

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.

St. Pius V Chapel

9:30 A.M.

Birmingham

Every Sunday except

First Sunday of each month

Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel

Montgomery Alabama

10:45 A.M.

Only on First Sunday

of each month

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 2, 2001 - - - Green

Mass of Sunday: G1; Cr; Pref Trin.

Weekly Bulletin # 685

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 5

The little baby's mother next placed the basket amongst the sedges along the bank of the river, and then she made sure that the presence of the basket become known to someone in authority. The little boy's sister remained around the river's edge to keep watch over the safety of the baby, and also to report matters of importance as they occurred.

Not always, but oftentimes the great love of God takes over and actively directs the footsteps of man. As it happened, obviously by God's direction, Pharaoh's daughter came down to wash herself - - AT THE VERY SPOT WHERE THE BASKET WAS - -and, seeing the basket, sent her maid to get it bring it to her. When she opened the basket and saw the little baby in it, she knew immediately that the baby in it belonged to one of the Hebrew women. The little sister who was left to watch over the situation, approached and stepped forward, and the daughter of Pharaoh sent her to go and find a nurse for the little baby. The child ran and brought the baby's own mother and presented her to Pharaoh's daughter, who gave her the little child to nurse. When the baby had grown a bit, he was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter, and she gave him the name of **MOSES**, that is, "saved from the waters". Thus the daughter of Pharaoh defied the commands of her lord and rescued a despised Hebrew baby from death, and even went so far as to take him as her very own son, and hired the baby's own mother to attend to him; and God used the circumstances of the moment as proper instruments to bring about His Almighty Will. So it was, then, that Moses was taught all about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and Joseph and all about his people. He was taught about his God and all the events that led all the way back to the Garden of Eden. His adopted mother, on the other hand, gave him a name, and she gave him the protection of the court and an education proper to one so much a part of the court family. Clearly to be seen, the Hand of God was at work in the person of Moses; and clearly to be seen also, Moses was chosen by God for a work of the greatest importance. The damage that took place in the Garden of Eden continued to be uppermost in the Mind of God, and His work was to bring about peace between Himself and fallen man. The damage in the Garden of Eden had become so extensive that God ultimately concluded that everything had to be destroyed - all things and all men - - with the one exception of Noah and his family and the things that he was called upon to save. Noah was a good and righteous man, but he was not the man that God had in mind to become the Father of the new family of the Race of Man. Such a man, a man of the greatest stature, was Abraham, and it was of the Family of Abraham that God forged the chain of a people that was to be linked to the Messiah. Sadly, after the Family of Abraham established itself in Egypt, it fell pray to the pagan and heathen practices of the land of Egypt, even though continuing to maintain their Jewish identity, and they formed a nation within a nation and remained separate and distinct and apart from the host nation. They never became Egyptians, and thus it was that they were looked upon, finally, as an economic burden to the economic fabric of the land. Nevertheless, even though God found idolatry amongst His beloved people, He continued to love them and to favor them. God would not allow the chain to become separated from its original link, namely, Abraham, - so - God brought forth Moses - "saved from the waters" - and trained him for a most remarkable job to accomplish, and not only that: **GOD FOUND MOSES TO BE THE ONE IN WHOSE HAND HE COULD PLACE THE FIRST DEFINITE STATEMENT OF HIS DIVINE INTENTION. MOSES WAS THE ONE TO BE GIVEN THE FIRST DEFINITE WORD OF THE LAW OF GOD - THE COMMANDMENTS!** God's family on earth was to come from the seed of Abraham, and that family was to be governed by God's **WORD**, and the **SEED** of that **WORD** was placed in the **HANDS OF MOSES**.

Once, while in his exile from Egypt, Moses was tending his sheep and he beheld a remarkable phenomenon. A bush suddenly burst into flame before his eyes; the fire burned bright and red and in the midst of the bush, but the bush was not consumed. From the midst of the burning bush, Moses heard a **VOICE**, a **VOICE** not of this earth, a **VOICE** he had never heard before: "Moses, Moses, draw not nigh hither. Put off your shoes from off your feet, for the place whereon you stand is holy ground." After some discussion between God and Moses, God finally identified Himself and said: "I am Who Am. Thus shalt thou say to the children of Israel: He Who Is hath sent me to you." - - - - - "Now, therefore, if you will obey My **VOICE** indeed, and keep My covenant, then you shall be unto Me, above all people, a peculiar treasure; and you shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests and an holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak unto the children of Israel."

Now it was that we find the beginning of the formation of the **WORD** - - the discovery of the **WORD**, which was to be carefully carried from generation to generation, with each generation **DISCOVERING** more and more the fullness of that **WORD** which was issued forth by the **VOICE** to very carefully selected men.