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Christ the King Abbey P.O. Box 1616	

contribution of Benedictine monks and nuns has always been indirect, in their example of a life of prayer and penance and work! The Benedictine monastic helps his neighbor in the world, primarily where he finds a public waiting for him and responding to him, but where he finds his own soul waiting and responding in the hidden service of God. It is not by the benefits conferred upon man in the way of culture, education, science, medicine, or even in the way of parochial work monasteries or convents justified in any age or state. The existence of monasteries Benedictine monks and nuns is justified ONLY by the love of God which animates them, and their justification lies ONLY in the fidelity with which THEY KEEP TO THEIR PURPOSE. The monk or the nun who loves God perfectly is fulfilling every obligation which in Christian charity he or she owes to his or her neighbor. It is on this assumption that the whole and entire idea of Benedictine monasticism rests. To act otherwise decreases the true value of their offering. More than ever before. this fundamental principle Benedictine of monasticism is needed by today's man and woman. Whatever help is hoped for exists in God, and Him ALONE, and in the prayer of hidden monastics, few as they have now been reduced to.