

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)

(St Francis of Assisi Chapel)

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

FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY FAMILY

January 7, 2001 - - - White

Mass of Feast - G1; Cr; Pref. Nat. Com. Sunday.

Weekly Bulletin # 651

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY FAMILY TEACH US THE DIVINE WAY



Unless we all - - ALL OF US - - ALL TRADITIONALLY DEDICATED PRIESTS AND PEOPLE ALIKE - - come to the stark conclusion (and soon) that every one of us must turn more to prayer and penance and mortification and put an end to our sophomorical arguing and debating and self-righteoueness, even our most profound efforts to make things right once again will forever remain exercises in profound futility and frustration! The past thirty years have shown clearly that the Traditional Roman Catholic Experience has gained no strength by the constant apologetical arguments that come to us from every quarter! Quite to the contrary, the strength of the original Traditional central concern has been significantly weakened and the only measurable successes of argumentation are divisions and more divisions. As always, when dealing with things that pertain to God, prayer and the interior conversion of the Heart of Man are the only avenues that will best lead to the Throne of God and ultimately bring about religious peace and good will. Somehow, it appears that we are of the opinion that erudition and argument are the chief ingredients that will bring the present religious chaos to a successful conclusion. What colossal pride! Intellectualism has invaded many of our strong fortresses that proudly fly the flag of "Traditional Truth". Intellectualism is the spawn of pride, and as a consequence so many of our traditionalist fortresses that proclaim themselves the protectors of "Traditional Roman Catholic Truth", unable to accept the traditionalist religious position of all others, have used up their strongest ammunition on each other, rather than with a united end in view, aim their bullets on the root cause of that which troubles everybody - "UNTRUTH"!

Perhaps the strongest motivating force behind the efforts of some of our so-called traditionalist Catholic leaders is self aggrandizement. Witness the multiplicity of causes and private interpretations of the entire Catholic Experience - now quite forgotten, and by the younger generations completely unknown - which shackle the best efforts of genuine Roman Catholic Teachers of Tradition. Witness, also, the unnumbered traditionalist divisions and splits which have completely

choked Truth! Has it not become a fact that the notability of the "teacher" or "speaker" gives added nourishment to the gullibility of the ignorant souls starved for the True Catholic Religious Faith? It seems that we do not fully understand that each split in traditionalist ranks makes the Traditional Roman Catholic Voice ever more and more like the mighty roar of the Guppy in the proverbial quart jar! Each name enjoying prominence and full of denunciation, and each condemnatory traditionalist edict seem to be more concerned with the cause that is being hawked than with the central reason of Traditional Catholicism and the honest desire of every bona fide Traditional Roman Catholic person: OUR FAITH! We insist that we all have the true Faith - if so, what is the problem? How can truth fight and disagree with truth?

To repeat - HUMBLE PRAYER and the interior conversion of the Heart of Man must be returned to the place of highest importance. Humble and unassuming prayer is, and always has been, the only means of reaching the attention of God. We do not here speak of PRAYERS - - a multiplicity of words and of spiritual things TO DO! Even though such spiritual activities can be good in themselves, they are of weak value if spiritual "CONVERSIO" has not taken place. Consequently they are no guarantee that they have the power to bring down God's Blessing and Good Pleasure. Every one of us must learn how to become a Man of Prayer. Every one of us must learn to put aside the inclination to believe that a merely prayerful exterior behavior is quite enough to obtain God's Benediction. There is a vast difference between these two concepts, and we should take the time to find out what the difference really is. Only God can replace the True Faith in the Heart of Man - not us and our silly arguments.

