



THE BENEDICTINE PRIORY

1475 Pine Avenue West, Montreal, Quebec CANADA, H3G 1B3

August 20th 1987.

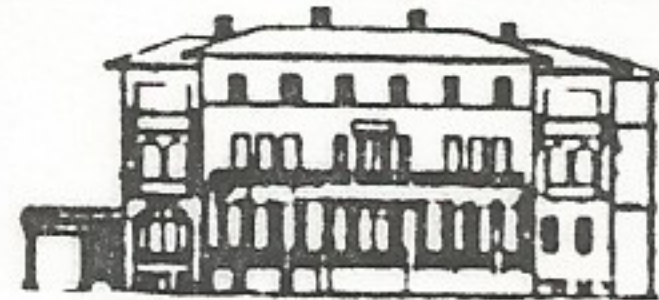
Fr. Charles Brandt  
Brandt Conservation Center  
2364 Catherwood Road  
R.R. 1, Site 22  
Black Creek, B.C.  
FOR 1CO

*Fr. Charles*

Thank you so much for your letter. It was very kind of you to write. I am delighted to hear of the meditation group meeting with you. I am going to be in Nanaimo for a retreat in February of next year and it would be a pleasure to be able to meet with you and your fellow meditators then.

The myth of the Fisher King which Fr. John refers to in Word into Silence does not specify what the redemptive question is. I suppose it will obviously be different for each person and recognizing what the redemptive question is, in one's life, whether it comes in the form of a challenge, a vocation, a person or a talent is itself part of the way we realise our redemption. For the Christian no doubt the redemptive question, in terms of our discipleship is that which Jesus poses to us. 'Who do you say I am?' In terms of our own journey of self-discovery without which we cannot discover Christ the question no doubt is 'Who am I?'

You have identified the principal difference between centering prayer and Christian meditation in the teaching on the mantra. Everything depends upon how you see the mantra. If you see the mantra merely as a technique to bring about a particular experience or state of mind, then it is something that can be dropped or taken up. But if that is the case is it not true that we remain the centre of our prayer, observing and analyzing what is happening and remaining at the control panel? The traditional teaching on the continuous saying of the mantra, which Cassian gives, points towards an understanding of the mantra as a discipline rather than as a technique, a way of learning to



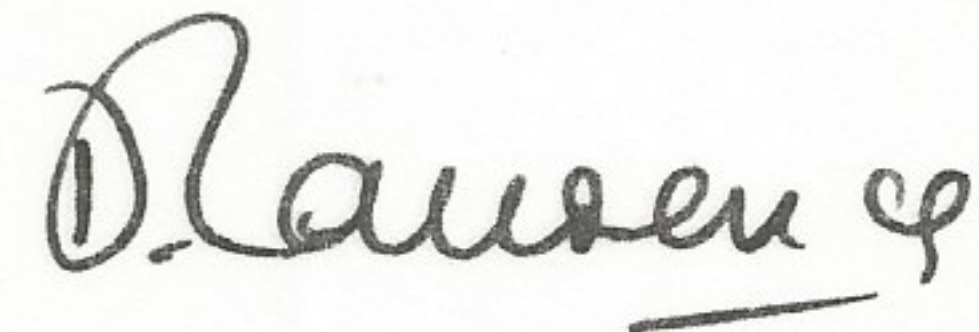
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to leave self-consciousness itself behind, a radical response to the radical call of the Gospel to leave self behind. Because we are so engrossed in our tendency to slip back into self-reflection, the continuous saying of the mantra is of prime importance.

Thank you again for writing and I am glad that our newsletters keep in touch with you. Please give my regards to your group and assure them of our friendship on the pilgrimage.

Yours very sincerely in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurence". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Laurence Freeman O.S.B.  
Prior