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FOREWORD

THIS new large-type Prayer Book has been edited in strict accordance with the mind of the Church which considers the Liturgy as the “summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed, and at the same time the fountain from which all her power flows.”

However, the Church also declares that “the spiritual life is not limited solely to participation in the Liturgy. The Christian is indeed called to pray with his brethren, but he must also enter into his chamber to pray to the Father in secret. . . . Popular devotions of the Christian people are to be highly commended, provided they accord with the laws and norms of the Church. . . .

“But these devotions should be so drawn up that they harmonize with the liturgical seasons, accord with the sacred Liturgy, are in some fashion derived from it, and lead the people to it, since, in fact, the Liturgy by its very nature far sur-

passes any of them" (Vatican II: *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, nos. 10, 12-13).

The present book has been inspired by these considerations and this spirit. It is based on the Liturgy with the Eucharist as its center since "in the divine Sacrifice of the Eucharist the entire work of our redemption is exercised" (Ibid., no. 2).

This book will help in disposing us to receive the Sacraments and to be united with God in the various circumstances of daily life, in times of trial and sorrow, and in the celebrations of the mysteries of salvation during the Liturgical Year.

Finally, it provides private devotions in honor of the Blessed Mother and the Saints which are intended to lead us to God, the Source of holiness and Giver of every good gift.

Rev. Maurus Fitzgerald, O.F.M.

Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel

MOST glorious Virgin, you were chosen by the eternal Counsel to be the Mother of the eternal Word made flesh. You are the treasurer of divine graces and the advocate of sinners. I who am your most unworthy servant have recourse to you. Graciously be my guide and counselor in this valley of tears.

Obtain for me, through the Precious Blood of your divine Son, the forgiveness of my sins, the salvation of my soul, and the means necessary to obtain it. In like manner, obtain for holy Church victory over her enemies and the spread of Jesus' kingdom over the whole earth.