A Letter on the Contemplative Life
A LETTER ON THE CONTEMPLATIVE LIFE

Abbey of Gethsemani, 21 August 1957

Rev. and dear Father,

I received your letter of 14 August and I realize I

* Thomas Merton: Spiritual Master

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The experience of God. It could be described as a sort of favoring experience of God, but the experience of God is lived in a relationship with God. On the other hand, the contemplative experience is simply a part of us, a part of who we are, a part of our own nature. Therefore, the contemplative experience is not something that we can add or subtract from our lives, but rather something that is already there, already a part of us.

Our personal and unique relationship with God is a response to this contemplative experience. When we encounter God in our own way, we are responding to something that is already there, already a part of us. This response is what we call faith, and it is the basis of our relationship with God.

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Yours in Christ Jesus,

(Thomas Merton)

For the Love of Our Fellow Man

A Letter on the Contemplative Life
and earth.

The world of today is sorely tempted to fall into atheism—into

and death.

The god of today is the companion of sin.

from the story of Christ; that God is the companion of sin.

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precious seeds of comprehension implanted in their hearts.

Is our wish to offer our own testimony to this sense of wonder and thankfulness, while unfolding our thoughts everywhere in our hearts? The expression of the love and thanks contained in our hearts.

Our message can only be found in the message of Christ. The message of Christ is: 'He is good. For the love is eternal.' (Ps. 135:3)

precious seeds of comprehension implanted in their hearts.

The spiritual knowledge of God is not only an experience of the Christian, but also an experience of the believer. It is the fruit of the Spirit, and it results in our being brought into contact with the invisible God. (Col. 1:12) You and I have been brought into contact with the invisible God, who has revealed Himself in His Word, as a result of our experience of the loving-kindness of God. The Christian who has experienced the loving-kindness of God will always express His thanks for it.

Our brothers who keep themselves apart from us, and our sisters who keep themselves apart from us, will feel the need of our company. Our company will give them comfort, and our company will strengthen their faith.

This, then, is the good fortune which we have when we are united with God. What a world, what a world! We are living in a world where the Church's life is the life of Christ. We are living in a world where the Church is the Church of Christ. We are living in a world where the Church is the Church of Christ. We are living in a world where the Church is the Church of Christ. We are living in a world where the Church is the Church of Christ.

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