

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

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 4, 2001 - - - Purple

Mass of Sunday - Cr; Pref Lent.

Weekly Bulletin # 659



Spiritual Childhood - Part One

Those who are of God hear the words of God. Such souls are always searching for truth; not so much outer truths which they master, mere facts, figures and information but inner truths which master them. Such are the truths of the interior life. To the proud and worldly wise, the interior life is considered nonsense or foolish kidstuff. To those who have ears to hear and a will that is good, these truths are seen as words of eternal life. Words that liberate them from the tyranny of their ego and the prison of their self-love, conferring upon them the freedom, peace and joy of the children of God. Unfortunately, the spiritual life has been made to be something both complicated and frightening. A multiplicity of ascetical rules and devotional practices were developed over the centuries in order to help man in his pursuit of sanctity. Though good in themselves, these rules and practices tend to obscure the heart of the matter – the interior disposition of the soul toward God. Many people get the erroneous impression that it is necessary to perform innumerable devotional exercises and follow complex ascetical programs in order to arrive at sainthood. Reading the lives of the saints, as normally presented, confirms this notion of sanctity, for many of the saints did perform extraordinary penances, macerations of the flesh, vigils, and humiliations. Holiness is thus looked upon as something quite out of the reach of the ordinary person, especially since many of the saints were favored with extraordinary graces such as visions, prophecies, revelations, miracles and the like.

In the late nineteenth century, the Catholic world and French Catholic life especially, suffered under the remnants of Jansenism, a rigorous formalism and cold severity in the dealing of souls with God. This erroneous and sick form of spirituality has not entirely ended and has in fact reared its ugly head in our own day. The world needed a reawakening to the truth of the Fatherhood of God and of His merciful love. "For you have not received the spirit of bondage again in fear; but you have received the spirit of adoption of sons, whereby we cry: Abba (Father)." To accomplish this reawakening, God was forming a very special soul; her name was St. Therese of the Child Jesus. This humble hidden nun was a master of the spiritual life and the greatest saint of modern times. She revealed the secret of sanctity and the sure way to salvation, of which the Catholic Church completely approves and recommends. It is THE WAY OF SPIRITUAL CHILDHOOD. Her Little Way to Sanctity is a reproduction of the life lived by the