

# 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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - LAETARE SUNDAY

Weekly Bulletin # 714

March 10, 2002 - - - ROSE - Purple

Mass of Sunday; No Gl; Cr; Pref Lent

## LENT

### CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE ~ ~ PENANCE

In the light of his prayer,  
 in the light of ALL his Hope and Faith,  
 in the light of his rigorous effort,  
 in the light of his undaunted determination,  
 in the light of his struggle and strain,  
 in the light of his genuine desire to re-live the Christ-Life  
 in the setting of his own daily life,

Man - - (WE) - - must come to understand that it is not the hardness of the penitential work he - (WE) - takes upon himself, or the long and wearisome vigils he keeps, or the countless prayers he utters, or the fasts and hunger he endures, that the Christ-Life we here contemplate is necessarily to be found. Man - - (WE) - - must also come to understand that the intensity of the penances he otherwise performs are, in themselves, the good works that God wants of him. More than all his good works - which are surely important and necessary for salvation - God seeks from man - - (US) - his ---LOVE --- the absolutely perfect love - - which is the INSPIRATION AND THE CAUSE - - of man's - - (OUR) - - vigils and fasts and penances and all the rest. The kind of love God is looking for in man - - (US) - - is the love that will make man FORGETFUL of his good works and his vigils and his fasts and penances he performs. Mindful of God alone, and forgetful of himself - so intense and burning should the love of God be in the heart of man.

Can this be done by the man - - (US) - - who lives in the world, by the man who is swept up by the cares and problems and the deceits that are the cobblestones that make up the streets he must daily walk upon? - - - - Y E S! - - - but such a man must exercise prudence and wisdom and common sense. He must learn to see through the deceits of the deceitful, and that it is not in deceit that the HONESTY OF GOD IS TO BE FOUND. In today's fast pace we look for the speed with which things can get done - push button speed. Even in things divine we have come to test their success by the speed that brings them to fruition. It is not speed that counts wherever God is concerned. Where God is concerned the seriously important thing that counts is DIRECTION not quick achievement. If the soul is set toward God, wanting nothing but God, that soul is making progress - in spite of the cares and problems and the deceits of daily life and the market place. Such a soul will make progress - such a soul can be a contemplative soul - in spite of the cares and problems and the deceits of daily life he is forced to rub shoulders with as he walks the streets of the market place. If the soul is set toward God, wanting nothing but God, such a soul will not suffer the foul seductions of the "sounding brass" that pollutes the atmosphere all about it. Such a soul will go about setting his feet upon the paths that God points out to him. If love is in his heart, the feet of that man will know DIRECTION! If love is in his heart, absolutely nothing will - - absolutely nothing can - - change the movement of his feet! and he will be set upon a course that was plotted for him by the God of the highest heavens.

If God wants hardness and anguish and every form of difficulty as well as love, He will arrange the work of penance to be burdensome and cruchingly difficult. Our first concern must be the quality of the love that is in our hearts! Hardness and vigorous penances - - certainly they are good in themselves and are sometimes found in the lives of great saints - - DO NOT COVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS - - - - LOVE DOES - - and this is ALWAYS found in the lives of all saints. Hardness of suffering and vigorous penances and burdensome works do not, of themselves, twine the bond of perfection - - - LOVE DOES!

