



# Poetry with

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November Challenge

Beautiful Faces of  
**HALLOWED**  
*Voices*



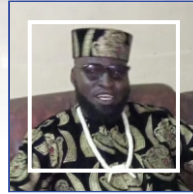
Fr. Emmanuel  
Aghjdi, CSSp  
(Host)



Okafor  
James, CSSp



Sr. Mary-Freda  
Adenji, SSMA



Mudanwa  
George, CSSp



John Harrison  
Unekwu-Ojo, CSSp



Fr. Stephen  
Ilòh, CSSp



Consolata  
Mary



Rev. Owolanwo  
Peter, CSSp



Connie Ituah  
Awolafe



Ujunwa Cosmas  
Abundance



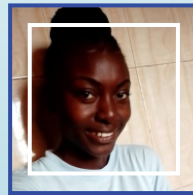
Fr. Anthony  
Etim, CSSp



Abraham  
Osas, CSSp



James  
Yaieghtegh



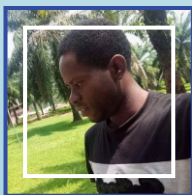
Mary  
Joy



Kasiemobi  
Chyz



MaryMartin  
Okpabu



Oghoghorie  
Andrew, CSSp



Awogbemj  
Michael



Sr. Ajayi  
Kemisola, SSMA



Vivian  
Nwachukwu



Caroline  
Alhassan

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## MY SONG, MY THANKSGIVING

*UkizCSSp2024*

Many ask me why I wear my smiles  
I'm sure they don't want to hear the lies  
So I'll go tell the world the truth  
So they can know that God is true

When surrounded by shades of darkness  
When getting sunk in the waters of hopelessness  
Written off from the books of humans  
Judged and condemned like no one

I summoned the mountains and the valleys  
Crying to the winds and Oceans  
Screaming the names of all creatures living  
Seeking their opinions

The more I tried and cried  
The more the helpless I was  
The more I trusted in creatures  
The more I see the worse

I came face to face with their destructive claws  
I saw the dangers In their opened jaws  
To clamp on the one who did nothing  
To devour and make their feasting

But I took to my heels  
Running to up the hills  
Seeking for a helper  
Finding a place for shelter

There and very hastily He came  
He came with his might  
He said it was right  
That he takes off the shame

His garment was light  
Smiling on my battered face  
Whispering to my ears; 'i have come to fight'  
He sent my enemies on endless race

Do I ever deserve this?  
Am I worthy of it?  
This is love winning  
This is mercy ruling

Like the soap foams while experiencing the fresh sea waters  
So does my heart swell within me  
Like the ocean rises in its tides  
So do his praises rage within me

If I take to the flutes and pipes  
If I play the drums and dance  
If I whisper or sing aloud  
None would ever do

What if I call him names  
What name can suffice?  
But my name will be His praise  
And His praise will be my name

One who replaced my hopelessness with hope  
Gave me essence and not just mere existence  
Multiplying songs on my lips  
And giving countless evidences

There's one thing I know  
This I'll tell to the world  
I'll hold it wherever I go  
"That He keeps to His word"

## A LOVE THAT ABIDES

*Kemisola*

In the depths of my soul, where shadows reside,  
Jesus' love shines bright, a beacon inside.  
A gentle whisper, a comforting embrace,  
A love that enfolds me, time and space.

Like a river, His mercy flows free,  
Quenching my thirst, washing over me.  
In times of doubt, when fears arise,  
He calms the storms, opening weary eyes.

With every step, He walks beside,  
Guiding my path, where darkness would reside.  
His hand holds mine, through trials and strife,  
Giving strength, a steadfast, loving life.

In the silence, I hear His voice,  
A gentle breeze, a heartfelt choice.  
To follow Him, to trust and obey,  
Leading me through life's uncertain way.

Like a gardener, He tends my heart,  
Nurturing growth, a brand new start.  
Pruning the weeds, that choke and bind,  
Freeing my soul, leaving peace to find.

In Jesus' love, I find my home,  
A refuge from life's turbulent roam.  
A place of rest, where I am free,  
Forever loved, eternally.

## A WALK THAT ENDED THE FLOP

*Femix2024*

There is always a place to begin  
Never thought of going a journey unending  
At a moment I reached a funny crossroad  
But I have always wanted a road that is broad

Still walking the path, there comes the noon  
If I remain slow, there will come the moon  
Alas, it's the great and low view of the night  
Only this makes me lose my might

Suddenly appear in human form- a great sign  
I have never trusted, but with this I shall align  
Curiosity made ask, but not superfluous  
Could this be the one they call Jesus?

