

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 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
February 1, 1998 - - - Green

Weekly Bulletin # 494

Mass of Sunday: Gl, Or of Sun. Cr. Pref. Trin.

TOMORROW IS CANDLEMAS DAY

There are those who are of the opinion that the Spiritual Life is the Life that is properly observed only in convents and monasteries. It is the feeling of many, that the Spiritual Life does not properly apply to the lives of the laity. The laity - at least some of them - look upon the reading of spiritual books as the work primarily of monks and nuns. Such reading, they maintain, intrudes upon the valuable time of the very busy lay person. The man of the world must be concerned with his work time, his leisure time, and his time for reading about current events. The little that is left over should be given to the family.

It might be suggested that the difference in the spiritual-reading public is not whether one reads spiritual books or not, or whether one is a religious person who lives in a monastery or convent or not BUT WHETHER ONE IS SERIOUS IN HIS PURSUIT OF THE INTERIOR LIFE OR NOT!! Though intended primarily for those who have the time and the opportunity normally enjoyed by those in monasteries and convents for prayer and reading (and many books about religion quite obviously apply to those who serve God in the religious life) spiritual books, in most part, are meant to help - - ALSO - - those who live in the world. They are meant to help anyone who has come to the understanding that everyone is expected to live some degree of the contemplative life.

But words concerning the spiritual life would be rather useless to the man who objects that after a hard day's work spent in the paradise of the market place, it would be too much to expect him to deny himself the time he would like to spend in front of the television. Such a man grumbles about the pressure put upon him by the ones at the corporate level who constantly extort more and more from him. He grumbles about the ridiculous demands of the dissatisfied customer. For all of this such a man feels entitled to his comfortable chair; he expects a nice cool highball at day's end, and resents being asked to do heavy reading about the condition of his soul. He has paid his dues for that day, and enough is enough. It must be admitted that he has a point. But it must also be admitted that, in spite of his daily bout with the forces at the job site, he must remain aware that his spiritual health is of the greatest importance and cannot be ignored. He must come to understand that his spiritual health comes to his assistance when dealing with the affairs of the world, and that peace and calm will protect him in times of great stress. If he fails to take advantage of the aids that spiritual health will extend to him, he will seek, inevitably, other means that will relax him.

The present instability, fear, insecurity, and uncertainty bear heavily on the mind of the one who must provide for a family. Yet such a one, if he ever intends to keep his sanity, must make the effort to understand and accept the importance of religion in his life. He must come to comprehend his purpose in life, and the purpose of all who depend on him, and that the present idiocy must make room for That which is OF ANOTHER DEMENSION.