

UNION WITH GOD

The union of our souls with God is the end – the very and only reason – for which we were created. It is not only for those who live in monasteries and convents to work out a union with God. This can be – and many times has been – effected by those who live in the world. No doubt the effort required is greater for souls in the world than for monastics.

The bond between God and His creatures can be strengthened only by a conscious effort and a strong determination. Conscious neglect and a careless, haphazard interest will most certainly relax and loosen the bond. Without a conscious, consistent, and never varying religious motive, this bond cannot – indeed will not – be effected. Without a strong prevailing desire – whether for monastics or for people of the world – to strengthen the hold of God on the soul, no life can rise to any measurable level of perfection.

For the most part, anyone who has lost touch with the religious impulse to move closer to the perfection asked for by God has, in fact, lost contact with God. He has lost the gentle influence of his God-given grace and is deaf to the low whisperings of his conscience. This is a slow but very persistent process. If this is allowed, we are total and miserable failures – regardless of any apparent earthly success. The union of our souls with God is the end for which we were created. Nothing else is of any importance. □



First Communicant Andrew Winland crowning Our Lady