

## 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 TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin # 476

October 5, 1997 - - - Green

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

Not only is prayer an activity of religion but it is, because it regards God directly, the best act that man can perform. It is higher than the act of charity towards one's neighbor because it is the expression of one's charity towards God. Consequently any act -- every act -- performed PRAYERFULLY - whether related to one of the virtues or not - - itself becomes an act of virtue. By "prayerful" we do not mean a "prayerful looking" act. Such an act is artificial, external and not necessarily acceptable to God. Such were the acts that brought down the condemnation of our Lord upon the pharisees when He labeled them "HYPOCRITES"! The prayerfulness of the act must originate in the privacy and in the sincerity of one's heart. This is essential! ONLY after one has obliterated the base hypocrisies that are lodged in one's mind can one come to comprehend the loftiness of prayer. No one - not even God Himself - can bring about the destruction of one's base hypocrisies. Spiritual directors can only point out deficiencies. Then the individual, alone, with God help, can bring about effective change. No one can do it for him. NO ONE can lead one away from what one does not already wish to be led away from!

Such base hypocrisies can be listed as pride, self-will, pride, disobedience, pride, anger, pride, concupiscence, pride and etc. PRIDE IS THE THIEF! As long as pride remains the thief one will never step up and onto the heights of prayerful contemplation. Neither can one full of pride be led along the way toward prayerful contemplation. Such a one is like the famous pharisee who went up to the temple to pray along with the poor publican. The pharisee thought himself to be quite full of righteousness, and so acceptable to God. No one could have been able to penetrate such pride, and to our knowledge, no one ever did. The very sad part of it all was that the poor pharisee did not even know that he was in such poor straits! And so he went along in life a poor and destitute man, while the the publican went along in life with all of its riches.

Whatever comes from the heart determines the act to be good or bad. But we, here, are concerned with the prayerfulness of the act. Therefore, recreations, human undertakings, human relations - - not to mention the more obvious things like sufferings, misunderstandings, loneliness and doubt and all such like - - acquire a sacred character under the cover of prayer. PRAYER IS THE SACRAMENT OF THE MOMENT. Without having to be in constant realization of it, prayer is nothing more than the human will directed towards God, recognizing its dependence upon God. Prayer is unconscious movement. It is the movement of one who has the warmth of God's love upon him! It is impossible for such a one to sin! for sin, in such a case, would not at all be consistent with the warmth of love that envelops him. One who does not comprehend love cannot comprehend what is being said here!!

Prayer is intent upon performing all that the perfect service of God involves, and such service manifests itself best in obedience, humility, sorrow for sin, submission to lawful authority, respect for lawful authority, willingness to REFORM one's way of life, and such like. Perfect service of God requires a FULL TIME CONVICTION. Perfect service has no excuse to offer for the unpleasant reaction when something unpleasant or distasteful or contrary to one's self-will comes one's way. Perfect service of God requires that we keep our emotions - our angers - our ill humors - under control FULL TIME - NOT PART TIME! Our conviction in this matter is a wordless matter - it is an attitude of mind (a point of view) which must be in constant association with perfect prayer. PRAYER IS LIFE! LIFE IS PRAYER! Only when we become fully convinced that God is the only center of life and source of all good - can we begin to notice any real activity in the reformation of our lives. Spiritual directors are not part of this activity - BELIEVE IT OR NOT! Until such a moment, reformation of life is merely superficial and unfruitful - just Words! Words! Words!

The mistake is quite common enough of thinking that prayer is a thing APART - - APART FROM LIFE - - from living: prayer being one thing, life being another thing. Some make it appear that prayer is a sanctifying exercise, an exercise that we perform with each new day, and each morning we tack it on to the day's activities and existence. The function of prayer is not primarily to help us in the ordering of our lives, or in giving some kind of cosmetic attractiveness to the things that we normally do. The primary function of prayer is to give glory and praise and honor and thanksgiving and reparation to God. The more that prayer is part of our lives the better, for then our very lives give increased glory to God. Prayer is, indeed, the very breath of the soul. Everyone, no matter who, must pray. Whosoever prays shall be saved. Whosoever does not pray shall infallibly be lost.

1. Tuesday, October 7, 1997 is the Feast of the Most Holy Rosary. Saturday, October 11, 1997 is the Feast of the Divine Maternity of the Most Blessed Virgin. These are tremendous days. They are days of great Great and Blessings. We must turn to the Blessed Mother and ask her for the protection that she is so willing to give. But we must listen to what she has to say, and we must act upon it with full conviction.
2. Please remember the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Al Sachs, Johanna Roy and Kathryn Lineback.
3. Confessions are heard before Masses on Sundays.
4. Do not forget that October is the Month of the Most Holy Rosary. The Rosary should be recited daily, but especially during October. This should be a family effort. The Monastery recites the Rosary each evening in October at 7:10 P.M. The Monks, Nuns and People join in this prayer. Some have asked: Does reciting the Rosary mean articulating the words of the Hail Mary? Answer: yes. While articulating the words of the Hail Mary, it is correct to meditate on the various mysteries as they are presented. It matters not that it is impossible to meditate, also on the words of the Hail Mary.
5. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Abbot Leonard's Schedule only)
 

SUNDAY:	For the PEOPLE OF THE Chapels
MONDAY:	Dec. Henrietta Faas
TUESDAY:	Dec. John and Genevieve Roebuck
WEDNESDAY:	Dec. Rita Muhlenkamp
THURSDAY:	Dec. M.W. Cassidy
FRIDAY:	For the Poor Souls
SATURDAY:	Dec. Clara Goedher

When a religious asked St. Thomas Aquinas: "How can I save my soul?" St. Thomas answered: "BY WILLING IT." Here the saint, by his simple reply, gives us the crux of the WHOLE BUSINESS OF PURSUING PERFECTION. If we DESIRE perfection (really want to reach perfection), we shall be saved. All depends on our willing, and willing it seriously and effectually, and on our EXERTING ourselves with all possible diligence to secure our salvation. If we do not have the will, nor the energy to exert ourselves, no one - man, priest, superior, not even God Himself, can bring about our salvation.

It is the duty of the priest to LEAD his people. It is the duty of the religious superior to LEAD his religious. But we must understand what is meant by leading. This leading is not so much a leading to the heights of sanctity, as it means a leading away from the rock heavy weights of our pride, our disobedience, our self will, our concupiscences, etc.

The eagle cannot fly - nor is free to fly as long as it has heavy stones tied to its feet. ONLY after someone comes to it and unties the heavy stones from its feet is the eagle able and FREE to soar to the highest clouds. The eagle, it is, who does the flying. The eagle, it is, who puts forth the effort to fly.

The same applies to us. Only AFTER someone - the spiritual director - the confessor - frees us from the heavy stones of our corrupt nature, can we fly to the highest clouds of contemplation. It is only then that Christ will meet us in His heavens. It is intellectual nonsense to conclude that we can soar in the clouds while yet tied down to the heavy stones of our corrupt human nature.

*October is the Month of the Holy Rosary*