

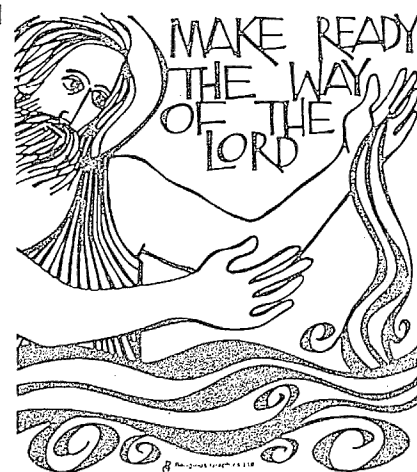
ADVENT SPECIALS

DEC 5 MON 10 PM
PENANCE SERVICE

DEC 8 THURS 5PM
FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION OF THE BVM
SACRED HEART CHURCH

DEC 4 SUN 7:15 PM
CHORAL VESPERS
SACRED HEART CHURCH

The LORD has
done great
things for us



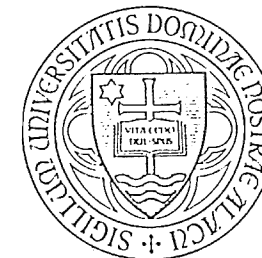
FOOTBALL, MERTON & CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

By
Thomas Francis, OCSO
Monk of the Holy Spirit Monastery
Conyers, GA 30208

Supposed you had missed the last Notre Dame football game. Your friends rave about Stan Smagala's quick interception and a 65 yd run for our 3rd TD toward the end of the first half putting us ahead of USC 20-7. You yourself become excited and make every effort to see the game on video-cassette. Of course you will enjoy it, even get excited, cheer and moan from your seat in the living room. But surely you will recognize that the video-cassette game is no substitute for having been there!

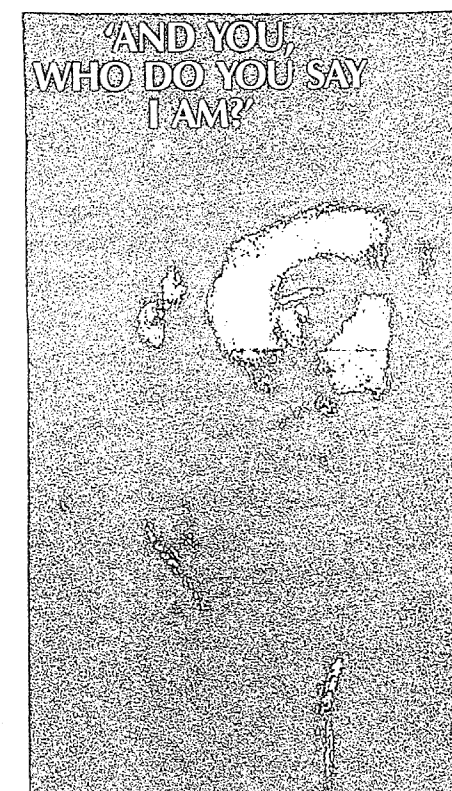
Well, it is the same with contemplative prayer, which is nothing else but direct communion with God. In the example above, about the football game, your seeing it by video-cassette is indeed a true experience of the game, but only indirectly. It has been mediated to you by the television. So it is with prayer. Most often we use forms of prayer like liturgy or mass, rosary, scripture, visits to church, form prayer, etc. which mediate our experience of God. We meet God, but through some religious form or other. However, *in contemplative prayer, we go beyond these religious mediations, and encounter God directly, immediately =not mediated.*

Would you like to find out how to do this? Would you like to be more confident in your prayer? Then read some of the writings of Thomas Merton, the American monk who wrote many articles and books in order to make us Americans conscious of direct communion with God through contemplative prayer. NEW SEEDS OF CONTEMPLATION would be a good book to start with. (Note: Fr. Francis, a Trappist Monk, was a contemporary of Thomas Merton in 1950's at the Monastery of Gethsemani in Kentucky.)

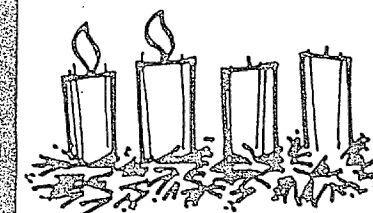


Notre Dame Religious Bulletin

Volume V
Issue 12
December 4, 1988



Second Sunday
of Advent
December 4, 1988
Prepare the way of the Lord.



ADVENT---COMING OF OUR GOD, THE LORD JESUS
---Waiting, becoming more acquainted
with the person Jesus, relating to
Him in others....

