

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The third Benedictine vow is the vow of conversion of life. The monk or nun pledges to seek the complete conversion of their life in all things. Not one aspect of their life will be kept from the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

Awareness of this need in our own lives will be the beginning of a real vocation and purpose to our lives. What is your life here on earth for? It is to be converted completely and utterly by Christ into all that he has created you to be.

This conversion of life is something that takes place on the individual level, but it also takes place within our families and our parish. The idea of the religious community is that it is made up of individuals who all share the same great ideal--conversion of life. When a community of individuals share this same goal, the group becomes a powerhouse of change in the world.

When we pledge to seek complete conversion of life the Holy Spirit takes charge and we are filled with a divine energy. The fire of God's love burns in our hearts to purify us and empower us to do God's work in the world.

It is beautiful to see how the three Benedictine vows fit together harmoniously. Obedience and stability help conversion of life to be rooted and solid, while the vow to conversion of life brings fire, energy and enthusiasm to the work of following Christ.

Conversion of life takes place as we listen and obey and as we resist the temptation to flit from one thing to another. Then as our own lives are transformed by faith and walking with Christ that energy of change infects the lives of others, and soon the community is bringing that change to the whole world.

As we move towards the beginning of another liturgical year as Advent approaches, I encourage you to renew again your commitment to the Lord. Ask him to send new energy and love into your lives so that the renewal and transformation he promises will become a reality.

Your Pastor,
Fr. Longenecker