

# 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.

Birmingham

Every Sunday except

First Sunday of each month

THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 12, 2001 - - - Green

Mass of Sunday - G1; Cr; Comm St. Clare; Pref Trin.

Weekly Bulletin # 682

The word **MAGISTERIUM** has not been in the theological vocabulary for a terribly long time, even though the concept of it is as old as we can go back. It is not an easy word. The average layman is not helped by its academic definition. It cannot be easily defined - it can only be understood. We hope our present attempt will help in the understanding of it. To give the word any understanding, we must go all the way back to the very beginning of it all and follow the workings of the VOICE of God as He presented the WORD to the understanding of Man. Your patience and a good study attitude will be most essential in this attempt.

## CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE

### - THE MAGISTERIUM - PART 2

As soon as the Ark became settled on dry land, Noah, his family and all the creatures within the Ark went out and set foot, once again, on the land - - a dry, desolate and lonely wilderness. Desolation was everywhere. No living thing could be found anywhere. Everything had to begin once again!

In continued keeping with the command of God, the family of Noah went forth and increased and multiplied and filled the earth with their offsprings. All the creatures, also, those that were on the Ark - - there were no other - - went forth and filled all the earth with their increase. Noah was grateful to God, and upon a crude altar, he offered an offering of thanksgiving to God. Moved to tenderness, God declared that never again would He curse the ground, nor would He smite human beings in watery annihilation again. As once long ago in Eden, so here on the bleak mountaintop the Lord God was close to men - in mood and speech. He bestowed His blessing on Noah and his three sons. They were to repopulate the earth, but this time there was a new permission - something was added to the usual observation. To the eating of green herbs was added the consumption of meat. Until now Noah had believed that it was wrong to partake of blood, because, he reasoned, blood was sacred - the very source and substance of life. Now meat was added to his diet. But once again, and most solemnly, the VOICE was heard, and all men were warned against the shedding of the blood of man. As a sign of His promise never again to destroy the world with a flood, God set in the sky, an arc of ethereal colors, the rainbow. The rainbow was to be understood as a sign of the Mercy of God. So now, carrying out the command of God, Noah and his three sons, set out to carry out the command to repopulate the earth. Little by little, the sound of the VOICE of the Word was beginning to reach the ears of man. Little by little, as gold is hammered into shape by the strokes of the hammer, the Word was being hammered into the understanding of Man by the sound of the VOICE.

Much too soon, the family of Noah grew to very surprising proportions, but with the growth of the numbers of people, trouble started all over again. Jealousies, envy, fighting, killings and all the rest were to be found amongst the sons and daughters of Noah. The dying Noah, once again, heard the hideous laughter amongst his children and his children's children. He heard the hideous laughter - the hideous barking laughter - the sounds of sin - that he was so familiar with at the time of the building of the Ark. It seemed to him that the people of the late years of his life were not really that much different from the people who tormented him in his early years. Nothing seems to have changed. Whatever the progress of the new people, the effects of sin continued to hold sway. The sad result was that all fear of God seems to have been buried in the ground with the dead body of Noah! After the great failure that took place at the building of a giant building, when man's language became all confused, and no one was able to understand the words of any other, God continued to show His loving kindness. God saw to it that there would be chosen from amongst the multitudes of hardened men, certain ones that would be able to understand Him - to comprehend the sound of His VOICE - - certain ones willing and able to carry the WORD in the safety of their dedication and righteousness. The first of these servants of the Lord was one of the greatest men in history. His name was Abraham.

Continued Next Week