

## *IT BEHOOVES US ...*

The life of a true Catholic, as is outlined by tried and true Roman Catholicism, is neither a matter of quiet religious emotional enjoyment nor of submissive obedience to a set of rules. The life of a true Catholic worthy of the name is something which for its fulfillment requires downright grave determination and positive active courage. It is not a life that is determined by preferences suited to our way of thinking. It is a life which, while not dominated by carefully applied rules, is determined simply by a pattern set before us by the example of its Founder – a pattern which we are told by the Founder that we must follow if we are to gain Eternal Life. The salvation of a man's soul is not decorated by a box full of preferables. The life of Jesus Christ certainly was not decorated by that which He preferred to do. His life was determined entirely by the Will of His Father Who is in Heaven. That the Catholic way of living must be freely lived – without force or duress – we have on previous occasions demonstrated, but even in the freedom required in the living of it, it must nonetheless be a matter of solemn determination and conviction. To approach true Catholic and true religious contemplative living with any other view in mind is to approach it quite frivolously. Such an attitude would be a mockery, not only of Catholic life itself, but of Jesus Christ, its Founder, as well.

Every care must be taken, especially today, that the proper and correct approach to Catholic life not be determined from the reading of old volumes or the use of video and audio cassette tapes, independently and without the guidance of priests of mature experience. Neither can the proper and correct approach to Catholic life be determined by argument or debate or proof-seeking polemic. Let us be cautioned and sure to understand that argument or debate or polemic or computerized volumes of proof have never brought anybody one whit closer to a truer fulfillment of the Catholic life. Endless computerized – usually out of context – presentations lead the reader up one blind alley after another. Many of these presentations have been prepared by individuals whose theological credentials are definitely either not clearly established or are altogether nonexistent. The determination to live as a true Catholic must be real and it must be lived according to the dictates of the spiritual life. True Catholic spiritual life is in no way enhanced by debate and argument. In reality, debate and argument and proving diminish the purity of the spiritual life because they introduce confusion, uncertainty, and disgust.

At the same time, the approach to Catholicism is no fantasy moving about in the unrealities of an overactive imagination – an imagination