GREAT LOVE XXX

COMMUNION WITH CHRIST

 I read a story in a book of anecdotes about a monk by the name of Honorat and his sister St. Marguerite who was a nun. Both were placed upon an island, he and his fellow monks and she and her sister nuns. Honorat and Marguerite loved each other greatly as brother and sister should but Honorat was concerned that there should be significant distance between the monks and the nuns. He therefore found a place on the distant shore near a fort for the nuns to dwell. After a severe storm one night the island was literally split into two islands leaving the monks on one island and the nuns on the other.

 Honorat wanted to visit St. Marguerite for he loved getting to talk to his sister and spend time with her but was concerned about how much time he should spend with his visits to her. The nuns had planted a garden of strawberries. Honorat loved the strawberries and decided that he would visit Marguerite as long as the strawberries were in season. So he visited often while the strawberries were producing but when they failed to produce at the end of the season he stopped his visits until the next season rolled around.

 St. Marguerite was miserable for the lack of seeing her brother. It broke her heart that she had to spend such a long time with no communication with him. She therefore started studying the different varieties of strawberries and began gathering plants that produced berries at differing times of the year. The nuns were planting berries at certain areas of their island that would get various amounts of sun and shade. When finished a quarter of their island was planted in strawberries.

 Finally spring came. Honorat also came to visit St. Marguerite. He came for days on end for the strawberries were plenteous. He came for months and come December he was still visiting his sister and eating strawberries. Finally he decided that God did not want him to limit his visits with his sister.

 Likewise we should cultivate a life that Jesus wants to visit often. We should let holiness take root in our heart. Invite Christ with a pure mind that is not polluted with the world’s trash. Having a heart that loves and longs for Jesus to dwell in should be appealing to the Lord. As Marguerite sought for ways to keep Honorat visiting day after day all year long so should we find ways to be made more holy so that we should never lack for communion with our blessed Savior.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram