

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

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 28, 2002 -- Green

Mass of Sunday: Gl; Cr; Pref Trinity

Weekly Bulletin # 734

Two men went up to the Temple to pray

*One was a Pharisee --- "O God, I give Thee Thanks
that I am not as the rest of men!"*

*The other was a Publican --- "Oh God, be merciful to
me, a sinner!"*

Part I

It is the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ - the purpose of the Religion of Jesus Christ - to make SAINTS of all of her children. It is for this reason, that guided by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, our holy Catholic Religion places before us, in a very orderly fashion, the lessons of Holy Scripture. Our Holy Catholic Religion is always placing before us, for our instruction, the various episodes parabolized by Christ. The parable of the Pharisee and the publican is one, and it is surely one of the very strongest in all of Sacred Scripture. This parable is the very stone out of which the foundation of spirituality is constructed; it lays before us the kind of attitude that is essential in anyone who wishes to become a saint. The lesson found in this parable is clear. It is full of force. It is pointed, direct, and completely simple. However, it is clear and pointed and simple only to those who are willing to be moved by the force of the inspiration it contains. It will be understood only by those who seriously WANT to understand it - who seriously want to do what God expects of His sainted children. Those who desire to become saints of God only superficially will see the beauty of the story, and miss the message altogether. If our prayer is defective, the results that come from its use will also be defective. If our prayer is merely an external exhibition - of sorts - the results that come from its use will be wanting - if at all answered. Prayer, if it is to reach the Ear of God, must be **interior**, it must be **pure**, it must be **spiritual**, it must be **personal**, it must be **private** (BEHIND CLOSED DOORS), it must be **continual**, it must be **innocent**, it must be full of **LOVE!** In this parable, the best that can be said of the attitude needed for the proper elevation of the soul to God is placed before us - in bold print.

"Two men went up to the Temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a publican." No doubt - the Pharisee was a man of God in the eyes of everyone who came into contact with him. He was surely very highly respected as being a holy man - because he did all the things holy men do. No one could question that. The publican was the collector of revenue, and therefore considered to be a most undesirable and wretched kind of man. The publican was one to be shunned by respectable - God fearing - people. Not only in real life, but also in this well selected parable, these two men stand out in bold relief, and while the two are sharply contrasted, there are points of likeness in them as well as points of difference. The main distinction does not lie in the fact that one was a good man and the other a bad man. The actual truth of the matter is that BOTH of them were evil : both were sinners. In the end, one sinner was a sinner forgiven, and