

himself in. Simple logic should demonstrate this horror quite clearly. No longer in the safety of the wonderful Garden, but in the wilds of the mire, man has become a beast to man, and is becoming more of a beast with each new day. Our precious little children are now reflecting this horror in all of its frightfulness! Exaltation of self was the master stroke of Satan. As soon as self got into the picture, it was inevitable that the Order of God was greatly torn asunder. The interests of self brought all things into conformity with the interests of self - and self - NOT GOD - took over the point of focus. Unavoidably a state of unholiness and blindness and complete unreality overcame the mind and heart and soul of man. Man turned away from the REALITY of the Garden of Eden, and turned to the UNREALITY of himself and all of his misplaced priorities. In the proper order of things, man has to turn away from the UNREALITY of himself and turn once again to the ONLY REALITY that exists, and this involves CHANGE it involves a TURNING (C O N V E R S I O).

Frequent and regular confessions are certainly recommended and are even insisted upon, but this is done with the understanding that with the confession there is a FIRM PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT (a TURNING) The point must be clearly recognized - it can be NO OTHER WAY. It ill behooves us to go to confession, year after year - - year in and year out - - five, ten, thirty years, an entire lifetime, even, and confess the same - - same - - same sins, with a repetition that is no more than mechanical. Such confessions, even if with the mixed emotions of the penitent, bring forgiveness it is true, but such confessions show no effort, they give no indication of the CONVERSIO (the change) that has to be in evidence - even if in poor evidence. There has to be effort! There has to be change, and such confessions do not show change - they do not show a turning back - they do not show a retracing of our steps back to the direction of the Garden. Rather such confessions show no more than a further giving in to self gratification and the seeking after the feeling of comfort to the penitent. Such confessions show no more than that the penitent is giving NO MORE than token service to the ultimate and just expectation of God. Such confessions demonstrate that self esteem continues to be in full control of the heart of the penitent. Without realizing it, the penitent continues to travel in the same direction: AWAY from the Garden spot and so he flounders deeper and deeper in to the wild jungle of his pride and the ill-begotten fruits of pride. The confession is used more for the self-gratification of the penitent than it is used as the most effective guide leading to the portals of the Garden and God's sure sign of Love and Mercy and Hope.

Pride - pride - pride and all of its evil fruits brought about the expulsion of man from the Garden. It now follows that man must put one foot in front of the other and with humility - - HUMILITY - humility retrace his steps back. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY! Once again, let us study with great care the meaning of REJECTION!

1. Friday, September 1, 2000 is the First Friday of September. Masses in the Abbey Church are at 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 A.M.
2. Saturday, September 2, 2000 is the First Saturday of September. Masses in the Abbey Church are at 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 A.M.
3. As is the custom in our MONastery, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on every First Friday from 11:00 A.M until 6:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome to come and visit the Blessed Sacrament.
4. Sunday, September 3, 2000 is the First Sunday of September. There will be no mass at St. Pius Chapel in Birmingham on that day.
5. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels especially remembering: Carol Girardi, Marilyn Joan Diehl, Frank Nash and Hortense Lawrence. Please remember them.
6. Various questions come up from time to time, and one of them at the present moment is - -How do churches rank in dignity within any given diocese: The answer is: First in Dignity if the Cathedral; Second in Dignity is the Abbey Church. All other churches fall in line in the order of importance and age.
7. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Abbot Leonard's Schedule Only)

SUNDAY:	For the People of the Chapels
MONDAY:	Special Int. Anna Rita Huelkamp
TUESDAY:	Special Int. Mrs. Wendell Pang
WEDNESDAY:	Special Int. Marian Therese Horvat
THURSDAY:	Speicla Int. Stephen Phillip
FRIDAY:	Special Int. Marguerite McGill
SATURDAY:	Special Int. Paul Roy Family