"walk with me", was the only statement  
He then took me through the New Testament  
Only then did I discover the new glorious way  
A way that brings forth a new harmonious ray

Truly, this path leads to a hopeful freedom  
It was here I found the ancient joyful wisdom  
There I drank from the well of salvation  
I shall share and tell this to every nation

Even though in the past I may be broken  
That is long gone; now I'm not God-forsaken  
It was a real walk that ended my flop  
Hence, there is always a place to stop

## "LOVE'S SACRED HARMONY"

*Consolata Mary*

Deep within my soul, a connection true,  
With Jesus, my Savior, forever anew.  
A bond that transcends life's fleeting tide,  
In Him, my heart finds its peaceful hide.

In His embrace, my fears subside,  
Comfort and guidance, always reside.  
His love, a flame, that burns so bright,  
Illuminating my path, through darkest night.

Yet, this love's not complete, nor fully whole,  
Until I share it with my neighbor's soul.  
For Jesus taught, with compassion's gentle hand,  
To love others as myself, in this sacred land.

Love's sacred harmony, a symphony divine,  
Echoes through my heart, a rhythm so fine.  
Connecting with Jesus, and with those around,  
Together we form a love profound.

Through acts of kindness, and selfless deeds,  
I show His love, in all my daily needs.  
A smile, a listening ear, a helping hand,  
Reflecting Jesus' love, across this land.

In every interaction, a chance to share,  
The love I've received, beyond compare.  
Neighbor to neighbor, heart to heart,  
Love's sacred harmony, never to depart.

As I walk this path, with Jesus by my side,  
I see His love, in every stride.  
A love that's patient, kind, and true,  
A love that's meant, for me and you.

So let us join, in this harmony divine,  
With Jesus at the center, love's sweet shrine.  
Together we'll create, a world aglow,  
Reflecting love's sacred harmony, for all to know.

## "CHOSEN BY LOVE"

*Sr Mary-Freda James Adeniyi, SMMA*

In the brocade of His design,  
Even before I knew myself He had loved me.  
He saw the depths of my soul,  
And drew me near, making me whole.

Before my first step touched the earth,  
He paved the path where feet would wander.  
Like Abraham, Summoned by a heavenly call,  
He beckoned me, "follow and I'll lead the way"

In the garden of His heart,  
A rose bloomed forth and we never would part.  
Unconditional love in every petal laid,  
Forever steadfast, through life's ebb and fades.

When Shadows fell and doubts assailed,  
His gentle whisper soothed my troubled sail.  
A Calming breeze that stilled life's raging sea,  
And urged me forward, "you are Safe with me".

For Every task His Strength I find,  
I am but a mere vessel for His divine design.  
In His skilled hands my life takes shape,  
A masterpiece unfolded beyond escape.

With every step His love abounds,  
A boundless sea where my soul transcends.  
Like Mary's heart magnifying His name,  
My Spirit sings In love's eternal Flame.

## THE SOUL OF CHRIST

Soul of Christ, my daily companion,  
The ruler of my heart, my dominion,  
An everlasting reign not like the regent king,  
Now and always, I live to praise and sing.

Soul of Christ, my dwelling place,  
Your comfort I yearn to face,  
And in your abode, I find a space,  
You guard me daily like a built fence.

Soul of Christ, my heart desires to love you, lord,  
Like Jacob, I say you are my God,  
Help me, dwelling in this world,  
Lest I stick and sink into the mud.

Soul of Christ, my soul's meal,  
Daily it becomes my real deal,  
A free food for my soul with no bill,  
I am in awe, for I know it is real.

Soul of Christ, my daylight from on high,  
The bright morning star of my soul from the sky,  
The light that reflects in my darkest night,  
So sure, and secure, I am in your sight.

Soul of Christ, my friend with no rift,  
You blessed me with a precious gift,  
With no cost, my soul gets a lift,  
May I remain refined like a maize well sift.

Soul of Christ, my font of holiness,  
Make me pure in my heart of loneliness,  
That I may be renewed as morning dew,  
And you may find me spotless after my life's due.

