

Immaculate Conception

December 8

Hail to thee, O Mary,
the daughter of the Father.
Hail to thee, O Mary,
conceived without sin.



Disappointed in and ashamed of their Church in disarray, but no less proud of their Ancestral Catholic Religion, so many of God's holy people look in search for any and every symbol that indicates to them that the Religion they believe in and love so much is still there! They seek stability, and they have a right to stability, and stability must be extended to them. Our word is our bond to these good people, and may this small Benedictine effort in a cotton field in North Alabama tell them in words that need no explanation that their holy religion is still: ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC. We pledge to do our part as we Monks and Nuns here stand guard at the gate of the Third Millennium.

It is not the purpose of our Monasteries, nor is it the intention of our Monks and Nuns to lead anybody on a "PILGRIMAGE OF REBELLION". Ours is not a march on anyone or anything. Ours is not the task to build high-ways of disobedience. Ours is only an effort to preserve (it is no attempt to restore) what we can of a Religion and a way of life, which, for nearly 2000 years molded the lives of our ancestors. Is there any law – which we know nothing about – that forbids such labor? We take nothing away from anyone! We bring no harm to anyone! We preserve. We run hither and yon and pick up whatever we can that has been scheduled to be burned or demolished. Witness the colossal effort to burn books over the past few decades. An action, which, when done by others, was severely criticized and condemned on every page of civilized history. Our books are our heritage – are they not?

We do admit that we reach into the burn-pile and with blistered and burning hands, salvage what we can of the continuity of the ages, the tradition of our ancestors, and whatever of the rest we can pull away from the fire before it becomes consumed by the flames. Is this wrong?