

The Monk and his Monastery

Monks Pray! They pray with the most ardent charity for the needs of all those who cry out to them. The prayer of the monks radiates and gives strength and nourishment and consolation to those who need. But the real apostolic "radiation" which goes out from a true contemplative monastery springs more from the interior purity of the monks' own souls. It springs from the intensity of the monks' contemplative union with Jesus Christ, Whose infinite Sacrifice is daily renewed on the altar of their monastery. This Sacrifice is the very heart and center of the monk's whole existence. The efficacious power of a contemplative monastery is not obtained so much by the numbers and varieties of prayers actually said by the monks as by the perfection with which the religious community and all its faithful brother members are LIVING the one, infinite and perfect and true Mass. For the monk, one thing alone is necessary and that is contemplation of God in silence and detachment from ALL THINGS. For the monk, this is the supreme apostolate. For the world this is the answer to its greatest need.

Beyond imagination, beyond grandeur, beyond power and wisdom, beyond the light and the instruction of the mind, beyond the praise and acclaim that men give, the monk has found the KEY TO EXISTANCE. He has found all those little things that are without romance and glitter, and without drama and circumstance. The monk has found work, and hunger and poverty and solitude and silence and the common life, and he has found the grand and glorious beauty that exists in these things - things which the world spurns. For the monk, the monastery is the place of the silence of Christ's Nazareth. The monastery is the best place where God is praised without pomp, and amongst the wood shavings and saw-dust. For the monk the monastery is the place of his ministry. For the monk the monastery is his whole life.

For those fortunate ones who live near the monastery, in the evening time when all the creatures of God become silent, the sound of the big monastery bell, when it rings, fills all the air with serenity and peace and hope.

If this is all being said for the life of a monk, can you image what can be said for the life and work of a nun?

If the Traditional Roman Catholic Church does not very soon become solid enough in its faith convictions amongst its own membership to stop all infighting and strive to allow the strong links of Charity to bind together all of its own priests and people, then all of its goals of "restoring all things in Christ," and influencing the true Roman Catholic Society, and of being a Catholic leaven in the world will not be met!