

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 AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin # 728

June 16, 2002 - - Green

Mass of Sunday: Gl; Cr; Pref Trin.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Of Prayer

There is indeed a world, in great measure, certainly, an invisible world to our eyes, a world that is known only in Heaven. It is a world of prayer. It is a world in which the efficacy - the power - of prayer is nobly and gloriously manifested. It is the world of souls - of souls that are being cleansed, trained, prepared, **formed**, enlightened and sanctified. It is a world in which we feel the power, even though we do not see the way it works - very much like the wind which we feel even though we do not see it. In that world, nothing, in the end, can withstand the gentle, the gradual, the penetrating efficacy, the power, of prayer. Does not the wind bend every bough of every tree in its path? Does not the wind blow the leaves this way and that? No leaf remains untouched by the wind. So it is with prayer. There is no passion, no force of trial, no danger, no attack from any enemy, that prayer does not overcome or move. As nothing can hide from the wind, so nothing can hide from prayer. Prayer quietly makes its way into a man's thoughts and views. Like the wind, prayer can bend the tall boughs of man's will and sentiments. THROUGH PRAYER MAN BECOMES ANOTHER MAN!

How hard it is to do anything with a piece of cold iron: it cannot be bent or formed. Put the iron into the fire, and the iron can, with the blows on the anvil, be turned into whatever the man at the anvil desires. Pray and persevere in prayer (perseverance is the all important ingredient), and one can control his passions as he wills. Pray with humble perseverance, and whatever enemy that is a source of torment, whatever mischief that comes from the evil doer, will be cast down! Not with presumption must one pray, but with humble and trusting perseverance. In prayer one trusts, one does not presume! Did not Our Lord by His power cast down the ever mighty Saul? Saul, the most terrible enemy, "breathing out threatenings and slaughter"? The very sound of his name inspired fear and trembling! Through prayer, Saul the dreaded became the ever great Paul the Apostle! There is nothing to fear for a man who prays. Through prayer one is given clearness of vision, courage in trials, calm of spirit, and humility of heart. Was it not by prayer that the early Christians uplifted the pagan world on every side? Prayer is the strong hand of the good and true Church that is of Jesus Christ - "ask the Father anything in My Name". If a spoiler draws near, the Church that is of Jesus Christ flies to God - flies to the Father - and the Church conquers. Always guided by Jesus Christ, His Church, by way of the prayer of the good and faithful believers, casts down the enemy or converts him. The power of the quiet contemplation, the self-sacrifice and the prayer of even a small community of cloistered, humble, hard-working, and unknown monks or nuns knows no bounds, and is far above all the rhetoric of the highly learned and powerful of the world. Did not the bowels of our modern world (**and church**) burst all asunder when our monks and nuns stopped their simple prayer in their cloistered privacy and silence? All of the crises that presently torment the souls of us all will not ever be settled by arbitration or convocation or transfer of money - they can only be settled by the simple and humble and understanding prayer of every soul who truly loves God!

In what, then, does the mystery of the power - the efficacy - of prayer consist? It consists in the union of man with his God! (Keep in mind the union of the iron and the fire.) Even though, in the natural order, man's work-a-day power can sometimes be rather astonishing, when man remembers to work by way of prayer, when man works closely with God, when man relies on God and secures on his side God's Providence and Power and Protection and Wisdom and Blessing, the power of man then has no limit! Is it any cause for wonder if miracles come to pass at the hands of mortal man? Through prayer, man becomes an instrument in God's Hands and has a share in the glorious result of God's Divine Work. In this it must be understood, and it must be **clearly** understood, that when man kneels to pray, he cannot afterwards **sit and wait** for things to happen. The two - God and man - have to work together: God works and man works, and because they work together, good things happen. When man prays he must realize that everything depends on God, but when man works he must work as though everything depends on himself: "God helps those who help themselves"! With determination, courage, action, perseverance, and humble understanding of God's Presence, man proceeds with God's life-giving help to the attainment of his need. In this way does the work of man become the glorious work of God's Divine Love and