

If we really ask for God's help in the matter of VIRTUE, then we must show God that we are ready and willing to go to work in the performance of solid and genuine VIRTUE.

PRAYER, even the most earnest of prayer, for the Virtue of Purity, remains fruitless so long as we continue to frequent forbidden places and continue to look at forbidden pictures, etc. The search for sanctity remains absurd so long as we continue our search for "whatever," sloshing about in the swampy wastes of the television, the internet, etc. If we know that the brackish swampy wastes are infested with poisonous snakes, then it makes sense that we should keep out – why pause even briefly? A momentary glance is enough to poison us for an entire lifetime.

PRAYER, even the most earnest of prayer, for the Virtue of Meekness, remains fruitless so long as we refuse to put a restraint on our lightning-quick flashes of irrational temper and our white-hot explosions when met with even the slightest contradiction or opposition. Do we resent constructive and instructive criticism and reject its corrective suggestions – or – do we accept constructive and instructive criticism and permit it to change our character defects and personality flaws? Does constructive and instructive criticism offend and insult us?

PRAYER, even the most earnest of prayer, for the Virtue of Contemplation, remains quite fruitless so long as we keep feeding our imagination with trashy novels and rubbish magazines. When we go "browsing" in the bookstores, in the libraries, or on the internet, do we resist the almost magnetic pull toward the seamy sections? And when we read, do we read to satisfy our insatiable curiosity or is our reading the Voice of God speaking to us?

PRAYER, even the most earnest of prayer, for the Virtue of Poverty, remains fruitless so long as we continue to frequent the most fashionable and expensive shops around, or visit the most elegant places of entertainment, or purchase the most expensive automobiles and "play toys".

PRAYER, even the most earnest of prayer, for the Virtue of Temperance remains fruitless so long as we continue to keep our pantries well stocked with the finest and most expensive of food and drink.

PRAYER, even the most earnest of prayer, for the Virtue of Charity, remains fruitless so long as we have little or no heart-felt compassion for the needs of others. Do we really CARE for those we are responsible for? What is the quality of the service we give to those who need our help, our presence, our generosity? Is assistance given promptly and lovingly and responsibly and generously, regardless of the inconvenience, when others call upon us unexpectedly?

These are but some of the areas that call for genuine, honest, and careful examination. As time goes on we will present more and more of that which gives refinement to the spiritual art. *(To be continued)*

1. There will be Catechism class after the 10:00 Mass this morning.
2. Thursday, November 13, 2003, is the Feast of all the Benedictine Saints, and Friday, November 14, 2003, is the Solemn Commemoration of all Benedictine Souls. These two days are very special days for Benedictine Monks, Nuns, and Oblates. Please offer special prayers for all Benedictines, living and dead, on these two days.
3. A new date is being negotiated with Bishop McKenna, O.P., for Confirmation and for the Subdeaconate Ordinations. Please be patient and pray that all the sickness will soon be over for us, and may God spare every one of you in this regard.
4. For the next several weeks the Bulletin meditations will focus attention on VIRTUE. There will be interruptions in the series, as usual, but please make a real effort to keep all of them so that when the series is finished proper study can be given to them. Need it be said that each of these Bulletins should be read carefully and more than once. If we desire to save our souls, it would be good to take time to study the process that leads to SALVATION. Not to take the time would be foolish indeed.
5. The Traditional 2004 Calendars are now available, at the usual price of \$6.00 each. Please contact:
CULLMAN: FATHER ABBOT – BIRMINGHAM: LAURIE NIEBUHR – MONTGOMERY: SCOTT LINEBACK.
6. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Manny Gomez, Woody Fleming, and Father James Wathen. LET US ALSO PRAY FOR EVERYONE. Let us pray for ALL the priests and religious men and women of the world. NO MAN, WOMAN, OR CHILD SHOULD BE LEFT OUT OF OUR PRAYER. God made all men to be with Him in heaven for all eternity, and this includes every human being on earth, regardless of station or condition or place. Weak human nature and erroneous persuasions will prevent some from achieving the purpose intended for them by God, but that matter remains entirely between all such and God. We must make no judgments concerning such matters. If there is any sifting to be done, it is to be done by God, Himself alone. We are **NOT** the ones to do the sifting.
7. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)

SUNDAY:	For the People of our Chapels
MONDAY:	For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
TUESDAY:	Deceased Mae Rose Moro
WEDNESDAY:	Welfare Vincent McDonnell
THURSDAY:	Special intention Jacqueline Mathews
FRIDAY:	Welfare Thomas Benedict
SATURDAY:	Deceased Carol Dornuf