

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 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin # 471

August 31, 1997 - - - Green

Mass: Sunday; G1; Or; Sun, A Cunctis, Church, A Domo; Cr; Pref. Trin.

People are apt to make two mistakes about prayer: they either imagine it to be so easy that they can manage it at once - - by a simple twist of the mind - by a simple resolution, or on the other hand they conclude that prayer is so difficult that it is not worth while going on with it. This latter is usually the path that is taken by the majority of people. Many, many people are quite afraid of prayer - - they are afraid to pray - - and they rigidly refuse to make the attempt, they will not try to learn how to address themselves to a God that is all Mercy and Love. They seem to be embarrassed to step before the presence of God. They consider it quite effeminate to address themselves in prayer to God. Actually they consider monks to be rather effeminate when they witness them in their work of prayer. Such ones satisfy themselves by simply reciting a few manufactured formulas found on the back of holy cards; they at most, but go no further than read the devotional prayers found in their missals. Prayer must go BEYOND the recitation of the formulas found on the backs of holy cards, even though such formulas are often the words used by well known saints. The use of prayer cards is indeed helpful, and should be fostered, but it is not the beginning and the end of prayer. Our purpose, therefore, for the next few weeks is to learn about prayer.

Prayer - because it is open to all - cannot be all that difficult, and because it is part of the burden of religion - and a major part of the religious life we are trying to develop in HOME MONASTICISM - it cannot be all that easy. At any rate, we must understand that whether we find prayer difficult or easy WE HAVE GOT TO DO IT!!! Looking at prayer from all points of view, it is perhaps more satisfactory to think that prayer is going to be easy than to think it is going to be difficult, for then we would find it easier to make a start. If any resolution is to be made - it should be TO START OFF - AT LEAST - ON A PILGRIMAGE OF PRAYER. If we look only at the difficulties of prayer we are handicapped at the very beginning by certain discouragement. Discouragement is the MOST formidable obstacle to a life of prayer.

1. Next Sunday, September 7, 1997 is the First Sunday of September. There will be no 9:30 A.M. Mass at St. Pius Chapel on that day.
2. Marie Girardi, the mother of our Thomas Girardi, departed this life in peaceful death on Friday, August 15, 1997. In your charity, please remember the soul of Mrs. Girardi in your prayers.
3. Friday, September 5th. is the First Friday of September. Mass in the Abbey Church at 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 A.M.
4. Saturday, September 6th. is the First Saturday of September. Masses in the Abbey Church at 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 A.M.
5. Please pray for the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Al Sachs.

Happy Labor Day