

1. Friday, October 5, 2001 is the First Friday of October and Saturday, October 6, 2001 is the First Saturday of October. Masses - each day - 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 A.M. Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament on Friday from 11:00 A.M. - 6:00 A.M.
2. Next Sunday, October 7, 2001 is the First Sunday of October - No Mass in Birmingham.
3. Tuesday October 2, 2001 is the Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels and Thursday, October 4, 2001 is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi - both are days of the greatest importance. Wednesday, October 3, 2001 is the Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux - Patron (together with St. Joseph) of our Abbey Church. The greatness of these occasions can hardly be measured in terms of prayer.
4. Please pray for the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Miriam Roy, Manny Gomez, Little Anne Patterson, Edward Peterson and Stephen Holup. Do not forget the poor victims of our great tragedy. May God have mercy on them all - AND US, TOO!
5. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Abbor Leonard's Schedule Only)
 

SUNDAY:	For the People of the Chapels	THURSDAY:	Special Int. Lois Nichols
MONDAY:	Special Int. Agnes Schwarzbauer	FRIDAY:	Dec. Gregory Schuh
TUESDAY:	For the Poor Souls	SATURDAY:	Special Int. Paul Roy Family
WEDNESDAY:	Welfare of our Abbey Church		

There will be no First Holy Communion Class today.

At his earliest opportunity Satan went straight to the Garden and quickly brought havoc into the Garden, and brought punishment down upon God's creation. Now it remains that our constant concern must be to keep Satan from conquering us as he conquered Adam and Eve. Our constant effort must be to keep proper our relationship with the God of Heaven and Earth, and that our love for Him be given the expression HE IS LOOKING FOR. Our love for God is only expressed by our willingness to do His Divine Will in all things.

Our Love for God is not measured by the time we spend crying out "LORD, LORD"; our Love for God is not measured by the amount of time we spend on our knees and it is not measured by the numbers of prayers we utter! All such exercises in themselves are good, but they do not necessarily indicate love. The love we speak of is found in Humble CONVERSIO. Our love for God is measured by the amount of effort and energy and determination and resolution and perseverance and single-mindedness we put forth in bringing our bodies into subjection. Only when we work toward bringing our bodies into subjection might we speak of doing the "Will of God" Seeking the "Will of God" elsewhere is a futile search - - INDEED!

Some of us seek spiritual direction, and this is as it should be, but for the most part few really understand or comprehend what spiritual direction really is. We seem to think that it is the work of the spiritual director to bring us all into perfection. We seem to think that it is the work of the director to pick us right off our feet of anger, and impurity and pride and self will and drunkenness and all the rest and straightaway place us (with no effort on our part) up in the highest heaven of meekness and purity and humility and sobriety and all the rest. We seem to think that we acquire Virtue because of the director, that he is the responsible one, and we excuse ourselves of any responsibility when we meet with failure. NOT SO! The spiritual director is much like the coach. The coach TRAINS the mountain climber, and he brings the climber to the base of the mountain, and leaves him. The climber must work his own way up the mountain at that point - with bleeding hands, torn clothes and every bone aching - all, all alone! Another example is of the coach who trains the runner how to run the race, and we witness the strenuousness of the exercise the runner is put through. As soon as the coach takes the runner to the starting line, the work of the coach is finished. From that moment on ALL OF THE EFFORT IS ON THE PART OF THE RUNNER. The coach sits back and looks and hopes that the runner makes the grade.

So it is with us. The spiritual director can only teach us about the CONVERSIO, and he tells us that the CONVERSIO is not a simple matter of changing one's direction.. After instruction as to how, the director takes us to the starting line. The rest is entirely up to us. We are the ones to struggle in a serious effort to save our own souls. Alone, bruised, bleeding all tattered and torn we climb the steps of the mountain to salvation. Believe what you will! Quote what you wish! - no matter - Faith without good works, without our effort to save our own souls, is indeed, quite dead!

Please read this Discourse very carefully and  
Please read it more than one time.