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First Communion

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Cover Page Footnote

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First Communion

Little Jesuses and Marys walked past me this morning
And I loved them with a pure and clear and phony love
For in my mind I pinned them there on the church aisle floor
Innocent of kicking youngerbrothers and sisters
And of nagging ragged mothers to satisfy their greed
And innocent of growing up to be father's sons and mother's daughters

I took their flanneled whiteness and put it on their souls
And made believe they loved the one that they received
I wished and didn't hope and desired and didn't pray
That they would love and honor and glory him in such a way
That they would share his silent smile and know his quiet love
And pass along those rare-trod paths

Those beastly little children will spit upon his bloody face
Just as you and I have done from ages past.
They'll mock that serene and loving gaze
With no more wit than we have yet devised
And in the end, like us some crawl into his arms.

Anonymous