

# 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 EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 15, 2000 - - - Green

Mass of Sunday: Gl. Cr. Pref Trin.

Weekly Bulletin # 638

## Catholic Experience -- The Spiritual Combat

### Chapter 1

#### Part 3

Hence it is most certain that such persons are in serious danger; for, the inward eye being darkened, wherewith they contemplate themselves and these their external good works, they attribute to themselves a very high degree of perfection; and thus puffed up with pride they pass judgment upon others, while a very extraordinary degree of God's assisting grace is needed to convert themselves. For the open sinner is more easily converted and restored to God than the man who shrouds himself under the cloak of seeming virtue.

Thou seest, then, very clearly that, as I have said the spiritual life consists not in these things. It consists in nothing else but the knowledge of the goodness and the greatness of God, and of our nothingness and inclination to all evil; in the love of Him and the hatred of ourselves; in subjection, not to Him alone, but, for love of Him, to all His creatures; in entire renunciation of all will of our own, and absolute resignation to all His divine pleasure; and furthermore, in willing and doing all this purely for the glory of God and solely to please Him, and because He so wills and merits thus to be loved and served.

This is the law of love, impressed by the hand of the Lord Himself upon the hearts of His faithful servants; this is the abnegation of self which He requires of us; this is His sweet yoke and light burden; this is the obedience to which, by His voice and His example, our Master and Redeemer calls us. In aspiring to such sublime perfection thou wilt have to do continual violence to thyself by a generous conflict with thine own will in all things, great or small, until it be wholly annihilated: thou must prepare thyself, therefore, for the battle with all readiness of mind; for none but brave warriors shall receive the crown.

This is indeed the hardest of all struggles; for while we strive against self, self is striving against us, and therefore is the victory here most glorious and precious in the sight of God. For if thou wilt set thyself to trample down and exterminate all thy unruly appetites, desires, and wishes, even in the smallest and most inconsiderable matters, thou wilt render a greater and more acceptable service to thy God than if thou shouldst discipline thyself to blood, fast more rigorously than hermits or anchorites of old, or convert millions of souls, and yet voluntarily leave even one of these evils alive within thee. For although the conversion of souls is no doubt more precious to the Lord than the mortification of a fancy, nevertheless nothing should in thy sight be of greater account than to will and to do that very thing which the Lord specially demands and requires of thee. And He will infallibly be better pleased that thou shouldst watch and labour to mortify thy passions than if, consciously and wilfully leaving but one alive within thee, thou shouldst serve Him in some other matter of greater importance in itself.