

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)

(St Francis of Assisi Chapel)

Cullman, Alabama

Every Sunday:

6:00 AM and 10:00 AM

6:00 AM Daily

Holy Days of Obligation:

6:00 AM - 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel

Montgomery, Alabama

10:45 AM

Only on first Sunday
of each month

St Pius V Chapel

Birmingham, Alabama

9:30 AM

Every Sunday except
first Sunday of each month

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin #898

August 28, 2005 – Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Trinity; Comm. St. Augustine and St. Hermes

Jesus, Mary, I Love You! Save Souls!

For those who want to believe, no argument is necessary.

For those who do not want to believe, no argument is possible.

(Part 4)

It is now, before death steals upon us and puts an end to our ability to love God with merit, that we must endeavor to satisfy the mysterious thirst God has for our love. From time to time Our Lord has appeared to certain of His chosen souls and in His own words has expressed to them a most tender appeal for love:

“I prefer an act of love and a Communion of love to any other gift.”

“I thirst for love.”

“If people would only love Me, what felicity would reign in this unhappy world!”

In this situation we come face to face with an indescribably wondrous spectacle of a God (our God), of a Creator (our Creator), Who is infinitely happy in Himself, but Who nevertheless thirsts and keeps asking insistently for the love of His creatures. The more we turn toward the God of our love and adoration – the only God of our love and adoration – the more we see His mystery. The more we turn to Him, the more we witness His indescribable love for us, His creatures, and the incomprehensible way He has of dealing with us, His creatures. The human mind is totally incapable of absorbing the mystery of God. For the human mind to try to absorb God would be very much like trying to stuff the entire ocean into a thimble. Even more, in His incomprehensible goodness and condescension, our Creator turns beggar and actually begs love from us. What we, His poor, sinful, and totally unworthy creatures, owe God in strictest justice, He begs of us as a favor, saying: “Son, give Me your heart!” He even promises great rewards for the least of our troubles and pains in loving Him. It is as if our love is vital to His eternal happiness. Is this not something that staggers our minds?

So engrossed are we in the “importance” of our performances, of our achievements, and of the accumulation of the “securities” offered to us in the here and now, that we shun serious consideration of that which comes after death and makes useless all the fabulous sand castles we worked so hard to build. Robust and comfortably sheltered by the “certainties” that surround us here and now, we cast distracted and disinterested glances at what we classify as uncertainties beyond the here and now. To be forced into conversation about the mystery of our existence is an annoyance to quite a few people, and they continue to allow external complexities to rob them of any and all interior peace.

Nevertheless, God continues to beg, and He is constant in His endeavors to attract us by assuring us that He Himself will personally be our greatest reward. He goes even further in His reassurances, but we fail to understand, giving scant importance to it, thinking it to be mere fantasy. Always loving stiff-necked and sinful mankind, God hastens to explain and amplify His Own statement by adding that no eye has ever seen, nor any human heart or mind can ever guess (or even vaguely imagine) the wonderful, the astonishing things He has in store for all those who love Him!

It is not an easy thing to discuss the workings of the interior life to one who accepts as normal the hustle and bustle, the external complexities, of the streets of the market place. It is not easy to speak of the love of God to those who are at the beck and call of the demands placed upon them by the elements of the world, a world always hawking love of self, love of pleasure, love of “the good life”! Man and woman, husband and wife, father and mother, parent and child, must stand ready to give battle to the call of the world. Nobody is free of the world’s seductions, not even monks and nuns safely surrounded by the walls of their monasteries. The quiet whisperings of God telling us that nothing must be placed before the love we must have for Him, are more often than not drowned out by the loud noises of the street, which are constantly telling us that nothing must be placed before the love of self.

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God does not exist in noise. It has been said of monks and nuns, but it must also be said of the rest of mankind, that the ears of Everyman must not be attuned to the echoes of the thunders that storm the City of Babylon. Rather the ears of Everyman must be attuned to the silence of the faraway mountains. SILENCE! In our present state, what is our attitude towards silence? Many people are afraid of silence. What is the noise level in our houses, with piped-in music throughout and TV's going night and day? As for activity, are we not living in a whirlwind of activity, busy, busy, busy, always coming and going? We are on the go all the time, and many of us need the help of personal calendars to keep up with it all. To work and pray and play quietly in the silence of one's own home is indeed a rare occasion.

