

# Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)  
( Formerly St Francis of Assisi Chapel)  
[www.ChristTheKingAbbey.org](http://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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin #1005

September 9, 2007 – Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Holy Trinity; comm. St Gorgonius

## ***BLESSED ARE THE CLEAN OF HEART***

(Part two of two parts)

*The conclusion of Father Edward Leen's sermon from "The Voice of the Priest"*

“Why is it that for us the road to happiness – to the blessedness to which Christ summons us, even here in this world – is the way of the cross and of death to self? It is simply because from the beginning, in our pride and insubordination, we tore down the barriers and restraints which kept us true to our own nature and made us the recipients of that life and gladness which flowed from God, the Source of Happiness, to us. Man would not seek God; he would seek himself, and through himself find happiness. We pity the poor pagans in Africa, sunk in fetish worship. There is no fetish in the length and breadth of Africa so cruel, so hideous, so revolting as the fetish we set up in our minds when we reject the views of God with regard to human life. The worship of the pagan fetishes has not so great a power to corrupt the human heart as the fetish of unbridled pleasure-seeking. The inordinate pursuit of pleasure dries up and destroys in the heart every noble instinct. Men and women who live for their own satisfaction become, as Saint Paul says, ‘without affection, without fidelity, without mercy.’ How can they have affection for others, whose affections are wholly concentrated on their own ego? How can they have fidelity, who are faithful only to the promptings of their own self-seeking? How can they have mercy, who are driven to use callously all things that come their way for their own self-satisfaction? The world that does not accept the cross is bound to be a world without affection, without fidelity, without mercy, without happiness.

“Christ saw God every single instant of His existence, and from that sight derived intense happiness. Christ lived for God, and after the plan arranged by God, and He was happy with the happiness that is for man. Those to whom Christ preaches from the cross reject this way of peace and fling themselves after what this life can give them. They make what this earth can guarantee to them their goal, their aim, the end of their lives, and do they taste happiness? Can we trace happiness in the eyes through which look souls that have lost the spirit of Christianity? Are those Christians happy who have made of their lives an absurd orchestra of jarring and discordant sounds, in which every note is heard except the sweet tones of Jesus Christ? Can they have rest and peace for their hearts, who refuse to accept the truth – that Jesus Christ's life is the only way of human life, the only road to human happiness?

“My dear Sisters, you have believed in the words of God. You have heard His promise of happiness and have accepted the conditions that He has laid down for its attainment as being the only ones feasible. You have refused to disbelieve with the world. You have rejected its conditions of happiness as being false and accepted Christ's as being true. In thus deciding, you have flung down a challenge to the world. You have to prove to it that you have discovered the secret of existence – namely, that by walking the hard road of the cross man is destined to find the secret of abounding joy. God would spare us that rough road were it possible. He takes no pleasure in our pain. If He will have us suffer, it is only that we may be purified and that the obstacles in our way to happiness be cleared from our path. Cleanse yourselves from earthly desires, purify your hearts, and what will you find? You will discover the truth of these words: ‘Taste and see that the Lord is sweet.’ There is nothing so sweet, so thrilling, so beautifying, so happiness-giving as the love of Jesus Christ: it is a love that combines the love of human heart for human heart and the love of human heart for its God. The practice of Poverty, Chastity, and Humility purifies our hearts and renders them apt for this affection. By Poverty we scorn the things of this earth and place all our riches in the possession of God. By Chastity we curb the waywardness of our hearts and school ourselves to concentrate all our affections on God alone. By Humility we keep ourselves subject to God, and so dispose ourselves for the reception of His Divine grace. Jesus has given us the perfect example of the practice of these three virtues. His life was the exemplification of them. Fix your eyes on Him. Devote yourselves to acquiring a great knowledge and love of Him. In that love you will find strength to fulfill this first and principal precept: ‘Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God, with thy whole heart and with thy whole soul and with thy whole mind and with thy whole strength.’ And in the fulfillment of this commandment you will find life and bliss; you will see God in every detail of your life.” □ (*The end of Father Leen's sermon*)