

# 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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin # 742

September 22, 2002 -- Green

Mass of Sunday: Gl; Cr; Pref Trinity; comm. St. Maurice and Companions

## ? WHY CAN'T I FIND PEACE ?

Our life here below on this earth is given to us - moment by moment - day by day - year by year - to forge, with God's help, link by link, that bond of love which is stronger than death! Unfortunately, for too many of us, the necessity of the strength of this bond does not come to our awareness until the moment of death, when it is too late to do anything about our disregard of its importance throughout our life. No matter who we are, all else that we may achieve here below will either rot in the grave, or else be burned away in the crucible of Purgatory - or - perish the thought - be cast into the unending tortures of Hell. The only reason God made us was for Himself. The only reason God made us was to love Him - with all of our hearts, all of our minds, all of our souls, and all of our beings. As difficult as this seems to be, and as unreasonable as we may judge it to be, our service to God must be in its entirety. It is ALL for Him. Therefore, THE ONLY THING THAT LASTS IS LOVE - AND NOTHING ELSE MATTERS! Only when our service to God is complete will we enjoy PEACE.

To the degree that we center our interests upon ourselves in self-seeking achievements, no matter how successful they may be in the eyes of the world, to that degree will peace be diminished within us. Have we not ever noticed the mental suffering of those of great wealth? The greater the wealth, the greater the unrest: running, searching, seeking, but never finding! They establish dwellings (never HOMES) in various and sundry places, and even on various continents, and they become migrating "visitors" in their own domiciles. The hermit in his lonely hut, with God as the center of his love, enjoys a treasure and a peace which the migrating hordes don't find in all their migrations.

Even though we are commanded to love God, He nevertheless is constrained to PLEAD for our love. In some ways we indicate our willingness to love Him, and even proclaim with apparent conviction and action our love for Him, but always with certain reserves. We hold that something back, be it ever so tiny. No matter how strong our love for God may be, we are afraid that He may not be enough for us. He pursues us and seeks after our love, but there is that fear in us - a very real fear - that when we have God as HE wishes, we can have nothing else. As the poet Francis Thomson has so beautifully said:

"Yet was I sore adread  
Lest, having Him,  
I must have naught beside."

There remains a fear in us to let go of what we think we have, what we think we are going to have, what we are, what we think we might be in the future, and our ambitious climb of the world's mountains of fame and power. And God in His loving ardor pleads with us for our love, for the love of our whole heart, but we turn away our ear and drown the sound of His voice in the intoxication of pleasure, recreation, travel, work, wealth, leisure, and power. We ignore the "one thing necessary", and, therefore, WE FIND NO PEACE. We hurry from one thing to another in a frenzy of preparation and activity and search; we exhaust our ingenuity in devising new amusements to capture our jaded fancy; we vacation in every part of the earth; we plunge deeper and deeper into the mire of self-satisfaction; and yet, we grow ever further and further away from PEACE. We won't stop. We cannot stop. And there is no rest for our weary mind and body, nor will we find rest in all such running about, because our hearts were made for God alone, and they cannot find rest until they rest in Him alone.

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