

Remembering Flannery O'Connor

Flannery O'Connor
studied the Word
her hand wrote, praying
for shriveled-up,
church-going women,
who fold their hands
three times a day
and list the sins
of their husbands
in alphabetical order, always
beginning with alimony
and ending with yo-yo
because "Z" words
are hard to come by
and stick to the roof
of your mouth, anyway.

Zealot is a good "Z" word
but it gets caught
in your wisdom teeth
like the tattoo artist
who sells Christ
for twenty dollars, then
smiles because he knows
that his hands can create life
and no one can stop him.

Billie Travalini