

Last Tuesday - (September 11, 2001, A.D.) - a dreadful thing happened. It was evil! It was deadly! It will, in all probability, affect the lives of all mankind on earth for years and years to come. Nothing will ever be the same because of it. But there was something about that day - evil though it was - that had a lesson about it. There was something about that day - evil though it was - that shows serious commitment at its best, and we all should take note of the quality of that commitment. We should all take note of the quality and strength of that commitment, which, when fed by hatred, permeates and dominates the hearts and minds of some of our human brothers. Long since established in their hearts, it was hatred that led the death dealing criminals of last Tuesday morning to work ceaselessly, determinedly, thoroughly, carefully, perseveringly and LONG toward the development of a purpose and toward the accomplishment of that purpose - evil though it was. Nothing was left out. No road too difficult to travel. Their only thought was the fulfillment of their purpose, which had to be accomplished with utmost and unflinching and absolute precision. Insensitive to every obstacle that confronted them, they proceeded relentlessly, and without any reservation or complaint, their commitment was their only thought. Without fear or hesitation, with an astounding depth of belief - a religious belief to which they had enslaved themselves - with unswerving and absolute precision they aimed themselves straight into the jaws of a terrible and horrible death - - and all for the sake of their total commitment! Their religion meant slavery!

Now, let us turn to the quality of our own commitment. Our religion - our belief - whether we take it on the level of the monastic life of monks and nuns, or on the level of the life of the Faithful Laity - in no way demands of us what the religion or belief of the perpetrators of the Tuesday morning Tragedy demanded of them. Our religion wants dedication, it urges consecration, and it is regulated by rule and formation, but the most that our religion asks of us is but the merest fragment when compared to the offerings of the Tuesday morning people. Even under the sometime strong requirements of self-renunciation or self-effacement, or self-sacrifice and all the rest, remain admonitions, and the admonished, indeed, continue to enjoy freedom. They enjoy freedom because their minds and hearts are fed with love - LOVE OF GOD, and their hearts remain restless because they desire union with their God of Love. It must be love - and it can only be love - that leads souls to God. It simply can never be hate. Love gives freedom. Hate gives slavery.

An yet - - how much do we give to God for all He has given to us: for His love for us? We make promises, but how much of our promises do we keep without reservation? We tell God of our love for Him, but how quickly and easily do we set aside that love when faced with even the slightest inconvenience or pressure? We look at Jesus Christ Crucified, but we seem to look at Him through smoke covered glass - - the smoke of pride and self will and personal opinion! Do we not, actually, hold back on our promises that we made to the God of our belief? What is the totality of our service to our good God as compared to the totality of the service of those who have connections with a god that forces one into a climate of pure hate? What is it about love? What is it about hate? What is it about indifference to either love or hate?

Some of us will undoubtedly classify this discourse as purely negative. For those who do not see evil as death, then this discourse is, indeed, negative! For those who do, in fact, see evil as death, then this discourse is positive

Monday, September 10, 2001, A.D. marked the end of an era - "the good ole days"! Tuesday, September 11, 2001, A.D. marked the beginning of a new era, and as it seems, a horrible one to be sure! NOTHING, will ever be the same again!

May God have mercy on us all!



1. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday are the EMBER DAYS OF SEPTEMBER, and are days of the usual fast and abstinence. If ever - please observe these days properly and for the needed reason.
2. Friday is the Feast of St. Matthew.
3. Please pray for the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Miriam Roy, Manny Gomez, Edward Peterson, Little Anne Patterson, Stephen Holup. Please remember the Sick, the Dying, the Dead, the Missing, the Bereaved resulting from the recent Tragedy.
4. First Communion Class this morning after the 10:00 A.M. Mass.
5. Benediction after the 10:00 A.M. Mass this Morning - INTENTION - the Sick, the Dying, the Dead, the Missing, the Bereaved resulting from the recent Tragedy.
6. Our usual series on the "Magisterium" is this week interrupted for the reasons understood.
7. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Abbot Leonard's Intentions Only)

SUNDAY:	For the People of our Chapels
MONDAY:	For Vinita Kelley - - B'Day.
TUESDAY:	For the VICTIMS of the Tuesday Tragedy
WEDNESDAY:	Dec. Abbot Gregory Roettger, O.S.B. (III)
THURSDAY:	Special Int. Colette Sherman
FRIDAY:	Dec. Eleanor Windorf
SATURDAY:	Special Int. Loretta Burbach