

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)
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

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
July 4, 2010 – Green
Mass of Sunday Gl; Cr; Preface Holy Trinity

Weekly Bulletin #1155

THE POWER OF PRAYER

RICHARD GRÄF, CS.Sp.
1957

Part 34

It is our very nature to love; love is the fullness of our lives. It is the most valuable asset we have; it is the motive power within, driving us ever forward, brooking no sluggishness. For all things of earth, including man, are powerless to still the craving of our hearts for love. God alone can satisfy them fully; He has made us for Himself; only in Him do our hearts find rest. Each one stands or falls by the love he has. "The lover lives where the object of his love is, and not where he is himself." He leaves self in order to possess the loved one; he takes on a likeness to the beloved. "Tell me whom you love, and I will tell you what you are." "Love makes friends like-minded" (St. Teresa). "He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him" (1 Cor. 6, 17). He who loves sin takes his character from the devil and becomes one with him (1 John 3, 8). The man who sets his heart on a creature will have found a certain degree of security, a home in a sense. But even the ideal human friend is powerless to bestow on us ultimate happiness. For this we have to go beyond man and reach out to God. Those who neither can, will or ought to set their hearts on a creature (Matt. 19, 11.) must, if they are to break through their isolation, seek in the supernatural world an object of their affection. For all of us, and especially for the isolated, the choice of Christ as the primary object of our intimacy will present itself. He is such a palpable element in our lives, the basis and the support of our existence. "To me to live is Christ." He dwells within us as our Guest, and we in Him, now and for ever.

He who has found Christ as the central object of his affections has found all else and can well dispense with a human partner. His life is fully lived, his love fully engrossed. He is filled unto all the fullness of God (Eph. 3, 19). For in Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col. 2, 3). When Christ, the day-star, arises in our hearts the dawn will break (2 Pet. 1, 19), and in the light of this surpassing knowledge we shall be ready to abandon everything, count everything as loss, if only we may gain Christ (Phil. 3, 7). Through love for Him our nature attains its most ample dignity, and we can be all things to all men as occasion demands (1 Cor. 9, 22). We possess that love which feels no envy, bears all things, endures all things (1 Cor. 13, 4.); we possess that love which is strong as death (Cant. 8, 6).

If we have found in prayer, especially in our private prayer, the intimate partner with whom to converse, we should, as a general rule, when prayer is resumed, re-establish contact with the same partner. If we lightly change our acquaintances we reach familiarity with none and relationships are set up more slowly; whereas if we usually speak to the same person we learn to know him much more quickly and more intimately and, as a result, love him better. Whether we have a human friend or not, in the last resort we all stand in need of a divine Friend; we all need God; He and He alone can satisfy us (St. Teresa of Avila).