

A MERTON VIDEO

Review of

Thomas Merton: Monk, Man and Mystic
A Spiritual Concert by Patrick Collins
Lexington, Kentucky: Campari, Inc.
1 Videotape / \$24.95

Reviewed by **Paul Quenon, OCSO**

Readings, reflections and song combine in this ninety minute video recording of a presentation on Thomas Merton made to an audience at the Newman Center in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1993. Fr. Patrick Collins uses his gifts as a theologian, vocalist and musician to lead us, through sound and sight, into an understanding and feeling of Merton's spirituality. This is not a study, but a collection of insights yielding recollection, a kind of evening's retreat on Merton — part of a longer, unrecorded series that, in fact, amounts to a full scale retreat.

Both music and narration are accompanied by images, including many photographs taken of Merton, and then some. Music, which concludes the treatment of each theme, ranges from Ralph Vaughn Williams to liturgical standards to Andrew Lloyd Webber. The real focus, however, is the spoken word which conveys the message of Merton in a personal synthesis through years of reading and reflection.

Collins is a liturgist, pianist, singer and diocesan priest, serving at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House at Mundelein in Illinois. He gives his musical Merton retreats throughout the country. The full luster of his voice is not adequately served on this tape, due to cordless miking, but one is, nevertheless, left with a strong impression of the depth and significance of Merton's spirituality. And one is certainly better disposed to prayer.

Tapes are available at:

Campari, Inc.
308 Madison Place
Lexington, KY 40508.