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Veracity

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Veracity

By: Mary Kathryn Murphy

A youthful journey, riding a sandpaper slide
of Catholic guilt.

Strip away
the formalities
to reveal the peaceful faith.

Shears trim away at prelates' cassocks
to bear their ashen limbs,
disclosing humanity.

Coronets of nuns sail like schooners,
a false airiness of
too-serious women.

Massive chains of rosary beads,
worry beads,
bruising tender thighs in the simple
act of walking.

Remove the outward symbols
to expose the Holy Ghost.

Look away
and see the Truth.