*-JAMESPIO*

## GOD IS IN THIS STORY

*MaryMartin Okoabu*

I have been there, on that path of uncertainty,  
I have tasted- the sour taste of inadequacy,  
My faith has faltered,  
My hope melted.

I have wandered through helplessness,  
Trapped in a body too weak to hold me,  
This body became an abyss-  
And I was the faceless wind drifting into nothingness.

But in this nothingness, the Lord sought me,  
His burning eye pierces the blanket of the dark,  
His mighty hand stretching to find-  
A lost soul losing its mind.

His gaze is the sun that lightens my path,  
In his eyes shines an artery of hope,  
Feeding my daze with blooming thrill,  
And I'm lost, far gone in mercy's well

This unfinished story now has a drift,  
The blank pages now has weight,  
For the Almighty is in this story,  
New chapters enfolding each day like blooming petals,

I have found his garment's hem,  
And I'm trailing his behind till the end,  
My hands might weaken,  
But I know he'll be there to drag me till the end.

## UNTIL

*Rev. Fr. Iloh Stephen M. Chukwuemeka C.S. Sp.*

Saddened by the hums and hullabaloes of life,  
Concerned by background and territory,  
Haunted by the voices and judgments around me.  
I'm doomed, what could ever become of me?

Until I read the pages of the Holy Book,  
Stories of my long-gone kin echoing my struggles.  
Lives once hopeless, now immortalized,  
A few made me stop and reflect.

Bartimaeus was known only as the blind man,  
His name bound to his affliction.  
Nothing good was ever spoken of him,  
Until the encounter that changed everything.

The man at the well, 38 years waiting,  
Perhaps in sin, certainly in sorrow, hunger, and grief.  
No one left to care, abandoned by all,  
Until He passed by and made him whole.

The woman with the issue of blood suffered twelve long years,  
Ostracized for an illness beyond her fault.  
Spent all she had seeking cures, to no avail,  
Until He walked by, and she touched His cloak.

Lazarus was dead, wrapped and entombed,  
All hope lost, decay setting in.  
The mourning quieted as he slipped from memory,  
Until He came and called him forth.

Saul, fierce and ruthless,  
Trained to destroy what was good, believing it just.  
On that road, he faced his folly and weakness,  
Until that encounter transformed Saul into Paul.

I might be nothing, born from nothing,  
I might be suffering despite my offerings.  
My people may own neither fame nor fortune,  
Until the Jesus experience, as the Holy Book declares.

"If anyone be in Christ, he is a new creation," said Paul.  
"Old things are passed away; behold, all things are new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).  
Things remain old and void until He comes,  
Transforming nothing into everything.

## MY POETIC JESUS

*JohnHarry.*

In realms of rhyme n' metered line,  
I met the One who is Divine.  
Jesus, my Savior n' Poetic King,  
Whose verse is life n' grace that clings.

His eyes like ink, did pierce my soul,  
As He spoke words that made me full.  
"Write of love, of hope n' of grace,"  
He whispered, "Let your words inspire."

With my pen in hand, I began to write,  
As Jesus dictated thro' the night.  
His story flowed, a river of wisdom,  
Of redemption, Mercy n' love.

In every line, a truth did shine,  
A reflection of His heart.  
Through poetry, our souls did meet,  
In Jesus' love, my heart found beat.

Now, words flow like fluoride,  
In every verse, His voice I hear,  
Guiding me n' dispelling all my fears.



## A WALK WITH JESUS

( from a caterpillar to a butterfly)

*Connie Ituah Awolate*

I once knew a girl, tangled in despair,  
Caught in a storm, but had to learned by herself how to repair.  
Through the tempest of trials, a metamorphosis ensued,  
From an ugly tiny caterpillar's crawl, to a butterfly imbued.

Her story unfolded like scenes on a screen,  
A cinematic journey, a quest to redeem.  
Mistakes were the villains, but she found her might,  
Turned the script around, embraced the light.  
In shadows cast by doubters, she emerges strong,  
A resilient force, where her spirit belongs.  
Unappreciated whispers may echo near,  
Yet she thrives, defying the doubts we hear.  
In the shadows, where silence meets strength

With each flaw, a lesson etched in her skin,  
She embraced imperfections, let self-love begin.  
Like a blockbuster, with highs and lows,  
She found herself, as the story goes.

