

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 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin #746

October 20, 2002 -- Green

Mass of Sunday: G1; Cr; Pref Trinity

*“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart
and with thy whole soul and with thy whole mind and with thy whole strength.”*

If this is the general mandate for ALL of God's creatures, how much more is it a mandate for those creatures who profess to be His children? How do the creatures of God show forth their love for Him? What virtues must they possess? What are the virtues that are dearest to our most Blessed Mother? What, let us ask, are the virtues that are dearest to our most Blessed Lord? It is evident that they are: HUMILITY, PURITY, AND LOVE OF GOD!

Let us recall the time after the Resurrection of our Blessed Lord (as recorded in the Gospel of St. John, Chapter 21), when St. Peter and the Apostles had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. Unsure as to just who was standing on the shore, they nevertheless, at his bidding, returned to the deep to fish. They caught many! At this point they knew that the unknown stranger on the bank was the Lord. On their return to land they found that the Resurrected Lord had cooked breakfast for them and they ate of the food that He had prepared. None of them dared ask: “Who art thou?” knowing that it was the Lord. Later, when three times our Blessed Lord asked Simon Peter: “Simon, son of John, dost thou love Me more than these do”, he, three times answered that he did. Such a touching scene, and one that portrays the mercy of God in the beautiful gentleness of Christ, in spite of the fact that the Apostles, in general, had deserted Him, and Peter, in particular, had denied Him publicly. In spite of these hateful offences, and knowing that His disciples would be hungry after their night's labor, our Blessed Lord Himself had lighted a fire and provided bread as well as fish for their breakfast. Let us try to imagine the magnitude of this single act of blessed kindness on the part of Almighty God!

“Dost thou love Me more than these?” A most important question, and out of all the Apostles, it was addressed to Peter. In the person of Peter stands every person - EVERY ONE OF US - who has been called to love Him - “MORE THAN THESE” - more than the worldly of the world. Just as Christ insisted that Peter should have a love for God which surpassed his brethren, He, in like manner, expects His priests and His religious - and every one of us who are not numbered amongst the worldly of the world - to love Him more than do the worldly of the world. It is true that there are many good people who live in the world, but who are choked up with its cares and pleasures, divided between their love of their Creator and their love of the created pebbles of the earth. Of such it can be said that their love for the pebbles is usually greater than their love for their God. Those of us who, when asked, “Dost thou love Me more than these”, and who answer, “Yes, Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee”, have no excuse to give for any division of our love. Such a question admits of no division of love, and anyone worthy of the name of “Man of God” cannot but hold that he in fact does love his God more than the worldly of the world: with his whole heart and with his whole soul and with his whole mind and with his whole strength does he love the God of love and forgiveness.

The thought of God cooking breakfast for men who had forsaken Him, especially for the man who had publicly denied, “with cursing and swearing”, that he ever knew Him, is the most powerful lesson of gracious forgiveness and mercy that heaven and earth has ever seen. This is in keeping with the perfections of God, and in keeping, too, with the fulfillment of the necessities of man. It is only because Christ died for our offenses and rose again for our justification that man can offer, and God hear, prayer for pardon and petition for mercy. With my whole heart and with my whole soul and with my whole mind and with my whole strength must I love the God Who loves and forgives us as many times as there are grains of sand on the seashore.

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