Once again, we point out that we are not trying to turn the homes of lay people into mini monasteries or convents. If we are really sincere and anxious about seeking after peace and pursuing it, then we must truly place nothing before God, Who alone can bring true peace to us. Our homes should not be all cluttered up with the gadgets and trinkets that the marketplace presents as necessities for us to own. Uncluttered, quiet, and filled with peaceful love, our homes would soon become far more interesting places to us than all the attractive vacation spots of the world.

It must also be understood that what is here described is for family living by good Catholic families. We are not addressing ourselves to that rather limited number of souls who are favored with a particular vocation to great love. What is here described, even if no more than partially observed, will prove to be a great aid in maintaining the vigor of Catholic family life and will go far in making good family living re-flourish in a world gone completely mad. What we here describe, we hope, will lead souls to the way of life designed by our Heavenly Father for His children. We must re-institute Christian mortification. Would it be out of place here to stop for a moment and check the level of Christian mortification found in our own lives and in our own homes? How mortified are we in our tastes and desires? Or have we allowed our tastes and desires to get completely out of control?

Our Blessed Lord desires the spiritual renovation of the world, and He tells us that it can only come about through a more vigorous renewal of the supernatural life in our souls. All of the other much talked about and silly "renewal programs", which a watered-down religious observance presents to us and which amount to absolutely nothing religious or supernatural, should be spurned and rejected. A proper understanding of the supernatural life by each member of the family will act as a Divine leaven which will cause an eventual ferment in God's world.

The logical outcome, therefore, of genuine spiritual activity in our homes will be of great help to us when our hour of accountability comes to us, and we will go home to our Father, and to Jesus and Mary, loaded with merits that will make us inexpressibly happy for all eternity.

We must be willing to allow the beauty, the harmony, the orderliness of Heaven to enter into our living conditions, rather than permit the screaming disorder, the confusion, the cloud of blackness which are the living conditions of Hell. The patient example and determined effort of loving Catholic parents are most important for the welfare of their children. Our Catholic, well-ordered lives must be made so attractive to our children that they will be able to satisfy all their expectations in the home rather than flying at great speed down the road that will lead them to you know where!

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1. There will be NO Catechism class this morning.
 2. Monday, August 29, 2005, is the Commemoration of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist.
 3. Thursday, September 1, 2005, is the first Thursday of September, with Holy Hour and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Abbey Church from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM and from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM.
 4. Friday, September 2, 2005, is the First Friday of September, with Masses in the Abbey Church at 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM, and all-day Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM.
 5. Saturday, September 3, 2005, is the First Saturday of September, with Masses in the Abbey Church at 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM.
 6. Next Sunday, September 4, 2005, is the first Sunday of the Month. Therefore, there will be **NO** Mass at Saint Pius V Chapel in Birmingham next Sunday.
 7. There will be NO Catechism class next Sunday.
 8. Next Monday, September 5, 2005, is Labor Day. May everyone have a very safe and happy holiday. Let us all pray to Saint Joseph the Worker, asking him for the graces necessary to follow in the footsteps of his Son.
 9. Vespers and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Abbey Church at 5:00 PM today.
 10. ***PLEASE, everyone, turn OFF all cell phones and all wristwatch alarms before entering Christ the King Abbey Church or any of our Chapels. Thank you!***
 11. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels. LET US ALSO PRAY FOR EVERYONE.
 12. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)

SUNDAY:	For the People of our Chapels
MONDAY:	Deceased Edith Merritt
TUESDAY:	Special intention Colette Sherman
WEDNESDAY:	Deceased Sarah Strickfaden
THURSDAY:	Deceased Victor Tancreti
FRIDAY:	For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
SATURDAY:	Special intention Paul Roy Family