

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)

Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel
Montgomery Alabama
10:45 A.M.
Only on First Sunday
of each month

Cullman Alabama
Every Sunday
6:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M.
6:00 A.M. Daily
Holy Days
6:00 A.M.; 8:00 A.M.; 7:00 P.M.

St. Pius V Chapel
9:30 A.M.
Every Sunday except
First Sunday of each month

(St Francis of Assisi Chapel)

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 23, 2000 - - - Green

Mass of Sunday - Gl; Cr; Pref Trin.

Weekly Bulletin # 626

Catholic Experience - - Conviction Not Private Opinion

The people of yesteryear were wonderful people, and the things they were able to accomplish were truly remarkable, indeed. There were not a people who sat back and give themselves to laziness - they were people of action. They were people of conviction, refusing to indulge in the luxury of opinion. They knew what was needed and they went to work - each able bodied man woman and child making a usable contribution. Their work was the result of inspiration. Their talents - not their opinions - made the works of their hands fruitful. They were busy people, and they left little time to themselves for them to go about formulate opinions.

The men and women of earlier times understood conviction, and they operated under the guidance of well informed convictions. Many of them could neither read or write, but they were nevertheless informed. They knew quite well that experience was valuable, and they readily underwent periods of apprenticeship. They understood that they must first be apprentices if they ever expected to become masters of their trade. We of today are not really men and women of conviction, mainly because we of today do not submit ourselves to good solid reading and good solid instruction. Nevertheless, we of today are all quite full of opinions - opinions about everything. Except for purposes of scientific study or scholarship, opinions are formed from out of the quagmire of slothful lethargy and innorance. Besides, opinions change quite easily with each new breeze that happens to blow ideas about. Opinions change easily because there is no background of study, hard work, and ironclad convictions that are based and grounded on solid truth - unchangeable truth.

Let us ignore at this time the conditions of the world society and the world culture. Let us center our attention only on the conditions we find at the very doorsteps of our Holy Faith: the TRADITIONAL ROMAN CATHOLIC FAITH. Traditionalist people have the very wrong impression that they have the answer, but as one looks about, one can quickly notice that there is something gravely wrong with traditionalist mentality.. Traditionalist mentality is carved in granite with the chisels of pride and personal opinion! As long as that condition of mind prevails, it is quite idle to speak of anything that might in any way sound like - RESTORATION. We need more than opinions to restore a single stone in the wall of Catholic Restoration. Opinions come and go like the whim and fancy which inspire them, and they can change with the swiftness of the changes that take place in the kaleidoscope. Usually, the less one knows the more he turns to opinion, and how angry and insulted such a one becomes when he is contradicted. The level of one's anger clearly demonstrates the level of one's education, the quality of one's reading habits and the value of his opinion. A truly educated scholar has opinions (due to serious research) but he is never opinionated! Uninformed opinions are quite dangerous, and like fungus they can percolate to distort the minds of those who might be about. Anyone who does not read, anyone who does not study, anyone who does not research, anyone who does not listen to informed instruction, has no right to an opinion. Private opinion demands and must be guided by instruction.

The Saints that we know of were men and women of conviction. They knew what they were about, they believed wholeheartedly in the Truth at hand. It was not opinion that turned them into saints.

Many years ago, when men and women boarded rickety sailing vessels and braved the serious dangers of storm and wind and sea, crossing mighty oceans, opinion was not what inspired them.

When our early Missionaries walked away from the comforts of home, and the security of their fortified city, and walked straight into the villages of the savage - many of them killed on arrival - it was not opinion that urged them!

When Christ was spat upon, and denied, and falsely accused, scourged, crowned with thorns, nailed and crucified to a cross - - IT WAS NOT OPINION THAT DROVE HIM!

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For Conclusion