

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 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin # 635

September 24, 2000 - - - Green

Mass of Sunday - Gl; Cr; Pref Trin

CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE -- HOLINESS OF LIFE PART 8

God made man in His own image and likeness. God is humility! God is purity! God is innocence! God is obedience! God is holiness! GOD IS TRUTH! It was in the Mind of God that He make man in His own image and likeness. God wanted man to be His most wonderful creation, and it was His wish that man should reflect back to Him all the Qualities that He saw in Himself. God wanted to see humility. God wanted to see purity. God wanted to see innocence. God wanted to see obedience. God wanted to see holiness. God wanted to see Truth. So much did God want to see his own reflections in man, that He reserved the heights of Heaven as a reward for those in whom He saw His reflection. Those who failed to reflect the divine reflection - the unholy - simply could not be admitted to the citizenry of the Divine Family. God grants the joys of heaven ONLY to those who deserve such a reward. That is why He - from the very first moment - placed man under test, and forbade man to eat of the Fruit of the Tree: it was a trial for man.

Unfortunately, the very first of God's human creatures fell - both of them - and they approached the Tree that was in the center of the Garden, and which was forbidden to them, and they ate of its fruit. They did not eat of the fruit of the Forbidden Tree, simply because they did not love God. They loved God very much, indeed. They ate of the fruit - at the promptings of Satan - because of their unjustifiable aspiration after excellence that was not their due. It was suggested to them that they would be like God and that they would then know the difference between Good and Evil. They followed Lucifer as the bringer of light and wisdom, and looked to him in their desire to ascend to knowledge. No longer tied down by the chains of ignorance, they would be free of all of its burdens. They would be like God, and since they would be like God, they would have no need for the help of anyone in their ascent to self fulfillment. To begin with, pride prompted Lucifer. Later, with Lucifer's help, pride prompted man to take over the properties and the rights and the knowledge and the privileges that belong only to the Almighty Creator-- to God. The power of pride was all Lucifer and man really wanted. It is interesting to note that in neither case did pride inspire any ambition in them to follow in the pattern of the holiness of the Almighty Creator.

On the day he ate of the forbidden fruit, man started on a course that he - man - was unable to change. As a consequence, the entire purpose of God's Creation was completely frustrated. In His infinite wisdom and knowledge, God had a solution, a solution so wonderful that on Easter Eve we sing out loudly and with great joy, and we call the fault of Adam - - "OH HAPPY FAULT" - and thus we have JESUS CHRIST. Jesus Christ gave man the guiding plan, showing him the path to take that would lead him back to the Garden Gate. Jesus is the straight road that leads to our Creator. The life that Jesus lived in the House of Nazareth was the WAY; the teaching of Christ in the few years of His public life, was the TRUTH; and the two combined gave LIFE. The time our Lord spent in Nazareth was so very important. It was important because the example of the Nazareth way of living is,

as we have mentioned before, so very easy to live, and so much in conformity with the way of life proper to the Garden of Eden. Tragically enough, as man found the way of life of the Garden of Eden too confining and burdensome, so does man find the way of life as lived in the Nazareth House too confining and burdensome. The thought is awesome: THE GATE OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN AND THE DOOR OF THE HOUSE OF NAZARETH ARE ONE AND THE VERY SAME!

What was the foundation stone of the plan - the life - of Jesus Christ? HUMILITY! the very opposite in every respect to PRIDE! Christ's humility was in total opposition to man's pride, and since it sprang from His deep and profound reverence towards God, the humility of Christ dictated His every thought and His every action and brought everything about Him - everything in His Being - into conformity with God's intentions and Will. Christ made the Will of God His own Will in all things, thereby setting the example for man to follow. Pride was the road leading away! Humility was the road leading to! and in the House of Nazareth the design was put together. There, the world's three most exalted Characters live out the design of the Creator God in every respect: Jesus of Nazareth, Mary of Nazareth and Joseph of Nazareth!