

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 TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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Mass of Sunday, Gl. Cr. Comm. St. Peter's Chains Pref. Trin.

Catholic Experience – Of the Humanity of Christ

Part I

It is not unusual to observe that souls who seem desirous to become saints, who employ the usual spiritual exercises of saints, such as regular attendance at Mass and Communion, the daily recitation of the Rosary, Spiritual Reading, and all the rest, who make use of mortification and extra penances in order to better reach a higher plane of sanctity, are, at a certain period of their spiritual efforts brought to a sort of a standstill. Everything seems to have become black for them at such a time. Prayer and all that goes with a life of prayer seems to be dead and even distasteful. When a soul, by prayer and continual mortification has been able to shake itself from the chains of serious sin, and has developed a much sought after devotion to God, it would seem that sanctity should be within easy reach. When, moreover, by regular efforts of the imagination, one has learned to contemplate with admiration the human life of Jesus Christ on earth; when, by constant meditation, one has gazed into the Soul of Jesus and has touched the moral perfection that resided in Him; when one comes to the realization of the horror of Christ's suffering and death and the price that Christ paid for the redemption of Mankind; when, in its admiration, the soul actually strives to reproduce - as best it can - the human conduct of Jesus, one would think that the utmost limit of man's spiritual efforts and hopes here below have been reached. Yet, somehow, when spiritual aridity (spiritual dryness) strikes the soul, the soul has an unshakable instinct that all is not yet as it should be, and continues to be quite restless and concerned, and concludes that there is yet a vast sea of experience that must yet be crossed. The soul of such a one worries.

That soul's instincts are quite right. Man's perfection here below is not reached simply in the admiration and the practice of mere righteousness; even when the pattern of the saints is strictly followed there remains much to be desired. It goes further - even when the pattern of perfection rests in the beauty of the moral perfection of the human Jesus Christ, there remains much to be desired. God did not become man in order that we might pass from human imperfection to nothing more than human perfection. The Second Person of the Trinity became man to make us like to God and not simply like to some sort of a perfect specimen of mankind. Only when we become able to penetrate the HUMANITY of Christ, and touch on to the Divine God in Him (as the saints learned to do) will we start up the road to sanctity. To love the human perfections of Our Lord is certainly an effective force in our interior spiritual life. Such love, however, does not go far enough. If we are attracted only by the human qualities of Christ, we will go no further than human qualities in ourselves. Only after we forget to look at human qualities, only after we lose contact with all things purely human - even if most wonderful qualities - will we come in contact with the God we are in search of. It

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