Christ the King Abbey

Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel Montgomery, Alabama 10:45 A.M. Only on first Sunday of each month (Traditional Benedictines)
(St Francis of Assisi Chapel)
Cullman, Alabama
Every Sunday
6:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M.
6:00 A.M. Daily
Holy Days:
6:00 A.M.; 8:00 A.M.; 7:00 P.M.

St Pius V Chapel Birmingham, Alabama 9:30 A.M. Every Sunday except first Sunday of each month

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Formerly Sunday within the Octave of the Sacred Heart) June 5, 2005 – Green Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Trinity; Comm. St. Boniface

BE THOU WITH ME

The Friday just past (June 3, 2005), was the wonderful Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. All the remembrances of Our Blessed Lord that are known to us, from the moment of His incomprehensible Conception to His most glorious Ascension, and everything from then to the present moment, are all brought together in this one single Feast. This Feast harvests every fruit of the Tree of Christ's Love and makes the gathering of the fruit one great festival of Divine Love. Of all the days of the year, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is the day that brings the lover together with his Beloved – a union that is wonderful beyond understanding. However, this union exists only for those who seek after it and pursue it. Where it does exist, the Lord responds with all the warmth of His Divine Love.

It is a tragedy that the majority of God's Children do not express true love for their God. As a consequence it is an even greater tragedy that so few ever experience the fullness of the warmth of His Divine Love. Many are devoted to the Sacred Heart, but their love is self-serving. The love of such souls is given for their own interests and security – they want personal salvation without working on personal sanctification. The love that is looked for by our Blessed Lord is a love freely given to Him for His pleasure alone, not merely for purposes beneficial to the giver.

Our age is an age of nearly complete darkness, and men stumble around in this darkness as do the blind. Because of the continued darkness, their eyesight dims and eventually disappears altogether. They have become truly blind. In the nightmare of it all, such men blunder about seeking the light, but they fail to find the light because all is darkness for them. How does one describe color to a blind man? How can light be described to a blind man? How can the warmth of the love of God be explained to one who has never come into contact with It? How can one speak of life to one who is dead? Words concerning life can only be understood by the living, not by the dead. No amount of discussion, no amount of proving, no amount of debating, no amount of arguing can bring understanding to such a soul!

Spiritual deformity, indeed, spiritual death, can be found in a great number of families today. It can be found in families of every rank and file. It can be found in families of high religious standards following many religious devotions and observances. It can even be found, tragedy of tragedies, in Houses of Religion where souls dedicated to a religious life live! Broken hearted parents of children, as well as broken hearted children of parents are to be found everywhere. And let us be warned – let us not dare judge anybody in this matter. Loss of faith today is quite fashionable, not only in the so called "new" church, but even in many of our centers of Traditional Roman Catholicism, especially in those centers where bickering and backbiting are the call to action. Once a soul loses the Faith, it becomes almost impossible to bring it back to the Faith. Such souls become unbending, inflexible, obstinate, and disinterested in anything that does not pertain to their selfish, materialistic, and faithless point of view. Families are broken up and divided, and alienation between family members introduces hate!

Concerned people cry out: WHAT ARE WE TO DO? TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? And the darkness becomes ever more deep!

PRAYER, PENANCE, MORTIFICATION! Only God can deal with a perverted and obstinate person! No one has ever worked harder for the conversion of the sinner and the unbeliever than has Our Blessed Lord. No one has more interest in the conversion of the sinner than does Our Blessed Lord (and, of course, Our Blessed Mother). No one has ever offered such a safe sanctuary for the disconsolate sinner and unbeliever than has Our Beloved Lord. He offers us the safety of the Sanctuary of His Most Sacred Heart – and with our good will demonstrated, it is just for the asking!

