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Carthusian Prayer

Diploma thesis

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Abstract

The Diploma thesis entitled „Carthusian Prayer“ is trying to collect and arrange a body of information about the spiritual world of the Carthusian order. It aims at discovering the key characteristics of the life of prayer as seen by members of Carthusian order both in early and recent history of the Order and presented in their writings. First the thesis presents the wider context of carthusian prayer by showing the way of life of carthusian monks and what is specific to this particular monastic tradition, also trying to point at some possible sources of inspiration from older traditions. Then it proceeds to the matter of solitude and silence which are the formative elements that mould the carthusian prayer into the shape of simplicity and sobriety while retaining fine balance of community and solitary life, as well as that of great silence and living inner dialogue. The latter part of the thesis then attempts to show the inner dynamics of the prayer and the role of silence, liturgical and personal prayer and meditation of Scriptures for achieving unification with God, which is both the goal and the fruit of spiritual life. It also explains other fruits of prayer both for the praying monk himself and for other people. While it is not possible to talk about „carthusian spirituality,“ it seems that the riches of carthusian tradition are in the ability to remain concentrated according St. Pauls advice (1 Thessalonians 5:22) on what really matters and hold to that what serves their goal - unity with God.