

In the struggle to become an authentic human being, an authentic person, one must face all those things that keep him chained to loneliness, frustration and fear. In a word, we must cease being individuals and become persons, persons in the likeness of Christ. Those passions which keep our eye on the ego, such as fear, desire and anger, must be looked at from the eye of the heart, as belonging to the old man who does not know what relationship is all about. We are all called to relationship, and that is what we do at our monastery. We realize that our existence as persons has no meaning without ego-free relationships. We cannot love God as He deserves to be loved with concepts and ideas floating around in our head. And as long as our brother is seen as someone separate from us, we cannot love as Christ loved. The test of authentic relationship comes from the peace, joy and calmness that one experiences in his life.
This is what we strive for at our monastery.
Monk Silouan