Soon we will begin a series of "Thoughts" in our Weekly Bulletins which will pertain to the formation of proper dispositions for those of us who have been given the most fortunate grace to BELIEVE, to HOPE, to LOVE, and to ADORE the One True God. The presentations will point out ways that lead to a life of closer union with God. Many of us believe that so long as we have the Holy Mass and the Sacraments all is well. — **NOT SO!** (continued on back)

Weekly Bulletin #886

In other religions is it not taught that so long as one has faith, all is well? Is it not the truth, however, that faith without good works is dead? Might it not also be said that the Mass and the Sacraments are dead without good works? The Mass and the Sacraments are not automatic passports to heaven. What then are the good works that we hereof speak? Are they not: PRAYER - PENANCE - MORTIFICATION - CONVERSIO (THE CONVERSION OF THE INTERIOR LIFE OF THE SOUL)? External change and adjustments are most often only cosmetic and therefore are of no value. Beloved souls, if an interior conversion does not in fact take place, it ill behooves us to walk about selfsatisfied that all is well with our religious observance – even though it be outwardly the most accurately perfect and correct observance of Traditional Roman Catholicism! There has to be a turning within – not partly – but **completely**. Catholic life does not consist in the mere observance of well regulated exterior performances. God is not interested in prayerful men (the Pharisee)! He is interested in men of prayer (the Publican)! Externalisms such as outward displays of piety, penitential observances, works of social charity, extended periods of prayer, and all such like are oftentimes insidious dangers and are fully capable of defiling the basic purpose that should motivate all religious practices. Our holy Religion in all of its fullness does not lie in exterior observances. Neither is our holy Religion a set of rules! If our devotion remains exterior, governed by rules and regimentation and force of habit, it will soon come to an end. Properly understood, it is the holy interior workings of the soul which will raise us to what is essential to salvation and which is Charity. Only then will God bend His ear to our pleadings!

- 1. There will be **NO** Catechism class this morning.
- 2. <u>Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel in Montgomery:</u> Today after Mass we will have our annual spring pot-luck picnic. Everyone is invited to remain and enjoy the chance to visit with one another, even if you didn't bring a dish there is always plenty of food for everyone!
- 3. Saturday, June 11, 2005, is the Feast of Saint Barnabas the Apostle.
- 4. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels. LET US ALSO PRAY FOR EVERYONE. Let us pray for ALL the priests and religious men and women of the world. NO MAN, WOMAN, OR CHILD SHOULD BE LEFT OUT OF OUR PRAYER. God made all men to be with Him in heaven for all eternity, and this includes every human being on earth, regardless of station or condition or place. While Our Blessed Lord was hanging on the Cross He did not look around and pick and choose those for whom He was dying. He did not exclude a single member of the Human Race even His enemies from the wounded Love that came forth from Him during those momentous moments. Weak human nature and erroneous persuasions will prevent some from achieving the purpose intended for them by God, but that matter remains entirely between all such and God. Our only duty is to pray for **souls**. We make **no** judgments concerning such matters. If there is any sifting to be done, it is to be done by God, Himself <u>alone</u>. We are **NOT** the ones to do the sifting.
- 5. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)

SUNDAY: For the People of our Chapels MONDAY: Deceased Eleanor Wendorf TUESDAY: Deceased Father Terry Marks

WEDNESDAY: Deceased Lois Nichols THURSDAY: Deceased Thomas Satori

FRIDAY: Special intention Lauren Lehmann SATURDAY: Special intention Gail Gergel

In the Gospel Jesus calls all His followers to sanctity and He gives them an example of what sanctity is. He said: "Learn of Me!" From the moment of His birth, the life of Christ was an example – an example for us all to follow. Therefore there can of necessity be only one single sanctity for all – the sanctity demonstrated to us by Our Blessed Savior. Furthermore, sanctity must be attainable by all – it must be within reach of EVERYMAN. There are multitudes of ways which lead to sanctity, as there are multitudes of conditions of ways that people have to live or have chosen to live. Also, there are many ways of living that God has designed for mankind: there are people in religious life and there are people not in religious life – all of whom must earn their food by the sweat of their brow, in one way or another.

Sanctity consists essentially in love, for that is what unites our souls to the Fountain of all sanctity, Jesus Christ. While Christ does not require the same sacrifices in the same measure from all, He does desire to be loved by all. Not only that, but He expects to be loved totally – with all of one's heart, with all of one's mind, with all of one's soul, and with all of one's strength. To the extent that one loves, to that extent can one think sanctity. This sounds frightening, but in reality it should not be. Christ is not here demanding that everyone must live the religious life in monasteries and convents. Christ knows quite well that each one must live life as life has constructed itself around that person. Christ is speaking of the motive that should give energy to all that men do. With right motivating purpose the life of

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