



**CELIBATE GRIEF by Father Dominic Lenk**

To grieve suggests that I mourn a loss;  
a loss from the depths of my heart.  
Yet, for me there is no loss to grieve,  
but a gain that will never be.

Never will I give myself to one other  
who will love me in return.  
Never to share my entire self and  
become one with someone else.

Never will new life spring forth  
from a seed that will not be planted.  
Never will I see mine own eyes look out  
from the face of a bright new morrow.

So, you see, I grieve for experiences  
that will never be part of my being.  
I grieve a pain that is for a love  
that will never enter my heart.

**CELIBATE HOPE by Father Dominic Lenk**

To hope suggests that I seek a gain;  
a gain for the love that flows from my heart.  
Yet, this gain leads me to give myself  
so that this love will be shared by all.

Always will I give myself to others  
whose presence will bring me closer to God.  
Always to share my entire self,  
becoming Christ for those I serve.

Always will new life spring forth  
from the seeds that I will plant.  
Always will I see Christ's love shine out  
on the horizon of the bright new morrow

So, you see, I hope for experiences  
that will become part of my inmost being.  
I hope for a gain that comes from a love  
that will spring from the depths of my heart.



SAINT LOUIS ABBEY

