

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)

Cullman, Alabama

www.ChristTheKingAbbey.org

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

Saint Pius V Chapel

Birmingham, Alabama

9:30 AM

Every Sunday except
first Sunday of each month

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

May 17, 2009 – White

Mass of Sunday Gl; Cr; Preface of Easter

Weekly Bulletin #1095

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

THE POWER OF PRAYER

By

RICHARD GRÄF, CS.Sp.

1957

Give special attention to the several parts of this article which will appear in several coming Bulletins. Some very serious information will be found in this article and we are all asked to take conscientious note of it. The importance of the truth herein described speaks for itself. One might even say that the words of the author Father Richard Gräf which he wrote prior to the year 1957 the year in which he published the book are practically prophetic. We, whether we want to grapple with the problem intelligently or haphazardly put it aside and forget about it, does not change matters. There is a problem and we have to deal with it. My dear people we are in the eye of a hurricane we limit our interest to the spiritual part of that hurricane. Therefore please study this article with the greatest of care — what it has to say will definitely affect the lives of many conscientious people concerned about their Catholic religious life and the salvation of their immortal souls. You may duplicate these pages any way you wish at your own discretion and distribute to your friends and relatives. This MUST NOT be looked upon as some new form of a chain letter which, it is certainly not. Those who believe need no argument those who do not believe laugh!

Any word contrary to this instruction no matter how statistically correct it appears and how officially it may be presented is a DEVILISM. Do not believe it! "If a man or angel," come to distribute any word contrary — do not believe it!

IMPORTANCE OF A TRAINING IN PRAYER

For the Laity

Part I

Prayer is perhaps one of the most important elements of religious practice. It can substitute for the sacraments (in some cases absolutely), even though in God's ordinary providence these be necessary for eternal salvation. But nothing else can supply the place of prayer. Hence one of the chief tasks of religious education is training in prayer. And yet no duty is perhaps more casually undertaken than just this. In many cases we Catholics are acquainted with vocal prayer only, and this in set texts and formulas. We are fully acquainted with prayer of petition; we have frequently heard of the prayer of praise, of glorification, of thanks, but scarcely anything of mental prayer. Many, indeed, are in the like case with the new converts in Ephesus mentioned in the *Acts of the Apostles*: "Paul found certain disciples, and he said to them: Have you received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? But they said to him: We have not so much as heard whether there be a Holy Ghost" (Acts 19, 1 ff.). They had not received him and they had never heard of him. Similarly, many of the faithful can say: we have not practiced mental prayer - we never even heard of it.

Without mental prayer there can be no interior life. Now all Christians are assuredly called to live such a life and, as a consequence, to foster it. And yet many of the laity hold that such an obligation binds priests and religious only, not themselves. Is it a wonder, then, that the spiritual life of many followers of Christ is so sickly and so superficial? Our religious training is almost **wholly confined to instruction on the sacraments**; they alone are kept in view. Adults receive a thorough instruction on these before receiving baptism. We are familiar with instruction for first confession, first Holy Communion, confirmation. When at all possible, instruction is given also to engaged and married couples. We need not mention the long training which candidates for the priesthood receive before they are ordained...(end of part one.)

Please keep these parts until the series is complete.