

Father Geoghan (for Tim Muise)

You saw it come together
the crazy lifer murder guy
allowed into the area
the guards have something to take their attention
it happened so fast
that weak sick soul sick
old man
soul sick man unable to take charge
of his impulse
filthy hurting young boys
years of filthy hurt
now in his monk cell
what penance could he ever pay?
Our lifer killer guy
he knows how to make him pay
he knows about penance
and his rage is just the ticket
in fact he can save himself by this act
so filthy sick on filthy sick
while guards look away
the father, moved from parish to parish
to protect the shame
his last stop here
his monk's cell
what are his prayers
how has God been talking with him,
the violence is quick brutal it works
and everyone wins
Boston clicks its tongue
that it came to this
a collective sigh
what can we do
the unspeakable
filth on filth
there in the super max
and you saw it my friend
doing your time
you saw it coming, say
"this is not the Catholic I know
the God who is saving me
I know filth I have lived with it
these years
this is not the God
I know."

Jim Schoel, Sept. 27, 2008

Tim Muise is a former student and good friend. He witnessed the killing of Father Geoghan.