

# 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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin #846

September 5, 2004 – Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Trinity

## **LET NOT THE WINDS BLOW OUT THE LIGHT**

***(Part VII)***

We have now reached the important part of this entire instruction. Thus far we have considered some of the major problems that confront those of us who stand upright in the defense of our holy Traditional Catholic Religion.

And we have presented a very brief historical sketch of the life of St. Benedict and the problems that concerned him. We took note of the decadence of the early centuries, and we followed St. Benedict as he walked away from Roman revelry. The conditions of our times are quite parallel to (and in certain ways, much worse than) the conditions of St. Benedict's day. Might it not be that the solution to the problems facing us today (socially, economically, culturally, and especially religiously), lies in a system of life similar to that outlined by St. Benedict?

No doubt some will ask: "What then are we to do?" It is our hope that the remainder of this study will offer some solution, some method helpful to our concerns. However, as we work to analyze a possible solution, we must first strive to do away with any tendency in us toward literalism. Literal interpretation paralyzes all activity, eliminates freedom of movement, and stifles common sense decision making. Therefore, let us pray for the grace for a good and ordinary common sense. With that done, let us begin at the beginning.

The man who sets out to build a house must begin with the most important part of that house – the foundation. Unless and until the foundation is well built and totally secure, it is self-defeating and most unwise to begin construction of the superstructure. The very same thing applies to us as we work to establish a climate conducive to proper Catholic Christian living. Today all talk with reference to "restoration" is vain and a total waste of time. Our concern must be preservation – preservation of the tiny fragments of the Catholic Religion left for us to have and to hold. There are still some few of us (older senior citizens, perhaps) who remember things worth remembering about the Church of yesteryear. There are still some few of us left who actually walked about in the aisle ways of Churches that were places of prayer and reverential worship – true Houses of God. There are still some few of us who remember the beautiful Catholic way of life that was lived in the homes of good Catholic people of former times. There are still some few of us who remember the importance placed on the observance of the Laws of God as laid down in His Commandments and by His Church. There are still some few of us who remember the Family Rosary. There are still some few of us who remember making frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament (in so many of the Churches that have now been shut down!) There are still some few of us who cry out for help because we can no longer enjoy the fullness of the richness of our beautiful and true Traditional Catholic Faith and Catholic living! When uncalled-for problems blow up before our very eyes, it is time for us to make some serious decisions.

Traditionalist rancor is something that must be attended to. The rancor that is found in several traditionalist "precincts" is a source of great confusion and dis-edification and the cause of very great harm and scandal. Misguided pulpit preaching and the distribution of printed vitriolic screed have done much harm to the entire traditionalist effort and purpose. Some of it is quite reckless and lacking in mature judgment and responsibility. Pious souls seeking after a wholesome practice of a good and peaceful prayer life are disturbed and very much disconcerted by the unwholesome preaching and debating and arguing and proving and disproving, and the like, found in so many places. Vitriolic screed is not at all productive of good Catholic life, proves nothing, and is most disturbing to anyone with a good and sincere conscience. Prayer and the nurturing of a quiet and peaceful atmosphere are most necessary in the formation of a true interior Traditional Catholic Spiritual life. This the people beg for! This is what the people deserve! They detest the never-ending flow of traditionalist harangue. Our people should be allowed to pray in peace!

Truth to tell, and with malice toward nobody, some traditionalist groups (and some traditionalist individuals), by their fierce and vicious attacks on anyone and everyone not in complete conformity with their own narrow-minded views and self-opinionated theological interpretations, over the past fifty years or so, have done more damage and created more havoc to the credibility of true and honest Traditional Roman Catholicism – in its entirety – than has

all the opposition leveled against it by the new order of modern "Catholicism." Such as these, perhaps with good intentions, have nevertheless succeeded in marginalizing the entire Traditional purpose to the extreme!

Every care must be taken to ignore all inexperienced and unformed individuals who run around all bristling with computerized information, propagating distorted and unofficial "Traditional Roman Catholic Doctrine" and stiflingly literalistic application of ceremonial directives. Such people know only the literal letter of the law – they know nothing about the spirit of the law. No valid information can be obtained from anyone whose authenticity has not been well established.

