

Without baptism it is impossible to reach heaven. "Unless a man be born again of water and the Holy Ghost he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3, 5). Many, however, cannot receive baptism by water; they have never heard of it; and faith comes from hearing (Rom. 10, 17). On the other hand, God's will to save men is unrestricted: he wishes all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2, 4) and thus reach heaven. Hence there must be another possibility of salvation besides that through baptism by water. For many there remains but baptism of desire. Basically, however, baptism of desire is nothing else but a prayer, a cry of the human heart to God. It is of little importance whether this prayer is expressed in words or not; it effects in man's soul what baptism by water does, namely, it makes of a child of sin, of wrath (Eph. 2, 3), a child of God (1 John 3, 1).

The immense power and efficacy of prayer can nowhere perhaps be better and more clearly recognized than in this case, especially when such prayer ascends in its first beginnings from a sinful heart devoid of Christian faith. Despite this impediment prayer pierces the clouds and high heaven to reach the throne of the most Holy Trinity; it works that powerful miracle of transformation in man. If that be so, what must be the efficacy of a prayer which ascends to God from a stainless mind in which he finds his good pleasure? What a transforming effect it must have on the world at large as well as on the individual soul.

Prayer, then, can be a complete substitute for the most important of the sacraments; it can actually be equated with a sacrament. But for prayer itself we have no substitute more. "The Lord will hear the prayers of the just" (Prov. 15, 29). **(To be continued...)**

N.B. parents – Watch Your Children this morning because of the dangers of the construction that is going on in front of the church and parking lot.

1. There will be Catechism classes after 10:00 AM Mass this morning.
2. Wednesday July 22, 2009 is the Feast of St Mary Magdalene.
3. Please do not forget the devotion we spoke to you about recently, namely, the 15 Saturdays of the Most Holy Rosary, for our own welfare and for the good of everything that is important in life, especial our holy religion, let us make the 15 Saturdays. You have all the information already. This admirable devotion has obtained for the faithful innumerable blessings and signal favors. If we desire to obtain favor from God, we must surely turn our attention toward a more wholesome life of prayer.
4. ~~Saturday July 25, 2009 is the Feast of St. James the Apostle.~~
5. Saturday July 25, 2009 is the Feast of St. Christopher; the blessing of automobiles will take place Sunday July 26, 2009 after the 10:00 AM Mass at Christ the King Abbey, after the 9:30 AM Mass at St. Pius V Chapel in Birmingham and Sunday August 2, 2009 after the 10:45 AM Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel in Montgomery.
6. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels.
7. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)
SUNDAY: For the People of our Chapels
MONDAY: For Theresa Christian (B'day remembrance)
TUESDAY: Special Int. Al and Sara Schrader
WEDNESDAY: For Robert Dumbacher
THURSDAY: For the Poor Souls
FRIDAY: Special Int. Wanda Rossi
SATURDAY: Dec. Stephen Holup

A Thought To Remember...

!A Serious Warning!

Dear People of God, — never in the history of mankind has there been so urgent a need for effective prayer, as today! Certainly since the time before the Flood has Man been in such need! There is nothing more important or necessary to cope with such need in the religious sphere than prayer. Many speak of the importance of prayer but do not pray. Many desire salvation and protection but are unwilling to pay the price required. In the name of God let us stop all useless talk and spend our time directly in prayer. Let us take heed of the word that comes to us from our Blessed Mother, herself.

In every appearance of the Blessed Mother we here the same message:

Prayer, Penance, Mortification

Beginning today with serious conviction of mind let us all turn to DAILY HOLY ROSARY! If we really intend to survive — whether physically or spiritually for ourselves and our beloved families we had better turn whole heartedly to the Rosary — with devotion!

We are free to accept this warning or to reject it — we had better think it over!