But truth be told she didn't walk this part alone for side by side with her  
the fixer walked,  
held her hands and carried her when her feet balked  
Rewrote her script and gave her a new identity... Her story once a  
tragedy now has full of laughter and happy ever afters.

Today, In the theater of life, she stood center stage,  
No longer confined, she broke out of the cage.  
From the shadows of remorse, she took flight,  
Once a caterpillar, now a butterfly, soaring in the light.

## LIGHT AND LOVE

*Ujunwa Cosmas Abundance*

In the darkest depths, I searched for peace  
A life of misery, without God's release  
I chased sweetness, but it brought no delight  
Only emptiness, and a restless night  
I had everything, but it wasn't enough  
A hollow feeling, a soul in rough

Then He came, like ice that melts away  
Freeing my heart, and lighting the day  
A new life began, with comfort and grace  
A sense of fulfillment, in a simpler place  
With less, I found joy that's true and real  
A heart at peace, and a soul that heals

As I look back, I see how far I strayed  
From the path that God had planned for my way  
But He held me close, with merciful hands  
And wouldn't let the devil's grasp take command  
I was precious to Him, a treasure so dear  
He guided me through, and wiped away my tears

Now I see, the love of God so clear  
A love that guides, and casts out all fear  
He leads me on, through life's purest paths  
And looks beyond, my mischievous past  
With every step, I feel His gentle care  
And know that I'm loved, beyond compare

With darkness dispelled and hope restored  
Doubts are expelled as faith installed  
As His peaceful presence abound  
Newness all I see around.

## NO ACCIDENT

*Fr. Tony-Austin, CSSp.*

When grief sits heavy in heart,  
My Maker I cast my doubts,  
Beyond my broken soul I see,  
Beauty no artist can give!

When doubts & fears were put away,  
Tears on my cheeks couldn't stay,  
He came through and made a way,  
Joy within no man can give!

Though the things I never wished,  
Happened the way they did,  
Now they have all aligned,  
For in God there's no accident!

## NO END TO THIS DISCOVERY

*Dpotterspen*

How quickly I've come to realize that the living could all breathe.  
Did someone say there's a keeper of life's breath?  
It means he could withhold it, too, should he choose.  
And so, we search through life's winding paths with his tools

I would have loved to seek him alone,  
In this journey where so many claim his name.  
Yet only few really walk in his way.  
Walking in his path, we can not be dismayed.

What makes us believe in this grand illusion,  
That someday, all will be perfectly aligned?  
Perhaps it's the vision of the one who sees all,  
Without the sky and land, He always stands tall.

And then, so many reasons come to mind,

Why will only few grasp life's meaning.  
For from the start, there may have been confusion,  
Yet do not linger; confusion will pass.

Fear not that we might stray from the path;  
He reaches our hearts, where his touch endures.  
For the heart holds more than the hand ever could,  
And one moment with him leads to forevermore.

Yes, he listens to our prayers,  
Bringing clarity to our lives.  
He is with us on this journey,  
Bringing life different parts in harmony.

## MY ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS: THE NIGHT JESUS HELD THE BLADE

*Osas Mario Abraham C.S.Sp.*

It was one fateful night, beneath a sky so dark,  
From school to work, I staggered, weary and stark.  
In a humble, single room, rest sought my heavy head,  
Yet I stumbled into shadows, and into fear I tread.

Awoken by harsh lashes, my flesh cried in pain,  
What I thought a nightmare, was real, raw, plain.  
In a blood-stained haze, I saw death come near,  
Until a neighbour's hand held back my fear.

Neighbours rushed in, judgment heavy in their eyes,  
As confusion and cries filled the night's quiet skies.  
But a friend's voice thundered, "He is one of us!"  
Hope lit in the darkness, silencing the fuss.

Bleeding and broken, they raced for my aid,  
To a hospital that hesitated, their rules delayed.  
Yet the doctor, moved by mercy, at last gave me grace,  
In that healing place, I glimpsed Jesus' face.

There beside me, a patient weak, frail, and thin,  
Asked me to kill a mosquito, his strength grown dim.  
In his humble plea, my heart saw the Divine,  
In suffering shared, God's presence did shine.

Morning dawned, and with it, a strange decree,  
Discharged from my wounds - a miracle to me.  
In disbelief and awe, I felt Heaven's embrace,  
Jesus had carried me, with infinite grace.

Yes, it was Jesus, through every hand that saved,  
Through friends, through strangers, through pain, He braved.  
In the silent, unseen, He stood by my side,  
In that night of despair, my Saviour, my Guide.

