

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 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin # 641

November 5, 2000 - - - Green

Mass of Sunday: G1; Cr; Pref Trin

CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE - - PURGATORY

The month of November is dedicated to the Poor Souls in Purgatory. Most often too many of us attempt to look away from the actual conditions that prevail in Purgatory. We realize that conditions are not good and that is as far as we let ourselves give thought to Purgatory. It frightens us to think about the kind of suffering that takes place and which must be endured before Souls are released and permitted to reach the reward of Heaven. In today's modern world (especially) and even in today's modern catholic church the doctrine concerning Purgatory is laughed at, and referred to as a Medieval hangover. Consensus opinion amongst catholic priests and people is against the doctrine of Purgatory. One may ask, however, does consensus opinion change the truth of the fact that there is such a place and that in such a place there is punishing pain, and that justice itself and right reason itself both demand an existence of such a place? Established by the authority of centuries, Catholic teaching has always held firmly to the Doctrine of Purgatory, and the teaching of so many of our Catholic Doctors has always indicated that the pains suffered in Purgatory is excruciating. St. Gregory the Great says that the same fire torments the damned that purifies the elect. Almost all theologians teach that the rebroate and the souls in Purgatory suffer the action of the same fire. The Souls in Purgatory are saved - THAT IS CERTAIN - but they will not enjoy the bliss of their salvation until after a trial more terrible and more tormenting and intolerable than all of the most excruciating sufferings of this world. St. Thomas says that the least pain of Purgatory surpasses all the sufferings of this life - no matter what the sufferings may be. The pain is deeper and more acute when it DIRECTLY attacks the soul and the mind than when it reaches the mind and the soul by way of the senses of the living body. The mortal and living body, indeed the senses themselves, absorb and intercept a part of the physical, and even part of the moral pain. Be mindful, mental pain - even in the present existence - is an indescribable pain, and its severity often surpasses the most terrible of physical pain. Every sin will be accounted for and every sin will have its degree of punishment - FOR ALL OF US!!! even the elect. It ill behooves the very best of us to place judgement on anybody.

The Souls in Purgatory cannot pray for themselves, and they can in no way help themselves. They have to wait out the sentence that has been pronounced over them. Therefore, they depend very much on the help that is given them, either by the Saints in Heaven, or by the help that the living on earth give. Therefore, it remains a very serious matter for us to give ear to the pitiable cry that comes up out of the changers of Purgatory. Consequently, no effort should be looked upon as too troublesome or difficult when it pertains to the needs of the Poor Suffering Souls in Purgatory.

Our gift to the needy and pleading Souls must be nothing short of heroic in its generosity, and our dedication to their needs must be constant. We must give all which most effectually assists them - MINDFUL THAT THE DAY WILL COME FOR US, those of us who have by the Grace of God escaped Hell! The Heroic Act of Charity towards the Souls in Purgatory is certainly pure heroism on our part. This act consists in ceding to them ALL our works of satisfaction, that is to say, the SATISFACTORY value of all the works of our life and of all the suffrages which shall be given to us AFTER OUR DEATH, without reserving the least fragment for ourselves wherewith to discharge our own many, many debts. The donation of all that we have to give in favor of the Souls must be absolute! We offer to God directly, or through the powerful hands of Our Most Blessed Mother, all the good we do, of what kind soever, either in thought, words or works, all that we suffer meritoriously during this life, without excepting anything that we may reasonably give them, and adding even those suffrages which we may receive for ourselves AFTER death. In like manner, we donate to the Souls in Purgatory all the satisfactory benefits we may be given to us IN THIS PRESENT LIFE. Everything - - absolutely everything is given away. Nothing is held back for our our help and benefit. It is a TOTAL GIVING. There are two formulas commonly used by the Faithful, Either or both may be used. The purpose is to give all - - no matter the formula used - - and God will finally make the distribution.