

Paying Attention to Death

By John E. Phelan Jr., p. 35

A Lenten call to slow down

1. There is a refreshing simplicity to Mary Oliver's poetry. Where do you practice simplicity in the midst of our fast-paced, multitasking culture?
2. What is Lent calling you to slow down and pay attention to?
3. John E. Phelan Jr. contends that if we are on the road with Jesus, then we are traveling toward death. What does this mean to you?
4. Do you tend to connect death with darkness or the "scalding, aortal light" mentioned in Oliver's poetry? What images come to mind when you think of that kind of light?
5. How would you answer Oliver's question, "What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"