

1. Next Sunday - February 20, 2000 is SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY - a truly important day - the beginning of that season in the Liturgical Year which precedes LENT. The word "ALLELUIA" is sung or chanted for the very last time at the end of First Vespers of Septuagesima Sunday (Saturday afternoon) and will not be heard again until the GREAT ALLELUIA of the EASTER VIGIL MASS.
2. The Season of Septuagesima is a wonderful time to "house clean" our soul, in proper preparation for the truly important SEASON OF LENT.
3. Confession is the very best act of preparation for the coming SEASONS.
4. This Lent let us work on discovering the proper procedure in our effort in developing the INTERIOR LIFE OF THE SOUL. To begin with we must learn to make proper distinctions when we speak of the EXTERNALS of our Catholic EXPERIENCE. Usually our complaint centers around the inordinate attachment that certain traditionalist groups place on things, ceremonies and the like. Such externals have no bearing whatsoever on the Interior Life of the SOUL. We wish to emphasize only those ways of life that finally bring about the salvation of one's soul. It is not always the case that one "FEELS" holy. Most saints never did and always classified themselves as UNPROFITABLE SERVANTS - BUT - they willed - it was their most profound intention to be saints, and to the very best of their abilities they were always at work TRYING to please God and give Him honor and praise. For them SELF was never beneficiary of any of their good acts. The acts of the saints were never performed on the natural plateau of this life. EVERYTHING had its aim on the SUPERNATURAL! Above all things we must forever be on guard against scrupulosity! That would ruin everything. As for our children, or our parents or other loved ones - argument, debate, proof, books, articles, invitations, innuendo, or whatever else, will do more harm than good! Fretting and worrying is totally useless. Trying to raise the grand-children has no guarantee and may be an exercise in futility in the long run. PRAYER - PRAYER is the only remedy and will place the entire matter in HIS HAND - HE alone can bring about remedy. ONE THING to keep in mind - STAY AWAY from all radicalist literature - which is USUALLY the work of UNTHEOLOGIANS. In almost every case the main result of such "STUFF" is the destruction of the peace of the souls of GOOD, HONEST SOULS. DO not be afraid! PRAY MUCH! TRUST GOD! DON'T WORRY!
5. MASSES FOR THE WEEK (Abbot Leonard's Schedule Only)

SUNDAY	For the People of the Chapels
MONDAY	DEC. Fr. Matthew Crotz, O.P.
TUESDAY	Special Int, Bill and Angela Connelly
WEDNESDAY	Dec. Albertine Paront
THURSDAY	For the Poor Souls
FRIDAY	Dec. ALFRED and Jean BROSMAN
SATURDAY	Dec. Theresa Dvorak
6. It is not yet a statistic, but a reality that has to be reckoned with is that as soon as our children reach a certain age we lose them to our Holy Religion -- to all religion! We blame the school system! We blame the world! We blame everything and everybody! In large measure this is very true. Have we checked in to the brand of religious training and Catholic example we have been giving our young ones? What is the religious environment in our homes? Our children will obey as long as they have to. Is our home religious observance strong and powerful and stable and impressive? - enough to keep our children persuaded as to its truth? and its credibility - - that our religion is more credible than what they hear on the streets!! Is our Catholic religion simply a concoction of meaningless catholicisms which lead our beloved children up all the blind alleyways of no religion at all? and then to live in situations, bad marriages, sex, illegitimate children, divorce and all the rest? TRUE CATHOLIC TRADITIONAL RELIGIOUS TEACHING AND EXAMPLE - - for centuries was strong enough to maintain itself. Why is that no longer true? The New Order Catholicism has definitely succumbed to the unreligious environment of the street! Can it be that ORTHODOX TRADITIONAL CATHOLICISM has lost the force of its ageless teaching abilities? If it is our hope to keep our children Catholic and inclined toward correct religious principles, then, our own BRAND of CATHOLICISM must be true to the line and free of the mishmash catholicism we have gathered up from the countless gurus who today maintain perpetual colloquy with "Jesus" and "Mary"!

"It is wrong to bring children up in an atmosphere solely of family affection without enlightening them that beyond the safe wall of home there lives a world of godless, dishonorable men. For when an innocent youth encounters the world of men, he suffers a wound from which he will never recover,"