

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 7, 2004 – Purple

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

Weekly Bulletin #820

The Holy Season of Lent

Development of Virtue

(Part 4)

Confidence – TRUST – and humility always go together. Proper attitude toward abandonment to the Holy Will of God is possible only after TRUST has been thoroughly established in one's soul. Trust has to be placed in God – NOT IN ONE'S OWN SELF! One of the principle reasons why men are so anxious to exalt themselves, to embellish their achievements, to overestimate their own value, to overstate their possessions, to stand firm in a constant program of proof of their abilities, to give constant evidence (even if surreptitiously) of their mental capabilities, to constantly work to keep themselves high in the estimation of others, is most likely because they see no other hope for their happiness save in themselves! That is why they are so "touchy," so quick to lash out at contradiction, so resentful of any and every criticism, so enthusiastic to make known their accomplishments, so hungry for praise, so determined on ruling their surroundings. Such ones clutch at themselves like drowning men clutch at straws. As their lives travel on, and they continue to find themselves far from being satisfied with their accomplishments, and therefore not fully accepted by those around them, their attitude borders on the feverish and hysterical. Has it not come to our attention how some parents, in their effort to conceal their age, wear the clothes of their children? Such people, whatever they may get out of all their silly hooliganisms, are certainly far from finding PEACE!

The attitude of the man who has true Christian humility is just the opposite. His hope is placed in God, because he, in the honesty of his heart and mind, sees that there is no hope in himself. Such a man does not worry about getting his own way because all that matters to him is that God should get His way. Such a man knows that the less he has to do with the arranging of things, the more likely it is that things, with God's help and wisdom, will eventually arrange themselves for the best. Such a man is by no means spineless. He is not afraid or cowardly or undecided or nervous. Let such a man but once be certain that God wills him to undertake a particular work, and he will tackle it with all his strength and determination and energy, because he knows that his sufficiency is in God. He comprehends, he understands, he KNOWS his life is a partnership with His God and he TRUSTS and therefore he acts with unshaken confidence in God – his unfailing Partner.

The virtue of Humility does not manifest itself in a self-centered expression of self-deprecation. How tiresome it is to listen to one indulging in the praise-getting gimmick of self-deprecation. True Humility is altogether SELF-FORGETFULNESS. A truly humble person is in no way concerned about either his abilities or his inabilities, and in his conscious awareness he is not aware of either. True Humility is a return to the beautiful simplicity of childhood. The little child is busy-busy-busy doing things, and has no time or inclination to think of what he can do or cannot do. The humble soul happily realizes, and with PEACE in his heart accepts, the fact that he has nothing which he did not receive from his loving Father. He asks for nothing more. The humble and wise man closes his eyes to any good he may have ever done. He goes to his God, as to his Savior, with gratitude in his heart and mind, mindful of his total poverty, and relies completely on His mercy.

The truth is that we do not understand the value of our poverty. We do not understand the value of our own weakness. We want to be conscious of our strength, and great is our feeling of exhilaration when our strength is brought to our attention by others. It pleases us to know that others know of our strength. We want to do great things – FOR GOD, so we tell ourselves – and we want others to know the great things we have done "FOR GOD"! We want others to know that of great things needed to be done, WE are here to do them – WE are the ones to do them! In so thinking we alienate God and lose the help that He would otherwise be so happy to give us. God might be heard to say: "If you feel so sure of your own abilities, you don't need Me!" What a condemnation! Yet, as we look around us, Man's feeling of his own competencies – in today's world as well as in the Church – is bringing down on us all God's disregard. In the