

## Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)

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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel

Montgomery Alabama

10:45 A.M.

Only on First Sunday  
of each month

St. Pius V Chapel

9:30 A.M.

Every Sunday except  
First Sunday of each month

(St Francis of Assisi Chapel)

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 8, 2000 - - - Green

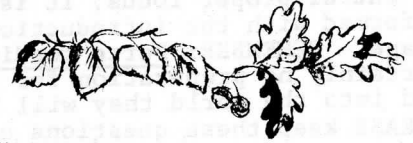
Mass of Sunday - G1, Cr, Pref Trin

Weekly Bulletin # 637

## Catholic Experience - - The Spiritual Combat

### Chapter 1

### Part 2



The little book called *The Spiritual Combat* 1905 Edition written by Father Laurence Scupoli a Theatine Priest – is one of the topmost books on Interior Spirituality.

But these external works, though all most holy in themselves, may yet, by the fault of those who use them as the foundation of their spiritual building, prove a more fatal occasion of ruin than open sins. Such persons leave their hearts unguarded to the mercy of their own inclinations, and exposed to the lurking deceits of the devil, who, seeing them out of the direct road, not only lets them continue these exercises with satisfaction, but leads them in their own vain imagination to expatiate on the delights of paradise, and to fancy themselves to be borne aloft amidst the angelic choir and to feel God within them. Sometimes they find themselves absorbed in high, mysterious, and ecstatic meditations, and, forgetful of the world and of all that it contains, they believe themselves to be caught up to the third heaven.

But the life and conversation of such persons prove the depth of the delusion in which they are held, and their great distance from the perfection after which we are inquiring; for in all things, great and small, they desire to be preferred and placed above others; they are wedded to their own opinion, and obstinate in their own will; and, blind to their own faults, they are busy and diligent observers and critics of the deeds and words of others.

But touch only with a finger their point of honour, a certain vain estimation in which they hold themselves and would have others to hold them, interrupt their stereotyped devotions, and they are disturbed and offended beyond measure.

And if, to bring them back to the true knowledge of themselves and of the way of perfection, Almighty God should send them sickness, or sorrow, or persecution (that touchstone of His servants' loyalty, which never befalls them without His permission or command), then is the unstable foundation of their spiritual edifice discovered, and its interior, all corroded and defaced by pride, laid bare; for they refuse to resign themselves to the will of God, to acquiesce in His always righteous though mysterious judgments, in all events, whether joyful or sorrowful, which may befall them; neither will they, after the example of His Divine Son in His sufferings and humiliation, abase themselves below all creatures, accounting their persecutors beloved friends, as instruments of God's goodness, and co-operators with Him in the mortification, perfection, and salvation of their souls.