

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 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
January 24, 1999 - - - Green
Mass of Sunday. Gl.Cr. Pref Trinity

Weekly Bulletin # 546

SEPTUAGESIMA

The Season of Septuagesima comprises the three weeks immediately preceding Lent. It forms one of the principal divisions of the Liturgical Year, and is itself divided into three parts, each part corresponding to a week: the first is called Septuagesima; the second, Sexagesima; the third, Quinquagesima.

All three are named from their numerical reference to LENT, which, in the language of the Church, is called QUADRAGESIMA, that is, Forty, because the great feast of Easter is prepared for by the holy exercises of forty days. The words, Quinquagesima, Sexagesima and Septuagesima, tell us of the same great solemnity as looming in the distance, and as being the great object towards which the Church would have us now begin to turn ALL our thoughts, desires, and devotion: OUR SANCTIFICATION!

Now, the feast of Easter must be prepared for by forty days of recollectedness and PENANCE. These forty days are one of the principal seasons of the entire Liturgical Year, and one of the most powerful means employed by the Church for exciting in the hearts of her children the spirit of their Christian VOCATION! It is of the utmost importance that such a season of grace should produce its work in our souls - - the renovation of the WHOLE SPIRITUAL LIFE (NOT OUIE THE SAME APPROACH THAT RENEW 2000 IS TAKING-? THAT THERE WILL BE A MOMENT when God will come down and straighten everything out for His poor children - - His loving children. They say- FEAR NOT all will go well)

The Church, therefore, has instituted a preparation for the holy time of Lent - a time in which we condition ourselves for the WORK WE must perform, IF WE INTEND TO SAVE OUR SOULS! We have to do the work - NOT God. He will, indeed, help us, but the labor remains for us to perform. This approach is quite foreign to the present day practices of modernist catholicism. Catholicism as practiced through the First two Milleniums always preached penance, reparation, mortification, compunction, piety, reverence and such like (NOT the party time atmosphere demonstrated as proper for the beginning of the Third Millenium religious practice). So to help us, the Church gave us the three weeks of Septuagesima, during which she withdraws us, as much as may be, from the noisy distraction of a world that is completely hedonistic. In order that our hearts may be more readily impressed by the solemn warning, she gives us at the beginning of Lent, a startling jolt and signs us with ASHES, and she utters words that are intended to strike terror in our hearts and minds: REMEMBER, MAN, THAT THOU ART DUST, AND UNTO DUST THOU SHALT RETURN!! What could be more sobering? What could be more frightening? In ALL past ages, the Church has told it like it is! The Church has never - but never - beat around the bush with honey flowing descriptions of what Man's purpose is on earth!!! How different are the sounds that come from a church which the "new age" has so thoroughly deflowered!

We must, therefore, pray for the grace of bravery in order to face the realities placed before us by the REAL AND TRUE CHURCH - our real and true Mother. We are sojourner upon this earth; we are exiles and captives in Babylon, that city which plots our ruin. It is not intended for us to continue to live in our present place of residence. This is NOT our homeland, and our continuous effort must be to work to return to our own LAND, and to flee this place of torment. If we truly love our Homeland, if we long to return to it, we must be proof against the lying allurements of this strange land, always to refuse the cup of sweetness this place offers us. We must pray to be strong enough to turn away from the maddening tune: "If you like it - DO IT!!" In genuine honesty, must we not ask: has not the delicious sound of this tune - in one way or other - entered the Sanctuary of the Heart of Man - resident in the THIRD MILLENIUM!!!!??