

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

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

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)

PASSION SUNDAY
March 24, 1996 - - - Purple

Weekly Bulletin # 395

PASSIONTIDE

Most of our mistakes in the matter of penance are caused by a tendency on our part to tell God what sacrifices He would like best for us to do. We do the choosing; and we do the giving, and God has to accept whatever it is that we hand out to Him. We give Him what we think He wants, and then we are very much surprised to find that what we gave was not what He had in mind, and that He was asking for altogether different sacrifices. We have not been listening to what He has said; we are so sure that we know what He ought to want. And then it happens that when He has come to us, ready to take what we have had to give, we are no longer in the mood to give!

Surrender to God means just what it says: surrender to God. It means doing what God asks for. It is a mistake to imagine that what needs doing is the grand gesture of surrender - yet we continue to dictate the terms in the act of surrender. Surrender to God is a suffering - it is total. Suffering is a work, not a display. The Passion is a darkness, not a floodlit presentation or a fancy parade. There is nothing picturesque about penance. A procession of monks or nuns or faithful people performing great acts of penance can be very moving, but it is no more Christian penance than any historical pageant is true patriotism. Spectacular penitence bears as much relation to true asceticism as showy devotion is related to true holiness or mysticism. If there is one thing to be avoided in the approach to penance and the life of holiness in general is dramatization. The picture of a spare and emaciated figure - the bent frame worn out with austerities, the face drawn with years of hard core penitential suffering - - have diverted many a promising man or woman of God from the pure service of God! Prudence and moderation and simply common sense and honest humility is what is needed here.

1. During Lent, Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, every Friday evening at 7:00 P.M. in the Abbey Church.
2. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, remembering Al Sachs. Your very special prayers must be directed toward our brother Woody Flemming who is very sick.
3. As to the matter of the EASTER DUTY, this cannot be taken lightly, nor can anyone free himself (AUTOMATICALLY) from the obligation. It is clear that one is in a state of serious sin and serious neglect if one fails to attend to the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist during the Easter Time. If we look upon ourselves as God's "special honor-guard" we should be willing to perform this least observance and not look upon it as an unnecessary burden.

TOMORROW, March 25, 1996, IS THE GREAT FEAST OF
THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MOTHER.
IN HUMILITY LET US APPROACH HER IN HER EVER GREAT
HUMILITY, AND ASK HER FOR THOSE THINGS WHICH WILL
INSURE OUR SANCTIFICATION. A SPECIAL DAY!