

# CAN WE DO THE SAME?

Once upon a time people – people who lived in monasteries and convents, and people who did not live in monasteries and convents – did not find it any problem to convert their everyday activities into constant prayer. No doubt they had to endure the usual everyday problems that people of all times have had to endure, and no doubt sin and its snares confronted them as much as it confronts us. However the people of earlier times, generally speaking, had a more active awareness of the presence of God. God figured prominently in their daily lives. For some, of course, this was to their good. For others, unfortunately, the awareness of God was used in evil ways. Let us here only speak of those whose awareness of God worked not only for their own good, but to the good of us of later generations. The work produced by these good people bears witness to the love they had for their Supreme God. Note the incredible achievements of the men of earlier centuries. Note the great Medieval Cathedrals, and Monasteries and Convents. Note the great work of the people who did not live under the rule of any Order of Religion. Note the great Medieval Manuscripts which eventually became the unquestionable foundation of all modern scholarship and learning. Note the unbelievable greatness of Medieval art and music and literature. Above all, note the extraordinary learning achievements of our earlier ages. In all of these achievements, modern man, with all of his technical skills, has been unable to match. The foundation was constructed in the days of the Middle Age. It was constructed by men, weak men like us, whose vision of the Divine Presence before them, inspired them to do the work before them. What they did was for God, and therefore, the best was all they worked to accomplish. No doubt they were troubled with the ills that confronted them, but the ills that confronted them were somewhat less than what has developed in what we now call the Modern Age. Their minds were not as cluttered with distractions as are the minds of modern times . . . The people of the Middle Age worked to build masterpieces, and they did so. They built masterpieces, not so much because they – personally – wished to excel, they built masterpieces because they loved. They loved their God, and because of their love the best they could do was never good enough. They were people of Faith, and because of their Faith, their lives became a sort of prayer offering to the supremacy of God . . . They were in communion with God, and He entered into everything they did.

Now the question: How can we of today, link up communion with God – a state of constant prayer, of piety and the interior life – with the irresistible drag of modern life, and the instruments of addiction and distraction that confront us at this point of history? Is such a life at all possible today? Can modern day life be kept intact and together with the life intended and designed by our Creator? Can the unsatisfactory “reality” (actually unreality) of modern life live with the Real life (REALITY) as intended by our Creator? Is it at all possible to really live the Real life of God, today? We say that this is possible, but only after Man develops a