

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 10, 2008 – Purple

Mass of Sunday; no Gl; Cr; Pref. Lent

Weekly Bulletin #1028

Lent

THY FAITH HATH MADE THEE WHOLE

Our Lord was at the house of Simon the Pharisee. He had been invited to dinner there. All was going well, and the conversation was not unpleasant, when suddenly a woman from out on the street literally barged in and proceeded to place herself at the feet of Jesus – the Master. As might be expected, everyone was stunned and became silent from shock. We all know the story. One shock after another was in store for them, and within themselves they asked, “Who is this that forgiveth sins also?” Jesus gave no notice to their unbelief or to their conniving thoughts. He knew what the Pharisees were all about that night. He had no fear of them or of the position they held in the temple. Without fear of contradiction He turned squarely to the woman kneeling at His feet, and said in a voice that must have struck like thunder to the ears of the electrified “masters” of the Jewish Law: “Thy faith hath made thee whole, go in peace.”

Poor Simon was speechless and much disturbed that such a scene should have taken place in his home and at his table. The woman was Magdalen, a woman of the streets! She showed no fear! She showed no shame! She showed no hesitation about what she was doing. Rather strange, indeed, is it that a Pharisee of the position of Simon, a leader of the people and far removed from the rank and file of the people who populated the streets of Jerusalem, should recognize Magdalen on sight and at once upon seeing her! Not one word had Magdalen spoken. She simply let her newfound Master do all the speaking for her. Even though her only contact with Him was a chance glance at Him when He was preaching, she knew full well that she could trust herself to Him without reluctance. He, on His part, certainly took note of her, and without comment watched her as she bent over His feet. He saw that these ministrations to Him were in no way artificial, but were sincere, and that her tears and kisses were true signs of interior compunction. With a woman’s keen instinct she could sense from His comments to the others present that not one of her loving acts had escaped His notice and attention. She realized that even though she had never been introduced to Him He yet knew her. She knew that He knew everything about her. Also, she knew that He had accepted her and that He fully understood the reason and purpose of her presence there in Simon the Pharisee’s home. And, for Mary Magdalen, the harlot, that was quite enough! The Lord saw her shame and her sorrow, and He saw quite clearly that there was no evil deceit in either her heart or her mind, and that there was a sublime honesty and simplicity in her every tear. For the first time in her life Mary Magdalen felt the feelings of peace and serenity. The wonder of it all filled her with pure joy and happiness and satisfaction that she was traveling a new path, a path that she would never depart from. The rasping torture which was her remuneration after each sinful exploit was gone. She had serenity at last. Quietly and silently she left. She had found “the better part,” and somehow she knew that “it would not be taken away from her.” She knew she would never again be hungry.

The holy Season of Lent is now here, and it behooves us to stop and rest a while and think. What took place at the home of Simon the Pharisee should be given our best consideration. In that home, that evening, the forces of Heaven and Hell were at war with each other, and it was the mental honesty and sincerity of this poor wretched sinner that won the battle over evil. Such was her conduct that our Divine Master observed the total lack of evil deceit in her. No doubt Magdalen had heard about the Carpenter from Nazareth. Everybody knew about and talked about Him. There can be little doubt that she had seen Him at one place or another and heard Him teach and preach. Sincerely hungry for help, and with honest disposition of soul, the help did come and the grace of God surely touched her – and she could not resist its force. Without knowing it, she underwent a reaction to the grace at work in her, and as soon as the opportunity presented itself, she went straightaway to where Jesus was, in the home of Simon the Pharisee. Her mind was made up, and with fixed intention she determined never to turn away from her newly found God – her Master. This was CONVERSIO in the strictest meaning of the word, and her turning did away with every obstacle that was a hindrance in her journey toward perfection. She “had chosen the better part.” Her conversion, contrition, and sorrow were certain. Her resolution was without reservation. Her purpose of amendment was determined. She trusted, she believed, she was unafraid, and she was ready to do whatever it took to prove the purity of her intention. She approached the house and entered in, unannounced, mindless of everyone present and she presented herself at the feet of her Master. Her actions, performed in total silence, clearly demonstrated her honest desire for mercy and forgiveness. SHE GOT BOTH! →