### TO THE ONE WHO BRAVED HELL FOR ME

Traversed afar have I,  
Seeking that which seemed impossible to the common eye.  
I went west of west,  
south of south,  
north of north,  
east of east,

Questioning all I once knew to be true.  
I doubted you but believed in what you made—  
how foolish!  
Yet, you sought me out.

In the farthest south, you came to find me.  
Even when inconsistency became my skin,  
You remained consistent.  
Even when I sought a thousand ways to destroy this temple,  
You loved me.

Thank you for being faithful in my faithlessness,

for walking a million miles so I could run,  
for being constant in my inconsistency.  
Thank you for loving me.

### MY SWEET JESUS

*James Yateghtegh*

Oh my sweet Jesus, what if you weren't near?  
In times of distress, you soothe every fear.  
You alone are my comfort, my guiding light.  
What a sweet man you are, my joy and delight.

At Cana in Galilee, the finest wine flowed.  
Your love in that moment, as blessings bestowed.  
Each sip brings me closer to God's endless grace, In bread and wine of  
the Holy Eucharist, I find your embrace.

When shadows surround me in darkness of night, You shield me with  
love, dispelling the fright.  
The enemy lurking, in dreams seeks to creep, But your gentle presence  
lulls me to sleep.

Oh my Jesus, how can I not love you so?  
In battles unseen, your strength helps me grow.  
You calm all my sorrows, you mend every tear.  
With you by my side, I am free from despair.

You alone are the lover of my restless soul.  
You draw me back gently and make my heart whole.  
Through the pages of Scripture, your truth I behold.  
With every sweet word, your love is retold.

Indeed, you are sweetest, my heart's endless song.  
In your light, dear Jesus, is where I belong.  
With gratitude swelling, my praises I raise.  
For you are my Savior, my love, all my days.

*Viviella*

## " I AM SAVED "

*Sunflower*

I grew up in the hands of seemingly impossible circumstances,  
where most of my wishes were never granted,  
and my hopes and dreams seem to be mere fiction of my own  
imagination.

I had fear and depression sitting right in front of me,  
but I refused to beckon on them.

I kept fighting voices in my head that said "I'M NOT ENOUGH "  
I kept hearing the horned-demon speaking to my mind,  
saying "I'LL NEVER MEASURE UP".

I was at the verge of falling ,  
but then came a hand from above,  
so tender and soft like silk-cotton wool.

It has on it, an enchanting fragrance which can only come from one  
with a divine paternity.  
It was a masculine hand .  
His face was glittering like the sun and moon combined.

It was indeed a face worth beholding and at the same time,  
undescribable by mere mortal.  
He had a hallow on his  
head, signifying his holiness and purity.  
He drew me up, kissed my forehead and said to me:

"You're wonderfully made,  
you're powerfully made, you belong to the holy of holies and you're a  
replica of his image.  
Imbibed in you is his wisdom, grace and knowledge.  
And You're filled with wonders that the world must see"

Thus, I reckoned to this soothing words of His,  
and I am saved.

## FROM SEED TO SOUL

*MJ*

I was buried deep, in darkness bound,  
Like a seed lost in the cold, hard ground.  
Hidden away from warmth and light,  
Lost in the silence of endless night.

Yet in that soil, my old self died,  
Cracked open wide with none to hide.  
From nothing sprouted, small and weak,  
God's gentle hand began to speak.

With every trial, a leaf did grow,  
And hope took hold where none would show.  
From barren ground to blossom's glow,  
God shaped me gently, soft and slow.

Now tall I stand, no longer small,  
From dust to bloom, I've felt it all.  
In mystery's depths, I found his face.  
A work of mercy, a gift of grace.

In every leaf that lifts to sky,  
In whispered winds, I hear Him nigh.  
For though I've bent and though I've swayed,  
By His own breath, I've been remade.

Where once I feared to face the sun,  
Now, like rivers, I rise and run.  
Each tear, each storm, that seemed so stark,  
Was light He sowed within the dark.

And though the earth has felt so cold,  
He taught my roots to take firm hold.  
What broke me once has made me whole.  
From seed to stem, He's grown my soul.

