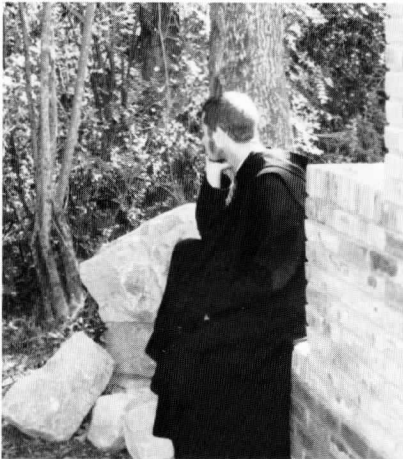


along the way of our lives. The work is not God's to do. The work is for us to do! And herein is where we very often meet up with violence, because the eradication of our evil inclinations demands a serious and heart-wrenching violence. We are the ones who must learn how to avoid the dangerous obstacles along the way of life. God desires sanctity for us, but sanctity is not a free gift given willy-nilly simply for the asking.

Let us look at the alcoholic. This poor person has much to teach us, as we struggle to reach perfection. Only the alcoholic knows how horrendous and violent the task to bring the addiction to alcohol under control really is. The claws of the bottle never stop clawing. However, before the alcoholic is able to do anything at all about his (or her) addiction, he must first **FALL ON HIS KNEES**, and in the personal, spiritual, and private recesses of his heart, **ACKNOWLEDGE TO HIMSELF THAT HE IS A DRUNK!** What violence this requires! What strength this requires! What humility this demands! What humility this demands! This is an admission that causes a suffering so profound that only the alcoholic is able to tell of it. But until this takes place, there can be no hope for a cure. The very same is demanded for the eradication of any vice within us, whether it be anger, impurity, dishonesty, pride, or anything else. Each vice within us demands this same admission, and the eradication of each vice demands the same suffering – as violent as the escape of the fires of hell demands. No cream-puff, wishy-washy, weak, insipid resolution, which is effected today and forgotten tomorrow, is of any value before the eyes of an all-just (though all-merciful) God! *(Continued on next page)*



A Monk's Life is a
Life of Prayer



A Monk's Life is a
Life of Work – also