

A MONASTIC NOVITIATE FOR THE JOYFUL SERVANTS OF THE CROSS COMPRISING OF THESE 12 CONFERENCES, ACCOMPANIED BY PRESCRIBED PRAYER AND REFLECTIVE EXERCISES

CONFERENCE TWO: After the candidate has decided to turn out of his heart, mind and soul what is “not of God”; and he realizes that he is NOTHING but an empty vessel to be filled with God’s abundant blessings and graces: *NOW he cries out from the depths of his soul: “You are my God, my Rock, my Savior, my Beloved Friend in whom I trust! You will fill me with joy in right-living as you have promised! And I will come to believe that you are indeed always faithful to your promises!”*

My dear brother(s), immediately when the soul is emptied of its tainted residue and content, in the moment of true and certain terror and fear that results, when all its sense of direction is removed and it feels and though it is suspended in mid-air, it feels all alone and abandoned, it cries out to God for help: for help to fill the void, for help to fill its being, for help to fill its self with soothing balm and comforting presence: And He replies: *Here I am! As I have promised your fathers for millennia to hear their faith-filled, trusting cry for help, when they realized that there was truly nowhere else to go, so too will I fill you, now! “I am your God, I am your Rock, I am your Savior, I am your Beloved Friend in whom you can trust, always.” Let me fill you with joy that knows no bounds, as you embark upon a brand new adventure in right-living, good and holy living. “I credit your belief now as justice and you are eternally safe now with me – so long as you keep on the track that leads to me: the track, the path, that is my Son (and his words), the track, the path he shows to you (by his deeds); the track, the path of Him who is also the Truth about everything and the Life of Life itself.*

Hope abounds now for one who rests safely and securely in the reality of God’s presence and providence, NOW! There is no part of spiritual, mental or physical existence that cannot be always more intensely modified, corrected and perfected in this life, until the fullness of health, and happiness and peace is experienced when our existence is commingled with Christ’s forever, in heaven!

Our gratitude ought to know no limits for God’s promise of boundless fatherly care! We are more precious to him than we can ever even begin to imagine! He holds all of us so tenderly, so safely and so securely right in the middle of the palm of his hand!

The Spirit of God is so very eager to work with you – all he needs is your simple, childlike, consistent and persistent acts of faith and hope that assure both you and him of his rightful place as your loving Father, and your place as his beloved child. He will do marvels for you in your spiritual, mental and physical life – if you simply ask his input, and then live like he has answered affirmatively! Rejoice, brother(s) – you are on the right path!

Conference Two: Prayer/Action

O Holy Spirit, help me to cry out from the depths of my soul: “O God, you are my Rock, you are my Savior, you are my Beloved Friend;”

(reflect gently for a few minutes now on what God as “rock” and “savior” and “beloved Friend” means to you at this very moment!!)

O Holy Spirit, begin to fill me now with the richest blessings that God has in store for me; *(with eyes closed and open palms, pray for a few minutes asking for the in-pouring of God’s richest blessings into the bright, clean, spotless heart, mind and soul that is now prepared to receive them)!*

O Holy Spirit, give me a grateful and loving heart – for these and all your blessings that occur in me according to Your Will! *(pray a heart-felt prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God who loves you so very much – and is pleased with every bit of effort you are making to live according to His Will for you now –as you begin to be bathed and saturated in a greater fullness of his reality, his light, his presence and his love!)*

Amen.

[It would be helpful to read the Conference and Pray the Prayer, with its accompanying exercises, each day until the next conference!]

Given: (Date)

Abbot Peter Anthony, jsc