

FROM THE MONASTERY OF CHRIST THE KING - - - near Cullman, Alabama

"Regarded merely from the philosophical point of view, the RULE OF ST. BENEDICT is perhaps the greatest historical fact of the Middle Ages" (Viollet-Le-Duc, "Dictionnaire de l'Architecture" I, 242). "It is certainly," adds Abbot Cuthbert Butler (Preface to "Benedictine Monachism") "one of the great facts in the history of western Europe, and its influence and effects are with us to this day."

For many centuries the Rule of St. Benedict was the favorite handbook of educators, of heads of families, and of rulers in Church and State. Sadly, in recent years, the very troubled conditions found in the Roman Church, as a result of Vatican Council II, have brought about dangerous changes both in the Church itself, and in all Religious Communities. Today, in the Benedictine Rule for Monks are to be found changes that have had detrimental effects on Benedictine Monastic Life. To Monastic Superiors, discouraged and concerned about dwindling numbers in all Monastic communities, change and "RENEWAL" seemed necessary to reinstate a growth pattern in the various houses. Certain changes, therefore, were introduced into the Rule, which has become an abbreviated document. This abbreviated Rule for Monks has lost of the flavor peculiar to Monasticism and as a consequence the Benedictine Houses of today, both male and female, have lost of their character and ability to influence people in the direction of true spirituality - a spirituality that was once powerful enough to conquer barbaric mentality.

Mindful of the former strength and power of the COMPLETE Rule, the Community of Christ the King hopes to live the RULE EXACTLY AS ST. BENEDICT WROTE IT. The inspiration and the teaching of the ORIGINAL Rule is still quite capable of shaping the spiritual lives, even if of a remnant few and enough to start anew the journey it took through the many centuries of its existence. The Rule of St. Benedict can, ONCE AGAIN, shape the Heart of Man to fit within the walls of the City of God. The weakened leadership condition of the Roman church today makes a re-established interest in things Benedictine, not only desirable, but urgent, so that once again, as also in the early Roman Church History, the Family of Man is given the opportunity to avail itself of the valuable religious, pedagogical, ascetical and liturgical principles which the Rule contains.

MASSSES FOR THE WEEK:

SUNDAY: 6:00 A.M. For Prayer Promises and Benefactors  
9:30 A.M. For the People of the Chapels  
12:30 P.M. Dec. George Veigl - Anniv.  
MONDAY: In Honor St. Therese - Thksg.  
TUESDAY: Dec. Sister Regina Campbell, O.S.B.  
WEDNESDAY: Dec. Florine Brisbois  
THURSDAY: Dec. Frank Kloewer  
FRIDAY: Special Int. of the Donor