

dedication to God, especially through the embracing of the three vows. We meditate upon the Lord and His Word day and night in the celebration of the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours, in private prayer [about two hours daily] and in our Perpetual Adoration and Rosary. Time is also provided for study, and each sister has access to a well-stocked library where, according to her capacity, she nourishes her faith and contemplation with Sacred Truth.

Freed from the many distractions of the world by enclosure, silence and solitude, we offer intercession on behalf of the world, never forgetting or ignoring its existence. Christ again entreats us through St. Catherine, "Never lessen

your desire to call on me for help. Never lower your voice calling on me to show mercy to the world." [Dialogue, Chapter 15, 107]

An ever deepening and growing friendship with Christ is the golden thread which pervades and unifies for us all the diverse activities of each monastic day. It is this dynamic love which transforms what may appear to be a monotonous

existence into an adventure which is ever fresh, ever new. Christ is the heart of our life and His Spirit is the inner spirit which finds expression in the daily schedule.

Our day generally begins about 5:20 a.m. and ends sometime after 9:00 p.m. In addition to singing the Lord's praises, the sisters do various kinds of work. These include printing, calligraphy, weaving,



gardening, sewing, cooking, and other artistic, clerical and manual skills. Let me hasten to add that our life is not all hard work. The capacity to receive and enjoy is essential to the contemplative life.

There are two periods of recreation daily when the sisters relax together and share their interests, joys and sorrows. Occasionally, there are picnics and days of special recreation, too!



When one comes to a Monastery, one enters a family. Will you actually find here the Dominican ideal? Yes... Many an elderly sister, radiant with the love of Christ has proven that to me. But, the ideal is a goal to be striven for, never

perfectly achieved. Our Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary, settled in New Jersey is not heaven - it is but one of the many roads leading there. It is not an easy road, but for those whom God calls, it is a joyous path of fulfillment and freedom.

The first followers of Christ were not outstandingly gifted, nor, at the start, particularly holy. It is ever the same. In every age very ordinary people, conscious of their limitations but confident in the power of His love, respond to His call to follow Him along the Dominican way.

*Do you wish to follow Christ?*

—*Sister Denise Marie of the Holy Spirit, O.P.*

