

be an unending journey into Mystery, a reality so rich that it can never be exhausted. What makes the difference? In theology, prayer is the heart of the matter. The insights of theology become significant for us when we meet with God in prayer, even when this prayer seems to highlight the 'absence' of God. The Orthodox Church says frequently that the good theologian is not so much one who knows the history and techniques of theology, as one who knows how to pray. If the priest is to lead people to discover the living God revealed in Jesus Christ, he can only usefully share with them what he has himself discovered through the activities of theology and prayer.

The biblical writers are clear that the God of Israel only revealed Himself as true and reliable when met with trust on man's part. The essence of our faith is trust. Like Jesus in the New Testament, the man of faith today entrusts himself to God in an act of complete surrender. The dualism of the Vatican I approach to faith and reason, which still persists in much of our religious thought and practice, contributes to the tendency of Christian believers to view the universe from two distinct and autonomous stand-points, the natural and the supernatural. The dualist bias continues in spite of the evidence that there is only one single process of evolution from the very early stages of pre-life to the life of Jesus Christ. If the Christian Churches are to survive as authentic responses to the mystery of God, they must present Christianity, in their theologies and through their ministries, as the clue to understanding the whole of our universe, the whole of life.



CROSSING THE SHANNON

Waiting at night at an Irish river
For the ferry, flat, lumping the water,
Someone's fortune, miles from the old crossing.
I wipe sprayed mud from the windscreen, absorbed.
We eat what's left from a day in Galway.
Across and upriver oblongs of light
Slice in the water straight to where we are.
I think of someone somewhere else netted
By the lights, irradiating all points.

I wait, thinking of some person, moving
At peace, within that circled light, at source.

RONALD TAMPLIN