

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 29, 2004 – Purple

Mass of Sunday; no Gl; Cr; Pref. Quadragesima

Weekly Bulletin #819

The Holy Season of Lent

“The Passion of the Christ”

“WHAT HAVE I GIVEN TO MY LORD, FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN TO ME?”

From much of what is being said, we are hopeful that the event of the movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, will be for each of us a most spiritual event – that its message will be heard in the ears of us all. Indeed, this movie has a message, but this message will be completely overshadowed and distracted if we fail to separate ourselves COMPLETELY from all the useless, tiring, silly, and stupid updating, criticizing, interviewing, and all the rest that has been saturating us for the past several months. Is it not interesting that almost every presentation so far has centered its focus on who is responsible for the death of Jesus Christ? And, in order to satisfy the clamorous outcries of some, a very politically correct but insipid answer is being given: “WE ALL ARE.” Holy Scripture plainly tells us who is guilty for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The answer is in Scripture, and the information in Scripture is totally reliable.

Of further interest is the fact that the general catholic population has received the presentation of this movie with such limited enthusiasm. Of still greater interest is the fact that the REDEMPTIVE IMPORTANCE of the Passion and Death of our Beloved Savior receives little or no mention (and even less emphasis). Once again, Christ comes unto His own, and His own receive Him not! The question to be answered here is not the one concerning the guilt of the crucifiers. The question to be focused on here is this: Are not the truly guilty ones the vast ocean of the children of God’s creation, over the ages, who have refused to take advantage of the REDEEMING GIFT OF CHRIST’S PASSION AND DEATH?

The questions concerning the quality of the staging of the movie, the quality of the rendition of the events of the Passion by the various actors, the “violence” and “bloodiness” shown, etc., etc., etc., are all of no consequence. The important question above all to be asked (and answered) is this: “WHAT, EXACTLY, IS THIS MOVIE TELLING ME, AND WHAT AM I GOING TO DO ABOUT ITS MESSAGE?” ‘Therefore our most serious introspective concern must ever be this:

“WHAT HAVE I GIVEN TO MY LORD, FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN TO ME?”

If we come away from this movie with any thought OTHER than the answer to this one question, we will have missed the value – COMPLETELY – of it all!