## DON'T STOP THE WALK!

*Femix2024*

To think I have reached the top  
I took a seat as if I can now make a stop  
Did I reach the point I can take a U-turn?  
Unknown, the journey is that of no return

Tired and weak; maybe I need a break  
For how long shall I keep walking till daybreak  
The journey has suddenly become intrigue  
At this point all I feel is intense fatigue

To stop the walk would be pathetic  
Thus, my defeat would be emphatic  
Lingering wearily, I gaze to contemplate  
Life moves on, but I may soon be late

Then, the sign in human form appears again  
He warns: "stop and you will have no gain"  
But I ask: how do I survive this era of T-pain?  
Because all I see is pain and I wish to bargain

These steps of faith will move any mountain  
And when I'm weak I will drink from a fountain  
In the valley my shepherd will ease my stress  
That's why no matter what, onward I will press

At last I have seen one to walk with- an Ally  
He is the only one on whom I can rely  
Anytime I engage Jesus in a friendly talk  
He says to me: Don't stop the walk!

## NOT TOO FAR MY LORD

*Awoogbemi Michael*

Not too far my Lord  
Very close to our heart  
Ticking like the beat of the second  
Not too far but near

Not too far my Lord  
To tell always the tale of calvary  
That we might run from sin  
Not too far but here

Not too far my Lord  
That in the host you are  
A meal to remind us you gave all  
Not too far that you dwell

Not too far my Lord  
That you call us every moment on a path  
To holy living for a worthy so we become  
Not too far from You!

Not too far in the end  
So we'd unite with you  
To us you'd say 'Welcome'  
Not too far and we are Home.

Not too Far my Lord  
That we might run from sin  
And lead a Holy Life  
So to Reign with You

## A HEART OF GRATITUDE

*Kemisola*

In Jesus' presence, I find my peace,  
A refuge from life's chaotic release.  
My heart overflows with thanksgiving praise,  
For love that saves, and endless, gracious days.  
With every breath, I'll thank His holy name,  
For forgiveness, and a love that's not tamed.

His mercy wakes me every morning light,  
A new beginning, free from darkest night.  
With gratitude, I'll lift my voice and sing,  
For blessings counted, and heart's deep spring.  
In Jesus' love, my soul finds its rest,  
And in His care, my heart is blessed.

In times of doubt, when fears arise,  
He calms the storms, and opens weary eyes.  
His guidance leads me through life's uncertain way,  
And fills my soul with hope, come what may.  
With thanksgiving, I'll follow His lead,  
And trust His goodness, in every need.

Like a river, His blessings flow free,  
Quenching my thirst, and setting me free.  
For family, friends, and every earthly boon,  
I thank His goodness, forever in tune.  
With grateful heart, I'll praise His name,  
And celebrate His love, forever the same.

With gratitude, I remember His stride,  
The cross He bore, my sin, my pride.  
His resurrection power, my heart revives,  
And in His victory, my spirit thrives.  
In Jesus' love, my heart finds its home,  
A place of rest, where I am never alone.

Through trials and joys, I'll lift my voice,  
A thankful hymn, a heart that makes some noise.  
For Jesus' love, that shines like the sun,  
And fills my life with purpose, just begun.  
With every step, I'll thank His way,  
And follow Him, come what may.

In Jesus' love, I find my saving grace,  
A love that saves, and fills the space.  
You lift me up, when I am low,  
And make me whole, as only You know.  
With gratitude, I'll thank Your name,  
And praise Your love, forever the same.

## THE LOVE OF CHRIST

*James Pio*

There are times in my heart I feel alone,  
And dryness clings to my soul like a tooth stuck to a bone.  
All that's there to me is weakness;  
To rise or not to rise feels like my sickness.

In my puzzle, I weep and howl to be right as rain.  
How can I be better, when I say to myself, "Go fly a kite," for I've lost  
Christ again ?  
But the Lord said to me, "Hold your horse,"  
For you will find hope in us.

There again, my faith regained its flesh;  
Above and beyond, I learn not to search,  
For Christ has willed to be my friend.  
His friendship knows no end.

I have become a witness to His love,  
And my heart, as pure as a dove,  
Freely gives to God lips full of praise,  
Because His love is a mark I can't erase.

To that heart lost in loneliness,  
Christ's embrace is a source of hopefulness.  
Surely and truly, He awaits your coming.  
To that lonely soul, it's your name Christ keeps calling.

