

Though today's class is to focus on the section of the 9th chapter of Augustine's Roberts' book that I have shared with you, I thought to give a few introductory comments for its context. In the 2nd paragraph on p. 290 he gets into what our monastic profession expresses and its evangelical basis so let's read this paragraph. As the last words indicate, our commitment is more on the level of being than of behavior though of course, our behavior is to express our being.

One of the things we must never forget as monks, is that this call to inner transformation is the call of every Christian and we should never begin to think of ourselves as better than anyone else because of our call. God alone knows what a person goes through to be faithful to his or her calling and in the end, this is all that matters so we must be careful never to judge. This calling of every Christian is pointed out in the last paragraph on p. 293 so let's read it.

Roberts then gets into the meaning of ***Conversatio*** and I think this is nicely summarized on p. 295 in the 3rd paragraph in what he calls the third feature so let us read it.

Let us then move into part 2 of this chapter that he calls **A LIFE OF LOVE**. Before getting into the section that I think a wonderful summary of the whole of the book, let's read the quote from ***Vita Consecrata*** on p. 300 that prepares us for the section we will spend most of our time sharing together. As took place in Christ's own life, so all of our lives are to be consecrated to God.

Let us now get into **Experiencing Jesus** and why this is so important for each and all of our lives. Let me ask each of you to share the paragraph or paragraphs this section inspired you to write. So would one of you take the lead? I will share my own at the end. I also hope that you are willing to give me a copy of your paragraph(s) so that I can put these together, make copies and give them to each of you to ponder.

If time allows, let us also read the 1st paragraph on p. 309 about the double movement "that requires both generosity and flexibility." For me this is a great description of Synodality that many think to be the future of our Catholic

Church. Finally let us read the last two paragraphs on p. 315 that I think a good way of concluding our work together on this book of Fr Augustine Roberts.