

Christ the King Abbey

Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel
Montgomery, Alabama
10:45 AM
Only on first Sunday
of each month

(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

St Pius V Chapel
Birmingham, Alabama
9:30 AM
Every Sunday except
first Sunday of each month

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 14, 2008 – Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Trinity; comm. Exaltation of the Holy Cross, St Cornelius, St Cyprian

Weekly Bulletin #1059

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

CONFESSION

By Fr. Dominic Mondrone, S.J. (Part 3)

“If you die in mortal sin, hell is ready in an instant to swallow you up – for eternity! Hell! We do not even like to think about it. We have even begun to talk about it as a joke. And yet, no matter what we say, that fire keeps on burning. The damned are there to suffer, to burn. Do you realize that among them there is a place prepared for you, unless you turn away from sin in time? Try to hold your finger over the flame of a candle; it is impossible. And what is that compared to the fire of hell? Our fire is a gift of God’s love, but the fire of hell has been kindled by His justice. The damned are plunged into it, like fish in a sea of flame. For how long? Forever. What despair! The lost soul realizes that he could have escaped this fire. All that he needed to do was to make a good confession, but he would not. If only he had a few minutes now to confess his sins! But his time is up. God had invited him to pardon many times, and he would not listen to His voice. ‘It is my own fault that I am in hell,’ he will have to say through all eternity. He knows that he was made only for God, and now he realizes just what he has lost. And he lost it to satisfy a passing desire for pleasure. This has long since disappeared, but hell never disappears. Think of hell often while you are still alive, so that when you die you will not fall into it. Remember this: the severest penance is light in comparison with that fire. If one of the damned could escape it, what would he not be willing to endure to avoid falling back into that sea of flame! Mortifications, crosses, sufferings, all of these would be easy for him!

“My God, if it were not for Your mercy, I would already be in that fiery prison. Thank you for this great favor. And since You have saved me from the fire of your justice, enkindle in me the flame of Your love. I beg this favor of You, O Lord, no matter what it may cost me to obtain it.”

“JESUS SAID: ‘He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed, the sons of the kingdom; the weeds, the sons of the wicked one; and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. But the harvest is the end of the world and the reapers are the angels. ... The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all scandals and those who work iniquity, and cast them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and the gnashing of teeth. Then the just will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.’

“Worn out by the heavy burden of your sins, you have often felt the desire to have it lifted from your shoulders; this desire comes to you from the Sacred Heart of Jesus. But then a doubt crosses your mind: ‘How can God forgive anyone who has sinned as much as I have?’ It is the devil who whispers this thought in your ear. You can see the double trick of the devil; first he leads you into sin, encouraging you to hope falsely, presumptuously in God’s mercy (‘Go ahead and do it, God will forgive you.’); and then to make you remain in sin, he tries to make you despair of that mercy (‘God forgives a lot of things, but not what you have done.’). First presumption, then despair: two terrible roads which lead you to hell. And yet, do not be afraid. There is mercy for you, a mercy which is far greater than all your sins put together. The only thing which can block the flow of mercy into your soul is despair. The penitent who hopes in God’s mercy is pardoned. Both Peter and Judas sinned seriously. Peter trusted in Christ’s mercy and became a saint, while Judas despaired and took his own life. Trust in the Heart of Christ. Do you know what your sins are when cast into His Sacred Heart? No more than a drop of water which falls into a huge furnace. He wants nothing more than to forgive you. Otherwise He would have punished you long ago when you were in sin. The best way to make up for all your offenses is to console Jesus, to come back and tell Him you are sorry. If the Good Shepherd goes searching for His lost sheep, is it possible that He will not take up in His arms the lost sheep who comes back to Him? If you only knew how He waits for you! Go to confession as soon as you can. If you do it sincerely, you will feel new life in yourself, His grace and love.

“O merciful Heart of Jesus, I no longer doubt Your mercy. I know that You love sinners who repent, and that You embrace them with great joy. You never fail to pardon, and I trust that You will forgive me.”

“JESUS SAID: ‘It is not the healthy who need a physician, but they who are sick ... I desire mercy, and not sacrifice. For I have come to call sinners, not the just. ... For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. Even so I say to you, there will be joy among the angels of God over one sinner who repents. ... I say to you that even so, there will be joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, more than over ninety-nine just who have no need of repentance.’” (To be continued)