

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

CONFERENCE THREE: Having cried out to God from the depths of his soul, acknowledging Him as Rock, Savior and Friend, and asking to be filled with joy in right-living, the candidate now, graced by an inpouring of the Holy Spirit, freely and clearly chooses to respond affirmatively to God's invitation to be part of the "all-in-all" that is his Christian vocation. It seems inconceivable now to live any other way than completely *for* and *in* God and his will and plan for him and his life.

My dear brother(s), the most excellent use of your mental capacities is to gather the information of God-speaking, filter it through the absolutely free gifts of wisdom, right-judgment and faith, and then translate the conclusions reached into a confident, trusting and willing desire to follow the Spirit's lead in all things and at all times. You are meant to be a co-operator, and co-creator with God in transforming the world from darkness into light, from death into life, from hatred into love. Peter, the Apostle, put it this way when Jesus asked him if he would leave him and go elsewhere to find answers to his deep-felt questions regarding fulfillment in life: *Lord, to whom shall I go; it is you, and you alone who have the words of life that are spirit and truth, and these words will lead to everlasting life.* Where else can the answers be found other than in *Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life*? How blessed and fortunate indeed is the one who responds to the grace of Light, the grace of Sight, the grace of Right-Living that is made plain and attainable for those who would believe in Jesus.

Once brother(s) you have reached the conclusion that Jesus is your Lord, your God, your Brother, your Friend and your All – then, it is so much easier for you to *surrender everything to him and trust that he will never lead you astray* – and that *he will always give you exactly what you need to meet all of life's challenges and joys with dignity, courage and hope!*

If God is for you – then who can possibly be against you! Jesus, we trust in you!

The Spirit of God is so very eager to inspire you with information about God's will and ways – all he needs is your willingness to look up and into his radiant face and feel his blessings shower down upon you and into your mind, heart and soul. 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 Three: Prayer/Action

O Holy Spirit, help me to constantly choose to respond affirmatively to your invitation to participate in the fullness of life with you; *(reflect gently for a few moments now on the conscious decision that you can make to allow God to work in you to transform you; and how easy it can be to repeat this decision briefly throughout the day – when the renewing of it seems called for)!*

O Holy Spirit, begin to give me a deep thirst for the fullness of life to which I am called to live both in this life and in the hereafter; *(with eyes closed and open palms, pray for a few minutes asking for the deep soul-thirsting that has God as its object and the ultimate total transformation of your whole being as its goal)!*

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 as you progress in the search for a more perfect way in which to live out the Gospel message)!*

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