

## Points to Ponder

Brother Roger Schutz founded an ecumenical monastery at Taize in the Burgundy Region of France in the 1940's. Pope St. John XXIII gave permission for Catholics to join the community. Brother Roger was Prior of the community from its founding until his death in 2005. The current Prior is Brother Alois, a Catholic. Brother Roger referred to the community as a parable of ecumenism. Most of us are probably familiar with the chants from Taize. These reflections are from Peace of Heart in All Things by Brother Roger of Taize.

### Sunday

On the evening of his resurrection, Jesus came up to two of his disciples who were going to the village of Emmaus. But they did not realize that the Risen Christ was walking alongside them. There are times in our life when we lose the awareness that, through the Holy Spirit, the Risen Christ is with us. Whether recognized or not, he is present, even when nothing seems to suggest it.

### Monday

When we are assailed by feelings of inferiority, we may be surprised to come to this realization: The road to fulfillment lies not in prestigious gifts or great abilities, but in living love.

### Tuesday

When tirelessly the Church listens, heals, and reconciles, it becomes what it is at its most luminous—a communion of love, of compassion, of consolation, a limpid reflection of the Risen Christ. Never distant, never on the defensive, freed from all forms of severity, the Church can let the humble trusting of faith shine right into our human hearts.

### Wednesday

In the second century, Irenaeus, A Christian of the third generation, had the clear certainty of a communion in Christ. He left us these lines: "The splendor of God is a human being fully alive. The life of a human being is the contemplation of God."

### Thursday

Peace begins within us. As early as in the fourth century, Saint Ambrose of Milan wrote, "Begin the work of peace within yourself so that, once you are at peace yourself, you can bring peace to others."

### Friday

Your aspiration is to follow Christ. By what sign can you recognize that you have encountered him? When, as you search for him in prayer, your inner struggles do not harden you but lead you to the very wellsprings of his love. And a way forward takes shape: it always leads from worries towards trusting in God.

### Saturday

At the same period as Pope John XXIII, in Constantinople there was a man of the same prophetic vein, the Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras. During a visit to him, what raised our hopes was the awareness that that 86-year-old man---with so few means at his disposal and enmeshed in a complex political situation---could have an enormous impact both close at hand and far away. He had the greatness of the truly generous. He had not been spared trials. In spite of everything, he remained hopeful, "When I enter my bedroom in the evening," he told us, "I leave my worries at the door and I say: We'll see tomorrow!"

