



BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

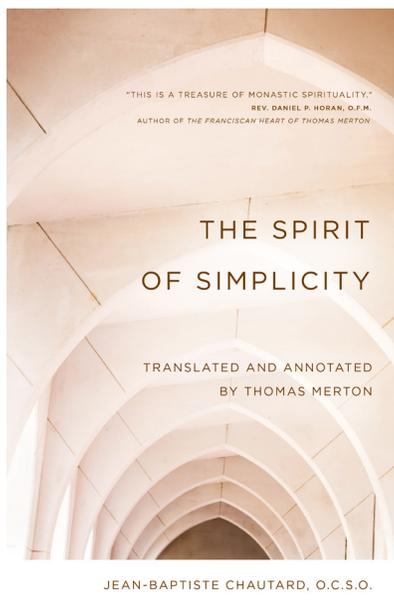
To schedule media interviews, or to request images or review copies, contact:

Stephanie A. Sibal, Publicist

800.282.1865 x206 | sibal.1@nd.edu

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The Spirit of Simplicity
By Jean-Baptiste Chautard,
O.C.S.O., and Thomas Merton

ISBN: 978-1-59471-781-9

160 pages • \$15.95

Also available as an eBook.

"This is a treasure of monastic spirituality that brings together the hearts, minds, and insights of two of the greatest Trappist authors of the modern era: Jean-Baptiste Chautard and Thomas Merton."

Rev. Daniel P. Horan, O.F.M.
Author of *The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton*

REDISCOVERED TEXT BY CHAUTARD AND MERTON EXPLORES CISTERCIAN SIMPLICITY

NOTRE DAME, Ind.—Every generation struggles with the question of simplicity. In the history of our faith, there have been no more eloquent voices calling us back to simplicity than the monks of the Cistercian Order, from Bernard of Clairvaux to Jean-Baptiste Chautard to Thomas Merton—all of whom contribute to this powerful book. Practically hidden for almost seventy years, this is Chautard's missing book. Thomas Merton acts as translator and coauthor; until now, readers have never known this work.

Chautard writes to his fellow Cistercians, but he might as well be speaking to twenty-first century Christians. He lays out the best disciplines that a monk—or anyone—might practice to find this elusive simplicity, with quotations from St. Benedict, St. Bernard, and other pillars of monastic life and spirituality. Merton surrounds Chautard's text with his own remarks on simplicity, translations of classic texts by St. Bernard of Clairvaux, and commentary that allows readers to pursue the themes of simplicity in their own lives. A dozen photographs of Cistercian architecture illustrate how principles of simplicity are incorporated into the monks' lives.

In the second part of the book, Merton opens up the teachings of St. Bernard, a great mystic and doctor of the Church, offering excerpts from St. Bernard's writings on the original simplicity in the Garden of Eden, the difficulty of intellectual simplicity, the simplicity of the will (obedience), and other kindred topics. Merton offers personal reflections from the perspective of one who had recently exchanged an active life in pursuit of worldly things for the solitude and simplicity of a monk.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

One of the leading Catholic figures at the turn of the twentieth century, **Jean-Baptiste Chautard, O.C.S.O.** (1858–1935), was a French Trappist abbot and religious writer. He is best known for his book *The Soul of the Apostolate*.

Thomas Merton (1915–1968) is widely acclaimed as one of the most influential spiritual masters of the twentieth century. He wrote more than seventy books, including his best-selling autobiography, *The Seven Storey Mountain*.

