

Impression

Others have said that the Filipinos received only a 'veneer of Christianity...' - John Schumacher, SJ

in
this agora
of violated
amens
everything
seems more poignant
than
memory or
word
of mouth:

the traffic
of
worshippers
& poseurs.
the choir lilting
another thankful
benedictus.
the jingle
of coins
in
donation boxes.

the sun shines
fitfully
through the stained glass windows,
fetching blind
stabs at
conscience.

a woman with bruised knees
sits in a corner,
mumbling:
“pater noster,
may
the gospels salve
this evening’s
hunger

may they taste
better
than leftovers

as daily
we stand firmer
in our people’s
unrequited
faiths.”

—Noel Christian Moratilla