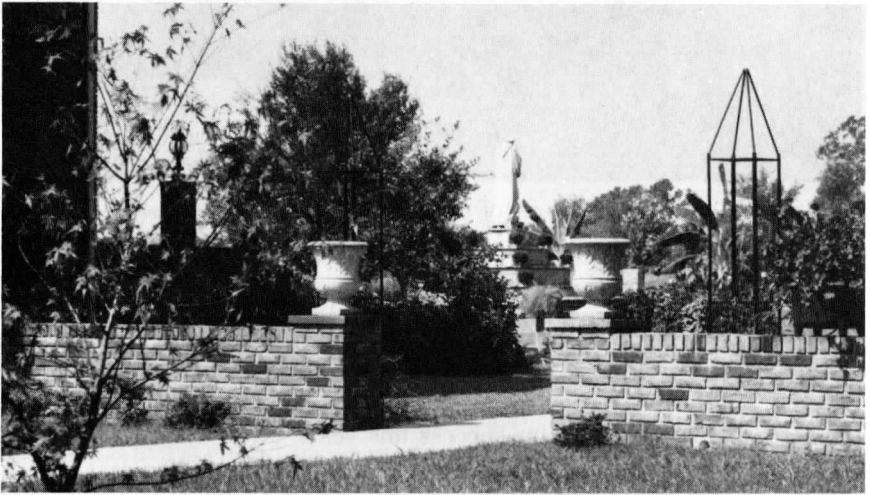


their attention to what is there — in the desert! The monk and the nun, by their prayer, their mortification, their suffering, and all of their good example and way of life gain strength for their Mother — their Holy Church — which is so harassed by the monster. The monk and the nun flee to a special place prepared for them by God in the wilderness, and they hide their faces in the Mystery of the divine silence, and they pray — they do not debate or prove — while the great battle is being fought between earth and heaven. ■

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## Of Prayer . . .

PRAYER is the beginning of all that is good in man. “The world was made for prayer.” Therefore to become familiar with prayer, to value it greatly, to love it and to use it rightly and zealously is an inestimable possession both for time and eternity.

To pray is the simplest thing on earth and in human life. It is essentially simple, just because it is so necessary. Yet, there are so many who do not pray — they are afraid to pray, they feel embarrassed when they start to pray. They ask: ‘What am I supposed to say?’

To pray needs no learning, no eloquence, no money, no earthly recommendation. It does not even require any special feeling of devotion. Sensible consolation in prayer is only an accompaniment (and a very rare gift at that). Sensible consolation is a secondary matter and should not be thought to be an automatic part of prayer. The intention to pray, the intention to address oneself to God — **THIS IS THE IMPORTANT MATTER.**