

The Chair of Unity Octave
in progress.

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Continue to pray for vocations
to Priesthood and Brotherhood.

Make A Retreat If Possible.

A bus load of neo-Trappists are Gethsemani bound between semesters. Others have expressed intentions of making retreats elsewhere. Usually in larger cities ample accommodations will be found for making closed retreats. This retreat business is a commendable devotional practice and one to be encouraged. Students going into the armed forces will do well by themselves if they plan a retreat of several days before induction.

Noisy Holiness?

God finds it difficult to speak to noisy hearts. He does His best work during the silence of prayer and retirement from the world. So wherever you go make it a special point to keep the silence retreat masters highly recommend. Getting away from all this confusion, war-anxiety and hurried quest for last minute pleasures will go a long way toward helping you to re-charge your spiritual energies, to settle down and face your problems as adult men. Withdraw from your worldly environments, get away from newspapers, radio, small talk and chit-chat--do this and you will re-discover the realities of "another" world, the spiritual world, which are as real as the sidewalks under your feet and the stars over your head.

God Works Best In Silence.

In the last chapter of THE WATERS OF SILOE Thomas Merton, now Frater Louis, has this to say about his Trappist environment of silence:

"The kings and the dictators and the mighty of the world accomplish their works with great noise, with speeches and drums and loud-speakers and brass and the thunder of bombers. But God works in silence.

"Nations, dynasties leave their mark upon the world by tearing pieces out of the map, by killing men and sending them into exile or slavery. But while armies destroy with great terror and confusion, God builds life where they have sown death and brings sanctity out of the poisoned stream of their hatred.

"The spirit of the world, which is selfishness and envy and conspiracy and lust and terror, makes men loud from the fear of their own hallowness. But the Spirit of God gives them peace, teaches them not to be afraid of silence but to find themselves in quiet. The spirit of the world, which is avarice and oppression, arms men against one another and divides them against themselves and against others: it splits the world into armed camps. But the Spirit of God draws men together and unites them in peacefulness and teaches them to work together and to carry one another's burdens and to honor one another, in spite of their faults and their weaknesses and their infirmities. It teaches them to be compassionate and to obey one another for the sake of God's love and His peace."

In the silence of prayer and recollection of retreat you will better understand the importance of God, the importance of your soul, and the relative unimportance of the worldly pleasures which have seduced and secularized many souls. During retreat those values which count most in life will be put first where God wants them. Thomas Merton puts it this way: "But there is one thing in life that has no limit to its value, one virtue that can be practiced without any need of moderation. And that is love. The love of God and the love of other men in God and for His sake. . . .

"There is no point at which it becomes reasonable to abate your interior love for God or for other men, because that love is an end in itself; it is the thing for which we were created and the only reason why we exist."

Prayers: (deceased) father of Sarah George (St. Mary's); III; cousin of Rev. Robert Sheehan, CSC. One very special intention. 13 other intentions.