

## EASTER WISHES

By all the Easter wishes, prayers, and good works of our Monks and Nuns and Oblates, we ask God that your love for Him redound first upon yourselves in graces of personal sanctification, then that it may redound upon your dear families: your children, your children's children, your sick, and your departed loved ones.

In your charity please pray that God's blessings be upon our Monks and Nuns and Oblates.

transactions take place. Benedictine monasteries and convents are places where the power of prayer can achieve things that are beyond the thinking of man. And because monks and nuns know what they must be about, monasteries and convents enjoy peace and contentment and joy. Why is it that monastic's who have none of the pleasures of the world have a happiness that the world is unable to find? Why is the silence of monks and nuns more eloquent than all the speeches of the politicians and the showmen of the world? Naturally there are many difficulties with living in common, but no doubts, except for those given to doubts.

Why is the silence of the monastic cloister so much more beautiful than the noise of all the radio and television sets and cassette players we are forever listening to? Why do the smiles of monks and nuns have more joy in them than has the loud, nervous, raucous laughter of thousands of people of the world? When the monks and the nuns raise their eyes to the hills or to the sky, or when they see the little chipmunk or the tiny blue tailed lizard or the little bird in its nest, they see a beauty which many people cannot see. At the end of the work day, when they slowly find their way to the monastery or convent, they are tired, and they appear to be alone, but their hearts are at rest because they are absorbed in a companionship that is tremendous and beyond the understanding of others. The sky and the little creatures, all of them, speak of God. The silence of the cloister allows the sounds of another world to be heard. And all things, big and small, speak of the One from Whom all things come and to Whom all things will one day return.

The world was made for prayer! Therefore, the monastery must be a place that guarantees solitude of spirit and heart and soul so that the fragrance of prayer is always filling the air, where nothing is heard but the voice of the soul praising God and the Voice of God replying to the soul. But no one can enter into this kind of prayer unless God brings him or her into it. God gives such a calling to whom He will. He does not demand it of all.