

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 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 18, 2001 - - - Purple

Mass of Sunday - Cr. Pref Lent

Weekly Bulletin # 661



Spiritual Childhood - Part Three

All the circumstances of our lives are simply occasions provided for us by our loving Father in Heaven to draw from us acts of love for Him. He who sweeps the floor with great love has done infinitely more for his own soul and for the Kingdom of God, than he who, without love, gives his body up to be burned. God has no need of our works. He is looking at the motive that prompts them. God is love and is therefore attracted only to love. Any action not permeated with love, no matter how grand and striking it is to the senses or to mere natural reason, is devoid of all true reality, and is as death to Him. To live rightly and in such a manner as to grow in sanctifying grace it is not enough for us to do right things. We must do them in the right way. There is only one right way for Children of God to act, that is, to do all for the love of God. The love of God is the heart of the New Law and so to attain perfection it is not necessary to DO much but to LOVE much. HE WHO DOES THAT, DOES EVERYTHING; HE WHO DOES NOT, DOES NOTHING. The way of Spiritual Childhood is to live by love, loving Love and causing Him to be loved. St. Therese understood all this very well and lived it heroically.

Spiritual Childhood is merely the fulfillment of the ardent desire of our Lord. "Amen, I say to you, unless you be converted and become as little children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven." Our Lord is setting before us a little child as a model for our imitation, not only in prayer, but also in every circumstance of life. He wills that we look upon ourselves as children of God and behave as such, if we are to reach eternal life. Let there be no mistake, spiritual childhood is not the childhood of the spiritual life but the full flowering of spiritual perfection and Christian maturity. There has never been such a Man as Our Blessed Lord but He chose always to act toward His Father with complete and perfect *childlikeness*. It has nothing to do with childishness, infantilism, sissiness or weak-kneed effeminacy. Spiritual Childhood is not for cowards. The paradox is that those who are little by following the way of spiritual childhood are the greatest and most powerful. "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, he is the greater in the kingdom of God." This attitude of confidence in God and diffidence in self is not a state, which we are to leave behind someday; rather, as we grow older according to nature we should grow ever "younger" in spiritual infancy. Our Lord has invited all little souls to come to him by love, when He said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God." We tend to act entirely too grown up and sophisticated with God. We tend to think that extraordinary deeds or prayers will impress him. No. He is attracted to our littleness and our love for Him.