

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Weekly Bulletin #770

Lætare Sunday

March 30, 2003 -- Purple

Mass of Sunday: No Gl; Cr; Pref Quadragesima

LENT

Today is **Lætare Sunday**. The altar is clothed in rose-colored drapes, with flowers adding to the holy joy of the occasion. The priest also is vested in rose-colored vestments. Lent is half over, and the mood today is that of quiet rejoicing. However, from this moment on, the mood of Lent changes and we quickly come into contact with the intense seriousness and somberness of the horror in store for our beloved Lord and Savior.

At the beginning of Lent we made our resolutions and we ever so willingly obliged ourselves with a firm determination to keep those resolutions most religiously. We obliged ourselves to proceed with more penance, more mortification, and more self-sacrifice. When the priest placed ashes upon our heads we felt the devotion of that very special moment, and the very sound of the words of "*Remember man...*" caused a thrill within us. It was all so beautiful, so heart warming, and so devotional. It was all so Catholic, and our thoughts were turned to the seriousness, the reasonableness, and the purpose of life.

In such light, however, as the ashes shed upon the inner movements of our souls; in the light of our promised Lenten prayer; in the light of all our Lenten hope and faith; in the light of the rigor of our Lenten determination; in the light of our genuine Lenten desire to re-live the Christ-life; in the light of the settings of the vicissitudes of our daily lives; in the light of the horrors that face us all at this very moment:

HAS OUR DISPOSITION CHANGED?

How much of our mental disposition has been turned toward - been occupied with - the importance of the salvation of our ETERNAL SOULS? Have we rearranged our priorities? We turn and look at our prayers, our Rosaries, our fastings, our mortifications, our penances, and all the rest, and a smile of satisfaction shows on our faces. **Surely God must be pleased with us.** But when God looks at us, what does He see? Does He see works done out of obligation and duty - or does He see works done out of LOVE?

What is love? How many of our human inner workings have been motivated by love? And how many of our human inner workings have been motivated by a proper disposition? Love and love alone controls disposition, and if our disposition is not as it should be - BEFORE GOD - anything good that we do is all for nothing. What is love?

If we do not know love - WE DO NOT KNOW GOD!

It matters nothing that we have the Faith to remove mountains!
It matters nothing that we have the Hope to prophesy and look into all mysteries!
It matters nothing that we have sold all and given all to the poor!

If we do not know love - WE DO NOT KNOW GOD!

Love and love alone enkindles the fires of Faith and Hope.
If we do not know love - WE DO NOT KNOW GOD! It is as simple as that!

And if we do not know God, then wherein does our commitment lie?

(Continued on back)