

1. **CATECHISM CLASS:** Children 6 to 14 please meet Father Joseph in the vestibule right after the 10:00 Mass.
2. There WILL be 5:00 PM Sunday Vespers and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament this afternoon.
3. Tomorrow, August 20, 2007, is the Feast of Saint Bernard and is the Name day of our Father Bernard, OSB. Please keep Father Bernard in your very special prayers tomorrow.
4. Wednesday, August 22, 2007, is the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Roman calendar).
5. Friday, August 24, 2007, is the Feast of Saint Bartholomew the Apostle.
6. 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.
7. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)
 

SUNDAY:	For the people of our Chapels
MONDAY:	For Father Bernard, OSB ( <i>Name day</i> )
TUESDAY:	Special intention Sister Mary Claretia
WEDNESDAY:	For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
THURSDAY:	Deceased Kenneth Waldeck
FRIDAY:	Special intention Theresa Constanza
SATURDAY:	Deceased Phyllis Miller

Let us not be surprised and let us not wonder that Jesus should have called any of us to the heights of perfection. That we are asked to work toward perfection in the life of the soul is not a cause for wonderment, but to be called to the very heights of perfection is a cause for wonderment. We obtain our information directly from Sacred Scripture itself where the Word of Christ is carefully recorded in this instance by St. Matthew, "Be you therefore perfect as also your heavenly Father is perfect." We ask, "How can this be?" What Christ commands is, indeed, quite impossible. Yet He had no hesitation in proposing it to us. His teaching is only too clear, and we all are confronted by it throughout all of Sacred Scripture. He is simply telling us that the soul must never leave the path – **THE CONVERSIO** – to sanctification and that the soul must never, ever, slacken its efforts in that regard. There is no way that we can avoid the **CONVERSIO**, no matter how hard we may try.

Nevertheless, even though we all agree that the command is impossible to reach, yet none of us, weak and sinful creatures that we are, are dispensed from striving toward that high peak with all our will and strength and thought and determination and constant effort.

Let us be ever mindful that with God it is not the success that counts. It is rather the sincere and determined work of the **WILL** that God looks at and counts with merciful love, and judges in accordance with His merciful designs. The struggle to avoid sin is relentless, and we are forever cautioned never to lay down our weapons in our fight against sin. However relentless, if our will is determined to avoid evil and do good, we can surely count on the love of our good God, and that love will sustain us and nourish us as we travel the dangerous paths that daily we have to follow, and overcome the evils that threaten us from all sides. For us, then, it remains that we respond generously to the grace of God, "You must be perfect." This grace, however, is not granted to all in equal measure, but in accordance with God's merciful designs and in accordance to the proper disposition of each individual soul. It is not an automatic gift! It is not a gift given simply for the asking! Whatever reward is forthcoming to us, in the last analysis depends on the work – the very hard work – on our part to do good and avoid sin. Flimsy outcries at our sinful inclinations are nothing more than flimsy outcries which signify nothing in the eyes of God. "Quickie" trips to the confessional after sin has been committed are not necessarily efficacious, for such confessions reduce the very notion of contrition to a legal operation and nothing more. If there is no genuine remorse for the sin committed, remorse that the Love of God has been offended; if there is no firm purpose, then the result is doubtful.

Being confirmed in grace does not preclude struggle, effort, perseverance, sacrifice, contrition, and suffering. □

### *A Thought To Remember ...*

"The corruptible body is a load upon the soul and the earthly habitation presseth down the mind that museth upon many things." *The Book of Wisdom*