

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

CONFERENCE SIX: Now that you have come to see the need to have any sinful elements in your life truly and certainly removed by the Sacrament of Penance, the Sacrament of Peace, there are two more opportunities to keep your spiritual life in a purer state than you might have thought possible. The first is this: to become ready to have God modify in your mind and heart characteristics that still suffer from the reality of Original Sin – or to eliminate some or all of them altogether - those parts that are not productive to spiritual growth, those parts that can trip you up on your journey. *Whatever villages or towns or countryside he entered, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak; and as any as touched it were healed*

My dear brother(s), it seems reasonable to conclude that if it were possible for you to be free of the source and cause of your sinful predilections and inclinations that you would want to do so. Who would not want to be as free one could be from what might weigh one down eternally? The source and cause of our sinfulness comes from the weakened state of will and intellect and desire that comes from Original Sin – that is the nature of the sin of Adam. It weakened not only him – but all of his descendants. But thanks to the merits of the Redeemer: Jesus, it is possible to live a life far away from the effects of Original Sin that still do persist to some degree in the world and all of us. One way to distance our self from these effects, and to make ourselves as primed as we can for good works, is to simply ask God to modify or remove the intensity of the debilitating nature of Original Sin in us. Now that we are alive in Christ by our Baptism – we still need to pray constantly for purification from the effects of the enemy's attempt to trip us up! Satan does not want us safe one day in heaven with God, Jesus and all our brothers and sisters. God will freely give you what you ask in faith – for your own spiritual health and growth, especially in defense against the wickedness and snares of Satan.

The Spirit of God the Father is so very eager to help you be ready to ask the Father for the removal of all in your mind and heart that might in any way inhibit you from moving daily more and more steadily on a sure and certain path that leads to him. Rejoice, brother(s) – you are on the right path!

Conference Six: Prayer/Action

O Holy Spirit, help me first of all to believe in the reality of the effects of Original Sin that are a part of every human life; *(quietly reflect on the evidence that is readily seen in people, in the world, proving that selfishness, and self-centeredness are still very much alive and well)*

O Holy Spirit, help me to freely be ready to ask the Father for his help in modifying/lessening or even removing stronger negative effects of Original Sin that are found in my own life; *(reflect for a few moments on your readiness)*

O Holy Spirit, give me a grateful attitude for the tremendous gifts of purity of heart and strength of will that you will give me in asking to be a good and holy disciple. *(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