

## MEDITATION 6



**F**OR THE MONK WORK IS PRAYER, READING is contemplation, following orders is listening to the word of God, community is a foretaste of heaven, time is at least 50 percent determined by ritual, and celibacy is a positive prerequisite for service in the world. Ordinary details of life are always imagined through a filter of sacredness.

The secularization of modern sensibility is so unconscious that it may seem odd to consider a similar sacralization for us all. Yet, without imagination for the sacred in everyday experience, we are destined for a life without soul. The two—soul and the sacred—go together. We don't have to become monks, but we can learn from their example how to bring the monastic spirit, as a color and a flavor, into modern life.