

DEDICATED  
to  
THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE  
AMERICAN MARITAIN ASSOCIATION  
*especially:*  
DONALD GALLAGHER, RALPH NELSON, AND RALPH MCINERNY,  
*and to*  
ALL YOUNG PILGRIMS OF THE ABSOLUTE

“The task which the new age we are entering expects of Christians is so difficult that they can not possibly accomplish it unless there are multiplied, in the very heart of and throughout the world, constellations of spiritual energy composed of humble stars invisibly shining, each a contemplative soul given over to the life of prayer.... Without contemplative love and infused prayer, and the participation of souls given over to them in the redeeming Cross, and without the invisible support which they bring to the work of all in the mystical body, and to that strange traffic which Providence carries on here below, the task demanded of the Christian, of all Christians, would be too heavy, and the great hope which is rising would be in vain. This hope will not be in vain, for the humble stars I am speaking of have begun secretly to glimmer; there are many more of them than one realizes strewn across the world.”

—Jacques Maritain,  
*The Peasant of the Garonne*