### **MY ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS: THE NIGHT I AWAKENED**

*Osas-Mario*

It was one fateful night, calm and still,  
Leaving church, my heart chasing its thrill,  
With friends beside, laughter light and free,  
Yet unseen footsteps came softly to me.

A man appeared, fifty years wise,  
With a voice like thunder, yet gentle in guise.  
For thirty long minutes, he held me there,  
Each word he spoke set my soul aflame.

His words were flames, lighting my core,  
Drawing me to a hunger I'd not felt before.  
He spoke of Jesus, His love and grace,  
And suddenly, I longed for His embrace.

Back home that night, I was not the same,  
A fire kindled, fierce as a flame.  
The Bible now called, a voice clear and deep,  
And each page I turned made my heart leap.

Morning devotions, night prayers in song,  
Moments with Jesus where I truly belong.  
Daily Mass, a sacred embrace,  
My restless soul held in His grace.

Like Augustine's cry, now I knew:  
"Our hearts are restless, O Lord, for You."  
In the sacraments, my spirit found rest,  
In Eucharist, Penance - my soul was blessed.

Baptized in longing, in love baptized,  
Jesus moulding me, my heart revised.  
No longer the same, a new life in view,  
Guided by Him, each day anew.

In that silent encounter, I found life's song,  
A melody sweet, where I truly belong.  
With each prayer whispered, His presence grew near,  
Casting out shadows, dispelling all fear.

Now my days dance to His rhythm and grace,  
My heart ever anchored, held in His embrace.  
For that night He awakened a soul once asleep,  
And forever His promise, my spirit will keep.

Oh, Jesus, my Lord, unmerited favour,  
You sought me that night, my soul's true Saviour.  
Now every step, I walk in Your light -  
Awakened to love, held safe in Your sight.

### **MY SWEET JESUS**

*Sunflower*

You're my love, the only one my heart yearns for,  
You're my soul's delight, without you, I am incomplete.  
It is your love that has kept me sane all along,  
I have drank from your cup and I realized that,  
it is only the water which comes from you that my soul thirsts for.

And sometimes, I wonder,  
I wonder what life without you would have seem like  
It would have been sour,  
It would have been bitter,  
It would have been without form,  
It would have been without void  
For it is only your light, that gives life and beauty.

Yes! This light shines forth,  
Bringing back to life, all that is dead.  
This light, brings hope  
This light brings redemption  
This light chases all that which does not align with the spirit of the great  
"I AM"  
This light, is victory restored.

And so in the spirit of this light,  
I will dwell all the days of my life  
Enjoying the sweetest intimacy, that which is divine,  
That which tickles my heart, giving me good reasons to smile,  
That which only my sweet Jesus gives.

### **MY ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS: WHO AM I, LORD?**

*Osas-Mario*

Who am I, Lord, that You should care,  
When I've fallen, wandered, and been unaware?  
Unfaithful, broken, lost in despair,  
Yet You hold me close with love beyond compare.

Who am I, Lord, that You should stay near,  
When I've hurt You, lived in fear?  
I've chosen darkness time and again,  
Yet You rescue me, healing all my pain.

Who am I, Lord, to receive Your grace,  
When I've turned my back, lost in disgrace?  
I've walked away, gone astray,  
But You guide me back, each and every day.

Who am I, Lord, to be forgiven so?  
After all the ways I've hurt You so?  
I've betrayed Your trust, wandered far,  
Yet You still love me, no matter where I are.

Who am I, Lord, to be held so tight,  
When I've lived in shadows, far from the light?  
I've chosen sin, turned from Your face,  
Yet You find me, bring me back to grace.

Who am I, Lord, to be loved so deep,  
When I've forsaken You, fallen asleep?  
I've chosen my way, gone my own path,  
Yet You wrap me in mercy, Your love, Your wrath.

Who am I, Lord, to be blessed this way,  
When I've failed You, time after day?  
You have shown me mercy, wiped every tear,  
Who am I, Lord, that You would draw me near?

Who am I, Lord, that You should adore,  
When I've been broken, lost, and poor?  
You've saved me, lifted me from despair,  
Who am I, Lord, but Your child, held in Your care?

### **I KNOW A BEING**

*Viviella Nwachukwu*

He made me, he made what I know and see,  
He lived long before humans existed,  
He crafted everything and everyone in His image.

I know a Spirit,  
He looked upon the face of an endless void and called forth light,  
He empowered man to create, to multiply.

