

THE CENACLE

Alan Piper, O.P.

I was in the room where the King of martyrs offered his life.

It was bare and hard.
The stones were hard
and gray.
There was one window.

I wanted to see the Holy Spirit,

but the Muslims owned it.
Prayer and brooms were barred.
Father, whose head and shoulders had grown heavy,
knelt and kissed the floor,

but I pretended not to see.

Alan Piper entered the Order of Preachers in 2011.