

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

SAINT GERTRUDE THE GREAT

Twenty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Sixth Sunday after Epiphany)

November 17, 2002 -- White

Mass of St. Gertrude: Gl; Cr; Pref Trinity; comm. Sunday

Weekly Bulletin #750

Somehow,

in the midst of all our distractions,

we must learn to focus our lives more clearly upon the thought of God's Presence -

a special kind of Presence, not just the "Omni Presence" of God that so many throw about loosely

nowadays. A proper approach to the Presence of God is most important as it eliminates the thought

of everyone - save God. Such an approach impresses upon us the thought that GOD is our audience -

NONE OTHER. When God is clearly in focus, we become more thoughtful and prudent in our thoughts

and words and actions; we turn to Him for counsel; we talk over matters with Him; we ask Him for His

opinion; we abandon cherished plans because He advises otherwise; we are gracious to those around

us because He is in the same company with us; we avoid this or that sin because He is walking to-

gether with us; and we expect to suffer unnoticed because we know that we are in union with Him.

Every thought, therefore, of ours becomes His; every action and every suffering is shared with Him.

In every respect God - Christ - BECAUSE OF OUR LOVE FOR HIM becomes our King, and rules in our hearts without (serious) distraction, and since He is the King of our hearts, our generous souls cease to find difficulty in working with generosity, and to make sacrifices, and to climb the Mount of Calvary. The love we have for our King simply draws us and we uncontrollably WANT to be with Him, and Him alone.

If we only knew just how the great Heart of Christ rejoices when He sees us fighting with our faults; when He sees us grappling with our sins; when He sees us battling against our failings and our difficulties; when He sees us wrestling with the bitter feelings we have toward others; when He sees us making an effort to smile when we our hearts feel gloomy; when He sees us patient when the circumstances around us are simply miserable!

It is only if we take up our cross daily and face with courage each task that each day brings us, intent only on doing it right and well, striving for success, but not making success the CONDITION OF OUR EFFORTS, doing what must be done because it is God's bidding, and not because it holds out a prospect of ministering to our pride and our egotism and our compulsions to prove our worth and abilities. GOD NEEDS NO PROOF - HE SEEKS NO PROOF, EXCEPT OF OUR LOVE. Only if we can proceed with this attitude of mind and heart - then our lives will produce transforming effects in us and make us like unto Jesus Christ, our King - only if we look with joy at Him when He shows us how to ENDURE THE CROSS AND DESPISE THE SHAME!

It is in the order of God's decrees that our interior opposition to the matters that are evil within us be of more importance in the accomplishment of our sanctification than any work He may effect through us. If we become what God intends, through the action of life's events in us, then our lives will become, in a most mysterious way, a most potent influence in the diffusion of God's Kingdom on Earth, and our example will extend the reign of Jesus Christ in the souls of men everywhere.