

All nations shall serve him.

As we have often mentioned, the Spiritual Life is not for a privileged few, but for the privileged many. Everyone has been called by God to be religious; everyone has been created to be with God, the Creator of us all and of all things. The principal difference between the men and women who live in monasteries and convents, and the men and women who do not live in monasteries and convents, is the VOWED commitment of the ones who live in monasteries and convents. This means that the ones who live in monasteries and convents have vowed to declare WAR ON SELF. Not under vow, the ones in the world who do not live in monasteries and convents have the same binding duty to overcome SELF! - that is if they desire to save their immortal souls. This sort of speech is absolutely incomprehensible to the man and woman of the world - - - the world where men and women are completely taken up with the OCCUPATION OF "SELF"! Everything - every move, every thought, every work - - even every religion - - is designed to accommodate the status of SELF.

God simply cannot coexist with SELF! - - we cannot serve two masters. In the Garden of Eden, in the earliest days following creation, man walked in the presence of God, and it was the presence of God that reassured him and made him feel at home in the unknown. It was SELF that brought this wonderful condition to an abrupt end. No longer able to walk "eye to eye" with God, a thing Adam once enjoyed, Adam lost his reassurance and he no longer felt at home in the unknown. He was afraid! Self preservation became his dominating instinct, and his entire effort was invested in SELF!

Once again we have come to the beginning of another year in our lives. As is the custom, people vocalize on the need to make changes in their lives - and they make what they call "NEW YEARS' RESOLUTIONS" - good intentions. As is mostly the case, man never learns from his past experiences, and one of these experiences is that New Years' Resolutions all are blown away by the wind in a matter of two or three days. Therefore, let us not waste precious time and energy on this useless exercise, an exercise designed to cover up our shallow silliness of the way we live. Rather than look ahead to unkeepable resolutions, let us look back to the ones of former times, and unkept. As the men and women who live in convents and monasteries do, let us look into our weaknesses. Let us look to the depth of our commitment to the salvation of our IMMORTAL SOULS!!

As we look back, let us look at the motivating forces that drive us about from one day to the next. What is our MOTIVE in life? HOW SELF SERVING IS THE MOTIVE IN OUR LIVES? Is God in that Motive?

As we look back, let us look carefully at our dedications. Has our dedication been the fulfillment of God's plan for us, or has it been a SELF SERVING DEDICATION bent on the fulfillment of a plan we have plotted out for ourselves as best suited to enhance our own exaggerated notions of our own importance and our own pleasures?

Let us continue to look back, and let us take a very strong look at the SELF SERVING LOGIC we use with impunity, anytime our action is under attack - - our attitude is under criticism - - our reason is under question. SELF SERVING LOGIC is our crowning accomplishment - it brings all things into effective and precise focus, but the focus is not on God, it is ENTIRELY on ourselves! Everything we do has a neat explanation attached to it. This practice started in the Garden of Eden!

In monasteries and convents (with proper adaptation in every genuine CHRISTIAN FAMILY with genuine religious intention), all these self serving devices - one at a time - are beautifully taken care of by God serving devices - - the VOWS OF POVERTY, CHASTITY, STABILITY, OBEDIENCE AND THE CONVERSIO - but only after THE VIRTUE OF HUMILITY HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MONKS AND NUNS!

20 + G + M + B + 02

1. Today is the wonderful Feast of the EPIPHANY OF OUR BLESSED LORD - the Feast of the ever great (1) Gaspar, (2) Melchior and (3) Balthazar - all PAGANS who faithfully followed a Star which led them to a certain place where they entered in. On entering they found a Baby with His mother. When they looked upon the Baby they saw God - - - THEIR GOD! and falling on their knees they adored.
2. There will be NO catechism class after the 10:00 A.M. Mass today.
3. Please pray for the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Manny Gomez, Miriam Roy and Forney Roy - - also remember Mother Angelica.
4. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Father Abbot Leonard's Schedule Only)
SUNDAY: For the People of the Chapels
(N.B. Father Sebastian will say the Epiphany Mass for Christ the King Abbey and St. Joseph Monastery)
MONDAY: Special Int. Danny Henderson
TUESDAY: For Bill and Zelda Egan
WEDNESDAY: For Dec. Stanley Urban, Jr.
THURSDAY: Special Int. Sister Laurens, O.P.
FRIDAY: Special Int. Jean McMahon
SATURDAY: Special Int. Peggy Wink
5. EPIPHANY CHALK will be bless today, and will be available TODAY. Please take some home with you.