

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 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Weekly Bulletin # 472

September 7, 1997 - - - Green

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

As was mentioned last week, there may be some difficulty attached to a life of prayer. But though there may be a difficulty connected with forming the habit of prayer, there is no habit so easily drawn upon ONCE IT IS THERE. So habitual can prayer become that the natural movement of the mind is toward God instead of towards creatures - - instead of towards self - instead of towards things. Here we must quickly come to understand that the movement must be "natural" and not "automatic". FOR PRAYER TO HAVE ANY VALUE IT MUST BE NON-MECHANICAL! FOR PRAYER TO BE PRAYER IT MUST NOT BE ACT OF A ROBOT. There must not be any sense of duty attached to prayer. Too many traditional Roman Catholic people move about a spiritual life - a prayer life - as though they were mere robots. In sadness it has to be said that they are being taught to be such, and by priests (sometimes) that are themselves quite robotical in their own prayer life, and in the way they show themselves when offering up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. All feelings seems to be drained from them. There is all the difference in the world between an instinctive direction of the soul towards God and a purely routine mechanical action. Love for God - Desire for God - is the condition of prayer, and love must come from the heart. Love is not an intellectual thing. St. Benedict reminds us that we must listen with the ears of our hearts. He does not say, "and with the ears of thy mind". The desire for God;s glory is always prayer. And to become a man of prayer it is quite necessary so to extend this desire that it becomes habitual. it must be habitual for us to see God's glory in everything we say; in everything we do; in everything we think; in everything we see. But this must never be a LABORED or FORCED thing. It must be the most natural thing that we do throughout the day.

Remember that it was said above that the desire for God is the condition for prayer. There must be present, also, the intention to pray, there must be the intention to DESIRE TO LOVE AND PLEASE GOD. Intention is necessary even if attention escapes us. Sometimes people who speak of a life of recollection make the mistake of thinking that the THOUGHT of God must always and is always in the head. THIS IS NOT AT ALL TRUE. Very often recollection is nothing more than the over-all rooted desire constructed by an often repeated INTENTION.

1. Tomorrow, September 8 is the Feast of the NATIVITY of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Friday, September 12 is the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary. These are two very important Feast, and should be days of concentrated prayer.

Since the talk about Home Monasteries began, many people have asked how are these to be. Each week, carefully selected readings are placed in our Bulletins. These readings are most important in the formation of a SENSUS CATHOLICUS in our Homs (Home Monasteries). They should not be casually read. Rather, they should be read at home - line by line - and discussed by the members of the family. Furthermore, these readings should be read several times. These readings should help one to develop the Spiritual Life so much needed in today's world and society.