

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 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 13, 1998 - - - Green
Mass of Sunday - - Gl. Cr. Pref. Trin.

Weekly Bulletin # 526

The end of self-denial is a glorious one. But not every kind, but only the right kind of self-denial attains it. To be right, to be the right kind, it must possess certain characteristics.

In the first place, it must be constant. It simply cannot be an on again - - off again practice. There are souls who are quite willing to deny themselves OCCASIONALLY, casually, once in a while, when the spirit moves them, when they are in the company of certain others, and all of the rest of it. They operate in such a fashion because they - in all reality - cannot help themselves and cannot evade self-denial without disadvantage. This kind of self-denial is sure not enough. We must practice self-denial regularly, out of principle, interiorly and as the business of life. Self-denial is a private affair, it is a personal affair, it is a religious affair. It is never a "when somebody is looking" affair. We must be resolved to wrestle with ourselves at all times and places. We cannot let ourselves go, regardless of the scene of the present moment, or the place we presently find ourselves in, or the present company that is with us. We must be stern with ourselves - at all times - otherwise we cannot prevail over our deformed passions, or over the evil that is in us and that EVER threatens us and lies in wait for us. We must never underestimate the truth that such evil is with us always, and not merely occasionally and casually. It is, alas! a heritage of our nature, which we bring into the world with us when we are born and which stays with us all our long life. St. Paul says that evil is a law within us - - it is perpetual - - it is rooted in us. It is a firmly established power in us. Now habit can only be overcome by habit. A law can only be displaced by another law. Power can be met with only by another power of equal strength. He who will be secure, then, must take this for his motto: --- "you must overcome yourself, you must do violence to yourself, or evil will be your master and will inevitably lead you to the very gates of hell."

The world, of course, laughs at this!

The effort to subdue self must, in the next place, be comprehensive. It must extend to every department of our life. To simply pick and choose what we wish or prefer to bring into control is wrong and remains very ineffective. Self-denial is a discipline, and has to be treated as a discipline. If self-denial extends itself only to some of the departments of our life, it is best to forget all about it, and go merrily on with our life of fun and frolic.

Self-denial can leave nothing neglected. It must include everything. Everything of body and soul, every individual faculty, our understanding, our will and our passions, or our inclinations, our pleasures. Every addiction of ours - no matter which one - must be brought under control. Perhaps we should inventory our addictions - even those we consider innocent. Every passion that we tolerate, every addiction we overlook and permit is an enemy to our rear, an enemy which, at any unexpected moment, may overtake us and cause us to fall. Who would have ever thought that avarice would have made a traitor and a suicide out of an apostle (Judas)? Every passion, every uncontrolled desire, every addiction is an evil spirit inside us - EVER READY TO STRANGLE US.