

concern on the part of their critics. Many of these new movements have some elements in common: a stress on prayer and the contemplative dimension of Christian experience; a devotion to the proper celebration of the liturgy; a simplicity of life-style; an inclination to study; a drive towards evangelisation; a desire for community. The joylessness and liturgical impoverishment of many religious communities often appear to offer feeble witness to hope in comparison. If Monsignor Escrivà is canonised some will have difficulty with it, as Lanfranc found Elphege hard to admire and Newman had doubts about Jerome. The event, if it happens, should lead us not to question the need for saints, but to think carefully about what we are saying when we 'make' them.

AJW

## Faith, Like Henry Suso's Knife

James McGonigal

Tired at last, he listened to what trees  
and the orange sky were saying  
(the park like a huge ear was straining  
to catch new words for grass and clay):

These are tears not for the end  
but for the start of love;  
they drop like souls from knife-edge holds  
on purgatorial cliffs — above

in mild midwinter gloom birds shout  
like angels to the empty air,  
trees flex their muscles and blood drips: see  
Christ's name cut about the heart with care.