

POINT OF VIEW

AS one who is living in the world, and at the same time trying to work out a Contemplative scheme of things, I should like to thank *Solitarius* for his Point of View, which appeared in the April issue.

The sense of spiritual and intellectual isolation is a very real factor. I can appreciate this view, living at home, with parents—the one indifferent, the other antagonistic about matters of faith. Trying to run a fairly large household, unaided, it is by no means easy to combine the daily domestic routine with a definite time each day set apart for prayer, meditation and study. The interruptions are many and varied—unexpected callers, tradespeople and the telephone are but a few; while meals for a hungry family cannot just be left to chance at any time. Often one has to break off in the middle of some absorbing thought in meditation to take up other duties that require all one's attention at either the stove or the sink!

Trying to combine the two lives is indeed something of a problem. It isn't any wonder that one does sometimes feel 'hemmed in all round' and the chances of escape are remote. There must be many who, like myself, find themselves 'Marthas by circumstance, but Marys by preference'. Trying to play their full part in the daily domestic life, while at the same time carrying in their hearts and inner being the thoughts and aspirations of Mary. . . .

Daily I grow more convinced that trying to lead the life of a contemplative *in* the world today requires as great an amount of spiritual courage and discipline as is asked of those who belong to Religious or enclosed communities.

All life is a battleground for Christ—and amid the difficulties I welcome the idea expressed by *Solitarius* of making these difficulties 'your desert and your cell'.

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