

THE MASS THE PRIEST THE MONK

Every morning the priest in the Monastery recalls to mind that his vocation is to be a monk and a priest and a contemplative, and that his vocation is PRAYER. In every true priest, and in every true monk, indeed, that is a huge power — a power beyond their comprehension, for this power is Christ — Who makes the prayer of these men stronger than thunder, and more lovely and gentle than the Spring breezes which find their way about the freshly blossomed trees. Jesus is — — *Jesus must be* — — the center of the soul of every priest and the soul of every monk, shaking the very foundation of the universe. Jesus is He Who lifts up the priest together with the Sacred

**THE TASK OF THE PRIEST
(and the monk)
IS TO SPIRITUALIZE THE WORLD**

Host, and the altar, the sanctuary, the people, the church, the monastery, the cities, the continents, the world, indeed all things. It is Jesus Who places everything that is in the Hands of the Eternal Father.

With every Mass he offers, the mists of the priest's unbelief gradually disappear, and he prays that the slavery of his desires that burden his entire life may be diminished. He prays that each Mass may be an enrichment and a liberation to his soul and to all the souls who depend on the Mass which he is at that precise moment offering. He prays that each Mass will cause him and all souls to come TO GREATER HOLINESS and contemplation, and that it will be a source of liberty and joy to all men. The priest prays for all men, even though he realizes in sadness (as our Lord did) that not all men will profit by his prayer. The priest prays for all men, even though he realizes that not all men will choose to profit by his prayer.

How well does the priest understand that it requires less effort to love God than it requires to eat or sleep or breathe, or to perform the simplest and most instinctive acts of our natural life. To love God requires no energy