In those places where trustworthy priests are no longer obtainable, and where trustworthy Masses and Sacraments (especially the Sacrament of Penance) are not at all available, for the sake of souls some very hard core adjustments are going to have to be made in Traditional Roman Catholic thinking. In such areas the people themselves, acting in good conscience, are going to have to seek out ways to save and preserve their holy Catholic Religion and save their immortal souls. All those who lack sound and practical theological education and experience must stop dictating to others what they think is necessary to be done in the salvation of one's soul. Today, in many areas, there are many people who are far removed from trustworthy priestly guidance and assistance, and they are seriously concerned about the salvation of their souls. The plight of the sick and the elderly is grave and their suffering (especially mentally) is indescribable. There are those who are dying without the help of a priest. Future days will undoubtedly find many more in such dire straits. Some form of help is going to have to be provided to these poor and helpless isolated people – regardless of the requirements of the letter of the written law. The salvation of souls is the first law! In times of grave necessity the letter of the written law must be set aside and everything done according to the eternal law of charity and justice and right reason. The day is rapidly approaching when the truths of our holy Religion will have to be handed down from father to son and from mother to daughter.

SPECIAL NOTE: The people in attendance at our Benedictine-Chapels may wonder at the tone and purpose of this instruction. Due to Divine Providence (the Will of God), our Bulletins are no longer JUST for our own people. There are many far away souls who live in the isolated darkness of our times who have asked for, and receive, our Bulletins. For this reason, we very often include in our Bulletins items that do not apply directly to the spiritual concerns of our own people. However, we strongly recommend that everyone take the contents of our Bulletins to heart, whether they apply directly or not, for instructional purposes, if for no other reason.

In Part VIII of this series of instructions, all things being equal, we hope to begin giving the actual advice on how to hold on to what is left of our poor Catholic Religion. However, Part VIII will not appear in next week's Bulletin. May God bless and guide us as we try to map out possible ways of saving souls (our own and those of others) for the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. *(To be continued)*

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1. There will be NO Catechism class in Cullman today.
  2. Tomorrow is Labor Day. May everyone have a safe and happy day. Be careful and watchful all day for danger and accidents. May God bless you and keep you from all harm.
  3. Wednesday, September 8, 2004, is the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady. As always, on Our Lady's special Feast Day, let us turn to her with all the love and devotion of which we are capable, showing her how much we love her and her Divine Son, and asking Them both to guard and guide us and to abide with us at all times and in all places.
  4. This Wednesday the High Altar of our Abbey Church will be solemnly consecrated. This ceremony is very beautiful, holy, and interesting. It is quite lengthy, lasting about four hours (more or less). This is a "once in a lifetime" affair and will begin at 8:00 AM, ending with the celebration of Mass on the High Altar.
  5. **PLEASE NOTE: Because of the Consecration of the Altar this Wednesday, the regular 6:00 AM Mass will be celebrated in Our Lady's Chapel (at 6:00 AM), with Communion being distributed at the Communion Rail. THERE WILL BE NO MASS EARLIER THAN 6:00 AM THIS WEDNESDAY.**
  6. Sunday, October 3, 2004, the first Sunday of October, at Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel in Montgomery, we will have our annual Fall covered-dish "picnic" after Mass. Everyone is welcome. For more information call Mrs. Pam Olson: (334) 361-7030.
  7. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Diane Calandra (our Frater Joseph's mother), and all our sick and suffering Priests. Also let us pray especially for everyone suffering from the terrible storms and horrendous weather of the last several weeks.
  8. **MASSSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)
    - SUNDAY: For the People of our Chapels
    - MONDAY: For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
    - TUESDAY: For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
    - WEDNESDAY: For our Benedictine Communities (*Consecration of High Altar*)
    - THURSDAY: For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
    - FRIDAY: For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
    - SATURDAY: For the Poor Souls in Purgatory

OUR LADY OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY  
*CAP DE LA MADELEINE*

