



Letter to Co-operators and Benefactors

I



*Siervas de Jesús Sacerdote y del
Corazón de María*

CONTEMPLATIVE LIFE...

The expression "CONTEMPLATIVE LIFE" indicates that this must be the constant direction of all thoughts, affections, and actions. According to St. Francis de Sales, contemplation is "a loving, simple and permanent attention of the spirit to divine things", for this reason, one seeks that in the practical organisation of activities, the particular spirit that moves us in every detail, should favour the constant search for union with God in Mary.

Contemplation is the act by which our faith "captures", in the darkness, what the "face to face" will show us, uncovered, in the beatific vision; it is that gaze that stops and concentrates on the world of invisible realities, by the exercise of the theological virtue of faith and by the gifts of the Holy Ghost. St. Thomas defines it as "a simple look at the Truth" (S.T., q.180, a3).

"The desire for divine love moves us to meditate, but obtained love makes us contemplate, because it reveals such a great sweetness in the Beloved that our spirit is not satiated by his sight and consideration," says St. Francis de Sales in the Treatise on the Love of God.

... CLOISTERED...

Since the earliest times of the Church, those who longed to dedicate themselves to the contemplation of the divine mysteries and the constant practice of virginity sought to withdraw themselves from the world. History and simple observation teach that a strictly cloistered life is the most suitable and apt means for those who are particularly called to contemplation.

The cloister strictly observed is, in fact, one of the proper and principal elements of the contemplative canonical life. It is based on an ancient tradition and, throughout the centuries, it has been ordered and defended as being the strength of the solemn profession of chastity on one hand, and on the other hand, one of the most apt means to dispose the soul to a greater union with God. Precisely because the spirit of men is more drawn towards



external things in our days, it is all the more necessary to firmly guard the institution of the cloister, which enables the nuns to unite themselves more closely to God." (Instruction 'Inter Cetera' - of the Sacred Congregation for Religious, on the cloister of nuns. March 25, 1956)

... THAT WELCOMES YOUNG WOMEN...

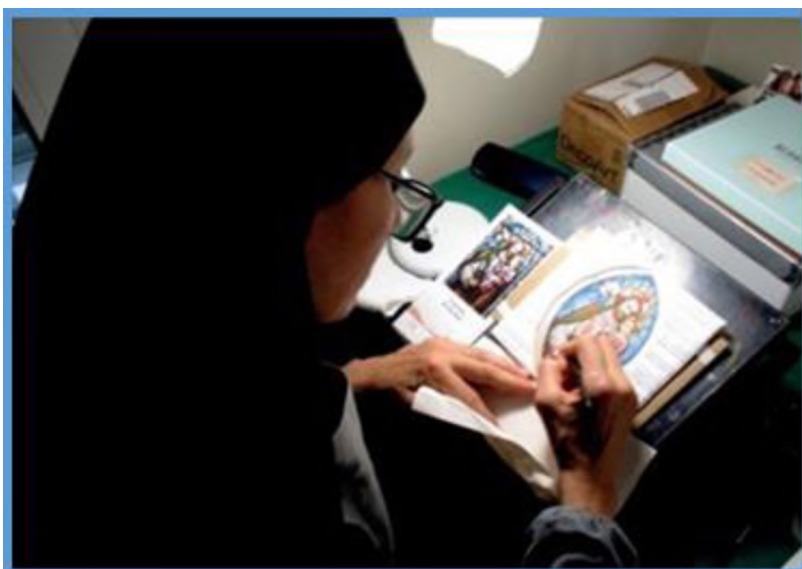
The minimum age for admission is 18 and the maximum is 35 years old. The candidate must have a docile and joyful character, to allow herself to be formed and thus become, one day, a true spouse of Jesus Priest and Victim.

A period of postulancy which may last from 6 months to a year is followed by the Taking of the Habit ceremony. The young Sister then begins her Novitiate that will last two years, at the end of which, she will make her Temporary Vows for three years. All this time she remains under the authority of the Novice Mistress who will initiate her in the uses and customs of the Congregation. She will receive classes on the Religious Life, Constitutions, Catechism, History of the Church, Liturgy, chant... At the end of this period of formation, she will renew her vows for another three years and will leave the Novitiate regime, but will continue with weekly formation classes given by the Mother Superior, in addition to a formative conference given to the Community by one of the priests of the FSSPX.

Following the six years of Temporary Vows, Perpetual Vows of poverty, chastity and obedience are made, adding a fourth vow called vocationist, by which one offers one's life, works and sacrifices for the sanctification of priests.

