

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

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin #745

October 13, 2002 -- Green

Mass of Sunday: Gl; Cr; Pref Trinity

*“For who distinguisheth thee? Or what hast thou that thou hast not received?
And if thou hast received it, why doth thou glory, as if thou hast not received it?”*

(1 Cor. 4:7)

If only these all-important questions would sink into our minds. How wonderful if they would, for then we might spare ourselves (and those who must live around us) a lot of worry and fretting and grief!

There are times when we doubt whether our actions are motivated by pride or humility - at such times let us recognize our gifts, our talents, our abilities, and then interiorly let us study whether we consider them as God-given or as being developed solely by our own concentrated labors. What part do we attribute to our loving Father in the development of our abilities? A good test of this might be at such times when others criticize our work; when others find fault with our “carefully” designed work; when others suggest better ways of accomplishing the same end result; when others fail to praise us for our abilities. How do we react at such times as these? In our conversations with others, even though we give no direct credit to ourselves for a job well done, do we or do we not make a point of having our expertise shine forth with brilliant light, leaving the listener with a full realization as to just whom the masterful one really is? And when credit goes to someone other than ourselves, do we struggle to correct the error? And when the credit is directed to ourselves, do we accept it in all humility, interiorly and immediately passing it on to the One from Whom our expertise, our talents, our abilities, ultimately come - or do we keep all such credit for ourselves as though we alone were responsible?

Everything good that we are, as well as the ability to do anything at all, comes from God. How well do we understand this? Do we accept this truth academically, or do we understand it spiritually? When we have a proper understanding of it, our greatest endeavor must be to develop our gifts for the greater honor and glory of God alone, and this is done by living in His presence - always and always. Pride lives in the presence of self - always laboring to prove self worth, while humility lives in the presence of God - always striving to prove the true worth of God operating in us. According to many spiritual writers there are several different ways we can sin by prideful acts, either internally (mentality), or in our external demeanor (our appearance and actions).

One of the ways of sinning by pride is to labor under the conviction that whatever ability we may have in us - whether temporal or spiritual - is the result solely of our own personal effort. This is usually a mental activity, harbored only in the interior self. Exteriorly we can, at the same time, demonstrate ALL the fine points of humility. Interiorly, the situation is quite different, for we seethe with all the gross points of a person burning with pride and self-satisfaction. The interior disposition is what really matters. It is the interior disposition of the soul that makes a work be of God or of self. WORDS AND DEMEANOR (EXTERNAL APPEARANCE) prove **nothing**.

Another manifestation of pride is when, knowing and admitting that we have received such and such a gift from God, we nevertheless attribute the development of it to our own merit and effort, or to our excellent training and formation, or to our deserving inclinations. At such times we maneuver others into realizing the gift to be the result of our own self-development and training. And pride makes yet another manifestation when we attribute to ourselves some good - spiritual or temporal - which we do not really possess, knowing all along that our actions are not consistent with the virtue or ability we pretend to have. At such times we presume that our neighbor fails to notice - or overlooks - our inconsistency and weakness. Pride also shows itself in the abuse of a good gift we have been given, and at such times we