

# 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

Birmingham, Alabama

9:30 A.M.

Every Sunday except  
first Sunday of each month

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 30, 2002 -- Green

Mass of Sunday: Gl; Cr; Pref Trinity

Comm Conversion of St. Paul; Comm St. Peter

Weekly Bulletin # 730

*It is idle to speak of Restoration, when our best hope,  
at the present moment, is Preservation -  
Preservation of that little which is left to us!*

Over and over again, week in and week out, year in and year out, all we hear about is “the interior life”, “our purpose”, “the quality of our prayer”, and all other such subjects. It might well be that some of us have become tired of hearing the same thing over and over again. We probably ask, why do we not go on to other topics, perhaps, even, the topics that are presented to us in our Catechism? Let us, however, not forget that the Catechism, important as it is, is **NOT** a spiritual book. The Catechism - the purpose of the Catechism - is to point out the things that we must do or the things that we must avoid in order to reach our salvation. The Catechism merely tell us **what** we must do. The Catechism **DOES NOT** tell **how** to do that which leads to our salvation. Such being the case in our day and time, we have to be shown (formed - somehow), and instructed as to how a good-willed Catholic is supposed to function. Today, the old role models are practically all gone, and the very few that might yet remain are, one by one, going to their eternal reward! As was mentioned in the sermon last week, we must **STOP** all talk about the RESTORATION of our cherished Catholicism (the Catholicism that we are told was once in the full beauty of its blossom and greatness). Today, “Restoration of all things in Christ” is, sad to say, out of the question, and to speak of restoration is merely an expression of our vanity and our exclusivistic self-importance and power. If any particle of restoration is ever to take place, it will take place **only** at the Hand of God Himself. Then what are we to do? It is idle to speak of restoration, when our best hope, at the present moment, is **PERSERVATION** - preservation of that little which is now left to us. - This is what we must work to do.

The human race is facing the greatest crisis in its history, and that because RELIGION - our Religion - has been forced into the greatest crisis in its history. Not only has man completely forgotten about his Maker, now it is that man has come to look upon God as “something” quite foreign to his human makeup. The work of Man’s hands seems no longer to need any stimulation from a supreme and all powerful Divine Maker. Man is now of the opinion that he, of his own stimulation, can achieve anything he sets his mind to achieve. Unfortunately, man’s tremendous achievements - and they are tremendous, indeed - have caused us all to tumble head-long into the great crisis we are all now in. And why is this? Because man’s end in view is his own self-serving advancement. To speak of an all powerful Maker, Whose Will must be served by every man, simply makes no sense to modern man - such conversation simply boggles his already stretched-out mind. To speak of a Divine purpose to the man of our times, is very much like trying to traverse the raging ocean in a bucket! There is **NO INWARD ENLIGHTENMENT** in one who looks to himself alone for all his needs; so disconnected with the Divinity is he, that **PURPOSE OF LIFE AND VIRTUE** are not at all matters of consequence to him who is so inclined. So much has the **light** of Purpose and Virtue become dimmed that darkness prevails in all places. The significance of it all is pointed out in the tragically pathetic words from the opening chapter of St. John’s Gospel. This is all brought home to us with an arresting force. We look about - those of us who so much strive and struggle to keep before us the reality of our Good God, - and we see a world that has rejected Christ and His Teaching, a world that has flouted His Authority. He, Who is the Light of the world, is ignored, insulted and mocked. We look about and we see a world which testifies to St. John’s lament: “THE LIGHT SHINETH IN THE DARKNESS AND THE DARKNESS GRASPETH IT NOT”.

As for us - our lives must continue to go on and our FAITH must never flinch. Our HOPE must never be turned aside. Our TRUST must never fail to hold on. Our PRAYER must bother God! **Our commitment must be a matter of DECISION! It must be total and it must be absolute and it must be expressed to our Eternal Father in love and filial expectation. Ours is simply NOT an agreement reached between two parties pledging conformity to a certain way of religious fulfillment!**

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