

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 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

April 21, 2002 - - - White

Weekly Bulletin # 720

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Comm. St. Anselm; Pref Easter

Alleluia! He Is Risen!

CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE



When, at last, certain souls turn their attention to prayer - - when, at last, those same certain souls turn their attention toward their God, in some cases, those same souls conclude that in so turning their attention to a holier way of life, they should receive - on the spot - warm consolations from their newly found devotions. They expect consolations to be heaped upon them by a loving God, full of delight and gratitude, full of contentment by their prayers and good works done in His honor. **THEY EXPECT!** They feel immediately entitled to push button reaction on the part of God, and they do not want to be confounded in their expectations. Their expectations can be quite demanding, due to their newly found and excessive interest in their prayer life. They expect - they look for a sensible devotional feeling in the prayers they say. Indeed - and this does happen - that what is disguised as affection for God, the excessive interest of such souls in sensible devotion is nothing more than affection for self. There is all the difference between being holy and enjoying a "cumfy" sensation of being holy. There is all the difference between being a man of prayer and being a prayerful (looking) man.

Excessive desire for consolation of prayer is on the same plane as excessive desire for anything else - for wealth, for health, for popularity, for security, for success in business and all the rest. The desire itself is not in question here - - it is the **EXCESS** of the desire that must be brought into check. The value of the thing desired does not sanctify the excess with which it is desired. Even sanctity itself must not be loved to excess! The **ONLY** thing that cannot be loved to excess is **GOD!** Therefore, our prayer must be directed in such a way that it becomes a source of pleasure to **GOD - - NOT OURSELVES!** At the same time, when the gift of sensible feeling is given to a soul, such a gift should not be looked upon with suspicion and cast aside as improper for a soul seeking perfection. That would be Jansenistic reasoning.

Those who understand the function and purpose of prayer will soon begin to experience - inevitably - a calm. Everything such souls undertake to do will have a cloak of calmness about it - a cloak of trust about it. Souls in whom desires are all in good balance, in whom the faculties are ordered according to the order looked for by God, are bound to be both serene and soothing. Such souls are personally at harmony with everyone, and have a reassuring, tranquilizing, comforting and easy effect on **ALL THOSE AROUND AND NEAR THEM.** Irrascibility is certainly not one of their characteristics. Over sensitiveness is not part of their make-up. The very presence of such a one is a good to those near by, and the feeling of peace and safety and trust is automatic to everyone about. The soul whose emotions are at rest in their proper object - namely God - and not superficially at rest in self, has time to look about and witness the presence of God in all things. Such a soul is not afraid to look about and enjoy the beauty of God wherever the beauty of God is manifest. Such a soul is not flustered at the slightest challenge. It is not jealous. It is not excitable and is never given to instantaneous impatience and aggravation. In debate with any other, such a one does not insist on having the last and final word, and yields to the opinions of others. Even when disappointment stings such a soul, it is not stamped by it, and readily accepts the disappointment as God's Holy Will. The soul of a good and righteous man is always in control, and it never permits bad emotions to smash it into bits, causing it to be given to moods.

In such a one, the control of the emotions itself becomes a most prominent part of loving prayer. In such a soul, because it keeps its emotions in check for the sake of the love it has for God, soon sets feet on the road to sanctity, and leaves behind itself the footprints of gentleness, reserve, humility, obedience, tolerance, peace and joy. The man whose soul is set upon God, is strength giving, and in him is found the kind of strength that is usually found in saints. It is always good to be around such a man. It is always easy to be around such a man. It is always good to be around a man of prayer!

Alleluia!