published a number of works of poetry and prayer including *God Knows: A Journal of Sorrow; Poems of Prayer; Come Deaf Now Hear; Something Else;* and *Hymns of the Universe*.

Why did you go and leave your bones
in that to us and you a foreign place?
For we would have taken you with love
and sung and prayed night-long songs
and prayers, and we would have carried
you in triumph to your resting place
and we would have mixed our tears
with the holy sprinkling water, and dropped
our red-brown dusty soil upon you, for we would have
your dust as ours. And we would have
planted, each one of us, a living flower on top
so that you might know that all is not ended
here, or there...Life is. Life lives.
Tell us again, then. Why did you go?
Did you not know? We loved you.

Footnotes

First published in *Hymns of the Universe*, Spiritus, Nairobi, 2001.

