



## REASON FOR COMING TO THE MONASTERY — Abbot McCann

St. Benedict conceived life as a journey to God — the last end of the rational creature. The monastic life was a special grace to chosen souls to whom God deigned to reveal with startling clearness the perils of the world and the privileges of His chosen servants. But they were never to idle on the way. They must be up and doing, they must run while they have the light of life, they must ever be seeking God. When a man comes to his monastery to ask admittance into the community, he is to be severely tested, to see whether he **TRULY SEEKS GOD**. *That is the point*, the novice must have that basic purpose. He does not come to the monastery for a quiet life, or because he is a disappointed man, or that he may practice his craft, or devote himself to study; he does not come even for the ordered liturgical life, for the pure joys of choir — and of the cloister, but to **SEEK** God. That is the fundamental and essential purpose. Benedict saw all things, in the light of God.



---

Abbot Leonard, O.S.B., and Frater Francis, O.S.B., in the classroom.