The Monks of Christ the King Abbey work to present a way of Prayer Life and a Catholic way of living, as was the way during the Ages of Faith and which attracted the Eye of God so well. The Monks do not present this as a program, neither do they look upon their work as a cause - such would be no better than adding just one more cause to the already endless list of them. The Monks look to the Holy Family, and at the way that Family functioned and lived life in their House in Nazareth. It would be inappropriate - perhaps even disrespectful - to look upon the way the Holy Family lived as no more than a cause to be promoted. First for themselves, and then for any of the Souls willing to listen, the Monks and Nuns of our Benedictine Communities strive to bring about the kind of interior love that undoubtedly burned in the Hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Such interior love is the kind of love asked for by our Most Holy Father, Benedict. St. Benedict urges this love to be the very foundation stone in all of his monasteries. Where the fire of the Love of God burns brightly, strife simply cannot exist! When and where even the slightest hint of strife exists, the fire of the Love of God - at best - flickers. Unless and until the atmosphere that existed in the House of Nazareth pervades every recess of every stronghold that claims allegiance to Traditional Catholic Truth, the very walls of all of our spiritual purpose will not survive - they will finally crumble into dust. Traditional Roman Catholicism will not survive if any part of it continues to remain a stranger to that Holiest of all dwellings on this earth - itself built out of the wood of the Tree that was in the Center of the Garden: "a house divided will not stand!"

The living conditions of the House of Nazareth must be brought back into the life of Man, and the importance and value of that way of living - especially today - cannot be measured. However, to speak the House of Nazareth, to try to describe the living conditions of that House, to tell of its value, and all the rest is one thing - - TO LIVE IT IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MATTER! Life in the House of Nazareth is the Divine Way of life as intended by God to be lived in all places on this earth. Man can achieve the purpose for his existence ONLY if he can bring himself to live that life. When man argues or debates or tries to prove this or that about the things that pertain to God, yet fails to reflect in his actions the way life was lived by Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Nazareth, that man is not living out true Catholic Experience. The Life of Nazareth was PRAYER - the kind of PRAYER that we, as true and tried Christian people of the most Holy Catholic and Apostolic Catholic Religion must make every effort to live. If we have any hope at all to restore the most Holy Catholic and Apostolic Catholic Religion on this Earth, we have to live the life of PRAYER as Jesus, Mary and Joseph lived it at Nazareth - like it or not! The life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph was true and real; it was honest and genuine, it was in no way manufactured or forced. There was nothing mythological about it. The reverence they had toward God was truly extraordinary, yet in no way did their daily observances, and their daily contacts betray it! It was quiet, it was silent, it was unobtrusive - it was beautiful!

It took thirty years of preparation to make the three years of Christ's work intelligible and attainable. Every single footstep taken by Jesus, and Mary, and Joseph - the very same - must be taken by every man, woman and child before fulfillment of purpose can become open to discussion. The love found in that house knows no equal! The purpose found in that house knows no equal! The obedience found in that house knows no equal! The humility found in that house knows no equal! The greatness found in that house knows no equal! However, by the eyes of the world the power of that house was never seen! There was nothing that eyes could see that was out of the ordinary, nothing holier, nothing different about that house, but every move, every word, every work, every thought - - EVERYTHING - - silently prepared the way that led to the successful outcome of the Tragedy called Calvary! If anything - anything at all - would have been found to be deficient in that house, tarnish would have fallen out of the black clouds that hovered over the Cross of Calvary. If deficiencies existed in that house, the Three Years would have been poorly manufactured dramatizations. How absolutely wondrous - an unknown Son of a modest and inglorious Girl and a nameless Carpenter BLED REDEMPTION from His Hands and His Feet and His Side! and the Cross upon which He hung became the Great Key that unbolts the Gates of our Heavenly Home for those of us who sincerely wish to enter.

If the mighty words of Jesus Christ were unable to penetrate the pride of His day, what foolishness, indeed, what vanity of vanity it is that causes us to think that our comical, stuttering prattle can crush the pride that His words could not?

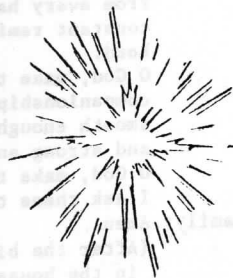
Obedience and simplicity and charity and humility and the highest quality of Prayer and Faith brought Redemption within the reach of Man. Without obedience and simplicity and charity and humility and a higher quality of Prayer and Faith, the "Restoration" we like so much to talk about is quite unthinkable - indeed. If we sincerely wish for "Restoration" we must spend more time in Prayer and the development of our own interior Spiritual Life, and less time in casting aspersions on anyone whose opinion conflicts with our own. If we sincerely wish for "Restoration" we must take the work of "Restoration" out of the hands of our theological technicians who have often been found to stand at the church door, barricading it and refusing to give entrance to poor, hurt and hungry souls - genuine souls - in search of their solitary hope - for reasons that would most certainly not hold fast at the door of the Blessed House of Nazareth, where an unknown Son lived with His Mother a most modest and inglorious Girl and His nameless carpenter Father!



