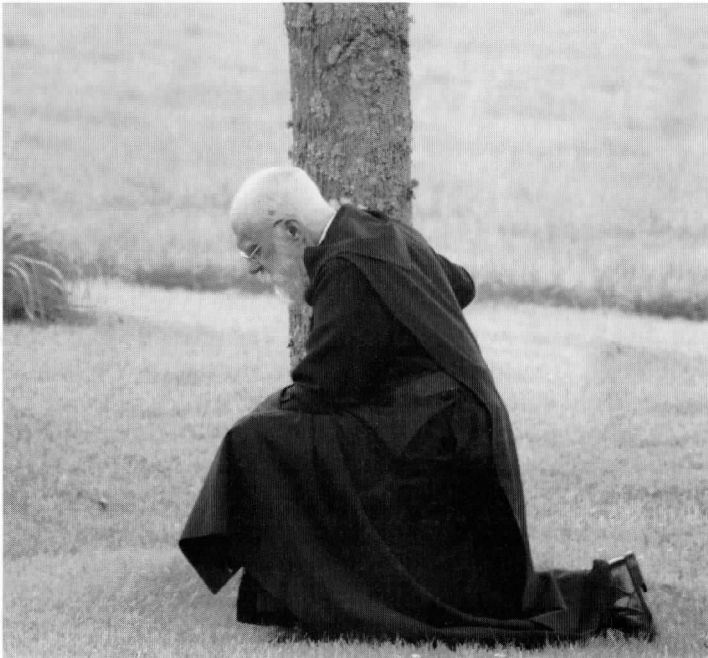


## Pray, Pray, Pray

Father Gustave De Ravignan, S.J., 1858

“Believe me, my dear friends - believe an experience ripened by thirty years in the sacred ministry, I do here affirm that all deceptions, all spiritual deficiencies, all miseries, all falls, all faults, and even the most serious wanderings out of the right path, all proceed from this simple source - a want of constancy in prayer. Live the life of prayer; learn to bring everything, to change everything, into prayer - pains and trials and temptations of all kinds. Pray in calm, pray in storm; pray on waking, and pray during the daytime; going and coming, pray; tired out and distracted, pray; whatsoever your repugnance may be, pray. Pray that you may learn to pray. ‘Teach us, O Lord, how to pray,’ ‘But I cannot pray.’ That is heresy. Yes, you can always pray. If you feel a disgust - nay, a horror of prayer, pray on; pray in spite of yourself, against yourself. Beg for the courage in prayer which our agonizing Savior merited for you by His pangs in Gethsemane and upon Calvary. Pray, for prayer is the strength which saves, the courage which perseveres, the mystic bridge cast over the abyss which joins the soul to God. ‘And being in an agony, He prayed the longer.’” □



Father Abbot, as the Corpus Christi procession moved from place to place in the Monastery Garden, adored in solitude and silence.