

# 02 Commentary

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Commentary

VII. The Obedience Due to

Prelates and Their Office 1. Obey your superior as a father,[29] with all due reverence, lest in his person God be offended, and especially that priest who is responsible for all of you. 2. It shall be the principal duty of the superior to see that all these precepts are observed. And if any of them are poorly observed, he may not carelessly overlook them, but he must correct and reprove, referring anything extraordinary or beyond his powers to the priest who has the greater authority among you. 3. Let your superior not deem

himself happy in using his authority, but in serving you with love.[30] In honor before you let him take the first place, but in fear before God, let him prefer the last place.[31] Let him be for all an example of good works.[32] Let him restrain the restless, comfort the discouraged, support the weak, with patience towards all.[33] Let him willingly embrace regular discipline while imposing a religious fear. And although both are necessary, let him seek to be loved by you more than feared, always remembering that he must account for you to God.[34]

FOOTNOTE AREA: [1] The text of the Rule is taken from the original edition edited by L. Verheijen, *La Regle de Saint Augustin, I, Tradition manuscrite*, Paris, 1967, 417-437. To this critical edition have been added scriptural references taken from A. Sage, *La regle de Saint Augustin* Paris, 1969. For the sake of the reader, titles have been given to various divisions of the Rule taken from the critical edition. The sentence "Ante omnia . . ." has been placed before the text of the Rule. The sentence constituted the opening line of the *Ordo Monasterii* but is not thought to belong to the critical edition of the Rule of St. Augustine. Since the *Ordo Monasterii* and its opening line do not lack importance in the history of our Order 9cf. Among other references, *Vita A*, ch. 12; *Vita B*, ch. 24; *Analecta Praemonstratensa*, vol. XXXIV, 1958, 5-12), the General Chapter of 1970 decided to retain this sentence. The text of this introductory line is given in the critical edition of the *Ordo Monasterii* edited by the same L. Verheijen, op. Cit., p.148. --- <<BACK>> [2] Ps. 67, 7 --- <<BACK>> [3] Acts 4, 32 --- <<BACK>> [4] I Tim. 6, 8 --- <<BACK>> [5] Acts 4, 32-35 --- <<BACK>> [6] Col. 3, 1-2 --- <<BACK>> [7] Gal. 2, 2 --- <<BACK>> [8] Ps. 111, 9; Lk. 18, 22; I Cor. 13, 3 --- <<BACK>> [9] Rom. 15, 6 --- <<BACK>> [10] II Cor. 6, 16 --- <<BACK>> [11] Col. 4, 2 --- <<BACK>> [12] Amos 8, 11 --- <<BACK>> [13] Mt. 5, 28 --- <<BACK>> [14] Prov. 24, 12 --- <<BACK>> [15] Prov. 24, 18 --- <<BACK>> [16] Prov. 27, 20 --- <<BACK>> [17] II Cor. 6, 16 --- <<BACK>> [18] Mt. 18, 15-17 --- <<BACK>> [19] I Tim. 5, 20 --- <<BACK>> [20] Acts 4, 35 --- <<BACK>> [21] Tit. 2, 3 --- <<BACK>> [22] I Cor. 13, 5 --- <<BACK>> [23] I Cor. 12, 31; 13, 13 --- <<BACK>> [24] Acts 4, 35 --- <<BACK>> [25] Mt. 7, 3-5 --- <<BACK>> [26] I Jo. 3, 5 --- <<BACK>> [27] Mt. 6, 12 --- <<BACK>> [28] Mt. 12, 35 --- <<BACK>> [29] Heb. 13, 17 --- <<BACK>> [30] Lk. 22, 25-16; Gal. 5, 13 --- <<BACK>> [31] Eccles. 3, 20 --- <<BACK>> [32] Tit. 2, 7 --- <<BACK>> [33] I Thess. 5, 14 --- <<BACK>> [34] Heb. 13, 17 --- <<BACK>> [35] Eccles. 44, 6; II Cor. 2, 15 --- <<BACK>> [36] Eccles. 44, 6; II Cor. 2, 15 --- <<BACK>> [37] I Pet. 3, 16 --- <<BACK>> [38] Rom. 6, 14-22 --- <<BACK>> [39] James 1, 23-25 --- <<BACK>> [40] Mt. 6, 12-13 --- <<BACK>>

I. Fraternal Unity in God