

Thirteenth Talk

MY GOD, TAKE OVER MY WILL

Pass through my will (Thomas Merton)

Come, my Love, pass through my will / As through a window shine on my life / As on a meadow
I, like the grass to be consumed / By the rays of the sun on a late summer's morning

Come, my love all through the night / I lay longing eagerly to wait for love's union
Like dawn's flower awaits / For the wedding with the sun / Consummated in the light.

Your light, my Love, is stealing my heart / As a secret I'm left like a vanishing form / That leaves
no shadows

Exposed, naked, alone / Between the heavens and the earth / Lifted high on the Cross with the
Saviour.

Oh life-giving tomb prepared through the night / For dawn's dying / Like a moon, like the
mansions of heaven

Await the rebirth of a child / New Jerusalem / So come to my life, Light of heaven.

Come, my Love, pass through my will / As through a window / Shine on my life as on a meadow
I, like the grass to be washed By the rays of the sun / On the late summer's morning.

[Because of some technical fault, only a fragment of this talk was recorded, the rest of the disc
remaining blank. The above poem by Thomas Merton was on the handout supplied by Philip.

The recorded fragment is given hereunder - (Your Transcriber)]

At this stage of the Retreat, Jack Moysten would turn to the Brothers and say, "Once upon a time I was a great runner." This was true. Around 1960, before he decided to be a Brother, he would have been a contender for the Olympics. When we were doing the Retreat in Melbourne, the Brothers displayed an old newspaper cutting, "Ace schoolboy runner joins the Christian Brothers". Jack was delighted to see that he had not been forgotten. He speaks about a 200 yards race in which he competed in an inter-school competition. After 70 yards he slackened his pace, thinking that he could beat his rival by speeding up later. He did so at the 150 metre mark and barley lost the race.

After the race his coach asked him why he had slackened off at 70 yards and then accelerated at 150 yards. Jack replied that he had left the acceleration too late. If he had put on a spurt at the 130 mark, he would have won. Then the coach said to him, "Next time, do that in the race."

As we are approaching the end of the Retreat, I ask you not to slacken off. Draw on your stamina and do it in the race. Dermot Barrett used to say that it is of no use going to God two days later and saying to him, "My God, do you know what I was going through two days ago. I offer that up to you now." You must offer it up the moment you are going through it. That saying of Dermot's has sustained me at difficult moments of my life.

Today I am going to ask God to pass through my will. In other words I ask him to take over my will, which is a very difficult thing to ask of him. I mentioned to you in an earlier talk that the hardest struggle in my life is between God's will and mine. At some point in time years ago, you and I, Brothers, decided that we would give ourselves to God. During these days I hope that you will catch some of the fire that you once had - the enthusiasm, the zeal, the idealism that was there when you decided that you would do something worthwhile with your life - that you would give it to God. The mystery of the spiritual life is that the more each one of us is able to forget that it is his life, the more valuable it becomes in the sight of God and for his brothers and sisters... (End of CD)