

PREFACE to the ORDO of the TRADITIONAL BENEDICTINE MONASTERY OF ❧ CHRIST THE KING ❧

THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED, we, the Benedictine Monks of Christ the King Abbey, in Alabama, have prepared an ORDO for the Work of God, that is, the Liturgical ceremonial life lived by the Monks of this Abbey: THE PRAYER LIFE. This ORDO claims no force of authority over anyone; it cannot. There is no Traditional authority in existence any more that can rightly claim authority to enforce specific rules concerning matters of a liturgical nature. The superiors of the Monastery of Christ the King have accepted and approved the contents of this ORDO, and consider them normative for the Monks of this Abbey. It is the opinion of the Monks here that this ORDO maintains sufficiently well the customs of the Catholic Benedictine Traditional Liturgical Experience handed down by their venerable Forefathers. This ORDO makes no allowance for the introduction of any novel and strange forms of worship so prevalent today, since such forms are considered to be entirely alien to Catholic Tradition, and unworthy in the expression of the True Catholic Faith. At the same time, however, this ORDO does make allowance for the prudent introduction of pertinent and reasonable changes in the liturgical observance that the exigencies in the life of Man demand at the present time. The Monks consider these changes legitimate, reasonable and appropriate, and do not consider them to be in violation of the practical rendition of the recommended disciplinary (rubrical) liturgical customs of earlier Benedictine times.

The Monks have focused the direction of their Prayer Life, and their life of penance and mortification and reparation and monastic example, on the needs of the Man of the Third Millennium. They regard it a matter of urgent necessity that whatever they do as Monks; whatever they do as true sons of the great Patriarch, Benedict; **WHATEVER THEY DO AS CATHOLIC SONS OF AN AGELESS CHURCH**, must reach, not just the ears of the mind of modern Man, but more especially they must reach the ears of the HEART of modern Man. Furthermore, the Monks understand that informational erudition (not to be confused with genuine scholarly learning guided by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit) is not able to bring light to the darkness that Man finds himself in at the present time. Centered entirely around the Life of Jesus Christ, example is the ingredient best suited to lead today's Man through the cloud of unknowing. Monks influence the world not directly by acquainting people with information but indirectly by fidelity to the monastic purpose and the Catholic ideal given to them by their blessed forefathers.

The Sacred Liturgy has always been the expression of the Truth around which, over the ages, it has developed. The laws which have always governed Catholic prayer have always been in careful conformity with the laws which have always governed Catholic belief. As one believes, so does one pray.