

**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)

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Weekly Bulletin # 498

March 1, 1998 - - - Purple

Mass of Sunday, Or. of Sun. No Gl. Cr. Pref Lent

**LENT**

We are now into the Holy Season of Lent once again, and each of us is reminded that Lent, if it is to bear the desired result, must be given wise, prudent and honest consideration. The Lenten season is the Spring season, and in the Spring the vines are all pruned. To prune means to lop or cut off the superfluous parts, the useless and unproductive branches. Spring is the time to make the vine better. Lent is the time to make the soul better. Lent is the time to PRUNE THE SOUL! To walk out of Lent no better than we were when we walked into it, it a total waste.

It is important that we comprehend the basic purpose of Lent. If we understand the purpose of Lent, we will understand the purpose of life. The purpose of life, however, is mostly misunderstood and misrepresented. Lent points at the essential responsibilities of the each of us. It deals only with the spiritual life, which, today, is down graded - even overlooked altogether. Sadly, the spiritual life is a subject that is not talked about in detail in the new order of things in the mainstream catholic church today, probably because the party atmosphere found in the new order is so incompatible with the marrow of the life of the spirit that is required by our Maker. The old order in the so-called traditionalist catholic church is not doing much better. The traditionalist catholic church is so taken up with apologetics and with its sophomoric understanding of Catholic ceremonial and usages, that it makes, at best, only passing reference to the entire program of the spiritual life. The old order does not emphasize sufficiently the need for progress in the life of the soul, confining itself mostly to the various definitions that deal with spirituality. In truth, the traditionalist catholic church is not giving the expected leadership to those of us who wish to grow in the Christ Life. At the same time, anyone wishing to grow in the spiritual life must understand the leadership role played by the spiritual director. The spiritual leader does not lead anybody to sanctity - and he should not be expected to do so. The spiritual leader cannot make a saint out of anybody, and he should not be expected to do so. The ONLY THING that any spiritual leader can do is to POINT in the direction of sanctity. The rest is up to the one who wants to become a saint. To look for more in this area is to look for someone to blame when things do not go as expected. In discussions such as this, it is essential that we look to the responsibilities of everyone in question - - - OBJECTIVELY. We must put away all pre-conceived ideas which have been brought into focus in recent years, and which have caused much harm to many good souls.

It must be remembered at every point that the whole purpose of the spiritual life is to free the soul for further advance towards God. When we speak of the life of spirituality, we cannot escape speaking or renunciation - of change. Dwelling on apologetical matters has its importance, but the soul is not benefited by such discussions. The mind is at the center of all such study - not the soul. Unless there is a deep seated desire for spiritual growth, it is idle to think that leadership is going to pick one up and suddenly place him upon the pinnacle of holiness. No one can put us up on any level of holiness. Not even God can do that, if we do not have the will. Let us not quote what happened to St. Paul when he was thrown off his horse! The giving (the taking) of example is essential, especially today. Example, however, must not be taken out of the context of the exact and correct application it's meaning. Example has to be taken in the fullest context of the meaning of the word - in all of the ramifications of the significance of the meaning of the word. There are those who place an unfair importance on the narrow interpretation of the word "example" and they put unjust shackles on the person of the leader on whom they place a funny colored spot light. Such ones are not looking upon example in the right frame of mind. When they speak of example they mean MINDLESS IMITATION. We expect no less from monks. As a consequence, the spiritual life of such people remains shallow, bigoted and all wound up in self love, pride and self importance. These good people are usually scandalized at every move their poor neighbor makes. Like the seed that fell on rock, their spiritual life never develops satisfactorily, or if it does, it develops into a very deformed thing.

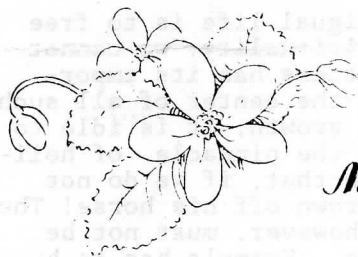
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**REMEMBER, MAN, THAT THOU ART DUST, AND UNTO DUST THOU SHALL RETURN**

The trouble with too many of us is that we fail to dig deeply enough into the actual formula of the spiritual life. We naturally become frightened when we look at such a life as being proper only to the divine, and not as proper to the human life and human living. If, when we make the effort to try the spiritual life, and for whatever reason, fail to maintain it, we look for someone or something to blame: - usually spiritual direction. Penance frightens people. It frightens people because penance demands change. If change is not in evidence, we are not living the spiritual life - we are not living a life of penance. THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE ENTIRE LENTEN IDEA IS CHANGE!

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1. Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament every Friday during Lent at 7:00 P.M. Those who can should make a special effort to attend this wonderful Lenten Devotion.
  2. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of this week are the EMBER DAYS of Lent. These are days of Fast and Abstinence. Meat may be eaten once on Wednesday and Saturday - but at the main meal.
  3. Saturday is the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas. Please pray to him that we will ALL learn our Faith - as it should be understood and held.
  4. Friday March 6 is the First Friday of March and Mass in the Abbey Church is at 8:00 A.M.
  5. Saturday March 7 is the First Saturday of March and Mass in the Abbey Church is at 8:00 A.M.
  6. Ashes will be distributed at Masses today. Do not forget to pick up your packets of Blessed Ashes after Mass.
  7. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut=Ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Al Sachs.
  8. During the Holy Season of LENT we should all pray more intently for UNITY and CHARITY amongst all truly TRADITIONAL ROMAN CATHOLICS. As long as we remain divided - as we all are - the Kingdom of God on Earth suffers - - A HOUSE DIVIDED ---- will not stand!
  9. Every Day pray that God will never permit any of hell's smoke to enter our monastery and convent - EVER!
  10. MASSES FOR THE WEEK (Abbot Leonard's Schedule Only)
 

SUNDAY:	For the People of the Chapels
MONDAY:	Special Int. Grezenia Family
TUESDAY:	Welfare Marguarite McGill
WEDNESDAY:	Special Int. Simmons Fam.
THURSDAY:	Special Int. of the Donor
FRIDAY:	For the Poor Souls
SATURDAY:	Special Int. Paul Roy Fam.



*Mighty art Thou, O Lord,*

*to deliver us from the hand of*

*the strong:*

*save and deliver us, oh our God.*

