

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)



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6, 1998 - - - Purple

Mass: Sunday, Cr. Pref Trinity

Weekly Bulletin # 538

ADVENT

Immaculate Conception

December 8

PART I

About Humility

The most important and efficacious means of acquiring and advancing in humility is prayer! There is no adequate substitute for prayer. If we do not pray, that is, endeavour by constant practice of prayer to unite ourselves to God, we shall not be humble. The basis of the virtue of humility is neither self-knowledge, nor a low opinion of oneself, nor a preference of others to oneself, nor self-depreciation. Very importantly, also, even a profound knowledge of the virtue of humility is not a basis for its development. To speak of one's desire to become humble, and to refer to one's lack of humility, cannot be taken as advantageous to the advancement of the virtue. Humility is simply and solely a realization - a comprehension - of the greatness of God. And in realizing the greatness of God, it is an all embracing acceptance and a penetrating consciousness of the nothingness of self. This leads to reverence which is the root and principle of humility.

St. John of the Cross is very clear when he says that if we wish to advance in prayer, we must uproot all thought of our own superiority over others. It is not a mere intellectual conviction that we seek - - that we are not superior over others. Humility is not the result of any mental reasoning. It is not an activity of the mind. It comes to the Heart of Man who is on his knees in prayer, for it is a grace. Prayer should transform us, in our outlook and in our way of judging. To prefer ourselves to others is deep in us - it is a natural. Only the transforming effect of true prayer will rid us of our pride. If we still find ourselves passing judgement on others - ON ANYBODY - after many years spent in the practice of prayer, it is a sign that our prayer has been SPECULATION, rather than true prayer - as St. Theresa says. The point here raised by St. John is important. YOU CANNOT ACQUIRE HUMILITY (YOU CANNOT ACQUIRE ANY SPIRITUAL ADVANCEMENT) OUT OF A BOOK!! A book can teach you a certain amount about virtue, but the virtue is acquired only by prayer and in the bitter experience of oneself! And in order that this latter be useful to teach and not merely to depress, prayer is necessary. Our poverty and inadequacy come home to us on our knees in the presence of God. Otherwise their realization may well only embitter us. Accepted rightly, our failings will teach us more humility in a quarter of an hour before God in humility than will the reading of all the books in the library and the listening to a life-time of proofs and definitions. Prayer, then, is the basic and essential means. Without it all our other efforts will be more or less useless. "Unless the Lord build the house, they labour in vain who build it." The real sadness today is that our spiritual guides leave us instructed rather than edified!

(Adapted quotation from the Book: "Unprofitable Servants"
By: Father Nivard Kinsella, O.C.S.O. - 1961)

*The life of Jesus Christ on Earth
amongst men is the Divine Way
of Living on Earth.*

