

THE BURNING



The burning of the construction trash pile is truly wonderful. It is wonderful because it gives proof that construction is done and over. There is something official about it, and therefore, it is an occasion for joy and celebration. Thus it was on Saturday morning, June 22, 1996, when the monks set fire to the cast off remains of the construction of the Benedictine Abbey Church of Christ the King. For four long and very wearisome years the monks worked and worked to build their church. That is all history, now: some delightful and funny, and some wearisome, and not quite so funny. What is important to them is — **they did it.** Of course, they had help in bringing together the major parts of the buildings. The remainder they built themselves. They are pleased with the completed buildings. They are pleased because these facilities reflect the labor of their hands. They are pleased because the buildings reflect in a marvelous way, the poverty, the frugality and the responsible spending of money

proper for true and tried monks and nuns. There is much beauty at Christ the King Abbey. It is a simple beauty. It is a beauty robed with the traditional austerity typical of a well regulated house of peace, prayer and contemplation, and which is suitable for the interior life of a monk. The church is a Benedictine Church, and that alone speaks volumes.

The monks feel a deep sense of obligation to the countless people who deprived themselves so that they could contribute to the welfare of this monastery. Consequently, every care has been taken not to waste, or squander, or build extravagantly. The buildings have been kept within the limits of religious good taste.

The Blessed Mother Mary stands very prominently in the Abbey Church. It is the Most Blessed Lady, our dearest Mother, the Virgin Mary, Mother of God, who is the life, inspiration and fortitude, and indeed, the whole existence of whatever is good about this place. Because of her, this place is dedicated to the Kingship of Jesus Christ, her Son. The house and the life that is led in it are both the work of her love and the work of her blessed spouse, Joseph. Jesus, Mary and Joseph brought this place into the world.

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HE IS GOOD.

