

In every appearance of our Blessed Mother, she stressed the need for penance, reparation, and prayer - prayer for sinners - and many of us hasten to fulfill what she asks of us. Yet, somehow, though something of a painful ache remains in our bosoms, it often becomes smothered by the cares and the business of everyday living. The care of the eternal world of Eternity gives way to the fade-away world of here and now. Too many well-intentioned people, failing to grasp the total importance of a proper disposition, give up their bodies to be burned by the various causes and promotions of everyday modern living. Yet, no involvement in human-interest activities is able to totally quiet the tiny ache which continues to throb in their bosoms. In all of her appearances, our Blessed Mother did indeed request certain specific "human-interest" occupations, but after a careful look, one cannot but see the underlying and fundamental presence of that SOMETHING which gives life and meaning to whatever we do: **LOVE --- LOVE OF GOD!**

Saint Paul uses the word "Charity." In every event LOVE OF GOD gives the proper and best formation to the love we must have for our neighbor. If not, should we even "give our bodies up to be burned," it will be for nothing, and all that will remain of our best efforts will be charred bodies.

Therefore it is not through the hardness of the penitential works that we perform, nor in the prayers we say, nor in the vigils we keep, that our worth is brought to the attention of God. God is not interested in our ability to perform penitential and difficult things. God is interested ONLY in the LOVE He find in our hearts - the love that prompts us to the blessed works of penance and prayer we offer in reparation for the sins of Mankind and the salvation of our souls!



1. **N.B.:** Next Sunday (Passion Sunday), April 6, 2003, DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS - SET CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR!

2. There will be Catechism class today after the 10:00 Mass.

3. Thursday, April 3, 2003, is the first Thursday of April, with the usual Holy Hours, followed by Benediction, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM and from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM.

4. Friday, April 4, 2003, and Saturday, April 5, 2003, is the First Friday and the First Saturday of April, with Masses in the Abbey Church at 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM on both days. Everyone who possibly can is urged to follow through with the First Friday and First Saturday devotions. Where it is impossible to attend Mass, some appropriate family devotion should be observed.

5. Next Sunday is the first Sunday of April and therefore there will be no Mass in Birmingham on that day; and there will be NO Catechism class in Cullman next Sunday.

6. Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament every Friday during Lent at 7:00 PM.

7. Sunday, May 11, 2003, is MOTHER'S DAY. As everyone knows, it is the day we crown our Blessed Mother. This year, Miss Victoria (Tori) Henderson will crown the Blessed Mother.

8. Once again, for reasons known to all of us, the usual Holy Week ceremonies will not be observed in our Abbey Church this year. However, everyone is urged to offer special prayers during those most holy days. **On Good Friday, from 12:00 Noon until 3:00 PM, there will our usual Good Friday services and the Stations of the Cross in the Abbey Church.**

9. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Manny Gomez and Richard Ploeckelman. Pray, also, for all the sick and needy, the suffering and hungry, the oppressed of the world. Pray for all the hapless soldiers of the world. Pray for all the children of the world. Pray earnestly for all Priests. Pray for all sinners. **PRAY FOR TRUE AND LASTING PEACE.**

10. **EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT: PALM SUNDAY:** There will be NO 9:30 AM Mass at St. Pius Chapel in Birmingham. Masses in the Abbey Church are at 6:00 AM and 10:00 AM, with the Palm Sunday ceremonies preceding the 10:00 Mass. Weather permitting, all should gather in front of the Monastery for the Blessing of Palms and the Procession.

11. **EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT: EASTER SUNDAY:**

+Masses in the Abbey Church are at the usual 6:00 AM and 10:00 AM.

+Mass at St. Pius V Chapel in Birmingham is at 9:00 AM. (Due to the necessity that Father will be rushed to meet the Montgomery Mission, he will not be able to bless objects or visit with the people on that day.)

+Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel in Montgomery is at 11:30 AM. (N.B.: Father may be a few minutes late in arriving.)

12. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)

SUNDAY: For the people of our Chapels

MONDAY: Special intention Mary Rademacher

TUESDAY: Deceased Vincent Ryan

WEDNESDAY: For the Poor Souls

THURSDAY: Deceased Delphina Impelletti

FRIDAY: Deceased Rev. Edward Sraff

SATURDAY: Special intention Paul Roy Family