

Fall 2006

## Silence

Cothrai Gogan C.S.Sp.

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GARY WARNER

*We see our role as  
bringing the Spiritan  
charism and spirituality  
to the areas of secular life  
in which we are involved  
as lay people.*

Portugal. For many years the Spiritans have also provided us with a priest for a small monthly home worshipping community – we are grateful for these privileged moments of prayer and intimate sharing. As the outcome of our largely life-based formation, we were led by the Holy Spirit to make a lifelong commitment as Lay Spiritans. We see our role as bringing the Spiritan charism and spirituality to the areas of secular life in which we are involved as lay people.

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## SILENCE

Cothrai Gogan,  
C.S.Sp.

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*.

*"The sense of a vessel is not  
in its shell but in the void"*

Dag Hammarskjöld

Some things require an emptiness  
a space of silence  
a nothingness:  
like shells that whorl and twirl  
around a curved naught  
or bubbles blown  
that float  
bared in the sunlight  
flashing light signals  
resting on a bloom  
one borrowed moment

Some things require an emptiness,  
a round of space  
a little silence – me.

Or think of atoms  
set in phantasmagoric speed and space  
electrons aeons apart  
infinitesimal ultimates  
ringing inner void  
zero essentiality...  
you

Some things require an emptiness  
a round of space  
a little silence  
even to be.