

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. and 10:00 A.M. Every Sunday	9:10 A.M. - Rosary
10:45 A.M. - Mass		9:30 A.M. - Mass
(ONLY on First Sunday of each month)	6:00 A.M. - 8:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. Holy Days	(EXCEPT on first Sunday of each month)

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin #522

August 16, 1998 - - - Green

Mass of Sunday - - Gl. Cr. Pref Trin.

We continue with our discussion concerning self-denial. Self-denial is a resistance. But what is the object of our resistance? What is it that we must attack? What is it that we must subdue? And, beyond it all - - just WHY all this fuss??

In the first place, it is not our NATURE that we must subdue. We did not create our human nature. Our nature belongs to God, not to us. We can use our nature, but it is not in the proper use of it when we commit sin. We commit sin when we abuse our nature. The faculties of our nature are not, then, the object of our mortification. We need our faculties, and we cannot live and act without them. For example: we have the faculty - it is in our nature - to have a need for food, and we must eat in order to live and stay healthy. In no way is it a sin to eat. But if we give in to a compulsion and a obsession to eat, if we give in to an addiction for food and drink, if we eat simply for the sake of eating, we abuse our God given and natural faculty. Our craving for food, when it is all out of control and when we give in to it, is sinful. The same is to be said for each of our appetites and natural faculties and passions, and any deep rooted addiction of ours. Anything that we do - anything that you can think of - if it is not regulated by normal and sober and charitable norms can be, and oftentimes is, sinful.

One very common addiction that is very commonly overlooked is our addiction to SELF! And we refuse to consider (self-righteously - of course) the pain and difficulty that this addiction causes others who have to live with us!

As said above, the faculties of our nature are not the object of our mortification. We need these faculties, and we cannot live and act without them. The stronger and more perfect they are, the better. Therefore it is not our passions - even in themselves - that we have to fight. Our various faculties, inclinations, passions are a part of the household furniture of our nature and are IN THEMSELVES good or at least indifferent and only become evil when we decide to misuse them.

Not our faculties, but the inordinate indulgence in them which we call the proper object of our mortification. But what is inordinate indulgence? All that is contrary to our end and makes us fall short of that end; all that exposes us to the danger of losing it; all that does not further it, in particular, whatever is sinful, whatever is an occasion of danger needlessly encountered and encouraged, whatever is useless, or for which we have no sufficient motive, and whatever is inconsistent with our good reason, our good conscience and our good faith.

AND WHAT IS OUR END? Why did God make me? Why on earth am I here on earth? Why am I here in this place at this very moment in time and space? Just why did God make me? And the only answer I can give is: God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this life and to be with Him for all eternity in the next life! Anything that stands in the way of the fulfillment of this end - NO MATTER WHAT - is wrong, and must be avoided, and the avoiding is what we classify mortification. Here is what we must mortify, and anything that stands in the way of the fulfillment