

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 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 6, 1998 - - - Green
Mass of Sunday - - - Gl. Cr. Pref. Trin.

Weekly Bulletin # 525

We are men and we live amongst men in this world - - so willed by our Creator. Life is a journey - it is a pilgrimage, and pilgrimages are rarely, if ever, pleasure trips. Pilgrimages, as a rule are very arduous, and filled with danger, torment and bother. There are many obligations to be met with while on the pilgrimage, and these obligations cannot - indeed they will not - be met without strict self-discipline, self-denial and boundless patience. Patience is quite impossible without self-denial.

We are Christians - we are Catholic Christians, and everything in our holy Catholic religion obliges us to mortification. Our Blessed Lord and Saviour, the Founder of our religion, preached mortification both by word and example. From the very first moment of His Life on this earth to the very last moment of it, He gave a perfect example for us to follow. This does not mean a literal interpretation, and that we must start with birth in a stable and end up with the death of a common criminal on a cross! After all, we must use prudence and common sense in all such matters. Christ is the living model of mortification in all the mysteries of His life, and He points out to us what we should be willing to give, should the occasion arise. The multitude of martyrs is witness to this strong suggestion: (we cannot be forced). Christ makes mortification and self-denial the indispensable conditions of following Him and being His disciple. The holy Cross is the symbol of His religion. "Unless you take up your cross" The Catholic Christian Faith is a cross, and its religious observance has never - ever - been pleasurable, inviting and easy, but the yoke of it is sweet, and its burden, in the last analysis, is quite light. The modern ridiculous application of religious practices which should always be palatable to the reckless requirements of ecumenical man have reduced Jesus Christ to hardly more than a babbling idiot. But Christ has to be taken either as totally consequential, or He has to be taken as totally unconsequential - - with nothing in between. If recklessness is the posture of modern man, then let modern man work out his own future. Robert Lewis Stevenson once wrote: "Sooner or later we all must sit down to a banquet of consequences."

The Catholic Christian Faith is a cross to our pride of intellect and the armory of all motives for self-denial. The Catholic Christian Faith has been so constructed as to make the salvation of one's soul possible. The Catholic Christian Faith has never intended to put together a pleasure trip. It must be admitted here that over the ages, the Catholic Christian Faith developed certain very real problems. but with God's help and the good will of some very good and holy men it has never failed in its duty to point out the original message of Jesus Christ. The sadness of it all is that the catholic christian faith, so called, in today's page of creation's history, is an embarrassment to every right thinking man, and a confusion to every man on earth. Believe it or not, in some catholic christian religious orders (some rather prominent) the Most Sacred Cross of Jesus Christ has been removed by order - in all parts of the religious houses, and by order the Cross was replaced by a totum pole carrying the symbols of EARTH, WIND, FIRE AND WATER!!!

The Commandments of God are so many restraints, and they place demands upon mortification. Even the Sacraments signify to us the importance of mortification and they effect within us the graces they convey. The whole Christian life is, according to St. Paul's comprehension of it, a death and burial with Christ. In no way can the Christian life be taken as a fun trip with frolic and the "good life" to be found at every turn. No man on earth is entitled to such. At the end of his "good life" at some point man will be met with his earth, fire, wind and water. The burning question remains: how far aloft will earth, fire, wind and water carry him?