

## AM I CALLED?



**The Master is here, and  
bids thee come**

*St John xi, 28*

## **CHRIST INVITES US TO THE RELIGIOUS LIFE**

If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. Our Lord, in St Matthew xix, 21.

Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her.

Our Lord, in St Luke x, 41, 42.

## **MERIT AND REWARDS OF THE RELIGIOUS LIFE**

Truly, I say to you, there is no man who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive manifold more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life.

Our Lord, in St Luke xviii, 29, 30.

God has designedly concealed the happiness of the religious state because if it were known, all would relinquish the world and fly to religion. St Laurence Justinian.

It is better, though easier, to embrace the religious life than to give oneself up in the world to the most rigorous penance during a long period of years.

It may be reasonably said, that a person, by entering into religion, obtains the remission of all sins. For to make satisfaction for all sins, it is sufficient to dedicate oneself entirely to the service of God, by entering religion, which dedication exceeds all manner of satisfaction. Hence we read in the Lives of the Fathers that they who enter Religion obtain the same grace as those who receive Baptism. St Thomas.

I hold it as certain that the greater number of the seraphic thrones left vacant by the fall of the unhappy associates of Lucifer, will be filled by religious.

A religious will save by his prayers, labours and mortifications, more souls in one year than in the whole of his life out of religion : and, as to his own personal merits, he will gain more in one year by practising obedience than in ten years by living in the world according to his own will.

St Alphonsus Liguori.

## **THE WORLD-WIDE APOSTOLATE OF THE CONTEMPLATIVE**

It should be easy to understand how those who are earnest and untiring in fulfilling the duty of prayer and penance contribute much more to the increase of the Church and the welfare of mankind than those who labour in tilling the Master's field. Unless the contemplative drew down a shower of divine grace to water the field which is being tilled the active workers would clearly reap a less abundant harvest from their toil.

Pope Pius XI, 1924.

We should never forget that one of the most important aspects of our work for society consists in uniting to the sanctification and conversion of our own souls that of everyone else in the world. Devotion to our Lady is for us a ninth beatitude. The work of regenerating this tired and unbelieving world has been entrusted to her care. May she enflame her children of Citeaux with her own burning zeal ! May she obtain for them as a reward for their prayers and sacrifices the favour of being able to lead back to God all men who are their brothers and of enfolding them with themselves in that atmosphere of a genuine Catholic life, which is the centre of the true, integral and supernatural Communism !

Abbot General O.C.R.,

Letter to his monks, Christmas 1946.

## **SAINT BERNARD DESCRIBES LIFE IN A CISTERCIAN ABBEY**

THIS HOLY STATE in which a man lives more purely falls more rarely, rises more quickly, walks more cautiously, receives more graces, rests more securely, dies more confidently, is purified more quickly and is rewarded more abundantly.

St Bernard.

Hom in Matt : xiii, 45.

PARADISUS CLAUSTRALIS. Indeed the cloister is a paradise : an acre sheltered by the wall of discipline. No barren soil this; its yield the most precious merchandise. 'Gracious the sight and full of comfort, when brethren dwell united.' (Psalm 132, 1) : a glorious thing truly. Here you may see one monk

weeping over his past sins, another exulting as he praises God. This man is the servant of all, that one busy atoning for his sins. The heart of this one is a bright furnace of divine charity, the heart of his neighbour is a deep founded tower of humility. When everything goes well with this monk, he is not carried away by vanity, that monk soars aloft above adversity. See how busy one is with his charitable labours, how calm another is in his contemplative repose. Looking round at all these sights you may well cry out : 'This is God's encampment'. (Genesis xxxii, 2.) 'What a fearsome place is this ! This can be nothing other than the House of God; this is the Gate of Heaven.' (Genesis, xxviii, 17)

St Bernard.

Serm : de Div: xlii, n.4.

With Ecclesiastical approval.

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