

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

FEAST OF THE HOLY MOTHERHOOD

(Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

October 11, 2009 – White

Mass of Holy Motherhood Gl; Cr; comm. Sunday

Preface of BVM

Weekly Bulletin #1116

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

This is the Feast of the Motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary

THE POWER OF PRAYER

By

RICHARD GRÄF, CS.Sp. Part 13

1957

FUNCTION OF PRAYER IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

God puts beyond the reach of none the riches of His bounty. He allows Himself to be found by those who seek Him with upright heart and generous will. If He goes after the lost sheep till He finds it, will He not allow Himself to be found by those who go out to seek Him? "They that in the morning early watch for Me shall find Me" (Prov. 8, 17). *"Cultivate genuine love of the neighbour, says St Teresa and I assure you that His divine Majesty will certainly lead you to union with Him (in prayer)."* **Souls that are unwilling to make a sacrifice, or that are lacking in charity, will never reach union with God no matter what long prayers they say.** "Woe to you, hypocrites, because you devour the houses of widows, praying long prayers; for this you shall receive the greater judgment." (Matt. 23, 14)

Without faith there is no love. Love depends on the depth and strength of faith, not merely for its very essence but for its varying degrees. The greatest and most universal commandment runs: "Thou shall love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart and with thy whole soul, and with all thy strength and with all thy mind." (Luke 10, 27) This commandment is binding on all men without exception. *If, then, the Almighty lays down a command obligatory on all He must also make it possible for all to observe it.* It cannot be He would lay a burden on men too heavy for them to bear. So in giving us a task that has such wide implications He has also given us the resources to fulfill it. If God commands us to love Him we must be in a position to lay hold on Him through faith.

"They shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, know the Lord; for all shall know Me, from the least to the greatest of them." (Hebr. 8, 11) **All must come to know God, else they will be unable to love Him with the love of their whole hearts.** The Saviour indicates as follows the depth and extent of the knowledge of God we should have: "I know My sheep and mine know Me, as the Father knoweth Me and I know the Father." (John 10, 14) He declares that as He is known to the Father and the Father knows Him, *in the same way* we are to know Him. Does Christ here make an impossible demand? Will He not come to each of us in order to manifest Himself to us? (John 14, 21) If we were even a little united to Him in loving friendship, He would lead us too into the wonderful mysteries of the kingdom of God. "I have made known to you all things whatsoever I have heard of my Father." (John 15, 15) "If we lived a life pleasing to God we could reach a practical *knowledge* of Our Lord Jesus Christ productive of good works; otherwise we are only "blind and groping." (2 Pet. 1, 8.) **To be Continued...**