

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)
(Formerly 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

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin #1002

August 19, 2007 – Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Holy Trinity

The Following of Christ, Chapter 50, *Of Preserving Grace and Humility*, Jesus Christ speaking:

1. My son, it is safer and more profitable for you to conceal the grace of devotion and not to boast of it, not to speak much of it, not to think too much of it; but rather to think more humbly of yourself, and believe that this grace has been conferred upon one unworthy.
2. You must not depend too much on these pious feelings which change so quickly.
3. When you are favored with grace, think how wretched and miserable you used to be without grace.
4. Progress in the spiritual life does not consist in having the grace of interior consolation; but rather in being able to bear with humility and patience the privation of it, so as not to grow lax in prayer nor to neglect your other works which, according to your good custom, you are wont to perform; but rather so as to perform them to the best of your ability, not omitting them because of dryness or anxiety of heart.
5. There are many who grow impatient and lax the moment things do not go according to their wishes.
6. But the way of man is not always in his own power; it belongs to God to give comfort when He will, according to His good pleasure, and no more.
7. There are some who through imprudent use of the grace of devotion have caused their own ruin, because they wished to accomplish more than they were able, not taking into account their own weakness, but following the desires of their heart rather than sound reason.
8. And because they presumed to do more than was pleasing to God, they quickly lost His grace.
9. They who wished to build themselves a nest in Heaven have become poor and miserable in order that, being humbled and impoverished, they might learn not to fly upwards with their own wings, but to trust themselves under My wings.
10. Those who are as yet new and inexperienced in the way of the Lord, and do not allow themselves to be guided by the counsel of the wise, may easily be deceived and overthrown.
11. If they prefer to follow their own counsel rather than that of experienced servants of God, their end will be in danger unless they desist from their own notions.
12. Those who are wise in their own eyes are seldom humble enough to allow themselves to be governed by others.
13. It is better to have a little knowledge with humility, and a moderate understanding, than a treasure of knowledge with self-conceit.
14. It is better to have fewer talents than to have many of which you might be proud.
15. He does not act wisely who gives himself wholly to joy, and forgets his former poverty and the chaste fear of the Lord which is afraid of losing the grace that has been bestowed upon him.
16. Nor again, is he any wiser who in time of adversity and difficulty loses heart and nourishes thoughts which betray a lack of confidence in Me.
17. He who in time of peace feels too free and secure will often in time of trial be found despondent and full of anxiety.
18. If you could remain always humble and little in your own eyes, and control and govern your own mind, you would not so easily fall into danger and sin.
19. It is good counsel that in the time of fervor of spirit you think of how you will feel when the light of My grace shall leave you.
20. And while this grace is taken from you, have confidence that the light which, for a short time I have withdrawn for My glory and as a warning to you, will return again.
21. Such a trial is more profitable to you than if you always prospered according to your will.
22. For merit is not measured by the visions and consolations one has, nor by his knowledge of the Scriptures, nor by his high position; but by this, that he is well grounded in true humility and filled with divine love, that he seeks purely and entirely the glory of God, that he always counts himself as nothing and sincerely despises himself, and finally that he rejoices to be humbled rather than to be honored by others.