

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

LOW SUNDAY

April 18, 2004 – White

Mass of Low Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Easter

Weekly Bulletin #826

Development of Virtue

(Part 5)

Today's man and today's woman have turned away from the purpose intended by God for manhood and womanhood. The order was given: "Go forth and multiply." In today's world the slightest hint in favor of "Familyhood" is looked upon as deviant. The whole trend of modern standards is to put all value on the individual person: personal importance, personal rights, personal achievement, personal self-exaltation, personal independence. And even when we look within the family, we find fatherhood and motherhood giving way to masculinist and feminist competition, with the lonely, love-starved children looking on from a distance and seeking their own ways of survival and entertainment. "His" and "Hers" can be found throughout the family estate. Men and women – husbands and wives – live and work for the end that they may be personally independent, even from each other. They work to think well of themselves and they work so that others – all others – will be forced to acknowledge their value and their achievements. Husbands do not include their wives in their private affairs; wives do not include their husbands in their private affairs; sons and daughters do not include their parents in their private affairs; parents do not include their children in their private affairs. Every movement is motivated by selfish superficiality and personal embellishment and this game is played amongst the closest family ties. So motivated, the superficially minded are constantly in search of acceptance and applause whether it be merited or not; whether approval comes from the discerning or from the easily impressed makes no difference to them. Their ears are always tuned in on the good word of others. Anyone who tries to react against this pagan and prideful way of living is pushed off to the other side of the margin, and is looked upon with scorn.

The pagan looks on his own personal independence with satisfaction and is protective of it. He scorns every Christian belief which tends to turn his view away from himself and focus it upon an Energy outside of himself. The Christian, on his part, works to focus his view away from himself and focus it upon a sustaining Energy outside of himself, but today the crumpled up condition of the Christian Religion – especially the Roman Catholic Religion – gives him no support or protection. As a matter of fact, the Christian today finds his religion to be in a distorted and shriveled up condition, and in some cases he finds it to be an embarrassment. The pagan, finding religious belief in a weakened condition, is delighted, and he finds himself free to forge a way of life never before witnessed in all the annals of humanity. The "law of the jungle" is, indeed, in full swing, and man, more than ever before, is a beast to his fellow man.

Truth to tell – God has been marginalized. The Creator God, above Whom there is no other god, has become a "man made god" subject to the shilly-shally whims and uncontrolled demands of modern corrupt living. Man, opening his eyes at birth, looks upon a very dim dawn. Thundering difficulties are all around him. If such a one professes any subjection or obeisance to the Divine Creator, or to the laws which come from a Divine Creator, life is practically impossible for him, and he finds it necessary to seek shelter for himself and his family. For such a man the destiny of his children is a major concern, and the education of his children is often forced to be administered within the private recesses of his own home. Time was when such a man could rely on the support of his church for guidance and instruction. No longer! As a consequence, such a man, in order to avoid the added pressure of religious confusion, often finds it better to remain enclosed in the safety of his own home atmosphere. Such a man is now called a "Home Aloner," and he tries to live out his life in a lonely and walled-up way. It is a rather sequestered existence, for himself and his wife and children. There is something quite wrong with this way of life and with the system that forces a man into such a condition of life. Today any effort on the part of an upright man to live a good and holy and upright life is quickly trampled underfoot by the machinery of man's own invention, and the omnipresent internet spells out a gospel that has been put together by the fingers of any man, woman, or child who knows the keyboard of a computer or typewriter. Pilate's question: "What is truth?" is being falsely answered by modern man. And modern man leaves the "man made god" tagging along as best he can. *(To be continued)*