

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 ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin # 683

August 19 2001 - - - Green

Mass of Sunday - G1; Cr; Pref Trin.

CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE

- THE MAGISTERIUM -

PART 3

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.

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 continue to show His loving kindness. God saw to it that there would always be those from amongst the multitudes of hardened men, certain ones that would be able to understand Him - to LISTEN to the sould of His VOICE - - certain ones willing and holy enough 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.

Abraham (at first his name was Abram), because of his outstanding goodness, was forced to move. The people hated him and wanted to do away with him. He took his wife Sarai with him. For many years they lived together in the wilderness, and they prospered. They had one disappointment, however, they had no children, and their lack of offspring was a source of great sadness and shame to them. In their old age and after many vicissitudes, there came a day when the VOICE spoke to Abram, and the VOICE gave instructions to him, and in the sound of the VOICE, Abram was promised a son. From wherever came the sound of the VOICE, only Abram was there to hear It, and immediately he knew It to be the VOICE - the speech of God - as soon as he heard Its first syllable. It was the same solemn, yet loving VOICE with Its tender tones, that once had sounded in Eden, and later at Abel's Altar, and to Cain in the wilderness, and to Noah among his shavings and sawdust. Now the VOICE was speaking once more - - - and Abram listened!

As one difficulty followed another - even in their prosperity - the lives of Abram and Sarai became a series of adversities. At long last, however, joy entered their lives and a son was born to them - - the one that was promised to them. They named the boy child - Isaac. So, Isaac grew and was the pride of his parents. In the midst of their joy, God wished to test the quality of Abram's obedience. God called him now: Abraham. Even though God knew Abraham to be good and holy and obedient and devoted, God wanted, nevertheless, to put Abraham to the supreme test. God asked Abraham to offer to Him his son Isaac. Isaac was to be the victim of sacrifice. Without question, without hesitation, without wonderment in his heart, Abraham took off into the wilderness, together with his cherished son Isaac, and prepared to offer his cherished son Isaac as a victim to God - the God he loved so much. To the very last moment, Abraham did not falter in his obedience, and God was pleased with him and therefore, Isaac was spared.

In his turn, Isaac grew into maturity and fathered two sons - twins - Esau and Jacob. Esau was the first born of the two, and therefore enjoyed all the rights and privileges of a first born son. In ways that are very difficult - - perhaps impossible - - to understand, Jacob took away from Esau all of his birthrights and privileges, and the Family of God continued its growth in the line of Jacob, rather than in the line of Esau. The years passed, Jacob grew into manhood and had twelve sons. One of them was called Joseph. Now Joseph was the pride of his father, Jacob, and all the other sons knew it. Unfortunately for him, Joseph inspired great jealousy amongst his brothers against himself. When he revealed to them certain of his dreams, the anger in them provoked them to consider a way of killing him. However, the intended death of Joseph did not ever take place, but a pattern of events took place, and eventually we find Joseph in Egypt - a slave and in prison.

As it all happened, an unusual dream of the Pharoah brought it about that Joseph was called out of his imprisonment. The fame of Joseph's ability to interpret dreams had reached the ears of the very troubled Pharoah. Joseph, therefore, was called upon to interpret the troublesome dreams of the Pharoah. Joseph's interpretation of the dreams was so good and so clear and so reasonable, and so impressed was the Pharoah with the explanation given him by Joseph, that he placed Joseph over all the affairs of Egypt and gave him authority, second only to himself. The Pharoah of that time was very wise and he was a good ruler, and he recognized in Joseph all the good qualities he was looking for, and he took Joseph unto himself.

Continued Next Week