

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 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin # 633

September 10, 2000 - - - Green

Mass of Sunday - Gl; Cr; Pref Trin.

CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE - - HOLINESS OF LIFE

The subject concerning SELF and its effects is surely a most unpopular subject to talk about, and most people, even the ones with religious inclinations, cringe every time the word comes up. The way SELF is dealt with determines the salvation of one's soul or the damnation of one's soul. Anything that is not of God; anything that does not in some way lead to God; anything that does not have God as the focal point of its intention is unholy. There has to be a supernatural intention behind every action of man, and the supernatural intention as we speak of it here must be taken to mean that man's primary intention must be the CONVERSIO. Without the CONVERSIO, the turning back to the direction of the Garden, even if the action is good in itself, it nevertheless does not gain the needed and desired merit. This statement is elementary, but it makes no sense to those who do not know God, or to those who look upon God as un consequential. Such talk makes no sense to the large and ever growing section of mankind who looks upon mankind as god, and since mankind looks upon itself as god it follows that mankind will become freed from its false gods, and find itself finally - - S E L F R E D E E M E D! This crowd looks upon the fall as the ultimate kindness of the serpent freeing man from his imprisonment in Eden!

As soon as SELF got into the picture with Adam and Eve in the Garden, unholy became the central supporting pillar of man's fallen nature, and tarnish covered all of his actions. But the people that we - and especially our children - are going to have to deal with, say that the serpent symbolizes an irresistible energy that is leading us toward life ever-evolving. They say that at first the serpent tempted Eve to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil - - - THEN self-awareness come. They also say that Jesus calls Satan His fallen brother! Do not laugh at this. Simply open your ears and you will hear this and much more!

After the fall, God was no longer the focal point of man's concerns. Man, himself, became the focal point of his concerns - and is S E L F R E D E E M E D! The need for man to maintain those qualities of the image and likeness of God lost all urgency and significance, and the only matters of consequence, as far as man is concerned, are those matters which protect him from other men, as they, too, look about for those things that are of benefit to them. And so it is that man has become an enemy to anyone at all. As a consequence it was inevitable that man should become a beast to man. But the crowd mentioned above does not call man a beast, rather, since all of us are gods, we are all self-saviors. Regardless, the law of the jungle could not but have become the principle of life for man - man that was created in the image and likeness of God.. With every man for himself, the original plan of God became frustrated and an abhorrence and a hindrance to man, who feels the need to trample on anybody in the fulfillment of himself and his security. Honor, decency, regard for others, respect for others, honesty, tolerance and all the rest, all have become negative signals, and hindrances in the fulfillment of himself, as he - man - is the god. Nevertheless, when all is said and done, in order to protect his interests from the interests of all others around him, man entered upon a pattern of aggression - relentless at all times and under all circumstances.. Restless, forever seeking, forever struggling to achieve all of his freedoms, man must nevertheless roam the desert wastes, and shoots on sight anyone who comes into his view. He has to do this to keep from getting shot himself! Cain and Abel, even yet close to the wrong side of the Garden Gate, were already involved in the need of self preservation.

Some may say that this approach is too severe, that it stifles all initiative and paralyzes every movement in the legitimate daily life of man, and that its outlook is unreasonable and negative. For those who place SELF at the point of focus, yes, their assessment is quite true. For those who place God at their point of focus, the reasonableness of this approach is only too logical. Never before has man been so far away from the Garden Gate and Lucifer continues to be glamorous and alluring, especially to the youth of today. When our young became emancipated from the rule of conscientious and responsible parents and caring home life - Lucifer took over immediately. Parents are now so busy with "matters of consequence" that they no longer properly attend to the FORMATION of their children, and keeping the child securely locked up out of the ill winds of society, and keeping the child all smothered up