

# NOTRE DAME, GETHSEMANI & THOMAS MERTON

Review of

## A COMPANION TO PRAYER

Sung by the University of Notre Dame Folk Choir  
and the Monastic Schola of Gethsemani Abbey  
Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press/ Modern Cassette Library, 1991  
One cassette tape / \$10.95 extended play

Reviewed by **Patrick Hart**, O.C.S.O.

For a number of years, the members of the Notre Dame Folk Choir under the direction of Steven Warner have come to the Abbey of Gethsemani either for retreats or to give a concert for the monastic community. Aware of the recording possibilities of the Abbey church, negotiations were begun several years ago to have a recording session at Gethsemani. It became a reality in mid-January of 1991 when the Notre Dame Folk Choir came to Gethsemani and united forces with a schola of ten monks, combining this with some poetry and prose readings of Thomas Merton by Brother Nils Sorsky O'Hara.

The result of this fruitful collaboration is now available on cassette tape distributed by both Ave Maria Press and the Notre Dame Folk Choir. In addition to the more popular songs and psalm arrangements of the Folk Choir, there are a number of compositions by Father Chrysogonus Waddell, Choir Master at Gethsemani. What we have here is a unique combination of collegiate four part singing and unison chant.

Actually the music of this cassette comes from four different sources: from Gethsemani, from Notre Dame (some of Steve Warner's psalm settings and songs), some material from GIA in Chicago by Marty Haugen and David Haas, and finally several folk and hymn selections from the public domain.

The pieces included in this recording, made both at the Abbey of Gethsemani Church and at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Elkhart, Indiana, are as follows:

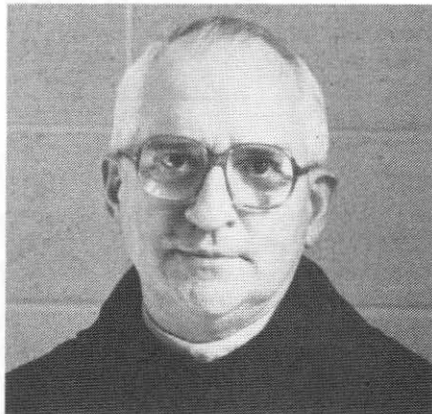
### A COMPANION TO PRAYER: Side One

Seek Ye First the Kingdom (Chrysogonus Waddell)

Psalm 95: Let not your hearts be hardened (Steven Warner)

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□ **Patrick Hart**, O.C.S.O., is a monk of the Abbey of Gethsemani at Trappist, Kentucky. He was re-elected for a second term on the Advisory Board of *The International Thomas Merton Society* at the recent Second General Meeting. He is the editor of *The School of Charity: The Letters of Thomas Merton on Religious Renewal & Spiritual Direction* (New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1990) and has been appointed the General Editor of *The Merton Journals*.



**BROTHER PATRICK HART**

*Photo by Nicolas Sapieha*

A reflection from *Bread in the Wilderness*  
 (Thomas Merton)  
 Psalm 34: We know and believe (Waddell)  
 Aubade: Bermuda (Merton)  
 For the Beauty of the Earth (Traditional)  
 Jesus, Good Shepherd (Waddell)  
 I Believe in Love (Merton)  
 How Can I Keep from Singing? (Traditional Shaker)  
 Psalm 128: Blessed are the people (Warner)  
 I am the Vine (Warner)  
 After the Night Office: Gethsemani Abbey (Merton)  
 Light Serene of Holy Glory (Waddell)

## A COMPANION TO PRAYER: Side Two

Lord of All Hopefulness (Traditional Irish)  
 Now We Remain (Haas)  
 Song: Contemplation (Merton)  
 Canticle of the Sun (Haugen)  
 The Lord is My Shepherd (Afro-American Spiritual)  
 From "The Victory" (Merton)  
 Gloria (Brass Ensemble/ Bower)  
 Come Close, You Hallowed (Waddell)  
 The Road Ahead (Merton)  
 Psalm 31: Into your hands I commend my spirit (Waddell)  
 Psalm 91: Within the wings of God's embrace (Warner)  
 Hagia Sophia: The Hour of Terce (Merton)  
 Hail, Holy Queen (Waddell)

A word about the accompaniment: the hymns and psalm settings which were written for unison male voices had to be rearranged for sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. It also meant taking the organ accompaniment and transforming it into a new score for flute and violins, harp and guitar, organ and string bass. This seventy-eight minute cassette recording makes available to the listener a unique blending of voices and instruments from two rather distinct musical groups, which complement one another in a creative introduction to prayer. The interspersed meditative readings of Thomas Merton's prose and poetry are pure bonus.

# MERTON IN FICTION

Review of

*MASQUERADE*

By William X. Kienzle

Kansas City: Andrews & McMeel, 1990

267 pages / \$15.95

Reviewed by **Barbara Sonnenberg**

Relying heavily on his experience as a former priest, William Kienzle's twelfth mystery novel is set on the campus of a Catholic college. A mystery writers workshop is scheduled and the assembled faculty include a nun, a rabbi, an Episcopal priest and his wife, a Trappist monk, and Father Koesler "... whose religious background and periodic contact with the Homicide Division of Detroit's Police Department will provide valuable authentication."

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□ **Barbara Sonnenberg** lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, has been active in Merton projects there, and is a librarian at the Cincinnati Public Library's main branch. She has reviewed Merton books for *The Merton Seasonal*, but has stated that she reviews "mostly fiction." This was her chance to do both.