

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 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin # 689

September 30, 2001 - - - Green

Mass of Sunday: G1; Cr; Comm St. Jerome; Pref Trin.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPERIENCE - - FAITH WITHOUT GOOD WORKS IS DEAD

FAITH WITHOUT GOOD WORKS SECURES MAN'S SALVATION! This statement is the backbone belief of protestantism! This statement of belief has been the direct result of all the religious deviations found in protestantism, AND IT OPENED THE DOOR TO EVERY KIND OF RELIGIOUS MISUSE THAT THE HUMAN MIND CAN CONJURE UP. It has been the direct cause of some of the bloodiest (even though religious) wars known to man in the western world. Perhaps out of place in this discourse, but at this point it should be noted that the very same kind of religious mentality and thinking has invaded the once One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Not only has the Roman Church permitted the invasion of this belief, it has, perhaps not officially, accepted it and fostered it in actual practice and application: (witness the clerical attitude in the confessional!)

The true and correct Catholic teaching in this matter is clearly spelled out in the Epistle of St. James, where he says in most certain terms: "For even as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead." (N.B. The Epistle of St. James was removed from the Protestant Bible). This one single quotation should be quite enough to place the teaching concerning "works" in clear focus. To bring up all the quotations of the ages to give this doctrine a stronger fortification seems unnecessary. If one has a problem in accepting the words of St. James, then such a one has a problem with being Catholic. Good works are the very foundation of our Holy Religion. Good works as spoken of here are in no way associated with the works performed by social minded people of the world who attach themselves to the various "charitable" causes of every day world problems: help for the underprivileged, work in soup kitchens, work in hospitals, work in prison houses, and all the rest. Good Works - as we speak of them are to be taken to mean the UPROOTING OF SELF IN THE HEART OF MAN, and this brings us again and again FACE TO FACE with the term "CONVERSIO". A true child of God simply cannot steer clear of that awesome term: "CONVERSIO" - it presents itself to us at every turn.

Let it be forever most clear to us that Adam and Eve loved God. Adam and Eve loved God with the purest and most total love ever enjoyed by man (the Most Blessed Mother excepted) - - ever known to man. Adam and Eve had a Faith and a belief (a familiarity) in God that was more profound than has ever been experienced by human kind (the Most Blessed Mother excepted) - - - Y E T - - because of their one single "bad work" encouraged by the promptings of the evil one the workings of PRIDE and disobedience in their inmost selves - - in spite of their great love for God - - in spite of their great Faith and Belief in God, Whom they knew so well - - in spite of every other consideration they were privileged with - - they were most terribly punished, and their punishment was so penetrating that it not only afflicted them permanently, but became the punishment of their entire progeny - - ALL THE WAY DOWN TO YOU AND ME! And so it remains! Even if we have the Faith to move mountains, yet do not bring our bodies into subjection, it profits us nothing! If we do not bring our bodies into subjection (and this is the fundamental sum and substance of what we call "Good Works") - - the CONVERSIO - - it is futile to speak of Faith and Hope and Charity. At the very same time, if we do not have Faith and Hope and Charity, it is futile to give up our bodies to be burned and to bring them into subjection. The two go together - - they cannot be separated.

Now we must come to a further consideration, a consideration that must be taken as the very foundation of our spiritual effort in all of its totality, including the CONVERSIO, and that is the Virtue of Humility. If we wish to be true disciples of Jesus Christ, if we truly wish to be intimately united with God, the Virtue of Humility must be the foundation stone upon which union can be achieved. It is the very foundation stone upon which ALL other Virtues rest. Since pride made outcasts of us, it follows that the very antithesis of pride, the diametrically opposite of pride - HUMILITY - must be that which will set us back on the path leading to God's good pleasure. Humility is not the greatest of Virtues - it does not compare with the Virtue of Faith and Hope and Charity, but Humility is the element which brings all Virtue into proper focus. Without Humility all Virtue is distorted and ill-shaped. Without Humility all Virtue is unacceptable to God. Humility is the FOUNDATION upon which all Virtue is constructed. Pride crumbled the foundation. Pride's opposite - Humility - reconstructs the foundation. There is no other way.

God created heaven and earth and all things therein - for His Honor and Glory and Pleasure. When the angels in heaven rose up in rebellion, they tried to become the owners and the rulers of the empire of God! In the most frightful pride, Lucifer - the Most Beautiful One - with the help of his friends and comrades tried to ascend to the highest place, and to hurl the Eternal One - the Maker of them all - from His Eternal Throne. They turned against the very One Who gave them existence, Who made them what they were! But Lucifer and his friends were hurled over the battlements of heaven and plunged into the dismal abyss of the hell created for them. However, Satan remains undaunted, and he continues his war against his Creator!

Please Turn page for conclusion