

## Our Lady of the Atom

Hail Marie, full of nuclear waste  
whitewashed is the concrete of her tomb.  
Despite crucifix trefoils, pilgrims  
seek radiation scorch mark shadows  
of the savior on her walls

like sweat stains in burial shrouds,

thousands spiraling her shrine  
to kiss the pitchblende, of rumored  
curative properties, particularly  
of shrinking tumors.

Priests of promethium  
with stigmata lesions on their palms  
bishops of berkelium  
cardinals of californium  
the pope of polonium  
in dentist-apron vestments

administer iodine eucharist  
and a barium solution sacrament  
so God can x-ray our innermost being.

As man of infinite half-life:  
the same yesterday, today, and forever;  
as creator: mutagenic; as exothermic  
spirit. God in three isotopes

blessed Trinity.

—Josh Pearce