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Days of Fasting

Kateri Whitfield

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Anna TX II Lance M. Pender

Days of Fasting

Kateri Whitfield

Ash Wednesday reminds me
of when my daughter was sixteen.
She saw stars in the doorway before
I found her on the bathroom floor.
Each Friday was Good Friday.
I heard a marble roll around inside
her head for three days.
Catholic fasting is one day,
two snacks, one small meal.

She overdid it a little, copied
Saint Catherine of Siena.
Her sister asked me why
it smelled weird in their bathroom.
It smells weird in her room still,
though she cleaned it years ago.
I can tell she still looks forward
to days of fasting.