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~ The Prayer for our Benefactors ~



At the beginning of this new year it becomes our pleasant task to express once more the feelings of gratitude we entertain toward our dear benefactors: "*Bis repetita placent.*"

Gratitude is indeed, an obligation imposed upon us not only as regards those with whom we have become acquainted; we entertain the same sentiments also for the strangers who have assisted us, those generous souls whose names God alone knows and preserves.

It is by prayer that we undertake to pay our debt, for prayer is the one great treasure at our disposal — it is the only riches that those who aid the apostle may demand in return for their alms. "Father," they say, "pray for us, and have others pray for us."

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Hour has succeeded hour, night has come, and after the evening prayer the reign of silence begins. Until the morrow, after meditation, nothing disturbs this silence; and should any exigency arrive requiring a few words, they are spoken in hushed tones that no alien sound may trouble the religious atmosphere of peace and recollection which marks the cloister.

It is at this evening hour, preceding the period of si-