

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 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin # 470

August 24, 1997 - - - Red

St. Bartholomew, Apostle

Mass: Of Saint; Gl; Or: 14th. Sun. and A Domo; Cr; Pref, Apostles.

Over the past several weeks we have centered our attention on penance. But penance is only a part of the spiritual life. Now we shall turn our attention to the twin of penance - - prayer. Penance has to do with the body. Prayer has to do with the soul. Of the two, quite naturally, prayer is the more noble and the more important. Both are an offering to God, but the offering of the soul is , after all, which must be preferred. As we look at penance, unless it is finally looked upon itself as prayer - which it should be - it can easily become a type of marathon. Penance and prayer have to go together, but with a proper balance. St. Benedict speaks of ORA ET LABORA - prayer and work, and he looks at work as penance. Incidentally, in ages past, when the monks discarded work in favor of only prayer - the monasteries deteriorated. At the same time, when the monks turned their attention more to work than to prayer - the monasteries deteriorated. With proper balance between the two, the monasteries flourished. The monasteries flourished because the monks learned that the over-all atmosphere of prayer found in the recitation of the Divine Office, could be found, as well, in the field, or in the shop or in the kitchen. And because all they did was prayer, they did everything well, and from their labors sprang up things unbelievable. Prayer with out penance is likely to become a culture; penance without prayer is likely to become an obsession or just another cause to be achieved. Prayer and penance safeguard one another, help one another out, express one another.

St. Paul says that we must "pray without ceasing". Yet there are those who will complain that such a program is a waste of time. Even so, St. Paul is telling us that our whole life should become a prayer. He is telling us that we must make or form a HABIT OF PRAYER. How does a stranger to prayer turn prayer to a prayer lifestyle? (We do not here speak of a prayerful demeanor!) Only by repeated acts. Prayer is learned by repeated acts. There is no short cut to a habit. A resolution to go on once one has begun is not a short cut. Resolutions are not for men who are in earnest. A method learned from a book is not a short cut. It may be a further step towards acquiring the habit, but it is not a short cut.. A book of meditations is not a short cut. A retreat - even a much advertised Ignatian Retreat - is not a short cut. These are only guides which merely suggest the direction to take. As with everything else that must be accomplished in life, there is no substitute for the work of cultivating the habit of prayer. We have to DO the thing before we can LIVE the thing. And in order to do the thing properly we not only have to be faithful to our purpose, but we have to be ruthless in the treatment of our feelings. We must not allow ourselves to judge the success or the failure of our effort by whether we FEEL the presence or the absence of devotion. What we feel, after all, is only the result of what our emotions suggest to us. The whole point about prayer (as it is with everything we do in the spiritual life) is the effect it has on God!!! Our feelings will never give us a true estimate of this. This holds quite true, also, when we speak of our Blessed Lady, or any of the Saints.

1. Friday, August 29, 1997 is the Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist.
2. Please pray for Abbot Leonard, who, this week-end is helping out at St. Pius V Chapel in Lake Zurich, Ill.
3. Please pray for the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Al Sachs.
4. Confessions are heard before Masses on Sunday. Everyone should look to the Sacrament of Penance as indeed a matter of consequence, and must be made use of is one intends to receive Holy Communion.
5. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Abbot Leonard's Schedule Only)
 - SUNDAY: For the People of the Chapels
 - MONDAY: For Catherine Murray
 - TUESDAY: Special Int. Margaret Ulman
 - WEDNESDAY: Special Int. Mary Clare Moore
 - THURSDAY: Dec. Meridee L. Greve
 - FRIDAY: Special Int. Richard Ahearn Family
 - SATURDAY: Special Int. Alice Deussen