

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)

(St Francis of Assisi Chapel)

www.christthekingabbey.org

Cullman, Alabama

Every Sunday: 6:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Daily: 6:00 AM

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

FEAST OF SAINT MAURUS, BENEDICTINE ABBOT

Weekly Bulletin #918

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 15, 2006 – White

Mass of Feast; Gl; Cr; Pref. Saint Benedict; Comm. Sunday

THE FORCE OF EXAMPLE

Character is not imposed. Character is generated. Character is never forced nor imposed upon a child or student or spouse by the parent or teacher or spouse or disciplinarian. Character is never imposed on anybody. Character is generated, and it is generated by example – good and proper and prudent and consistent and honest example – not by the force of words or strict discipline. Words, sometimes firm words, sometimes simple admonitions, are very important to be sure, but the effectiveness of meaningful and good example is by far more powerful and long lasting. The old adage: “Actions speak louder than words,” is certainly true.

Everything said above about character can, but with much greater emphasis, be said about holiness of life. Holiness is not imposed. Holiness cannot be imposed or forced on anybody. Holiness is generated. The force of argument, authoritative directives, threats of hell, polemical words, all these rarely, if ever, bring one to a single degree of lasting holiness of life. Forceful words hardly ever convince. They subdue! They conquer! They do not convince or motivate! More often than not, one submits simply for the sake of peace. Just as subjection does absolutely nothing for any deep rooting of character, neither does subjection do the slightest good for the deep rooting of holiness or sanctity in the soul of anyone. A child (or anyone else) can be trained to be devout, but that does not at all mean that true devotion has been developed in the heart. Subjection does away with all freedom of action. Subjection can easily bring about a permanent deformation of mind and soul in those thus subjected. As a consequence, the one subjected to the unpleasant force of strong and unreasonable religious supervision will always be on the lookout for any opportunity to break away – to “escape”. When the opportunity presents itself – AND IT WILL – the swirling winds of freedom will whirl one around and around and intoxicating excitement and exhilaration will quickly take over with devastating results. Very quickly do the subjection and the discipline of earlier days blow away with the wind. Newfound companions – freedom riding companions – make their dramatic appearance, and soon they will all together go merrily down the road of no return.

When it comes to holiness of life, nothing can or will take the place of quiet, humble, consistent and honest good example which is intermingled with gentle and prudent admonition. A good word given together with good example, consistent good example, sincere and honest good example, cannot but influence the child or the student or the monk or the nun or the husband or the wife. Once the impression of an example – good or bad – has been observed it is then cut into the granite of one’s subconscious recollection and it will never again be totally forgotten. The impression will last throughout one’s entire life. If a break with good and proper religious behavior does ever take place, which God forbid, it can only be hoped that the force and strength of the earlier good formative impressions will always keep some ray of light shining in the shadow of darkness. Whatever action, for good or for bad, that one sees done by another will unfailingly make an impression on somebody. There is always somebody looking and listening, and because of that we place great importance on example.

More than strong words or eloquent dissertations or strict discipline, good example has brought help to souls we know not of, it has had a good effect upon countless numbers of souls, and it has opened the gates of heaven to no telling how many souls who had been racing toward the fiery furnaces of hell.

A final word to just anybody. Self determined and imprudent religious devotions and usages as well as misguided acts of penance and uncontrolled mortification, are, in most cases, harmful and unproductive of the good that is hoped for. The advice of the priest is very necessary. Self determined practices are not nearly so fruitful and efficacious as the unexpected and unplanned acts of patiently born penance and contradictions and suffering which God allows to be imposed upon us by His loving will. Prudence is always the mother of virtue.

1. There WILL be Catechism class after the 10:00 AM Mass this morning.
2. There WILL be the usual Sunday Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:00 PM this afternoon.
3. Friday, January 20, 2006, is the Feast of Saints Fabian and Sebastian, and is the Name day of our Father Sebastian, OSB. Please keep Father Sebastian in you special prayers on this day.
4. **N.B.:** **On Sunday, January 29, 2006, Sister Mary Bernadette, OSB, will make her Simple Triennial Vows: THERE WILL BE NO MASS AT SAINT PIUS V CHAPEL IN BIRMINGHAM ON JANUARY 29, 2006.**
5. *Our Sunday Bulletins are now available on our Website each week, usually by late Saturday evening. Simply click on the "Scriptorium" button, then click on "Our Sunday Bulletins," then on the Bulletin of your choice.*
6. **N.B.:** Anyone wishing to have candles blessed on Candlemas Day (Thursday, February 2, 2006), should bring them in nicely decorated containers, WITH PROPER IDENTIFICATION, and place them in the vestibule of the Abbey Church **no later than Sunday, January 29, 2006.**
7. **The 2005 year-end statements are being mailed out. If you have not received one by the end of this week and wish to receive one, or if you find any errors or have any questions, please contact Father Sebastian, OSB.**
8. From time to time people ask: "Are the Divine Praises part of the Leonine prayers after Mass"? The answer to that is that they are **not** part of the Leonine prayers. We of Christ the King Abbey have added them on as a special prayer for vocations. All of us must pray for good, preserving vocations, both for us and for our Convent.
9. 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 alone. We are **NOT** the ones to do the sifting.
10. **Your very special prayers are asked for the health and welfare of two staunch Traditional Priests, who have done much to further the cause of Christ: Father Francis Le Blanc of Phoenix, Arizona, and Father Mario Blanco of Tacoma, Washington. Their health requires special prayer.**
11. **MASSSES FOR THE WEEK: (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)**

SUNDAY:	For the People of our Chapels
MONDAY:	For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
TUESDAY:	Deceased Joanne St. Amand
WEDNESDAY:	Special intention Mary Pederson
THURSDAY:	Deceased Marian Gigowski
FRIDAY:	Deceased Zoila De Pass
SATURDAY:	Welfare Rita Huelskamp

By the Grace of God, Sister Mary Bernadette, OSB,
will make her Simple Triennial Vows as a Nun of Saint Joseph's Monastery
during the 10:00 AM Mass on Sunday, January 29, 2006.
Please keep Sister Bernadette in your special prayers.

"UPHOLD ME, O LORD, ACCORDING TO THY WORD ..."

