

## 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 SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin # 679

July 22, 2001 - - - Green

Feast of St. Mary Magdalen

Mass of Sunday - Gl; Cr; Comm St. Mary Mag. Pref Trin.

## *Of Sanctity* Part 3

I must NOT WAIT before answering God's call - - to respond to God's grace. I must not take the very serious chance St. Augustine took when he asked to wait before answering his call. He took a real risk. I can go on saying 'not yet' for so long that I will come to forget what it was that I am praying for. In the same way I can go on saying: 'I am not big enough and strong enough to take it on,' for so long that I will come eventually to believe it - - and then, of course, I will cease to feel the urge to take it on. IT HAS TO BE NOW, and it has to be BY GOD'S GRACE. God, it is, Who gives me the strength to do all things. I have always to remember, however, when God says NOW - - I have to act NOW!

But I continue to argue: is that not impossible? YES! Yes, it is impossible to attain the infinite degree of God's holiness; but not impossible, however, to share the divine holiness. And this is what we are commanded: our command is - and it is a command: to be holy in the manner that God is Holy. The ideal placed before every man is not the holiness of saints and angels; it is divine holiness that must always be our ideal - and must always be before us. And we are bound by the very fact that we are Christians to seek after this kind of holiness and perfection. God wants my holiness, and my holiness must reflect God back to Himself. If I reflect back to God the holiness that I find in the saint or the angel, surely, the reflection would be most wondrous, but the reflection would present to God no more than some sort of a carbon copy of the original saint or angel I have in mind. God seeks of me only that reflection of Himself that I - not somebody else - have been called upon by Him to reflect back to Him.

The other point I must remember is that becoming holy is not like graduating from one level to another - -graduating on the merits gained by the performance of a well outlined list of performances and external observances of a religious nature. For those who think thusly - from the outside - it may appear as though there are passing grades, given for the required work well done. Graduation with the various degrees of honor here means reward for work well done. NOT SO! The reality of the whole thing depends on MY DEGREE OF LOVE - - - NOT - - - the catalogue of my life's prayer accomplishments. With God, the only test that I am required to pass is the test of Charity - Charity that I have given as generously and honestly as I can. How so? Because it means that I have got Charity and Charity is God - - - AND THAT IS SANCTITY.

If I do not become a saint - **I am a failure!**