

Merry Christmas

Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

Once again it is time to extend to you the joy and peace of the Holy Child. May it please the good God to give to you and those you love most His holiest of all His Blessings.

This time I wish to speak to you about the quality of Love that we must possess in all of our dealings with God - ESPECIALLY during these bad times.

Love is not only reparation, it is also purification. Love is a light which reveals to the soul of the true child of God the slightest defects which lessen the beauty of the soul.

Love is a force which gives the soul the necessary energy to eradicate its defects and imperfections by the very root.

No force is greater than the force of our love for God and His love for us. LOVE IS STRONGER THAN DEATH!

He that loves God shall be heard in his prayer. The eyes of the Lord are upon them that love Him. Many sins are forgiven those who love much.

They that are faithful in their love for God shall rest in Him; for grace and peace are given only to His elect. The Lord keeps all them that love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy.

Love is a fire which burns and consumes the evil and harmful weeds which are always sprouting up within us.

The hopes of those who love God as He desires to be loved, WILL NOT BE CONFOUNDED!

Again I say: be not afraid, and work to look with courage at a future that looks very bleak. If you prepare yourselves with solid and good spirituality, you have nothing to fear. If you pray with love and trust and perseverance you have nothing to fear. If you say the Rosary daily - **you know that you have nothing to fear**. If you are penitent and reasonably mortified, and practice self-renunciation in the life you live each day, you have nothing to fear. If you keep the HOLY FACE on the back drop of your life's activities - goodness - **why on earth are you afraid?**

At the close of each day, turn to our Holy Mother and cry out: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for me who turn to thee for help".

After this is done, put aside all fear and doubt and worldly distraction. God will not allow His truly Faithful Children to be lost. Yea, God's ways are not our ways, but you can be certain that God's ways are always good ways, and ways that will, at last, lead us to Him. Live the True Faith - not some kind of mish-mash belief that will inevitably miss the mark you are looking for. Be stout-hearted, strong and fearless. Love God!

God Bless you. Pray for us. We pray for you daily.

Your Monks and Nuns.

+ *Ronald Gardiner, O.S.B.*
Abbot