

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	6:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. Every Sunday	9:10 A.M. - Rosary
10:45 A.M. - Mass		9:30 A.M. - Mass
(ONLY on First Sunday of each month)	6:00 A.M. - 8:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. Holy Days	(EXCEPT on first Sunday of each month)

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 19, 1999 - - - Green
Mass of Sunday: Gl. Cr. Pref. Trin.

Weekly Bulletin # 580

CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE - - THE HOLY OF HOLIES

- 7 "And they carried the ark of God upon a new cart, out of the house of Abinadab. And Oza and his brother drove the cart.
- 8 And David and all Israel played before God with all their might with hymns, and with harps, and with psalteries, and timbrels and cymbals, and trumpets.
- 9 And when they came to the floor of Chidon Oza put forth his hand, to hold up the ark: for, the ox being wanton had made it lean a little on one side.
- 10 And the Lord was angry with Oza, and struck him, because he had touched the ark; and he died there before the Lord."

(1 Paralipomenon - Chapter 13)

It was an awesome privilege to approach the altar of God. So much so, that in the Old Covenant only the High Priest did this but once a year. After great efforts to purify himself both physically and spiritually, he slew a lamb, dipped his hands in the blood, and taking hyssop sprinkled the faithful with the blood of the lamb. Then a rope was tied to his foot lest he be so unworthy that on entering the Holy of Holies he be struck dead - the rope to pull him out **FOR NO ONE ELSE COULD GO IN!** And so it was with great trepidation that he approached the Ark of the Covenant, where the presence of God resided.

And one might well ask: What was in the Ark of the Covenant that made it so "untouchable" and so "unapproachable"? What was the nature of the contents that God should demand such awesome, such astounding and wondrous reverence?

The answer to these questions is very simple:

Contents of the Ark of the Covenant -

1. Two Rocks - - (though being the Tablets containing the Law of God)
2. One Stick - - The Staff of Aaron
3. One golden dish which contained some Manna.

It is to be understood, of course, that PRESENCE was linked to these Items, as these Items were linked - the only link - between Creator and Creature at that time, and the Creator placed great importance on them. They expressed promise, expectation, hope and justification: there was Connection, and because of the Connection the unspeakable seriousness of the reverence surrounding the Holy of Holies: The Ark of the Covenant. But then, and because of the willingness of a Young Maid, the Hand of God was able to fulfill the promise, and That Which was expected arrived and in a Stable, and everything was changed - and the glory of the Old Covenant gave place to the greater glory of the New Covenant:

"For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is in glory."

2 Corinthians

The New HOLY OF HOLIES - The Tabernacle.

Once again one might ask: What is the nature of the contents your Tabernacle?

Your answer: "Only a morsel of bread"?

Yes, bread, made of the wheat of the earth, but so different from the items of the earth - the rocks, and the stick.

In the New HOLY OF HOLIES, we no longer have Rocks and a Stick of Wood, but bread turned BODY, and for this there is neither speech nor language fit to speak of It. No word is able to describe what is now in the HOLY OF HOLIES - our Tabernacle. **No word about its sacredness.**

Continued - - Please Turn Page