REVIEWS for Religious Bulletin

Michael Francis Pennock

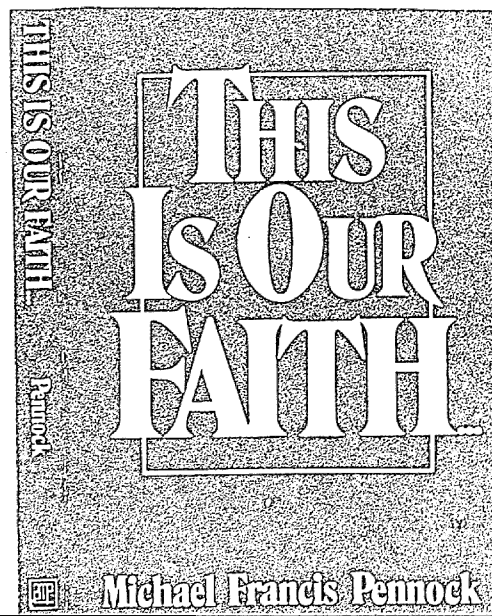
This Is Our Faith...
A Catholic Catchism for Adults

Ave Maria Press, 1988, 288 pp., \$11.95 cloth, \$7.95 paper

Michael Pennock, author of Ways of Prayer and a widely used series of high-school religious education textbooks, has produced a readable, affordable and challenging book of faith for these times. He blends the rich and varied tradition of the Catholic Church with the teachings of Vatican II.

This Is Our Faith... looks at the Nicene Creed, the sacraments, moral life and key Catholic practices. Questions and prayer exercises at the end of each chapter will help the reader to integrate and apply the content to daily life. It is a very practical book, pastoral in tone and reflective and scriptural in content.

The book is intended to expand the reader's knowledge of faith and thus draw closer to the Lord. It will have special value to those new to the church and for those journeying through the Rite of Christian Initiation, but also for those who recognize their need to know more about the Catholic faith.



Visit the AVE Maria Press for other
titles books for Christmas.

Henri J.M. Nouwen

HEART SPEAKS TO HEART
Three Prayers to Jesus

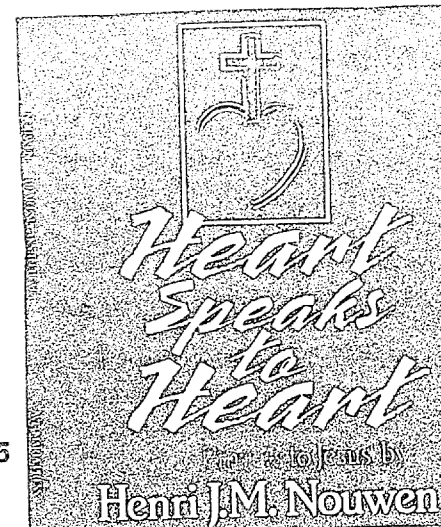
Ave Maria Press, 1988, 64 pp., \$8.95
cloth, \$5.95 paper.

Henri Nouwen is one of the best-known spiritual writers of our times. In over 20 books on a wide variety of spiritual topics, he has shared his own journey of faith with his readers. Born in the Netherlands and ordained a priest there in 1957, he taught for several years at Notre Dame before moving to Yale and later to Harvard. At present he shares his life as a priest with mentally handicapped people at Daybreak, a l'Arche community in Toronto.

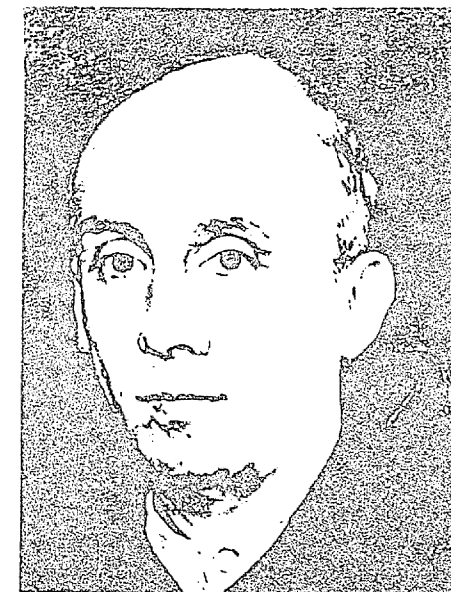
In this beautiful book he expressed the longing and expectations of the human heart responding to the heart of Jesus as revealed in the gospels. These three prayers focus on the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the author's identification with the brokenness of the Sacred Heart.

Nouwen struggles with doubt and faith, with the distraction of human desires, and with acceptance of the love God has for him. As the author says, "I wrote to help people enter into the compassionate heart of Jesus with their whole heart, and c'ome to know there the healing love of God."

---Rev. David E. Schlaver, C.S.C.



Thomas Merton, OC
WASP, CONVERT, MONK,
WRITER, LOVER, PROCESSOR,
LOVER, CONTEMPLATIVE-ACT-
IVATOR, DEAD 20 YEARS BUT
STILL BEING PUBLISHED AND
INFLUENCING PEOPLE.



*'My ideas are always changing, always moving around one center,
and I am always seeing that center from somewhere else.
Hence I will always be accused of inconsistency.
But I will not be there to hear the accusation.'*
—A View of Conversation (January 25, 1964)

Come
LORD
JESUS!