

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 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Weekly Bulletin # 706

January 20, 2002 - - - Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Comm Ss Fabian and Sebastian, Pref Trin

~LENTEN PREPARATION~

The Christmas Season is almost over, and we are about to enter the very important Season of Lent. The usual custom for Lent is to make "resolutions" - things we plan to do or things we plan not to do. As good as this custom may seem, it fails in most cases to have a lasting effect, and as soon as Lent is over most people go back to their usual habits. This year, rather than make resolutions, let us use the Season of Lent as a period for self examination. Let us take the time to investigate the true quality of our Faith; let us investigate the quality of our Catholicism; let us investigate the true quality of our TRADITIONAL CATHOLICISM. Let us ask ourselves the question: Why do I profess Traditional Roman Catholicism? It is said of the great St. Bernard that every morning he asked himself the question: "Bernard, why did you come here?" Monks and nuns are taught to ask themselves the same question as they travel through their daily lives as monastics. We call ourselves Traditional Roman Catholics, and the sound of the words comforts us and we get warm feelings. But we must go beyond feelings - and above all things we must not become victims of EMOTIONALISM! Good feeling is not enough to bring us salvation. Observance of a traditional worship service - THE MASS - is wonderful, but it is far from being enough. At this point, once again, we come face to face with the difficult word: "CONVERSIO"! If we do not turn around, if we do not ACTIVELY work to change our inner selves, the Mass, alone, is not enough to bring us to the place of salvation. Therefore, let us ask ourselves some serious questions, questions that should indicate to us the quality of our Catholicism.

1. Why do I come here? Why do I come to a Traditional Mass Service rather than to a Modern Service?
2. Do I attend the Traditional Mass because of my inmost belief, or do I come here because I PREFER the theatrics of Traditional services and detest the circus atmosphere of the modern services?
3. Are my Catholic beliefs based on the ideas I have conjured up from out of my own religious fancies, and structured around some religious artifacts I have carefully sought out?
4. Do I accept the authority of the TEACHINGS OF THE AGES, or have I put together a self serving religious doctrine? and shun anyone of different persuasion? do I try to convert others to my way of Catholic living? am I a crusader of my personal religious preferences?
5. What, in fact DO I BELIEVE IN?
6. What, exactly, does the TRANSUBSTANTIATION mean to me? Do I profoundly desire to accept it and believe it? Do I cloak the Transubstantiation with certain cloaks of symbolism? Do I realize that as a practicing Catholic I must fully accept and believe the Transubstantiation? What does the term: "Sacrifice of the Mass" mean to me?
7. Am I conscientiously striving to learn and to live authentic Catholic Experience in myself, and am I teaching the same to my children - or is my Catholicism an expression of unsubstantiated preferences?
8. Do I understand the necessity of the virtue of HUMILITY in the development of all Virtue?
9. Do I teach HUMILITY by word and example to my children, or do I spoon feed them the delicacies of catholic elitism? Am I a traditional Roman catholic elitist?
10. How often do I go to Confession? Do I properly prepare myself for Confession? Do I KNOW HOW TO GO TO CONFESSION? Am I willing to learn the proper way to go to Confession? Do I feel profound sorrow for my sins? Is my Confession mechanical? Why do I go to Confession?
11. Do I really understand what prayer is? What is my attitude in prayer? What is the quality of my private and unobserved prayer life? Do I say the Rosary? Am I concerned about the interior life of my soul?
12. Do I want to be Holy? as my Divine Lord and Saviour SHOWED my how to be Holy? ("Learn of Me")

