

Dearly Beloved Brothers And Sisters Of Christ The King Abbey
And St. Joseph's Monastery,

*P*EACE! AND GREETINGS,

With hearts filled with joyful gratitude to God we are ever so pleased to present to you ISSUE #30 of THE SPECULUM BENEDICTINUM which marks the TENTH ANNIVERSARY of the existence of this little Booklet.

For those who wish to know, the word "speculum" means mirror. **Mirrors reflect images. Therefore, THE SPECULUM BENEDICTINUM simply means "The Benedictine Reflection".** How truly we wish to have been a good reflection to you all, and how truly we wish to have presented to you, weak though it might have been, a reflection of the interior – spiritual life, as lived by Benedictine Monks and Nuns, even in this our day. We have often said that we are not here to argue or debate or prove (this is clearly stated in our Statement of Purpose). We are not here to restore anything. **Restoration is not our work. ADORATION is our work!** Besides, the traditionalist notion of "restoration" will not ever take place so long as individual ones or individual groups feel themselves to be the only ones capable of bringing about restoration. **If restoration is ever to take place, it will be done by God – and by God, Himself – ALONE!** Restoration as traditionalist people think of it is not the job of one man or of one group of men. Therefore, we suggest that we all must stop thinking that the Restoration of our Holy Church and Religion depends on the effort of the individual.

Our job is to pray – it is God's work to restore whatever pleases Him.

Every man has the vocation, the duty, the strict obligation to ADORE GOD. We do not all fulfill this purpose in the same way. The Vocation of a Monk and of a Nun is very special because the function of Monks and Nuns is to fulfill their part in God's plan of love. We are cloistered contemplative Monks and Nuns and we have been authentically deputed to the one main task of becoming consumed by our love for God. Our nights and our days, our years – every second of them – have God in view – and our direct worship is to the living God. *Ours are the lips that sing out His praises in Choir many times each day. Our hands and feet, our hearts, and our heads – every breath – belongs to God, for Him to use as He wishes. We are God's workmen and workwomen. In our prayer life and work life we adore God, and all day long we contemplate the majesty of God.* Our feet are set upon a path, a path that hopefully leads to the gates of our eternal Home. *We hope that our small offering to God brings His blessings to you – our Beloved Family.*

We hope, also, that the following pages help bring our way of life closer to your way of life – with God's Help, it will.