

**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
<b>S C H E D U L E     O F     M A S S E S</b>		
10:30 A.M. - Rosary 10:45 A.M. - Mass (ONLY on First Sunday of each month)	6:00 A.M. 10:00 A.M. Every Sunday 6:00 A.M. 7:00 P.M. Holy Days	9:10 A.M. - Rosary 9:30 A.M. - Mass (EXCEPT on first Sunday of each month)

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
August 11, 1996 - - - Green

Weekly Bulletin # 415

We often read of the silence of Our Blessed Lord. He was silent before the Council; He was silent before Herod; He was silent before Pilate. As we look back, we can the better understand Christ's silence. Had He uttered a single word it would have served no purpose. We can also understand the silence of which the prophet speaks: "He opened not His mouth; He shall be led as a sheep to the slaughter and shall be dumb as a lamb before his shearer, and He shall not open His mouth."

In the face of everything that is happening today, God remains silent. We wonder, sometimes, why He does not act. And He also keeps silent with us. God's silence weighs heavily upon us. We have importuned Him many times with our requests, we have cried to Him from the depths of our misery, we have knelt before Him in calm recollection; but He remained dumb and spoke not a word. How eager we have been. How many times have we been eager to hear His voice - just one word - and there was was no sound. And we have said to Him: "Speak Lord, Thy servant heareth," but never a word ever issued from His lips - at least that we could hear. How often have we been begging to have some tine assuring sign from our Lord, not knowing where to turn or what line of conduct to follow. But all our words He left unanswered. He remained so silent and left us to make our decision quite unadvised. And very often we did not decide correctly - even after much prayer. Our decisions are quite often very bad and we are hurt seriously by them. We do not know what to do! And we wonder and wonder and ask why is it that God does not come to our assistance even in matters of grave importance. God's silence is a heavy burden.

In the world, too, He is very silent. He stands - today - before the judgement seat of man. They mock Him and deride Him constantly. Worse yet, they simply ignore Him. Man makes a test of the power of God! Man puts God to the test to see how good He is or how long suffering He is. Man goes so far as to step outside of God's creation and tampers with it to see if he can improve on the work of God. How often is man not heard to say: "If You are God save Yourself and us." Others, probably of a more religious bent can be heard to say: "If You are God, how could You have permitted such a thing to happen?" And we are in mind to pray with David the Psalmist: "Oh my God, be not Thou silent to me. . hear the voice of my supplication when I pray to Thee."

And yet He remains silent, and in our judgement, often unconcerned about our problems and serious needs. Many is the time that we would call down fire from heaven so that our enemies - God's enemies - might melt like wax before the sun. But, then, we recognize how far removed we are from the Spirit of God, and that our ways are not His ways.

We must come to the conclusion that God is always right, and we must teach ourselves to act on that conclusion. If we want peace of mind, we must learn never to question the wisdom of God, and we must learn never to call God to account. No matter what, God has always done well

But it remains true - God is silent, yet He speaks. He speaks always at the right and appropriate moment. And we must learn to leave everything to Him, and with confidence. The more we place my confidence and trust in God, the more will we come to understand His plan operating in us, and we will come to see that, after all, His plan is far superior to our own inclination and plan.