... WHO, WITH A DESIRE FOR PERFECTION, WANT TO CONSECRATE THEMSELVES TO GOD...

St. Teresa of Avila exhorts: *"It is very convenient not to minimize our desires, but to believe in God that, if we strive, little by little, even if not immediately, we shall be able to reach what many saints have reached with His favour; which, if they had never determined to desire it, and little by little to put it into practice, they would not have risen to such a high state. His Majesty wants and is a friend of*



courageous souls, as long as they proceed with humility and without any self-confidence; I have not seen any of these who lag behind on this road, nor any cowardly soul - under the pretext of humility - who in many years walk what the brave ones walk in very few years. It astonishes me how much progress is made on this road by encouraging oneself to do great things..."

It is a love story between God and the soul invited to this love. All the activities of the cloistered life converge towards a single end: the possession of God through loving contemplation; this steadfast gaze on God is worship. God has a right to souls who leave everything to consecrate their lives to this "one necessary thing", that some of His creatures occupy themselves only with Him. But there is an indissoluble link between the consecration to God and the zeal for the salvation of souls, thus...

... OFFERING THEMSELVES FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF PRIESTS...

The contemplative life lived with perfection is a highly apostolic life. The apostolate in its highest degree and in its fullest fruitfulness is the boiling over of charity, it is the ardour of a soul devoured and consumed with love. It is the bursting

forth of a heart that, under the very strong and uncontainable pressure of charity, pours out over the whole Mystical Body. This is the true apostolate, the one which produces eternal fruits. For this reason, the apostolate is not identified with activity, but rather with perfect charity and, therefore, the more contemplative a soul is, the more its apostolic power grows.

It is very significant that the patroness of missions, the one who is considered by the Church as a specialist in the conversion of pagans, is a young contemplative nun who died at the age of twenty-four, St. Therese of the Child Jesus. Her religious vocation was



entirely oriented towards the salvation of souls. It was *"to be a mother of souls"* that she became a religious. To her sister Celina, she wrote: *"To form evangelical workers ho will save thousands of souls of whom we will be mothers"*.

... IN THE HEART OF MARY.

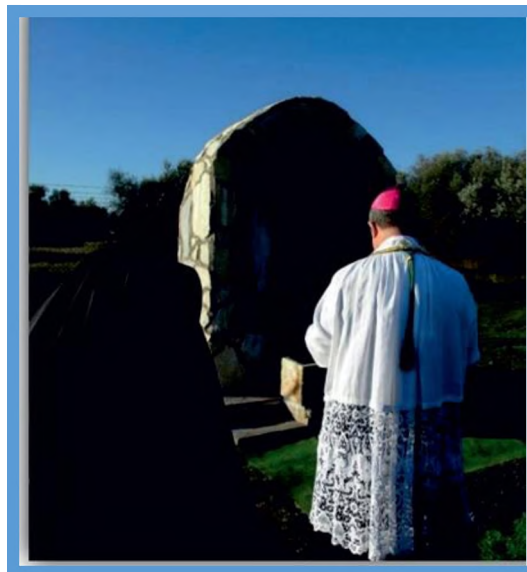
Among the souls whom God calls to religious life, He reserves some exclusively for the sanctity of the priesthood. What a wonderful mission! Such a mission can only be accomplished in the depths of the pierced Heart of Mary.

"In Corde Matris". After Jesus, there was no apostle more wonderfully triumphant than our sweet Mother, the Virgin Mary; and yet she did no exterior work. She contented herself with fulfilling her humble tasks as Mother and Spouse, with no other concern than to do very well her duty of state, so unostentatious and so obscure, in the fullness of love of the present moment.

A soul hidden in Mary participates in her universal apostolate. It has no need to seek any external activity. It is enough for the soul to participate in the very charity of the One who lived only out of pure love, in order to immediately be associated with her apostolate which is ever present in the Church. This participation will be all the more direct in the measure that it is hidden, secret, divested of self as well as channelled and directed by the Holy Ghost.

"We must do all things in Mary, that is to say, we must gradually acquire the habit of recollecting ourselves interiorly and so form within us an idea or a spiritual image of Mary. She will, as it were, become, the Oratory for our soul where we offer up all our prayers to God..."

(St. Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort)



CHRONICLE

27 & 28 June:

Our Lord protected us from the numerous fires that broke out near the estate. On one occasion, when we saw the smoke, we called the emergency services to report that we 'thought it might be' another fire. The lady who answered, trying to reassure us, told us there was no need to be alarmed, that the fire brigade had already been mobilised and that the source of the fire was far from the village, in an olive grove bordering... a convent... (SIC!)

