

will be needed to co-operate with it. Sometimes the Hand of the Divine Husbandman is quite evident, and whatever instrument He uses, every time any branch of our life is cut off or pruned, it is clear that it is He Who is at work; and no great effort is needed to see the Hand of our Father in Heaven when some person or event interferes with our plans or possibilities. Such submission, however, becomes much more difficult, when, one by one, apparently **all** the branches are removed and we seem to be left with no means of bringing forth fruit for God or of living for Him. This is the hour for the just man to live by **faith**. The branch of ourselves which God intends to bear fruit is invisible to us; we must live by HIM, and not by ourselves - HE is our God and our All.

This is of essential importance in that case where the Divine action takes a form that is by no means uncommon - one in which the Hand of God is not evident at first sight. God often prunes us by letting us **wither**. Instead of cutting off the branches, He cuts off the sap that seems necessary for their life. Sometimes things go so far that the whole man seems to wither away, even spiritually. This is a moment which calls for a very definite correspondence with God's grace. In these circumstances we must, by a deliberate effort, **exert** our faith, to see His Hand and His Love in all that befalls us. We must **exert** our hope, to trust in Him for everything we need for His glory and our own sanctification. We must **exert** our love, to cleave to Him in that union of will and humble emptiness of self, which is the true abiding in Christ, and all that matters here below. Note we say **exert**, because these circumstances call for a very definite and determined **decision!**

**WE MUST DECIDE TO BELIEVE IN GOD!**

**WE MUST DECIDE TO HOPE IN GOD!**

**WE MUST DECIDE TO TRUST GOD!**

**WE MUST DECIDE TO LOVE GOD!**

**WE MUST DECIDE THAT CHRIST IS OUR LIFE; THAT GOD IS OUR ALL!!**



1. Thursday, July 11, 2002 is the SOLEMNITY OF OUR MOST HOLY FATHER BENEDICT. For Benedictine Monks and Nuns this is a Feast of major proportions. Benedictine Monks and Nuns have been responsible for the **preservation** of the important parts of our Holy Religion, as they have been responsible for the **preservation**, in great measure, of Western civilization and culture. Benedictine strength is far from being what it should be in these days of stress and strain and uncertainty - as a matter of fact, the weakness of our Benedictine Houses is easy to see. In the weakness of it all, we, the Monks and Nuns of our two Monasteries, are struggling to preserve that which is peculiarly Benedictine, as envisioned by St. Benedict himself. This is a most difficult, and sometimes, a very discouraging, task. But it has to be done, even if it appears to be foolhardy. We need the special help of St. Benedict. Please help us as we pray for the strength such a commitment demands.
2. The "First Thursday" day of special Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament will be held this Thursday - the Solemnity of St. Benedict - July 11, 2002.
3. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Manny Gomez and Frank Nash. Remember also Mother Angelica, and please remember all who have appealed to us for our prayers. Pray most earnestly for Priests - all Priests.
4. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Father Abbot Leonard's Schedule only)

SUNDAY:	For the People of the Chapels
MONDAY:	Dec. Leonard Lutz
TUESDAY:	Special Int. Lois Nichols
WEDNESDAY:	Welfare Ana Graham
THURSDAY:	Welfare of Christ the King Monastery, Welfare of St. Joseph Monastery - Solemnity of our holy Father, St. Benedict.
FRIDAY:	For the Poor Souls
SATURDAY:	Dec. Cecelia Hrovat

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*The greatest conflicts in the world  
are not between two men,  
but between one man and himself.*