

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 NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
FEAST OF ST. THERESA - First Class Feast

Weekly Bulletin # 582

October 3, 1999 - - - White - Gold

Mass of Feast - Gl. Cr. Comm. Sun. Pref Common

Today is the feast of St. Theresa, the Little Flower.

*St. Theresa, together with St. Joseph,
is the patron of our Abbey Church.*

A very dominant fault of many of us is to place judgement on those who are to the left of center from us. We judge them and say that they disregard the ordinary rules of life. We judge them and say that they have forgotten their religious moorings! To a great extent this is true, and it is the sadness of our day that the good religious and moral teachers of yesteryear are no longer around. But those who stand in judgement, while they look to the left of center overlook the sights of far right of center. Many there are who, even though to the right of center, have wandered away from the TRUE Christian ideals, and have learned to place false values on false ideals. Not only has life taken on a superficial facade for them, but their own religious observance rests on a sandy foundation based on external piety. Smug in their practice of religion, they judge themselves to be pleasing to God. This, of course, is not necessarily true.

Such ones are constantly dreaming of practicing great virtue; of showing much love for God in their accomplishment of wonderful religious life experiences and phenomena. Whatever void there may be left in them they strive to fill it in by directing the beliefs and the lives of others - they spread the Word! Such ones like to move about with the BIG THINGS of life and religion, and they keep themselves surrounded with the BIG THINGS of life and religion. They are "cause" pushers.

A close look at such ones, can present a different picture. A close look at such ones often finds them to be constantly unfaithful in the LITTLE THINGS of life and religion. The big things of life and religion manifest themselves in activities that are plain for all to see. The little things of life and religion are those things that God - Alone - sees!

What is the use of saying: "All for Thee, O my God," if our conduct does not correspond to our aspiration. God cannot be deceived either by the piety of our activity or the multitude of our prayers. Quantity in prayer, even quantity in Masses participated in, or Rosaries said, is no guarantee of sanctity - no guarantee of salvation. Men are truly men, and women are truly women only to the extent they are first of all Christians - Christians at worship and Christians at life. God scrutinizes the depths of the soul - the purity of one's heart. He sees the selfishness, the narrowness and the milk-and-water service which is being offered Him. He sees how pride and self-opinionatedness are the motivating factors of one's life. He sees those who never stop to consider how crushing the weight of selfish conduct can be on those who must conduct life's daily chores together with them. He sees the undaunted righteousness of those whose subtle influence and clever manipulations - CLOAKED as "modest" opinions and "gentle" suggestions - direct EVERY step of their companions in life. Never softened, such ones never stop their maneuverings, yet they never once stop to consider the real sinfulness (mortal at times) of such a way of acting. These are the LITTLE THINGS that the interior life strives to correct.

What a pitiful sight these souls will be when they come before the throne of the God of TRUTH! How they will tremble when faced with the dreadful reality, when they have to admit that they have always been dominated by laziness, self-satisfaction, vanity, self-opinion, self-preference, pride, sensuality, and that they have committed millions of faults due to these passions! During life their grand performances of the BIG THINGS they succeeded in concealing their misery from the eyes of others, and even, to some extent, from themselves, but now they CANNOT fly from the truth, nor from the chastisement so well deserved. We dare not address ourselves to the sad plight of those who were driven to heaven knows what pitfall by the "modest" opinions and "gentle" suggestions. May God have mercy on us all!!!