

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 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin # 688

September 23, 2001 - - - Green

Mass of Sunday : Gl; Cr; Comm St. Linus and Thecla; Pref Trin.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPERIENCE - - VISION OF GOD

FEAR, anxiety, concern, emotion, tension, uncertainty, worry and more - all have become a major part of the lives of us all today, and one question haunts us: "WHAT'S NEXT"? The filth and the squalor, the stench, the rats, the pestilence of the climate of the present day and hour--all have finally reached the doorsteps of our souls and we are all scared and we don't like it, and we use our valuable time and energies looking for someone to blame. The tragedy that has happened to us is absolutely terrible - - made more terrible because this time we are the victim rather than some unknown people in some far and distant part of the world. Some say it is apocalyptic. It might well be! However, our attention must stay focused upon the God Who looks kindly upon those who love Him, and not let the terror of the moment torment us. Let us turn to prayer, but the right kind of prayer - - internal, genuine sincere consistent and reforming prayer.

Over the many past years, little by little, God has been squeezed out of our daily lives - in one way or another! Our law makers have forbidden the use of the word GOD, because it offends this or that group. Our law makers have legislated and decreed that public prayer be left out of public gatherings, because it offends this or that group - - (and the Holy Name of Jesus is especially offensive!) At the same time, our law makers have made legal many things that are absolutely and expressly forbidden by the Law of a Higher Being - - a POWER that is above every son and daughter of Adam and Eve! Yet - - - MIRABLE DICTU - - - guess what - - - our law makers - - THE VERY SAME - - gathered together on the steps of the most public place in our land, and in front of the very building where our legislative action takes place - the Capitol Building of our Country and most important spot in our country - - and many of them, sitting in "sack cloth and ashes" , with much vigor sang out: "GOD BLESS AMERICA"!!!

In time of undisturbed plenty and good living, we banish the very thought of God and every thing He stands for! In time of need, in time of fear, in time of panic, how quickly we fall on our knees and without shame call out to Him Whom, we ourselves have banished. Is there not something apocalyptic, also, about this? Is this not more of a tragedy than the crumbling down of buildings? The crumbling down of all religious morality in the Heart of Man is far more catastrophic than the crumbling down of the pebbles of this earth - important though they may be. Interestingly enough, even though religion has decayed and brought into conformity with the demands of our decadent society, it has been allowed to remain alive along the fringe areas of our society, perhaps, so that it might serve as an opiate for the lower classes of our people. It serves to keep rebellion down.

In our Weekly Bulletins over the past many months we have highlighted the term: "CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE". It is quite unfortunate that some few have looked upon the term as a criticism - with a political tint to it perhaps - of those who live the "CATHOLIC LIFE OF INEXPERIENCE"! Like it or not, lack of knowledge of true Catholicism has played havoc with life all around us and in our whole way of living today - both for Catholics and Protestants alike.

In speaking of "Catholic Life Experience: it is inevitable that the word "CONVERSIO" should come into view. Those who have been reading our Bulletins already know the implication and the meaning of the word. There is no need to go again into the meaning of that word at this time. Over the past few days we have seen people fall to their knees, and we have seen our churches filled with people. Many have had much to say about a return to prayer, but few understand everything that a return to prayer implies. As Sacred Scripture clearly says: "We must rend our hearts - not our garments." For prayer to be worthwhile and efficacious before God, it must begin within the Heart of Man. Only then can we bring help to ourselves, to our nation and to our world AND TO OUR CHURCH! If our world is crumbling before our very eyes, it is because the Heart of Man has crumbled. IF OUR CHURCH HAS CRUMBLLED BEFORE OUR VERY EYES, IT IS BECAUSE THE IMAGE OF GOD HAS CRUMBLLED IN OUR HEARTS AND IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE WHO HAVE LAID SNARES AROUND THE VERY THING THEY WERE SET OVER TO PROTECT! Until the Heart of Man is RESTORED in its goodness, there is little need to speak of the RESTORATION OF ANYTHING , let alone our national welfare,