

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 AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin #784

July 6, 2003 -- Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Trinity

Exceptional Times Demand Exceptional Conduct

(Continued from last week's Bulletin, #783)

Our Lady's warnings fall on deaf ears as Man cheerfully continues his life of dreams in seeking safety and security in all the wrong places. Fierce and frantic is the talk about the rights of man. But the talk about the rights of man has, at the same time, canceled out - in the mind of Man - the duties owed to God. The heart of the Race of Man seems hardened and his voice sings the air with his incessant blasphemies. Sunday, which continues to belong to God, is all but forgotten and is now treated as one of the usual workdays of the week.

We all know the history surrounding the various, glorious, and wonderful approved apparitions of our Most Blessed Mother, and we - those of us whose determined will and intention is to live the life of grace - know the words of the MESSAGE, which is always the same. It is simple. It is to the point. It is urgent. It is dreadful. If the world is ever to recover, Man must travel the simple but sacred course of PRAYER, PENANCE, AND MORTIFICATION. This, of course, is abhorrent to the ears of man. To him, the entire proposition is unthinkable, a myth, a product of a mind-set of antiquated and out of touch old-timers. A "real" man, however, seeks recovery and security in the possession and use of money. He develops physical strength in his increased possession of money. He respects intelligence and fosters discovery, but his conscience is corroded with untruth and injustice. He sees no evil in the use of injustice so long as it produces the desired result.

Isn't it strange how the Blessed Mother, in communicating the MESSAGE to the world, did so through the use of the most unlikely of agents. The MESSAGE, so powerful, so cataclysmic, was presented in most cases to shabby, poor, uneducated, and not too pious, children. Children, from homes in the withering grip of extreme poverty, intimately acquainted with sorrow and hard work, were the recipients of this unspeakably important MESSAGE. Once again we witness how God uses the ignorant and the weak to confound the powerful and the mighty, the rich and the intellectual; we witness also how God uses the simplest statements to overthrow the most sophisticated scholarship of man. The Blessed Mother manifested herself to witnesses incapable of imaging or fabricating anything of the sort, witnesses peculiarly receptive and peculiarly qualified, through their very simplicity, to transmit what it was she had to say to the world.

And what was this MESSAGE? First, simply and profoundly, the Blessed Mother stressed the undeniable fact of sin, with its evil and destructive consequences. The woes of the world all stem from this: that men ignore God and His Will as not being worth any consideration, and therefore have plunged into habitual wrong-doing. And when the commandments of God are broken, the lives of each and every member of the Race of Man are also broken, and the peace that should be in the hearts of all men, women, and children is crushed. When the seeds of sin are sown, a crop of troubles and sufferings - wars and murders, rage and abortion, abused and perverse sexuality of all sorts, hunger and fear, and all the rest - is positively inevitable. As we sow, so shall we reap. If we sow sin, we will gather in chastisement. The Blessed Mother sounded the warning that if sin is not corrected, the chastisement is sure to grow worse. The program is ever so profoundly simple!

And just how is mankind to accomplish the correction? By two means.

The first is prayer. To address God, it is necessary to turn to Him (CONVERSIO). Intent on Him we must voice adoration, praise, contrition for sin, and petition for grace. This, sincerely done, means a radical change of heart - a radical change in our point of view. If this is not done, then there can and will be no hope.

The second means is penance. It was by sacrifice - the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ - that the world was redeemed. Reparation must be made for all offences. The temporal punishment due to sin must be paid off. We have to fulfill what is demanded of us, and that is to carry our cross. We have no choice. We all seem to forget that we all must die - that we all have to leave this present way of living. Then what? □