

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 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

May 5, 2002 - - - White

Mass of Sunday: Gl; Cr; Comm St. Pius V. Pref Easter

Weekly Bulletin # 722

Go to Joseph

May, of course, is the month of our Most Blessed Mother. Hardly less, is it the month of St. Joseph. Is not the very first day of May especially dedicated to him - under the title of ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER? St. Joseph is, and has always been, the overlooked Saint - the forgotten Saint. Whatever the reasons for this we will not take the time to discuss them at this time.

There is so much for us to find in St. Joseph. His greatness cannot be discounted. God, Himself, thought so highly of him that He deemed him worthy to be placed over the Second Eve, and the Child Jesus, Himself. What greater responsibility has ever any man been given?

Today, let us take the time to look at the PATIENCE of this great man. We do not read that before the birth of Jesus - indeed - before the Conception of Jesus Christ Joseph was exercised by any noteworthy tribulations. No doubt, Joseph led the kind of humble and modest life which finds its happiness in what is sufficient for that day. No doubt, Joseph led the kind of life that was confronted with the daily vicissitudes that have confronted good men since the beginning. As soon as he drew near the Divine Child, the life of Joseph became nothing but one long martyrdom. What inestimable mental torture was surely his to endure when he came to know that his newly espoused wife, his wonderful and beautiful wife, was with Child, and that the Child was most certainly not his? Up and until the birth of that Child he had never been without a home; afterward in dire need, his retreat was a stable where he was forced to look at the horrible poverty of it all. Until then, he had lived tranquilly, sumounting his humble living by labor; afterward he was persecuted, forced to flee in the darkness of the night and constrained to lead a life of exile in a strange land. Until then he had only the little, the ordinary things of life to fear, now he had to suffer fear - real fear - for the safety of his divine and most precious possessions of Jesus and Mary. Until then he main pressures were the pressures of owning and operating a tiny carpenter shop, now, of a sudden, he was faced with the unexpected and unprepared for pressure of a long and dangerous trip - ON FOOT! Until then, desiring little, he had known but little anguish; afterward, his compassionate soul was torn when he heard the old man Simeon say to his beloved Mary: "Thy soul a sword shall pierce"! Until then, possessing little, he had little or nothing to lose; afterward, he had Jesus, and when he lost Him in Jerusalem, what an affliction that must have been. And then, when all seemed to have become settled, prematurely, he was taken from this present life, never again to see his beloved Jesus and Mary in this world, and he had to leave everything he had worked so hard to protect and provide for. It is thus that the patience of St. Joseph was tried - by a series of profound and real tribulations, and in the midst of it all, he was calm and resigned and SILENT! Never a word of complaint was to issue forth from his mouth! Never a murmur or groan was to be heard from him. Never was he found to question the reason behind all that was happening to him.

Joseph understood that tribulations are the crucible in which God purifies the virtue of those whom He loves. Joseph understood that the way of the cross is the only way which leads to heaven, and that all the just must pass along that way, and that Jesus never visits a soul without taking His cross with Him. ARE THESE OUR DISPOSITIONS? Do we not imitate, on the contrary, the man of the world who lives only for pleasure; who thinks of nothing bur his achievements and advancements; who will always enjoy his comforts and seek his ease in every circumstance of life? Are we not like the man of the world who will not deprive himself anything, or mortify himself in any least way? Are we not surrounded by the superabundance of THINGS? Are we not irritated and thrown to the depths of depression by suffering and sickness? Are we not seized by fits when anyone, big or small, contradicts our least word? or whim? or wish?

Let us adore the great design of God, Who exposes His dearest friends to trials. Here below, we find a difficulty in understanding the arrangements of Divine Providence, but let us have patience, and the day will come when we shall understand the workings of God. Meanwhile, let us adore without understanding, and let us lovingly bless God in all things, and Who does all things well, and let us strive to understand that most wonderful prayer from the Psalms, which should be on our lips all the day long:

Uphold us, Oh Lord, according to Thy Word, and we shall live,
and let us not be confounded in our expectations.