

TRADITIONAL CHAPELS IN ALABAMA

Our Lady of Lourdes
Roman Catholic Chapel
Montgomery, Alabama

St. Francis of Assisi
Roman Catholic Chapel
Cullman, Alabama

St. Pius V
Roman Catholic Chapel
Birmingham, Alabama

S C H E D U L E O F M A S S E S

10:30 A.M. - Rosary
10:45 A.M. - Mass
(ONLY on First Sunday
of each month)

6:00 A.M. - Mass
(EVERY SUNDAY)
12:30 P.M. - Mass
(EXCEPT on first
Sunday of each month)

9:10 A.M. - Rosary
9:30 A.M. - Mass
(EXCEPT on first
Sunday of each month)

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
October 22, 1995 - - - Green

Weekly Bulletin # 374

A Priest

THE VOCATION OF THE PRIEST IS PRAYER. In every true priest, there is a huge power - a power beyond his comprehension, for the power of the priest is Christ - Who makes his prayer stronger than thunder, and more lovely and gentle than the Spring breezes. Since Jesus is the center of the soul of every true and good priest, the priest has the strength to shake the very foundation of the universe. Jesus it is Who lifts up the priest together with the Sacred Host, and the altar, the sanctuary, the people, the church, the monastery, the convent, the cities, the continents, the world, indeed all things. It is Jesus Who places everything that exists in the Hands of the Eternal Father. Therefore, the priest's life is to utter the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass which is the highest of all prayers. Every Mass that a priest offers up to God is a solemn petition that every man on earth might come to be moved to answer the call of Charity. When he speaks for the people he is in the best position to speak to God - it is the priest who unites men to God. Precisely - the priest brings mankind face to face with God in the precious words of the Consecration in which he pronounces the WORD that is uttered by the Father, and he causes the WORD to be present in time, in a special city, in a certain place - whether it be a cathedral or a barn - Incarnate and Sacrificed.

The priest is not a career person. His is not a career in business administration nor is he a social worker. Neither is he a professional instructor in a class room. Some think that he should follow scholarly pursuits, and be a priestly intellectual, schooled in all of the technical ramifications of moral and dogmatic theology, and the complicated applications of the legal codes of the church. This is not exactly proper to the character of the priesthood. The proper function of the priest is to spiritualize the world. In order to do so a priest must be a spiritual person, a holy person, a person of clear and prominent Faith. His scholarly learning and intellectual prowess will not serve him well when he comes to deal with the spiritual needs and the intimate difficulties of the faithful. His personal holiness will indeed serve him quite well at such times. The priest lives to utter the Mass which is above and beyond any career achievement that has ever been known to man.

In his effort to spiritualize the world, the priest raises his consecrated hands and the Grace of Christ's resurrection goes out from him to enlighten the souls of the elect and of them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. Through his blessing, material creation is raised up and sanctified and dedicated to the Glory of God. Through the priest, the glory of Christ seeps out into creation until all things are saturated in prayer, and the wine turned blood is the only substance on this entire globe that can cleanse man of his imperfections and gloom.

The priest has the whole church on his conscience and he not only gives up his own will in order to possess the virtue of obedience, he gives up his own will in order to become an instrument for the salvation of the world and the pure Glory of God!

THE PRIEST LIVES TO UTTER THE MASS