

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. and 10:00 A.M.
Every Sunday

6:00 A.M. - 8:00 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 EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
July 26, 1998 - - - Green
Mass of Sunday, Gl. Cr. Pref Trinity

Weekly Bulletin # 519

PRAYER is necessary and it is the beginning of all good. Without prayer there can be no good beginning. But prayer is good only at the beginning. There has to be more. Prayer can be looked upon as the presentation of a gift: the presentation of our gift to God. But the gift without the bearer is bare - - quite bare. Our gift to God in prayer must include us - - and our inclusion in the gift is demonstrated by our own personal self-denial. If our prayer is to be worthy of us, it must be joined to our self-denial. Therefore it is necessary to join self-denial to prayer.

Prayer orders and directs our thoughts towards God. Prayer is easy to him who knows God. Self-denial turns our attention to our own selves and teaches us how to deal with ourselves - with our various and sundry addictions. Our self-denial eventually causes us to focus our attention on those addictive tendencies that we must do something about, if SALVATION is our final goal. At the present time - - more than at any other time - - there is a frantic optimism, an optimism that refuses to see the obvious and tangible disorder and devastation now existing in our world - - AND - - in our religion. The optimism is gradually and definitely destroying the whole of Christian Faith - - destroying our dependence on a Supreme Being. God Himself cannot make man interiorly good again if man is not himself willing to become so. Even though Baptism restores grace to man, and man at that point becomes once again pleasing to God, there still remains in man the power of concupiscence and inordinate passions, which do not rob him of his free will, but necessitate a hard struggle and offer continual occasions of sin, and this is where self-denial becomes a necessity. Our willingness to deny ourselves does justice both to God and man, at once uplifts us, warns and encourages us and gives us hope. According to man's willingness to deny himself, all falls into its right place, and God is acknowledged as the Author and Finisher of our justification, while man has the honor and merit of co-operating with God in his own personal salvation. There is no exaggeration in either direction. Proper self-denial is not negative activity, it is not pessimistic and crippling to man's freedom of action. Proper self-denial is the most temperate pessimism and the most reasonable and NOBLE OPTIMISM. Therefore it is of the highest importance that ALL our personal activities should bear the impress of self-denial. IT IS ALL ACCOMPLISHED BY OUR CORRECT POINT OF VIEW!

1. Next Saturday, August 1, 1998, is the First Saturday of August. Mass in the Abbey Church at 8:00 A.M.
2. Next Sunday, August 2, 1998 is the First Sunday of August. Therefore, there will be no 9:30 A.M. Mass at St. Pius Chapel in Birmingham.
3. Confessions are heard before Masses on Sunday, and all are urged to make proper use of the Sacrament of Penance and on a regular basis. Personal interpretation has no effect whatever on the reality of this very necessary Sacrament.
4. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Al Sachs.