

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 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
March 11, 2001 - - - Purple
Mass of Sunday - Cr. Pref Lent

Weekly Bulletin # 660



Spiritual Childhood - Part Two

"Amen, I say to you, unless you be converted and become as little children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven." Our Lord desires us to imitate on a supernatural level what a child is by nature, without its faults of immaturity, and selfishness. A child has certain qualities and dispositions, which are greatly needed if one is to advance in the spiritual life. The first thing that strikes us in a child is its *littleness*. We must strive to be the same but on the supernatural level. Spiritual littleness means humility. The humble realize that all that they are and have come from God and that apart from God they are nothing. They seek to be forgotten, especially to themselves. They never put themselves above others but rather strive to love and serve everyone as they would Christ Himself. To aspire after such humility is the obligation of everyone, irrespective of office, dignity or age. Humility is truth, it is the recognition of what we are and what God is. Those who claim to have zeal for the truth must have it principally for humility. Without humility, or at least the sincere desire for it, zealots for truth are hypocrites.

Another distinctive characteristic of the Way of Spiritual Childhood is simplicity. A little child is simple by nature. It is simple in its thoughts, feelings, speech and actions. A simple soul is devoid of all complexity, duplicity, affectation and hypocrisy. The spiritual child aims at this simplicity by grace in its relations to God and neighbor. True simplicity with God wipes out all artificiality in prayer and extravagance in our devotions. It is the nature of the simple soul, like a straight line, to go straight to God by love, without any deviation, excessive forethought, agitation of soul, or bending back upon itself. Simplicity makes the fabric of the life of the spiritual child seamless, obliterating all distinction between "religious" acts and "secular" acts. Everything is consecrated and given to God. Cleaning the house, digging ditches, watering the garden, or formal prayer, all is done for God with ardent love. St. Therese would have us simplify our spiritual life by reducing our whole life to unity. Unity will lead us to greater union with God because it will give us true liberty of spirit, which is the prerequisite for the union of love.

If humility and confidence are the foundations of Spiritual Childhood, love is its very soul. God is never really known unless He is loved as a little child. He is interested only in our hearts. He thirsts for our love. The vocation of every man, woman and child, whether in the religious life or out of it, is to love God for Himself and without measure. The spiritual life is nothing but a "Divine Romance"; the soul falling in love with God. The proper effect of this love is to draw us out of ourselves and carry us to the Beloved; it destroys pride and inordinate love for self, making the Beloved the center of life. A soul that has the love of God pursues the will and interests of God with the same eagerness which the lover of self pursues its own egotistical ambitions. The Saint, that is, the perfect lover of God, becomes so absorbed in the Beloved that God's life becomes their life; God's happiness, their happiness; God's interests, their interests.