

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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 15, 2008 – Green

Mass of Sunday; GI; Cr; Pref. Holy Trinity; comm. Ss Vitus, Modestus, and Crescentia

Weekly Bulletin #1046

*O Lord, uphold us and
our absent brethren.*

OUR HOME

Our home must be – after our church – our most important temple, for it is in the home that our life as true and faithful Catholics can be fully realized. The home is an extremely important place. It is in the home that children learn to value or to devalue their holy religion – where they will learn to love or to hate religious living.

The decor and atmosphere of the home should demonstrate love and prudence. It should be neat, orderly, and in good taste. It should not smack of worldly decoration and excess. At the same time, neither should it give the appearance of a museum full of religious objects. In all things, prudence must be the rule. Too much of anything causes it to eventually lose its attraction. The good taste of everyone in the house, especially that of children, must at all times be fostered.

It should be understood that the home is certainly not the church. Nevertheless, the atmosphere of our holy religion must be consistently evident in the home. The observance of our holy religious life must never, ever, be overbearing or crushing to the beautiful exuberance of normal childhood. The religious life as lived in a normal Catholic home must always be kept under proper and prudent control so that it does not destroy the light of childhood joy and happiness. All things should be so arranged that the children's interest will always be attracted to family activities. Good and wholesome family fun and games should never be condemned or excluded, and should be such that the children, of their own accord, will find them preferable to the undesirable "fun and games" coming from other sources. A greenhouse – hot house – climate, where children are kept sequestered and not allowed to interact with other children, must be avoided at all costs, but neither should they be allowed to run around freely without prudent parental guidance.

Parents, in all their words and actions, must be most careful to give good example – of tolerance, of charity, of dependability, of honesty, of compassion, of forgiveness, of proper (but not prudish) modesty in dress and speech. In the most gentle ways, parents must make known the fact that purity of life is beautiful and far more given to good feeling than is the ugliness of impurity – which causes children to slink about, hiding in isolated areas, suffering a silent loneliness which they cannot understand. Especially during the major turning points of childhood development must children be most carefully watched over and guided with much love and kindness and understanding. The major points of information should be given to them by Father and Mother. If Father and Mother fail to live up to this grave responsibility, their children will obtain their information from the street and the gutter – to their eternal detriment.

An undisciplined child is a problem child. An over-disciplined child is a problem child. Children must, with love and prudence, be taught the value of fair, just, and consistent discipline and restraint. An undisciplined child will grow up to be an undisciplined, unrestrained, and uncontrollable adult. An over-disciplined child will grow up to be a cold, harsh, unforgiving, and narrow minded adult.

We are now in the midst of extremely serious changes in lifestyle, what with the cost of living going up and out of reach of most people. Many of the things we presently take for granted will no longer be available. Both young and old will not know how to handle this problem, because they do not know what it means to not always have everything they want. We must teach our children how to get along with less of the "goods" of this world. We must explain deprivation to them and keep them in a good frame of mind. We must gently, without force, emphasize prayer and trust in God.

The home must be a place of love and peace and safety and protection. The home must be a place where all things that pertain to God and His Saints and Angels be given the respect that is proper to them. How lovely it is when the last thing in the evening the family, from the youngest to the oldest, gathers around the Home Altar and together pray their night prayers – which should be kept brief and simple. Parents should be alert to any youthful remarks about evening prayer and should display an interest in what is said or suggested by the little ones. Thus, as they grow older they will maintain a love for prayer, instead of developing a distaste for prayer which is often caused by parental imprudence and over-rigorousness. □

Happy Fathers' Day!