

## **Honorable Mention**

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### **Removing the Homeless from Church**

Under buttressed and vaulted gold-star deep blue  
I sit in this quietly subdued house of grace  
and rest from city's urgency.

Gold-haloed Mary shines in spotlight  
listening to petitions for blessing  
near the wink and glow of votives  
burning hopes skyward.

Few are here this weekday noontime  
as dark-carved apostles solemnly guard  
those who pray.

Hidden in shadowed repose, a rumped, sleeping man  
is roused by maintenance men  
and quietly ushered away from refuge,

While stone angels kneel over founder's centograph  
and a blood-cleansed crucified Jesus  
stoically hangs from his cross.