

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 #836

June 27, 2004 – Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Trinity

Development of Virtue

Part 7 (Conclusion)

“I seek not thy gift but thyself” (Imitation of Christ)

All love demands union. The development of virtue depends on love. The more ardent the love, the more complete the union it seeks. The more ardent the love, the more is the effort made to acquire the virtues and characteristics productive of similarities. We strive to be as similar in every respect to the object of our love as is at all possible. If we but consider, the love that the Second Person of the Most Blessed Trinity had for man was so complete that He identified Himself with man totally, even taking on the vesture, the form, of man. Jesus Christ was in every way identical to man, except in sin. No identity could be more complete and more total. And in so doing, even so, it was not enough for Him that He should become one of us by adopting a human nature. It was not enough that He should share the usual hardships and the usual misunderstandings of our life. It was not enough that He should suffer and die and atone for our sins, AND IN OUR VERY OWN NAME. Our Lord Jesus Christ loves us so much that He would not rest until He should be completely united to us. And in His love He devised a most extraordinary method of union. He devised a union in which He, Himself, would become our very food and drink. He makes HIMSELF our very nourishment – something so extraordinary, indeed, and something totally beyond our comprehension. Jesus Christ gave to man the Most Blessed Eucharist so that MAN might become one entity with Himself!

It is quite difficult to write either soberly or distinctly about the Blessed Eucharist, so tremendous and such a Mystery is It! In the Mass the Priest says, “What have I given to my Lord for all that He has given to me?” Words are of no use to us. All human words are useless when trying to speak of the things that pertain to God. If in desperation we may pick out one phrase which rather than any other may be a fitting salute to the Divine Guest of our souls, perhaps it should most surely be, “MY GOD AND MY ALL!” If we could only get some shred of an idea of the depth of the truth that is in just these two words, “MY ALL.” He is, indeed, all, for He is God. And what is more, what is beyond calculation, HE IS MINE! For He has made me one with Himself. What on earth is there left for us to want? Why lose a moment’s thought over our own deficiencies; our wretched condition; our countless sins; our forgetfulness; all our ugliness; and all the rest? Why be discouraged even if our life has been one of continual sin? Why be discouraged even if our lives have been met with every sort of loss and misfortune? HE IS MY ALL! Jesus Christ – IS MY ALL! JESUS CHRIST – the Lord God – IS MY ALL! What else is there for anyone to desire!

The very thought of it is staggering, and yet it is the total truth, it is the total fact. St. Paul said, “Gladly will I glory in my infirmities that the power of Christ dwell in me.” Nothing, therefore, should be wanting to me in any grace. The Lord, my God, dwelleth with me, and therefore I should WANT FOR NOTHING! Truly, indeed, can ONE Holy Communion make a saint out of me. Let us think for just a moment of that marvelous handful of words that came forth from the Good Thief. Let us think for just another moment of that which he received for just that handful of words! There is nothing in ourselves now or in our past lives that one Communion cannot more than repair – provided, of course, that our interior dispositions and the workings of virtue within us correspond with the situation at hand. There must be no limit to our trust and confidence in the power of our Divine Lover, provided we do not approach Him in a spirit of presumption or self-righteousness, for then nothing of the Divine would happen in us – absolutely nothing at all! Rather, tragedy of all tragedies and misfortune of misfortunes, Jesus Christ, the Divine Lover will turn His adorable Face away from us.

One of the greatest moments possible in the life of any man is when, in complete SELF-ABANDONMENT someone whom he loves very much, SURRENDERS himself completely to him, and only for his own happiness and contentment. In Holy Communion, Jesus Christ – GOD – completely gives Himself to us – one might almost say surrenders Himself to us – for our own good and happiness. This is no mere gesture; indeed, it is no mere empty ceremony. *(Concluded on the back of this Bulletin)*