

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 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 9, 2001 - - - Green

Mass of Sunday: G1; Cr; Pref Trin.

Weekly Bulletin # 686

CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE

- THE MAGISTERIUM -

PART 6

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.

As the hand of the Egyptian began to settle ever more heavily on the backs of the Israelites, their situation became constantly more intolerable for them, then it was that God stepped in to help His oppressed and beloved Children - the Children of the Family of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and Joseph. This was God's Family. However, before anything could be done, God had to prepare the very one - the man - best able to do the work that had to be done to help and give relief to the oppressed Hebrews. God, therefore, allowed circumstances to unfold themselves in such a way that Moses should become the instrument of His Intentions. As he got older and more observant, Moses began to notice the horrible miseries of the people that he had learned from his mother to be his people, and he resolved to share the miseries of his people. By his vigorous defence of the Hebrews against the cruelty of the Egyptians, he incurred the displeasure of the Pharaoh, who resolved to put him to death, but Moses fled to Madian, in Arabia. Thus began the exile of Moses. In Arabia he met a young girl who became his wife. The young girl was the daughter of Jethro, and Jethro owned a herd of sheep. It was for this that Moses became a shepherd in his land of exile. The sheep were the reason why Moses went up Mount Horeb. They needed green pastures, and thus it was that the sheep led Moses to the place of the "Burning Bush". God's ways are deep, profound and unsearchable - are they not? So - Moses led his flock of sheep up the Mountain of Horeb. How easy it is to see that the Eye of God was always upon Moses, as step by step - - unknown to him - - he was being formed - - formed for an awesome task, a work that was to stand full force before him for many years to come. His real training began with the stunning beginning of the Burning Bush. Astonished, Moses heard the VOICE for the first time. He did not know that it was the same VOICE that spoke in Eden to Adam and Eve and the serpent. He did not know that it was the same VOICE that spoke to Cain and to Noah, and to Abraham, and Isaac and Jacob. The sound of the VOICE was completely unknown to him, even so, there was something about it that was far beyond his understanding. As said above, there was discussion between the VOICE and Moses, and it was not until the VOICE identified ITSELF as "I AM WHO AM" that Moses realized who it was that was speaking to him. "Thou shalt say to the children of Israel: He Who Is has 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 - the construction - of the WORD. For the first time we begin to notice direction and instruction, and we see that the WORD was allowing Itself to be discovered, and we can also see that the WORD was placing Itself in the hands and in the keep of man. The WORD had begun to manifest Itself. God was beginning to speak His requirements, expected of those members of His beloved Family of Abraham, and eventually of those members of His Elect, namely even down to the generations of today. So it has been, now, since the time of Moses, that the WORD was to be carried and developed from generation to generation, each generation discovering more and more "I-AM'S" expectations as it was expressed by the VOICE bit by bit to a few and carefully selected group of men. Today we do not speak of the VOICE - we speak of the WORKINGS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. The few selected men gradually came to know the WORD - - the LAW - - the WILL - - the DESIRE of "I AM" and carefully handed it down until it rested with you and me.

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