

1. The Monks and Nuns will be on their RETREAT - beginning Monday evening and this will continue until Friday morning - of this week. They will, of course, observe the usual silence that goes with the making of a Retreat. Therefore, please try to avoid calling - unless the call is important and necessary. Please, also, pray that the Monks and Nuns will make a good and holy Retreat - for the good of us all.
2. Please pray for the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Al Sachs and Carol Girardi.
3. As always - be reminded of the necessity of Sacramental Confession. In the mainstream church Sacramental Confession is very much classified as quite unnecessary - this is falso teaching. Confession, penance, and a firm purpose of amendment are necessary. It would be quite tragic to learn of their importance after hearing the words: "Depart from Me - I know you not!" It might be well to take a few minutes time occasionally to meditate on the meaning of eternal damnation!
4. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Abbot Leonard's Schedule Only)**
 - SUNDAY: For the People of the Chapels
 - MONDAY: Dec. Alfred and Jean Brosman
 - TUESDAY: Dec. Henrietta Faas
 - WEDNESDAY: Dec. Rev. Carl Herold
 - THURSDAY: Special Int. Gus Braun
 - FRIDAY: Dec. Oddone and Lucia Liberale
 - SATURDAY: For the Poor Souls

5. **SPECIAL NOTICE** - - On Friday, January 21, 2000, our beloved Father Michael, O.S.B. will celebrate his Tenth Anniversary in Vows as a Benedictine Monk. Please - your very special prayers for Father Michael, that God will always bless him and everything he undertakes to do - Always **THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED!**

The tenderness of Jesus for human distress - His concern for the persecuted, the sick, the poor, the hungry - human distress in all its aspects, should not cause us to judge the mission of Jesus Christ on earth to be purely a humanitarian one. It is most important to understand that to Jesus the spiritual transformation of mankind was the main object He came to accomplish. Failure to recognize this leads to misunderstanding between the Savior, Himself, and those He came to release from bondage - the bondage of sin - not the bondage of human slavery. Misunderstanding, therefore leads to rejection. The Jews, the worshipers of the true God, rejected Him. When, at last, He came to them - He the God they worshiped - they rejected Him. Man generally - but especially modern man - has rejected God. The rejection of God by modern man is so profound that it has brought about a most pitiful distortion of all modern day religious practice, even in the practice of modern day catholicism! The conflict between the Messiah and His people - then and now - is on religious, not political grounds. The Jews persisted (modern man still does) in viewing salvation as a CHANGE IN THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES. The Jews could not understand (modern man cannot) - understand that salvation demands CHANGE IN THEMSELVES - change in oneself! The very same is true today, and that is why we look to religion to bring about change in the political make up of everyday living and life. As far as man's thinking goes, religion's purpose is to change the circumstances of everyday living and life: release from poverty, taxes, oppression, sickness, and all the rest. This is quite wrong. Therefore man - modern man especially - clashes with religion! Therefore we find even Catholic Man clashing with his traditional Catholic Religious observance - the Catholic Religious observance that places restraints on his fallen nature's preferences and objectives, and not on the circumstances that are the direct result of his fallen nature. The Jews - and modern man - - modern Catholic man as well - were of the thought they could purchase the Kingdom of God at a price - but the purchase price is somewhat greater than their desire to renounce their own personal views in favor of the views of God! Failure on the part of man to renounce his personal views ruptures the relation between himself and his Creator. It breaks the contact, and without that contact it is impossible for man to grasp all he needs to know about eternity.

Because of the Fall of Man, man lost the view of God, and God is no longer the center of man's concern. Man's new founded concern is himself - and pride became the foundation stone upon which man now sets foot upon. But Jesus Christ says otherwise, and has declared that humility must be that foundation stone. Humility was the distinguishing feature of Christ's human character. Christ's humility is most clear to see, and this because of His consent to take on the form of sinful man. Pride is the radical evil of fallen human nature. Pride is an unjustifiable aspiration after the excellence that is not one's due. In Lucifer and in Adam it was pride that prompted their attempt to seize the prerogatives - the qualities - proper to God alone: "I will not serve"; "If you eat of the fruit you will be like God". Pride in both Lucifer and Adam inspired NO ambition to become Holy as God is Holy. Rather it inspired their political inclinations - power. Holiness had nothing to do with the ambitions of Lucifer and Adam. When, at last, Christ came to walk amongst men in order to release them from the restraints pride placed upon them - to redeem them - His humility was in total opposition with the pride which animated their every move. The shock of the two was inevitable! It resulted in the death of the SON OF MAN!!