

# 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 EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 7, 2001 - - - White

Feast of the Most Holy Rosary

Mass of Feast - Gl; Cr; Comm Sun; Pref BVM

## CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE

### - THE MAGISTERIUM-

#### PART 7

Weekly Bulletin # 690

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.

In his attempt to force the hand of the Pharaoh, Moses afflicted him and all of Egypt with a series - ten in number - of the most terrifying and horrible plagues. But the Pharaoh's heart remained obdurate, even became harder still, in spite of the obvious punishments that were brought about at the word of Moses. However, after the tenth plague, Moses got the needed permission for the Israelites to leave, and so the great journey - the great migration - away from Egypt began!

Hardly were the Israelites out of Egypt, and trouble started. Every inch of the way was a most terrible chore for both God and Moses. Full of murmuring were they, and always complaining out with their discontent. Even though God's goodness shone all about them, the people's appreciation for God's goodness was always short-lived, and ever so quickly after each act of goodness, they returned to their customary complaining and demanding. Their screams were that life was better for them in the hardships of Egypt than the terrible deprivations and dangers of the desert, and they were always only a breath away from idolatry, at times giving in to the worship of false gods by placing more trust in their help than in the ever present goodness of the God of Moses and of their Fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In His displeasure, God would threaten to punish the ungrateful people, but each time, Moses pleaded the cause of the people, and God always forgave. Repentent for a brief moment, the ugliness of the people followed them like a shadow. This was the performance of the "Children of God" for forty long and terrible years. Even when food was given them - they grumbled. When water was given them - they grumbled. When a cloud was given them to protect them from the heat of the desert sun - they grumbled. When a pillar of light was given them for them to see in the darkness of the desert night - they grumbled. They hated the heat of the day. They hated the cold and freezing wind of the night. Nothing pleased them. Neither God, nor the efforts of man could quiet the unrest of those bothered and ungrateful people. Their minds and hearts were always full of hatred and quarreling and greed and lust, and they hankered after the feasting and the dancing and the lust they so easily enjoyed in the golden gods they kept in their minds. How often it was that Moses had to pray to the Lord to spare this most wretched people. However forgiving God was toward the people, His Justice could not - - and did not go unappeased. In His Justice, God declared that not one of them that had at that time attained his twentieth year of age should enter the Promised Land, Josue and Caleb excepted. God kept his promise! Their children would enter, but for forty years the people were doomed to wander about lost and chased about in the desert and in the heat and cold of their own discontent. Even Moses, as faithful as he always was to the God Whom he loved so completely and served so well, was punished, simply because of his momentary hesitation when he struck the rock two times for water. Moses' punishment was that he would not enter the Land of Promise. For forty years the people were seldom to leave off doubting and distrusting and repudiating their their amazing leader, this Moses who had led them out of Egypt; who would give them laws, rule over them through difficult years, and lay the foundation of their religion - the greatest human figure in their history. They were too close to him to take his height.

"FEAR NOT" was the constant reassurance of Moses. "Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord." Over and over was this to be said to them.

When, according to the course of nature, the time came that Moses must die, the Lord commanded him, in the presence of the people, to put his hand upon Josue, that they might have no cause to disobey him.. Then Moses told the people he was about to die; that he would not pass over the Jordan River with them, nor would he enter the beautiful Land of Promise - all filled with milk and honey. He reminded them how he, himself, had been their M A G I S T E R - - their teacher, and he cautioned them that they would now have to look to Josue as their M A G I S T E R their teacher - - the teacher to whom the WORD of God would now be given. He cautioned them

