

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

LOW SUNDAY - "Quasi Modo"

April 22, 2001 - - - White

Mass of Sunday - Gl; Cr; Pref Easter

Weekly Bulletin # 666

Low Sunday

CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE - THE HAPPINESS IN SANCTITY

THE HORRORS of Good Friday are, thank God, over! - now we have the glory of the resurrection. Truly, Easter Day is a day which the Lord has made! The freshness of Spring - Spring, full of beautiful flowers, and fresh growth in everything, and new life is brought forth as all things give birth - is so appropriate for the occasion of the Resurrection of our Most Blessed Lord. At this moment in the year, the Resurrection marks a NEW BEGINNING. The rigors of the Lenten observance over, the thoughts of Sanctity take on a new and fresh vigor. The power and magnificence of the Resurrection, bursting forth amongst the power and magnificence of Spring, puts a new freshness in our efforts at wanting to become saints - saints of the Resurrected Christ. Let us, therefore, cast a glance at Sanctity..

It often happens with misguided souls, souls anxious to achieve sanctity, that an unwise approach is used while on the path that leads to sanctity. Because the approach is ill chosen, stress and strain are inevitable, and false pressures produce a worry that leads to sadness, and for such souls, sadness and sanctity have a peculiar relationship with each other. So determined are they, that they literally chain themselves to their rigorisms. They have persuaded themselves that sanctity must have a rigorous intensity about it, and they burden themselves with an austerity of life very much over and above the examples that have been handed down by so many of our wonderful saints. Oftentimes, a multitude of prayers, unnecessary fastings and mortifications, troublesome promises of acts of reckless penance and mortification, cause more problem to these poor souls than they bring about good. The clamored souls of these well intentioned people run from one spiritual duty to another spiritual duty. Forced on and on by a feeling of obligation, their adherence to holiness of life becomes mechanical, unrestful, burdensome and gloomy - - not only to themselves, but to everyone that is in contact with them. Always unfulfilled in their religious observances, they frantically render a joyless service to a demanding God. Such souls are usually mindful of their gift offerings to God, and they are ever ready to remind God of the self ordained sufferings they inflict upon themselves for His Name's Sake. There is a certain heaviness about the religious observances of these unfortunate people, and the atmosphere seems always overcast around them. Unavoidably, self becomes such an integral part to this approach to sanctity, that pride makes the restructuring of it a very difficult job.

This is not sanctity - - - it is IMPRISONMENT!

Sanctity pure - - and sanctity simple - - is LOVING! A soul that truly loves, places itself at the feet of its Lover, and the warmth of love fills it with joy and happiness. It is quite relaxed, having one single concern and that is that it does not love enough. Its great desire is to give - of itself - not to receive - for itself! Its restlessness lies in its desire to love more, but its contentment is fed by the knowledge that it rests under the shadow of the Beloved. When a soul truly and freely loves God there is a brightness that radiates from it - - a brightness that generates peace; a brightness that propagates happiness; a brightness that dispells gloom.

Does the love that such a soul have for its Beloved cause it to hold back its usefulness - its service - its love that it should have for those around it? NO, INDEED! Quite to the contrary, its service to those around it becomes more refined, more concerned, more complete, more consistent, because the inner peace and serenity and joy that exist within it relieve it from the usual encumbrances of worry, anxiety and SELF - - which keep it from the exercise of TRUE CHARITY.

This is sanctity - - it is FREEDOM!