I know a King,  
He endowed the wisest man earth ever had,  
Yet, His supposed mistakes make the world's wisest man a fool.

I know a Father,  
He loved all He created dearly, yet punished them when they went



astray.

He sacrificed His only son to call all He created back to Him.

I know a God,  
Merciful and just in His ways  
Never fails to answer when called upon,  
And always on time.

### **RISEN FOR A REASON**

*Mudanwa George Blessing*

Dead was He, battered and butchered,  
Flesh torn and tattered,  
Three days in a borrowed grave,  
God who became poor,

No human can comprehend fully,  
No flesh in its entirety figure out,  
The King of Kings hanging like a murderer,  
Why?

I was not there, but the impact and imagination still fresh,  
For me, did He suffer,  
Chosen and blessed for a day to come,

Such a Great love for me,  
Such a joy, never to regret,  
God who humbled Himself,  
God who chose to die for my wretched existence,

Everyday I choose Him,  
Obligating self to partake,  
A role for eternity,  
The sweet aroma of His gushing blood today we savor,  
Nourishing and reconnecting me to Him Body

### **HEARTBREAK THAT HEALED MY FOLLY**

*Rev. Fr. Iloh Stephen M. Chukwuemeka C.S.Sp (Ezeudo)*

We weave our dreams, but God designs,  
Our wants, a whisper; His plans, divine.  
Happier are we when God makes and takes glory,  
A finished man Just shared his story,

I waited at the bus station, lost in time,  
My heart skipped beats when she was mine.  
I envisioned our future, a life entwined,  
Our love, a flame that would forever shine.

But Jesus stepped in, and my illusion ceased,  
I gave my all, but she was never at peace.  
At the bus station, I waited in vain,  
While she exchanged vows with another, and I felt such pain.

Tears flowed, and my heart broke in two,  
But Jesus gathered the pieces, and His love shone through.  
Despite my folly, He loved me still,  
And taught me to love with a heart that's pure and fulfilled.

Now, I serve Him, and my heart is light,  
With Jesus, I'm happier, and my future's bright.  
His love, a balm that heals my soul,  
A love that's constant, and forever makes me whole.

### **THE DIVINE WITHIN**

*Abundance Cosmas Ujunwa*

In the depths of human hearts, a yearning resides,  
A quest to behold the divine, the creator who abides.  
Through various paths, we search for the unknown,  
Some through faith, others through science, each seeking to atone.

Some craft and adore, their beliefs taking shape,

In prayers and rituals, they seek the divine to engage.  
Atheists, too, with their own brand of faith,  
Believe in the universe's grand design, a spontaneous creation to amaze.

Others follow Christ, the one who made all that's seen,  
Their faith a guiding light, a beacon to lean.  
Yet, in the pursuit of the divine, we often stray,  
Harming creation, and distancing ourselves each day.

But what if the divine is not something to pursue?  
What if it's reflected in the face of me and you?  
In every human soul, a spark of the divine resides,  
A call to empathy, compassion, and love that abides.

So let us cease from greed, from desires that blind,  
And see the face of the divine, shining bright in our neighbor's mind.  
For in our shared humanity, we find the divine connection,  
A bond that unites us all, in love, compassion, and affection.

## **SUNSET OF HOPE**

*Kasiemobi Chyz*

As I watch the sunset, the sky is set ablaze,  
A fiery hue that spreads across the heavens, leaving me in awe.  
The stars begin to twinkle, like diamonds in the night,  
A celestial showcase that fills my heart with wonder and delight.

In this fleeting moment, hope is rekindled within me,  
A sense of promise kept, that tomorrow will bring something new to see.  
The sunset's warmth on my skin is a gentle reminder to hold on,  
To the dreams and aspirations that make life worth living, and never let go.

As day gives way to night, the sunset's embers glow,  
A beacon in the darkness that guides me through life's ebb and flow.  
Through life's uncertainties and trials yet unknown,  
The sunset's hope remains, a constant heartbeat that's sown.

In the sunset's fading light, I find the strength to carry on,  
To face the challenges ahead with courage, and a heart that's strong.  
For in the sunset's promise, I find the hope to persevere,  
And rise above the darkness into a brighter future, clear and free.

So let the sunset's hope be the guiding light that leads the way,  
Through life's joys and sorrows, to a brighter dawn of day.  
For in the sunset's beauty, I find the hope to carry on,  
And rise above the darkness into a brighter future, strong and free.