America's principle shrine of the Rosary is in Quebec, at the place of the Three Rivers. The banks of the St. Lawrence River were settled by pious Frenchmen, lay and religious, who wished to build a Christian community in the wilderness, among the fiercest Indians of the North American Continent. In their constant struggle against the elements and the savage attacks of the Iroquois Indians, these people set up a double protection for their homes. They had to establish guards and they had to fortify their homesteads wherever possible, and at the same time, they built shrines dedicated to their Heavenly Protectress. They named their shrines after the beautiful and ancient cathedrals and holy places of France. The memories of the wonderful places of the old country never faded, and they found fresh expression in the people's veneration as the people established themselves in the new territory. Fully aware of the dangers of their role as pioneers, the people accepted the dreadful challenges with a deep religious faith.

The history of the settlers in Canada is filled with the most moving episodes of their unlimited confidence in Our Lady. The names of the rivers, villages, and their homesteads prove it. Our particular interest in this historical sketch is centered upon a tiny settlement on the St. Lawrence River which was dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. Our Abbey of Christ the King in Cullman, Alabama, has a special interest in the same place. The reason for our interest is a Statue of our Lady of the Rosary – Our Lady of Cap de la Madeleine. Several years ago a kind and pious family were the fortunate owners of this statue. These good people donated the statue to our Abbey. The monks have very serious evidence proving that this particular statue of our Lady is one of eleven statues originally cast by the Carli Petrucci House in Montreal in the year 1854. These statues were based on a wood carving. The statue represents the Virgin with delicate features, eyes lowered, in the posture of the Virgin of the Miraculous Medal, as revealed to the great Saint Catherine Laboure in Paris in 1830. The proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in the year 1854 brought these statues to the foreground.

Three Rivers was the site of a shelter for Christian Indians who found it a hardship to remain in the paganism of their own tribes. With the aid of the early missionaries, among them being Saint Isaac Joques, the settlement grew, even though the struggle for existence never stopped.

After almost two centuries of beautiful growth and religious constancy, there came a serious relapse. The people grew indifferent and most of them deserted the Church. For more than a hundred years there was no priest at hand to help the few people who wanted to remain faithful. Without a priest, the Faith of these souls suffered. They tried to keep their Faith alive in their homes, but the absence of a priest for such a long period of time proved fatal to their religious practices and customs. Prayer stopped, the holy Rosary was no longer important, and the Catholic sanctuary of their homes faded away. After this long period of trouble, a new priest, by the name of Father Luc Desilets, was assigned to the tiny chapel of Cap de la Madeleine. What Father Desilets found was enough to discourage anyone. No one came to Mass and the small chapel was a damp and moldy ruin. One day as Father Desilets knelt praying alone in the church, he saw a strange and terrible sight: a hog had wandered into the broken-down church and was chewing on a rosary it had found on the dirty floor. Father took the rosary away from the animal and drove it out of the building. He was in a desperate mental condition, and he cried out to our Lady begging for help. He begged for the ability to rebuild the religious sentiments of the people of the area. He promised to do reparation for the people's neglect of their Religion, and he promised to develop a special devotion the holy Rosary. The good priest determined to use the Rosary as the means of bringing back the scattered and disinterested people. He cleaned up the church and brought it back into good use. His plan worked. It succeeded so well that it was not long before his little – and refurbished – chapel became overcrowded with people. So much was the interest revived that the decision for the building of a new and larger church was reached. However, when the decision to build was made, the people found themselves up against a problem.

There was no stone on the side of the river where the church was to be built. There was plenty of stone on the other side, but the river was deep, swift, treacherous, and two miles wide. Only in the case of a hard freeze, which was rare, would the ice be strong enough to serve as a bridge for the stone wagons to travel upon it. The year 1879 was a crucial year for the building of the new church because the people had determined to finish it within that year. The success of the project was based on the hope of a hard freeze. The ice had to be thick enough to carry the heavy horse-drawn sleds loaded with the necessary stones and other materials. But exceptionally mild weather set in and all their hopes were threatened with disappointment. March had arrived and the first signs of Spring began to appear. At this point Father Desilets changed his promise (mentioned above) into a vow to be fulfilled if the weather would change and bring about the freezing of the river. He also promised that he would preserve the original tiny chapel and dedicate it to The Most Holy Rosary.

