

A B O U T M O N A S T I C I S M

Books have been written to show the way in which Western Monasticism has influenced the life and thought of Western Civilization. The question now arises: HOW CAN MONASTICISM INFLUENCE THE LIFE AND THOUGHT WHICH PREVAIL IN TODAY'S THURCH AND WORLD? Monks today are no longer in a position, as they were in the ages of faith, to bring direct pressure to bear upon contemporary civilization. Therefore, it is important to determine the kind of contribution which they still can bring. It is important to see how far this contribution is affected by the PREVAILING SPIRIT caused by the INVASION OF MODERNISM AND THE SO-CALLED NEW AGE.

Monasteries can help to a certain extent in the general development of modern mankind, but externally their field is more limited than it has ever been. This is not the fault of monks or of the monastic system; it is the ever fact of secularization. Competition in an increasingly materialistic age from non-religious (governmental in many instances) forces and institutions has reduced to negligible proportions the DIRECT contribution which monasticism makes to civilization. What is done in the way of monastic scholarship, social welfare, education and argiculture can reach only a VERY limited, and specially conditioned public. Monastic institutions simply cannot compete with modern secular or state institutions. For that matter, they are not supposed to.

But is not in these outward activities that the STRENGTH of monasticism lies. The DIRECT contribution is not, and NEVER HAS BEEN, the main thing! The main thing has ever been the INDIRECT contribution made by monks and nuns in their EXAMPLE OF PRAYER, PENANCE AND WORK!! Where the monks helps his neighbor in the world is not primarily where he finds a public waiting for him and responding to him, but WHERE HE FINDS HIS OWN SOUL WAITING AND RESPONDING IN THE HIDDEN SERVICE OF GOD. It is not by the benefits conferred upon man in the way of culture, education, science, hospitality, or even in the way parochial work, that monasteries are JUSTIFIED in any age or State. Monasteries (monks and nuns) are justified ONLY by the love of God which animates them and the fidelity with which THEY KEEP TO THEIR PURPOSE, The monk who loves God perfectly is fulfilling every obligation which in CHRISTIAN CHARITY HE OWES TO HIS NEIGHBOR. IT IS ON THIS ASSUMPTION THAT THE WHOLE AND ENTIRE IDEA OF BENEDICTINE MONASTICISM RESTS!!!

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

SUNDAY: 6:00 A.M. For Prayer Promises and Benefactors
10:00 A.M. For the Monks of Christ the King Monastery
MONDAY: Dec. Mary Ann Brown
TUESDAY: For the People of the Chapels
WEDNESDAY: Special Int. Sam Spano, Sr.
THURSDAY: Special Int. Mary Claire Moore
FRIDAY: Dec. Father Fidelis Filipek
SATURDAY: Special Int. Lucile Hoban

LORD, GRANT US MONKS! LORD, GRANT US HOLY MONKS! LORD, GRANT US MANY HOLY MONKS!

LORD, PLEASE PERMIT US TO COMPLETE OUR ABBEY CHURCH IN 1993