

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 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

February 24, 2001 - - - Purple

Mass of Sunday; No Gl; Cr; Pref Lent

Weekly Bulletin #712

LENT

Last Sunday, in the Sunday Sermon, we were asked a very serious question. A question that every man has no choice but to answer: "Do I really believe in God?" Without doubt, this question stuns a good Christian when he hears it. Nevertheless, do we believe in God as, in truth, HE is? Most of us are genuine when we say we believe in God, but for just a moment, let us study our belief. As we walk about our daily duties, our daily obligations, our daily disturbances and pressures and needs, what is our thought make-up about God? What part does God play in the affairs of our daily lives? Is God a kindly friend to us - always ready to "stroke us" when we need stroking? Is He a comrad or a compatriot, or an associate to us as we walk through the day? Is He Someone to be feared - always ready to catch us in a mistake and always ready to strike us down? Is He a kindly Father, One to Whom we can run to when in need or fear or trouble? Excepting the question which speaks of Divine Tyranny - the answer to these questions should be "YES". However, God, we must understand, is much more than all of the above. God is a CREATOR, and CREATOR of ALL THINGS, and this places Him in the place of the ultimate and supreme power and authority over man and all things. Of all of God's Creation, man, alone, resists Him, and as a consequence, God found it necessary to speak most emphatically when He said: "I am the Lord Thy God, thou shalt have no strange gods before Me!" The question: "Do I believe in God" becomes very sharp and pointed when we look about us and view the things - the many things - that sprout up between us and God as we travel the paths of each new day. Most of us would be struck with horror at the thought of strange "gods" in our lives. Impossible! Indeed, we do believe! and the truth of the matter, we do believe! However, cannot MONEY be a strange god? political power? fun and recreation? SPORTS - witness the inordinate interest in the Olympics? possessions and things? sex? We have come to look upon all such as "probably" legitimate, and have come to take the benefit of the doubtful probability. Yet, the ORDER remains that NO person, NO place, and NO thing should be allowed to come before HIM! How, then, can we justify our conduct? When our conduct fails to fall in line with the Order give, is this not idolatry? We squirm at the thought! The further Command to love with one's WHOLE heart, WHOLE mind, WHOLE soul, WHOLE being, tolerates NO tarnish and brings ALL things into even sharper focus.

Conservative people think conservatively, and Traditional Roman Catholicism is surely conservative in its teaching and thinking, and looks upon itself as THE custodian of true and orthodox Catholic Worship. In the light of what was said above, it might be well to look carefully into the Faith dimension of the present day's Traditional Roman Catholicism. Is the Faith dimension of Traditional Roman Catholicism built on FIRM FOUNDATIONS? Is the Faith dimension of Traditional Roman Catholicism built on a solid and unshakable foundation of SOUL SHAPING BELIEF? or is it built on the sandy foundations of personal preferences and personal interpretations? Is our Traditional Catholicism built on the sandy foundations of interesting and pleasing ceremonial and delightful renditions of ancient chant and language? Ceremonial and music and language and vestment and all the rest, good in themselves, have NO STABILIZING EFFECTS, and can easily be changed by the will of man. FAITH, belief in that which is TRUTH cannot be changed by the will of man, and it CANNOT be presented in two conflicting interpretations. TRUTH cannot be sponsored by two teachers - each enemy to the other's belief. TRUTH IS ONE - IT CANNOT BE ANYTHING ELSE! It cannot be changed simply to accommodate - it cannot be applied simply to make things run smoothly. TRUTH AND UNTRUTH cannot live together! Events of the moment are proving beyond the shadow of any doubt that these warnings are totally valid and apropos. Let our STRONGEST Traditional strongholds take heed and TREMBLE! Foundations built on sandy beaches - - beaches full of beauty and charm and money and personal gain - - simply cannot - indeed they will not - stand the test of the raging waters of the angry ocean. Let us, when reading about current events (religious, political, economic, cultural and all the rest) learn HOW TO READ BETWEEN THE LINES!

As we study the question about God and as we study the question of BELIEF which the question about God brings to the surface, we cannot avoid the necessity of looking at the question which concerns DEATH AND ETERNITY! What is ETERNITY? What is DEATH? We improvise answers, but all of them remain quite unsatisfactory. ETERNITY, we say, is "forever" - that it is infinite. Death, we say, is a passing. As soon as the answers are shot forth we flee! lest further speculation and discussion disquiet us as we travel blissfully along the paths of fun and frolic and self importance. We speak of "SPACE" and "TIME", and both of these have to do with the here and the now. Our thoughts are centered on the here and now - - THE PRESENT MOMENT - - and our interests do not go beyond the present moment. As a result, it is