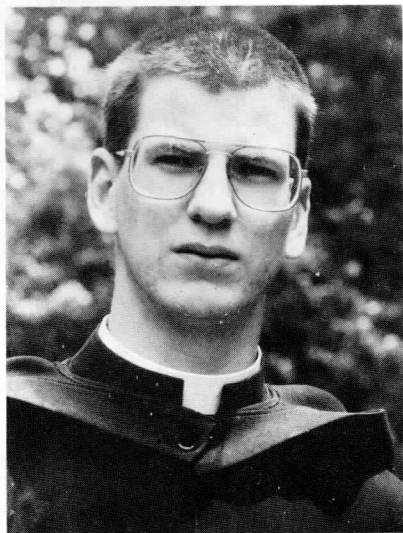


“Listen, O My Son, to the precepts of thy master, and incline the ear of thy heart — ”

A MONK IS A MAN who labors because he is poor and is poor because he loves God, and who lives apart from the world and all the arrangements of the world in order to give *praise to God*. A Monk is a MAN who prays constantly. In his prayer, the Monk strives to contemplate God, and in his contemplation he comes to taste the inexpressible joys of God’s love — he does so in SILENCE, ANONYMITY, HUMILITY AND PEACE. For the Monk all things must be productive of PEACE — BENEDICTINE PEACE (PAX BENEDICTINA)! Only in SILENCE can one listen with the ear of his heart to the soft whisperings of his loving Father. The world and its noise are kept out of the sight and hearing of the Monk, and far away. Forest and field, sun and wind and sky, earth and water — all speak the same silent language, reminding the Monk that he is in the Monastery in order to develop like the LITTLE things that grow all around him — all the little things give praise to God constantly. In SOLITUDE the Monk is planted in the Garden of the Lord, and his existence has one meaning only: TO REACH OUT FOR THE LIGHT AND TRUTH AND THE WATERS OF GRACE!



Looking through the eyes of a fast, career and achievement oriented worldling, the life of a Monk seems to be pointless. The worldling sees the life of a Monk as a waste because it is not “PRODUCTIVE”. Yet it is the “pointlessness” of the Monastery which is exactly what gives the Monastery its real reason for existing. The Monastery is a place of PEACE: not a peace of mere relaxation or ambitionless living