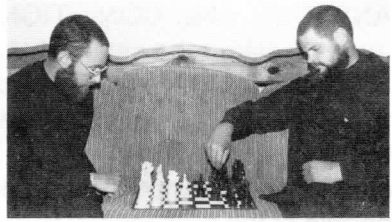


The very troubled condition in the Church today, and the devastation that has taken place in Monasteries and Convents, have broken the chain of the venerable traditions that were found in all well regulated Monasteries and Convents of



former times. As a consequence, young men and women have no place to go where they can experience, **FIRST HAND**, the atmosphere of **REAL** Monastic life and existence. In most cases, young candidates are forced to go to picture books to learn about the life of a Monk. Is it any wonder, then, that life in the Monastery is often times painted to be rather fanciful and one that is not at all in tune with the beautiful life of a real Monk? It often happens that a young candidate becomes disenchanted with Monastic life when he comes **FACE-TO-FACE** with it! Please be warned: picture book beauty is a posed beauty. Some of the pictures in this little book are of necessity posed, but every effort has been made to make them at least indicate somewhat of the reality of a Monk who lives in Christ the King Monastery. The camera cannot capture the **ATMOSPHERE** of austerity, patience, humility, obedience, prayer and **PEACE** that permeates a life that is completely given to the Service of God. One has to live this life if one wishes to comprehend what comes from it.

In the earliest days of Monasticism, St. Benedict conquered the pagans with his **EXAMPLE**. They understood **EXAMPLE** more clearly than they understood words and profound lectures. He found that he had to raise the pagan way of life to the spiritual, the **SUPER-NATURAL** level, and he knew that he had to do this with mean-



ingful actions that would eventually penetrate the mentality of the barbarians of his day. His **EXAMPLE** demonstrated to them that his way of life was better than their way of life. Once again, the Benedictine Monk is being called upon to go through the same process of converting the barbarians of the present day. Most surely, the Benedictine **EXAMPLE** of humility and obedience will “speak out” in such a fashion, and in terms that will improve the impoverished lives of the people of **THIS DAY**