Our Mother sprinkled holy water on the boundaries towards the olive grove, and we prayed the Memorare and a fervent Rosary, which certainly made the fire brigade's lorries and helicopters effective. Deo gratias!



1 July:

First Mass celebrated by Father Adrián Deger, recently ordained in Zaitzkofen. During his seminary studies, he wrote to us asking for prayers, and he was kind enough to come and thank us with his visit. When he was here he celebrated the third Mass of his priestly life and his first sung Mass. It was a great honour for us!

9 July:

Finally, the construction project was submitted to the Casarrubios del Monte Town Council in order to obtain permission to begin work. At the time of publication of this newsletter, the Town Council had made a couple of requests, to which we responded to as quickly as possible. Meanwhile, we have received four estimates, and our superiors and the architects are studying them to decide which construction company to hire. We ask St Joseph to enlighten them and send us generous benefactors, as the costs have risen considerably compared to the initial estimate.

4 August:

We had a visit from eight seminarians from the Seminary of La Reja (Argentina) who came to see 'the Motherland' and, thanks to the fact that they stayed at the Priory, we were able to see them for more than a day in the presbytery, helping at Holy Mass. Now we will pray more fervently so that one day we may see them raising their anointed hands.



20 August:

After Holy Mass, Fr. Ménez exposed the Blessed Sacrament and we adored it, joining the FSSPX Pilgrimage, thus fulfilling on that same day what is required for cloistered nuns to gain the Jubilee indulgence.

8 September:

Feast of the Virgin Mary as a Child and entrance of an Argentinean postulant, María Marta Bunge. May little María be your model of dedication to God!

7 October:

We received a 'lightning' visit from Father Bouchacourt, who came to Spain to preach the retreat to the Fathers of the Autonomous House. With his customary good humour, he told us that having visited this place, he had lost faith in Paradise, for he had seen it; but that the access road reminded him how difficult it is to reach it.

**12 to 18 October:**

Fr. Pierre Mouroux, Superior of the district of Mexico, preached our annual retreat. Following broadly the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, he adapted them to our religious life, developing the virtues we must practice and the means to progress in Christian perfection, insisting on our dedication 'Pro eis' through the vocationist vow. After the retreat, we went to the visiting room to greet him and thank him. He showed us photos of the apostolate

that the Fraternity carries out in Mexico. Lord, send workers into such a vast harvest!

23 October:

Bishop de Galarreta came to Madrid for the confirmations. We were able to benefit from a visit during which he gave us a talk commenting on the prospects for the Church with the election of the new Pope; the FSSPX pilgrimage to Rome, a great demonstration of our adherence to the Apostolic See; and other events within the realms of Tradition. Afterwards, seeing as it was Thursday, we had the privilege of receiving Exposition and Blessing of the Blessed Sacrament.

16 November:

Rev. Fr. José M^a Mestre celebrated Holy Mass with the intention of making reparation for the injuries done to the Heart of our Blessed Mother, and afterwards we sang the Litany of the Blessed Virgin and the Stabat Mater, as requested by the Superior General of the FSSPX.

21 November;

This date marked the 19th anniversary of the canonical establishment of our congregation. Mass was offered and we renewed our vows out of devotion, with the same intention.

25 November:

On Tuesday, Father Superior Jorge Amozurrutia gave a talk, showing us the photo album he had taken on his pilgrimage to Rome. We saw many priests and religious whom we know, and we left feeling greatly encouraged to continue our dedication to the Church and the Catholic priesthood.



Who placed You in a stable and
who laid You in a manger, and who
left You in foreign lands, if not Love?

Fray Luis de Granada

Happy Christmas and
Holy New Year in Our Lord!

While Modernism continues to destroy the Church and all that is most sacred to her, including religious life. **HELP US US BUILD!** Help us build a convent of contemplative life and enclosure, which in its silence will cry out to this activist world:

GOD EXISTS!



Place where the Convent will be located

You can do so by sending your donation to:

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§ **LA CAIXA- Account in EUROS**

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VERY IMPORTANT: It is necessary to indicate in both cases, in a separate note, the following: *Funds are intended for the Menzingen account for use by the Siervas de Jesús Sacerdote in Madrid, Spain.*

· **VIA PAYPAL** - Account name proeis@fspx.es

· **BIZUM:**

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2- Name of ONG: Fundación PRO EIS,

3- Code: 07050

You can request your tax receipt from: SIERVAS DE JESÚS SACERDOTE
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