Epiphany

1. DO NOT FORGET EPIPHANY BLESSING IN YOUR HOMES. This can be done any day of this present week.
2. Please pray for the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels
3. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Father Abbot Leonard's Intentions Only)

SUNDAY:	For the People of the Chapels
MONDAY:	Dec. Cecelia Staley
TUESDAY:	Special Int. of the Donor
WEDNESDAY:	Dec. Members of the Ryan Family
THURSDAY:	Dec. Michael White
FRIDAY:	Welfare Dottie Sarto
SATURDAY:	Welfare Gene Bunki



All nations shall serve him.

All nations shall serve him.

CEREMONY FOR THE BLESSING OF HOUSES AND ALL PLACES FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF JESUS CHRIST.

BLESSING OF CHALK:

(Instruction: Chalk is blessed on the Altar, before Holy Mass begins. It will not be distributed by the priest, but can only be obtained by a member of the Family who must go up to the Altar, after Mass, and taking it. The Father of the Family will later use it to inscribe the initials of the Three Wise Men: Gaspar, Melchior and Balthazar, and the current year over the main door (and any other doors) of the home. This inscription should remain over the doors throughout the year.)

PASTOR: - Opening Antiphon: Behold, the Lord the ruler is come; and the kingdom is in His Hand, and power, and dominion.
O God, with your judgement endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son.
Glory be to the Father. Behold, the Lord.

Antiphonal Prayer:

Y. All nations shall serve Him.
R. All nations shall serve Him.
Y. Nations shall walk by Your light, and kings by Your shining radiance.
R. All nations shall serve Him.
Y. All from Saba shall come, bringing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord.
R. All nations shall serve Him.
Y. Rise up in splendor, O Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord shines upon you.
R. All nations shall serve Him.
Y. We have seen His star in the East; and have come with gifts to worship the Lord.
R. All nations shall serve Him.
Y. The kings of Tharsis and the isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Saba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay Him homage, all nations shall serve Him.
R. All nations shall serve Him.

PASTOR: - In Thy great mercy, have mercy on us, O God.
Let us pray: O Lord God, Bless + this chalk which You have created, that it may be helpful to mankind; and grant that through the invocation of Your most Holy Name, all those who use this chalk or with it write over the doors of their houses the names of Your Saints Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may by their merits and intercession receive health of body and protection of soul.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ Your Son. AMEN.

* * * * BLESSING OF THE HOME * * * *

(Conducted by the Father, or, in his absence, by the Mother).

Father: Peace to my house.

Family: And to all who live here.

Father: The father of the just will exult with glee; let your father and mother have joy.

Family: All nations shall serve Him.

Father: Happy they who dwell in Your House, O Lord! Continually they praise You.

Family: All nations shall serve Him.

Father: Blessed is the man who hears me and who watches daily at my gates and at the post of my doors.

Family: All nations shall serve Him.

Father: O Lord, hear my Prayer.

Family: And let my cry come unto You.

Father: Let us Pray:

Hear us, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Eternal God, and send Thy Holy Angel from Heaven to watch over, cherish, protect, be with, and defend all who live in my house.

I call upon Your Saints, Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, to protect my Family and my home from every harm and danger, and I place their mark over my door to remain there as a constant reminder to us and to all who enter here that my house is truly a house of the Lord.

O God, make the door of my house wide enough to receive all who need human love and companionship; narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling-block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the temptor's power.

O God, make the door of my house the gateway to Thine Eternal Kingdom.

I ask these things in the Name of Jesus Christ Your Son.

Family: Amen.

(After the blessing, the Father inscribes on the main outside doors and any other doors in the house. Print with the blessed Chalk:

20 + G + M + B + 01