

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

10:15 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

SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

Weekly Bulletin # 708

January 27, 2002 - - - Purple

Mass of Sunday - NO Gl; Cr. Comm St. John; Pref Trin.

SEPTUAGESIMA

If I

want to win the

prize -

I must

run for it!

It will not be given

to me because of

my reputation!

If I

want to save my

soul -

I must work

for it!

It will not be

given to me

because of

my reputation!

TODAY IS SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY. As we entered the Church this morning we noticed a drastic change in it - the mood was now very different from what it has been for the past several weeks. The difference strikes us profoundly. No flowers - and all the Christmas "pretty" is gone. The altar is now vested in the violet vestments of PENANCE - at mass the GLORIA is not said and the word ALLELUIA is no longer said or heard. The atmosphere in the Church is all so different. The prayers and Gospels of this season - THIS PRE-LENTEN TIME - attempt to awaken us to a serious realization of the fact that only through penance and a thorough and uncompromising rejection of sin, accomplished by a genuine change of heart, can we share in the Redemption of Christ. We must accept the conditions of our Redemption. Salvation is a gratuitous gift, won for us by Christ, but only on the condition that to win the prize, we must run in the race. We must run in such a manner as to be worthy of the prize. We must win in the race - - we must win the prize of our Salvation.

Through His Incarnation, Passion and Death, Jesus gained for us the Graces of Salvation. BUT LET IT BE KNOWN - - AND REMEMBERED - CHRIST DOES NOT FORCE OR PRESS HIS GRACES UPON US! However, He does demand that we work seriously and tirelessly, and at every hour of every day of our lives - - IN THE VINEYARD THAT HE, HIMSELF, HAS PLANTED, AND INTO WHICH HE HAS CALLED US TO LABOR. Having answered His Call to labor in the vineyard, we then must work with SELFLESS INDUSTRY. If we fail to give quality work, we will not receive our wages. If we fail to work according to the demands of the owner of the vineyard - we are failures. IF WE DO NOT BECOME SAINTS - - WE ARE FAILURES.

The Epistle - with the parable of the runner in a race, and the Gospel - with the parable of the vineyard, give sober warnings. As was indicated in last week's Bulletin, now is the time for EXAMINATION OF OUR MOTIVES AND OUR CONVICTIONS. Once again, let us ask ourselves the question: Why did I come here to this Church this morning? What am I doing here?

Finally, it is important to determine my desires. Do I really WANT to do what is required of one who strives to save his or her soul? How profound is my determination to fulfill requirements? If my determination is merely haphazard with one foot in the world and one foot at work either to run the race or to work in the vineyard? God is just - and if we truly want salvation WE MUST WORK FOR IT. There is no other way!