

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

LOW SUNDAY - First Sunday after Easter     Weekly Bulletin # 398  
April 14, 1996

Nobody is exempt from the obligation of penance. In some form or another everyone must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Christ. The idea that penance is only for monks and nuns in monasteries and convents -- those who expect that sort of thing when they apply to enter the cloister, but that penance is no part of the lay person's duty, is a modern day development, and this ENTIRE APPROACH IS QUITE WRONG!!

If our Lord attacked those cities "wherein were done the most of His miracles for that they had not done penance", He will have charges to bring against the generation to which we belong. Never before has the summons to penance and reparation been more clear, and never before has penance and reparation been more neglected. Penance is not only for the few!! It is for EVERY MAN AND WOMAN who have ever sinned and who claim to be taking seriously the words of Christ. Just as the obligation of prayer rests on all, so the obligation of penance and reparation rests on all! As in the case of prayer, so in the case of penance and reparation much depends upon viewing the matter rightly from the outset. There are many different ways of praying, and there are many different ways of doing penance.

Where the soul - setting out in the way of prayer - would do well to FORGET what he has read about ecstasies and visions and other mystical phenomena, the soul setting out in the way of penance would do well to FORGET what he has read about the voluntarily inflicted hardships endured by the saints.

If a man would approach penance he must do so with absolute humility and prayer. The grace which comes to him because of his humility and prayer will give him the light to know both what to do and how to do it. Let him not be so bold as to think that God will come down and point out this or that way to him. God does not operate in that manner. Neither does it please God when such a one informs Him how strong he is to suffer, and what particular sufferings he is ready to undertake in proof of his strength. Such a one very often looks down on those around him whom he considers to be weaker than himself in the service of God. Look out!! If this is the case, that man's penance and mortification and reparation mean nothing at all, and no good comes from all of his inconvenience. Such a one is of no help to himself; he gives no assistance to the general welfare of all mankind, and he certainly fails to alleviate the pains of the souls in Purgatory. There is only one way to penance, and that is the way of complete surrender to the Will of God.

1. EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT: Mother's Day is May 12, 1996 - the Second Sunday of May. There will be no 9:30 A.M. Mass at St. Pius V Chapel in Birmingham on that day since May Crowning will take place at St. Francis Chapel in Cullman. As always, the Masses in Cullman are at 6:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M.
2. April 23, 1996 is the First Anniversary of the Dedication of the ABBAY CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING ABBAY. Henceforth this will be a great feast for the Abbey. It is a First Class Feast, and is a day of special prayer. Do not ever fail to pray for the Monastery.