

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 TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 3, 2000 - - - Green
Mass of Sunday - G1; Cr; Pref. Trin.

Weekly Bulletin # 632

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPERIENCE - - HOLINESS OF LIFE

Part 5

CHRISTIANITY - Catholic Christianity - if correctly and properly lived, is the most positive way of life on earth. Catholic Christian Experience is not a negative experience, neither is it an uncertain way of living. Catholic Christian Experience understands that in God, and in God alone, does everything that is positive exist: in God alone does everything that is exist. It is intellectual nonsense to think that anything negative can be part of the Divinity. Evil is the absence of good, therefore evil is something negative, and can have no part of God. The problem is that man, after he was put out of the Garden of Eden, he came to an utterly wrong conclusion that for him, he must learn to live without that which he once enjoyed, and that he would henceforth look at the absence of that which he once enjoyed as a good for him: the negative became that which man judged as the positive. Therefore, the absence of the good became positive in the mind of man, while the presence of the good became the negative application in the mind of man. This is easily seen simply by looking at man's attachment to those ways of life that are completely divorced from the ultimate Good - and anything that is not of God is UNREALITY. REALITY EXISTS ONLY IN GOD. Humility, purity, meekness, mildness, and all the rest exist in God in all of their perfection, and since God made Man in His own likeness, God placed these virtues in Man. God desired to see His own reflection in His most excellent Creation - MAN. After the Fall, God's reflection in Man was in a very bad state, and as each day passes before our eyes, God's reflection in Man becomes ever more tarnished. As Man continues to roam on the marshy and boggy road that takes one farther and farther away from the Garden Gate, Man gets farther and farther away from the image that God had intended for him from all Eternity. The road which leads away from the Garden Gate - - that is, FROM GOD - - inevitably leads man right to the swampy bottoms of self. As long as Man travels on that road, his life cannot but be filled with the blind alleys of frustration, dejection, despair, depression and all the never ending agonies. As long as Man travels of that road, nothing he does can really be classified as meritorious - - he remain as one running on a treadmill: he gets nowhere. He exhausts himself, and profits nothing from his exhaustion. Even his virtuous acts, his continuous prayers, his fastings, his penances and all the rest are of dubious value. There has to be a TURNING (CONVERSIO) and this turning has to be radical and complete. Unless and until this Conversio is complete, and with total and firm conviction done, the road ahead leads AWAY and NOT TOWARD GOD!!! This does not mean that the Conversio frees man from his inclinations toward sin.

It cannot be said that one has turned away from his lustful drives, as long as he continues to frequent people full of lust - as long as continues to stroll by the countless strongholds of impurity.

It cannot be said that one has crushed the citadel of self-opinion while continuing to articulate in a monologue in every discussion.

It cannot be said that one has broken the chains of anger and the shackles of his temper fits, while everyone around him continues to think it wise to tiptoe around him or walk around as though they were walking in a minefield.

It cannot be said that one has trampled underfoot his self-esteem, while he continues to be easily offended whenever even the slightest contradiction crosses his path.

It cannot be said that one has turned away from his addictions, but continues to keep his cupboard well stocked with the items of his addictions.

It cannot be said that one has turned to a life of penance and mortification while still enjoying the softness of all the creature comforts provided by our opulent society, or dining on all of the delicate culinary delights of the grocery store

Turn Page for Conclusion.