

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.
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 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
August 25, 1996 - - - Green

Weekly Bulletin # 417

Man must be rescued body and soul - or - he cannot be rescued at all. Man was fashioned body and soul - to be together. The one is incomplete without the other. Of course, the soul yearns for God, and will find no rest until it rests in God, but the body and the soul were created to be together. The body and soul fell together when Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit. Both fell, and both have had to suffer the punishment which resulted from the Fall. Both the body and the soul were redeemed by Our Blessed Lord, and both will find full and ultimate happiness when re-united with each other in the presence of the God Who made them.

Man was never intended to be complete in himself, even before his integrity was lost at the Fall, but was designed to find his completion in the union of his soul with God. For its share in the Fall, the body must pay the penalty by parting with the soul at the moment of death. In spite of the fact that the body and the soul were meant to be together, until the moment of death the inseparable companions are in conflict with each other - the flesh lusting against the spirit and the spirit lusting against the flesh, and neither of them getting any pleasure in the competition.

But - - and this is the point of the whole thing - there is a pleasure surpassing all pleasure in the mystery which finally triumphs over the mystery of original sin. Eternal happiness takes the place of temporal sorrow. The struggle of life, successfully endured, will be rewarded with the blessings in store for those who have won the battle. The soul that has fought with faith and hope the lower nature of the body, which right through life has been warring against it, will find in Christ's risen life the fullness of joy and peace and happiness. The more truly and vividly this risen life of Christ is lived with here on earth by faith, the greater the soul's present happiness and the stronger the control over the lower nature. Unfortunately, this will not be made so clear as at the moment of death. The more fully the soul lives a life of faith during its sojourn on earth, the less chance will there be for despair to take over at the moment of death. The moment of death is the most delicate and the most trying moment of the life of man. All things - indeed ALL THINGS - will be focused into complete and perfect focus at that precise moment! And if faith is not present to give the soul security and calm, despair and fear will finally place the soul in its final state of ruin. But the soul must have long since understood and lived a life of faith. The soul must be accustomed to a life of faith. To live faithlessly - as so many do - throughout life, with the hope that faith can be called upon when death begins to knock at the door of life, is to live a presumption, and in strong probability cannot be depended upon when overwhelming fear flashes like a bolt of lightning before our then very weary eyes. To live in the hope of the great gift of faith to be given nonetheless after a life of faithlessness, is simply too much to expect. We speak here of a horror that is beyond all horror. Many treat the entire matter by simply refusing to think about it. They shove it out of their consciousness. But this is closing ones eyes to this stark reality. It is the closing of ones eyes while one is still enjoying the strength of a vigorous life and good health. Such a one will eventually be forced to open his eyes to the reality at hand when one is at his weakest possible point in life. THIS IS A FOOLISHNESS! But it is the program fostered by the world which speaks of eating and drinking and merriment. The world is totally indifferent to every other reason for living. The world is not at all in tune with anything supernatural, satisfying itself with only those novelties and undertakings fit for a natural setting.

Even though faith is quite strong in the lives of certain people - as in the lives of the saints - inner harmony which was forfeited by original sin is never fully restored, but more importantly the feeling of loss becomes calmed, supernatural life is given back to the soul, and union with God is assured - BUT NOT PRESUMPTUOUSLY. The saints never presume, and until the last moment they pray for mercy. If the redeemed man takes up this supernatural life; if he directs himself towards union with God, he not only has it within him - by the power of grace - to subdue the rebellions of the flesh but can also look forward with reasonable confidence to the time when body and soul will live in amity together for ever. The doctrine of the Resurrection is the complement to the doctrine of the Fall.

1. Next Sunday is the First Sunday of September. Therefore there will be no 9:30 A.M. Mass at St. Pius Chapel in Birmingham.
2. Some seem to think that the Sacrament of Penance is UNNECESSARY, and therefore rarely, if ever, go to confession. This is a presumption that is without comparison. If proper forgiveness of sin - told to a priest in confession is unnecessary, then every thing we do is a farce!