

You Never Really Settled Down

In Memory of Thomas Merton

By Gerard Garrigan, OSB

But as we progress in this way of life and in faith, we shall run on the path of God's commandments, our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love.

Rule of St. Benedict

Although you vowed stability
 You never really settled down
 For you believed Man's life to be
 An earnest hast'ning t'ward the Truth
 Which takes the soul where Spirit leads
 To mystic lands but God does know.
 No, we shall never know the lands
 You traversed while enclosed so long
 Behind the cloister's thick tall walls
 And all the beauty that you met
 May we too prone to rest content
 Run eagerly while led along
 And find the stamina you found
 And never really settle down.

Gerard Garrigan, OSB is prior of Saint Louis Abbey, St. Louis, MO and author of a collection of prose and poetry entitled *The Sacred. The Profane. The Hodiarnont*. Two of his poems, "Thomas Merton, R.I.P." and "Auschwitz 1942: Three Trappists," appeared in the Summer 1995 issue of *The Merton Seasonal*; he has also published poems in *Review for Religious* and *Spirit and Life*.



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