

**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	6:00 A.M.	9:10 A.M. - Rosary
10:45 A.M. - Mass	10:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M. - Mass
(ONLY on First Sunday of each month)	Every Sunday	(EXCEPT on first Sunday of each month)
	6:00 A.M.	
	7:00 P.M.	
	Holy Days	

SUNDAY AFTER FEAST OF ASCENSION

Weekly Bulletin # 510

May 24, 1998 - - - White

Mass: Of Sunday, G1; Cr; Pref of Ascension

## Next Sunday Is

# *Pentecost Sunday*

"Listen, O my son, to the precepts of thy Master, and incline the ear of thy heart . . ." These are the very first words of The Holy Rule of St. Benedict. It is in the heart that perfection lies. Love is the supreme law.

Praiseworthy though it be to seek God by good works, and especially the works of God's Commandments, we must yet be forearmed against a certain false idea of perfection, which is sometimes to be met with in not very enlightened souls. It often happens that the whole of perfection is placed in the merely outward and material observance of God's law. Although it may sound severe, the above approach to perfection borders upon pharisaism or risks leading to it. The Pharisees passed, in the eyes of the multitude, as holy personages. They esteemed themselves saints - justified - and made all perfection consist in the exactitude of outward observances. Their fidelity to the letter of the law and the exactitude they demanded were so tedious that the examples given of their formalism are often ridiculous. Our Lord called it "the tradition of men."

What, then, is the Christian life? What is the "Sensus Catholicus" that we often mention? What is the atmosphere of Catholic living? Is it a list of observances? a schedule of things one must do? Is it a "church going" practice where one never misses mass on Sunday, or fails to receive the Sacraments? Is it abstaining from candy during Lent? **In no way!! IT IS THE DIVINE LIFE OVERFLOWING FROM THE BOSOM OF THE FATHER INTO CHRIST JESUS AND, THROUGH HIM, INTO OUR SOULS.** Without this supernatural foundation all that we do is nothing. Are we to understand by this that all exterior prescriptions of Christianity are to be put aside? Far from it. Their observance should be the normal condition. But their observance must be the manifestation of the interior life: their observance must be guided by the condition found in one's heart. And in this normal condition, of course, it is necessary to belong to the visible Church, and to observe her Commandments - if one wishes to participate in the life of Grace. But the Christian life must not be placed principally and only in the outward observance of material ordinances. There is a warning, here, to those who profess to live according to the regulations of Traditional Roman Catholicism: simply to place the gift on the altar of Tradition does not automatically make the gift acceptable! The essence of Catholic living does not consist in a carefully structured life full of "do this" and "don't do that". It can happen that one succeeds by force of will and energy in keeping all the rules - perfectly - and yet have absolutely no true inner life. This is not a rare thing. For such a one all the inner works are dry. All activity is without feeling; without good disposition; and full of distraction. DUTY is here the compelling force behind every act. It is not rare to find Catholic souls whose spiritual progress is very slow - if at all - although their outward exactitude lends itself to no reproach. Note the regular reception of the Sacrament of Penance, yet note the lack of progress spiritually in such ones, regardless of their frequent approach to the confessional. Might it not be that such one have blockaded any progress by their own self-seeking? their own self-complacency? by their own self-evaluations? Might it not also be possible that such ones, in the satisfaction they derive from their observance, look down on their brethren who do not appear to be as faithful in their observance as they? Might it not be that such ones, in reality, place their perfection in the exterior observance itself? Surely this is **DEFECTIVE RELIGIOUS THINKING!**

It is in the heart, that perfection lies - - for **LOVE IS THE SUPREME LAW!** Our observance, when it is animated by love, is extremely pleasing to God. The observing of the Commandments does not constitute holiness (**THIS SIMPLY HAS TO BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD**) But the observing of the Commandments constitutes a means of arriving at holiness, and this must always be kept in mind. What is important in our observance is the inner principle that animates us. The Pharisees observed all things exactly, but it was that they might be seen and applauded by the multitude; and this moral deviation utterly spoiled ALL their works. As to the outward observance kept mechanically, but for its own sake and without any interior work to ennoble it, let us at least say that such is not the description of perfection. Our exterior fidelity must be the result, the fruit, and manifestation of the faith, confidence and love that govern the hearts of true MEN OF GOD. The Commandments are the expression of God's Will!!!

!!AS A MAN THINKETH IN HIS HEART - - - SO IS HE!!