The facts of the situation have all been carefully recorded by the people involved. Just after Father Desilets made his vow, a fierce cold-wave set in, and the river began to freeze over. A group of men worked night and day with buckets, dipping water out of the river and throwing it upon the now freezing crust. This was very dangerous work, especially in the darkness of night – and they had two miles of river to span with their ice bridge. On March 19, 1879, the Feast of St. Joseph, the bridge was completed and considered safe to use. One hundred and fifty horse-drawn sleighs worked feverishly crossing back and forth on the "Rosary Bridge," as they called it. The last load of the necessary

building material was hardly safe on dry land, when all of a sudden a thunderous crash was heard, and the "Rosary Bridge" began whirling away in pieces downstream.

With hearts full of joy and gratitude, the people, under the direction of Father Desilets, built their new church. They remodeled the old chapel and gave witness to many wondrous miracles. They built up a place for pilgrimages, and they established the Glory of God in the hearts and minds of the many millions who have visited this Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary at Cap de la Madeleine.



**On Sunday, October 10, 2004**, the Abbey of Christ the King hopes to add its tiny bit to the Glory of God and the honor and praise of our Most Blessed Lady of the Holy Rosary, the Immaculate Mother of Jesus Christ. At the 10:00 AM Mass on that day, the statue of our Lady, under the miraculous title of "Our Lady of Cape de Madeline" will be solemnly blessed and crowned. This will be followed by a procession with a statue of Our Lady of Fatima and several banners honoring her apparitions. After the procession there will be Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Afterwards there will be a covered dish dinner at the Gold Ridge Community Center [For more information, call either Mrs. Mishale Roberts: (256) 739 – 8676, or Mrs. Carol Girardi: (256) 423 – 2920.]

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## *THE SOLEMNITY OF THE FEAST OF THE HOLY ROSARY*

*Our Lady of Cap de la Madeleine*  
(Our Lady of the Cape)

A solemn tribute to our Blessed Mother

Christ the King Abbey  
Cullman, Alabama  
October 10, 2004

<b><i>Celebrant of the Mass and Benediction:</i></b>	His Excellency, Bishop Robert McKenna, O.P.
<b><i>To Bless the Statue of Our Lady:</i></b>	His Excellency, Bishop Robert McKenna, O.P.
<b><i>To Crown the Statue of Our Lady:</i></b>	Father Abbot Leonard, O.S.B.
<b><i>Masters of Ceremony for the Mass:</i></b>	Father Michael, O.S.B.; Father Sebastian, O.S.B.
<b><i>Acolytes:</i></b>	Frater Bernard, O.S.B.; Stefan Roberts
<b><i>Thurifer for Ceremony and Benediction:</i></b>	Wyman Vintson
<b><i>Masters of Ceremony for the Procession:</i></b>	Father Michael, O.S.B.; Father Sebastian, O.S.B.; Father Francis, O.S.B.; Frater Bernard, O.S.B.
<b><i>Chanters:</i></b>	Frater John, O.S.B.; Frater Joseph, O.S.B.
<b><i>Organist:</i></b>	Patrick Williams
<b><i>Cross Bearer:</i></b>	Ronald Roberts
<b><i>Bearers of Our Blessed Mother:</i></b>	Thomas Girardi; Danny Henderson; Sam Liburdi; Alan Olson
<b><i>Banner Bearers:</i></b>	Donald Mullan; Chris Christen; James Cover; Bernie Morin; Steve Smith; Charles Jernigan; Niceforo de Jesus Blanco; Jerry Kelly; Herman Bishop, Jr.
<b><i>Children with Rose Petals:</i></b>	James Hand; Joseph Patterson; Theresa Patterson; Andrew Winland
<b><i>Photographer:</i></b>	Michael Winland

**\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE: IF ANYONE CANNOT FULFILL HIS ASSIGNMENT IN THE ABOVE SCHEDULE, PLEASE NOTIFY FATHER ABBOT IMMEDIATELY! \*\*\***

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*A happy and safe Labor Day to you!*