

## Brooklyn: City of Churches

*Russell Moorehead*

At the OTB, men “cross” themselves  
as their horses race across TV screens  
double-checking their stubs  
before dropping them on the floor

At Grace’s, women bow their heads  
in supplication under hair-dryers  
while singing verses to each another  
from beauty magazines

At Greenpoint Savings and Trust,  
The stevedores pray their paychecks  
will last the week, and that the banks  
and their backs have a few good years left

At St. Alphonsus, people leave evening Mass  
with fingers still warm from lighting candles  
and from writing grocery lists in the margins  
of the Book of Revelation

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RUSSELL MOOREHEAD's poetry first appeared in *Dialogue* in 1993 after being chosen for a New Writers award. He holds an MBA from Brigham Young University and currently manages an e-business division for Estee Lauder Companies. He lives, reads, and writes in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife, Robin Marshall.