



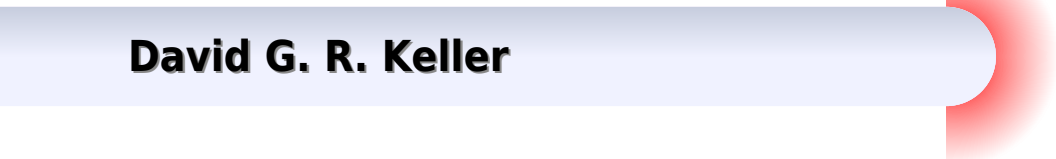
MONASTIC PRACTICES

REVISED EDITION

CHARLES CUMMINGS, OCSO

Monastic Practices Wisdom Charles Cummings

David G. R. Keller



Monastic Practices Wisdom Charles Cummings:

Monastic Practices Charles Cummings, 2015-12-07 For three decades *Monastic Practices* has been a valued resource for English speaking aspirants to monastic life In this revised edition updated and expanded Charles Cummings OCSO explores the common practices of the monastic life in order to rediscover them as viable means of leading persons to a deeper encounter with God How do monks and nuns occupy themselves throughout the day Have they modernized their lifestyle or is it still cluttered with medieval customs Could any of the monastic practices be of use to those outside the monastery A certain wisdom is necessary to know how to use such practices and how to give oneself to them until they lead one to God After long monastic experience Cummings shows us how the ordinary things we do constitute our path to God In the art of living life he argues we are always beginners searching for God through our concrete circumstances and actions

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Meg Funk turns to the wisdom of the desert fathers for the means of removing obstacles to spiritual growth which include thoughts of food sex possessions anger dejection and pride among other preoccupations Redirecting thought away from such weeds in the garden of the spirit can lead to a greater awareness of God and purity of prayer This method to mental discipline may seem impossible at first Funk admits but those who succeed at it are rewarded with a liberating experience as they come to observe and control individual thought processes Drawing on the writings of the fifth century monk John Cassian Funk goes on to explore deeply using such tools as memory imagination and rational thinking tools right out of early Christianity to work on inner healing She also explains how other positive tools such as ceaseless prayer manual labor and isolation may lead to uncluttering the mind and purifying the heart Mary Margaret Funk is a Benedictine nun of Our Lady of Grace Monastery Beech Grove Indiana From 1994 through 2004 she served as executive director of Monastic Interreligious Dialogue which fosters dialogue among monastics of the world s religions In addition to the volumes of the Matters Series she is the author of *Islam Is An Experience of Dialogue and Devotion* and *Into the Depths A Journey of Loss and Vocation*

The Hermits of Big Sur Paula Huston,2021-11-01 Between World War II and Vatican II as Italy struggled to rebuild after decades of Mussolini s fascism an eleventh century order of contemplative monks in the Apennines were urged by Thomas Merton to found a daughter house on the rugged coast of California A brilliant but world weary ex Jesuit who had recently withdrawn from a high intensity public life to go into reclusion at the ancient Sacro Eremo of Camaldoli was tapped for the job Based on notes kept for over sixty years by an early American novice at New Camaldoli Hermitage *The Hermits of Big Sur* tell the compelling story of what unfolds within this small and idealistic community when medievalism must finally come to terms with modernism It traces the call toward fuga mundi in the young seekers who arrive to try their vocations only to discover that the monastic life requires much more of them than a bare desire for solitude And it describes the miraculous transformation that sometimes occurs in individual monks after decades of lectio divina silent meditation liturgical faithfulness and the communal bonds they have formed through the practice of the privilege of love **The Disciple's**

Handbook David L. Hall,2020-02-05 Twenty years ago God led me to the writings of the church fathers and then on a journey that changed my life I discovered the amazing spiritual depth throughout all the eras of the church and began to realize that I was settling for scraps when God had prepared a banquet This handbook was written as an aid to Christians from all traditions to help them hit the ground running to discover even greater depth and passion in their walk with Christ

Monasticism in Modern Times Isabelle Jonveaux,Stefania Palmisano,2016-10-14 This book presents a broad sociological perspective on the contemporary issues facing Christian monasticism Since the founding work of Max Weber the sociology of monasticism has received little attention However the field is now being revitalized by some new research Focusing on Christian monks and nuns the contributors explore continuity and discontinuity with the past in what superficially might appear a monolithic tradition Contributors speak not only about monasticism in Europe and the United States but also in

Africa and Latin America a different landscape where the question of recruitment does not figure among issues considered as problematic

St. Benedict's Toolbox Jane Tomaine, 2015-07-01 A practical down to earth guide on the Rule of St Benedict and its use in daily life In the sixth century when the Roman Empire was breaking apart and politics cultural life and even the Church were in disarray tumultuous times not unlike our own Benedict of Nursia designed what he termed a little rule that showed his monks the way to peace as they learned to prefer Christ above all things Jane Tomaine translates St Benedict's ancient rule for a modern audience and offers readers a primer on how to use these tools in their own tumultuous lives Each chapter examines one aspect of the Rule from ways of praying to ways of being in relationships and community and offers tools for reflection prayer journaling and action This updated edition includes historical background to the Rule a new chapter on relationships and community and a guide for group use A wonderful book one of the best introductions we have in print today to the spirit of St Benedict It speaks clearly to Episcopalians of our day about the great spiritual treasure of the Benedictine tradition The Rt Rev R William Franklin Assisting Bishop of Long Island

No End to the Search Mark Plaiss, 2017-07-27 A monastery is not just for monks Laypeople enjoy visiting monasteries and learning from the women and men who live there The silence of the monastery is a retreat from the clatter and bluster of city and suburb In *No End to the Search* Mark Plaiss married with a wife children and grandchildren writes of his visits to various monasteries while striving to delve into the experience and meaning of monasticism What is behind that wall What is the appeal of monastic life To what degree can such a life be lived by persons who are married and why would they wish to do so This book explores the relationship between the vowed life of monks and the life of laypersons who are unable to live such vows but desire to share just a sliver of it

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