

# 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

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

First Sunday after Epiphany

January 12, 2003 -- White

Mass of Feast: G1; Cr; Pref Epiphany; comm. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Weekly Bulletin #759

## *Homespun Catholicism*

In this age, when every form of objective authority has been cast aside, we must be ever more cautious not to allow our personal prejudices to determine the objective merit or demerit of anything. Obstinate and exclusive personal opinion is the parent of most of the confusion of thought that man is surrounded with today. To bring the problem closer to home, is it not personal prejudice and personal opinion that have divided the entire traditional catholic world into disunited fragments? Lack of instruction, lack of formation, and lack of centralized leadership have altogether aggravated the situation by allowing “hearsay” - “homemade” - theology to enter in. The deadly claws of this many-headed monster are ripping apart truth and reality, and are tearing at the threadbare remains of traditional Roman Catholic credibility. The once highly respected leadership of the Catholic Church is now in complete shambles. And in the traditionalist movement, there are many, people and priests alike, who seem to have a notorious aptitude of raising “hearsay,” “homemade” theology - their own private and personal opinion - to the level of self-proclaimed infallible certitude. Much harm has been generated by this baneful practice, and many consciences have become quite deformed because of this ugly mentality.

The most seriously effected victims of this practice are our unfortunate traditionalist children, who, when the age of determination pushes them through the walls of their childhood teachings, are left standing on the ruins of all their early religious and social disillusionments. As they grow older, the various marital, religious, social, and cultural entanglements of a very clever world present them with a way of life we simply cannot condone, but because their earlier training established them on a weak and unsteady religious and social foundation, they grab at the straws of the fast and vicious life of the modern world. Parents must not delude themselves into thinking that their children will not succumb to the attractiveness of the age old “apple” - that their sequestered home training will be strong enough to protect them as they grow into adulthood. Many unhappy parents of older children can, with hearts full of sadness, attest to this great mistake. As the famous Roman orator and thinker, Cicero, said, way back nearly 100 years before the Birth of Christ: “It is wrong to bring children up in an atmosphere solely of family affection, without enlightening them that beyond the safe wall of home there lives a world of godless, dishonorable men. For when an innocent youth encounters the world of men, he suffers a wound from which he will never recover.” When children finally face the world on their own, without first having been taught how to cope with it and without having been “acclimatized” to it, they, like un-acclimatized hothouse plants, will wilt before the first blast of cold air, and all the certitudes and platitudes later presented to them will not furnish the nourishment needed by their confused and weakened condition.

Therefore, as we enter into the ever increasing darkness of our day, let us, regardless of our state of life, regardless of our responsibilities, regardless of our preconceived opinions, and regardless of our homespun catholicisms, let us turn more to humble prayer; let us turn to a more penitential penance; let us turn to a more interior reparation; left us turn more clearly to an ACCURATE Catholicism. The future of God’s creation depends upon a proper formation of a worship that is based on a sound interior life to be found in the hearts of those who truly love Him. We simply cannot afford the luxury of a mistake in this regard.