

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.
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 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
February 23, 1997 - - - Violet

Weekly Bulletin # 444

Mass: Of Sunday; no Gl; Or (1) Sun. (2) A Cunctis (3) Living & Dead
(4) A Domo; Cr; Pref. of Lent.

LENT

*Then shalt Thou be pleased with the sacrifice of
righteousness if Thou wilt turn Thy face from my sin.*

In the light of his prayer, in the light of all his Hope and Faith, in the light of his honest and genuine desire to re-live the Christ-Life in the setting of his own life, man will see that it is not the hardness of the work, the vigils he keeps, the fasts he endures, nor is it the intensity of the penances he performs which God wants. All that God wants of man is no more than the love - the absolutely perfect love - which inspires the work, the vigils, the fasts, the penances. Everything is a sounding brass if love does not inspire it! Let us recall what was said in a previous Bulletin: "If one - anyone - is of the mind to seek perfection (this is a requirement), love of neighbor must occupy the central place in his life - ALONGSIDE - the love of God."

If God wants hardness and every form of difficulty as well as love, He will arrange for the work or the penance to be hard! The first concern from our point of view is to make certain of the love that is in our hearts; the quality of the love. Hardness - penance - do not cover a multitude of sins. LOVE DOES!! Hardness - penance - are not the bond of perfection. LOVE IS!!

In the last analysis we cannot guarantee the measure of asceticism or penance which will atone for our sins or bring us one single step nearer to union with God. We simply have no way of knowing. This information is kept from us in this life. Is it not much wiser, then, to work with that which we do know? Is it not better to aim and make for something which can be guaranteed? Is it not better to have recourse to Christ, and learn from Him the lesson of love? Besides - is not Christ available to anyone and everyone who truly seeks Him? The more we come to know of His atonement, the more shall we be able to atone. The closer we draw to union with Christ, the more penitential shall we become.

Our security and the pardon for our sins do not lie in any merit of ours. If we trust in our own power to redeem ourselves, and make ourselves clean of all sinful marks on our souls, we will very soon become filled with delusion and confusion. How foolish of us to have confidence in ourselves as having strength to work out our own personal problems. There is nothing to our credit that has not been given to us by God, Himself. We possess nothing. Even after we have done everything that lies within us to do - we are still unprofitable servants. All that God wants of us - all that can be of help to us - is no more than our love - our love which inspires us to frankly and honestly admit the utter unprofitableness of our service.