

Father Abbot's Christmas Letter

In the year of our Lord
Christmas 2001

Once again, it is time for our Christmas Letter to you. Once again it is time for us to wish you a "MERRY CHRISTMAS". Once again it is time for us to approach the DIVINE CHILD and to ask the DIVINE CHILD to restore PEACE and JOY and BLESSING to you and to those you love most.

Each year, lately, when I write this letter, tears come to my eyes, because each year it seems that when I say "Merry Christmas" I find myself adding the words: "DO NOT BE AFRAID"! What connection is there between the Birthday of our beloved Saviour and a life of fear? What has happened to us that fear has become such a part of living. It is a most terrible thing that we must pierce through the black clouds of fear in order to come to the Vision of the Glory of God in His Incarnation. This year, more than ever, the cloud of fear is the blackest ever, and we find ourselves crying out "Do not be Afraid" at the same time that we try to sing "Silent Night, Holy Night"!

For years and years we have all complained about the increasing decadence of our society - - - of our world - - - of our NATION! For years, we have been looking at our Blessed Church, and in utter bewilderment, we have watched it crumbled under the weight of the snares that have been placed upon our beliefs - all of our beliefs - snares put in place by the very ones that were commissioned to protect our beliefs! All put together this has become an overwhelming nightmare! For years and years, we have cried to our Heavenly Father, begging Him to lift the heavy cross that afflicts us. What is there left for us to leave to our children, and how dreadful is the sound of the words: "Nobody is now going to be safe!" What then, are we to do?

The nourishment that men once received from their Holy Religion is no longer available. For most, the gratifications of the present moment are the answer; yet, the hunger in our times is without equal in the history of man. Faith and Hope in a Divine Being are no longer matters of consequence: the "good life" is.

As always, the Good God does not turn away from those who struggle to keep things in their proper perspective. He helps those, even as they suffer, with the wonderful gifts of Faith and Hope and Charity. Few in number, perhaps, there are some few - - a remnant - - who will receive nourishment from their Master's table, even though they gather only crumbs.

The Monks and Nuns of our Monasteries do their best to help in the gathering of the crumbs left to us. That is why our SPECULUM centers its attention on the interior life of the soul and the purpose for the existence of Man. In all such matters the SPECULUM tries to present what our