

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)

(St Francis of Assisi Chapel)

Cullman, Alabama

Every Sunday:

6:00 AM and 10:00 AM

6:00 AM Daily

Holy Days of Obligation:

6:00 AM - 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel

Montgomery, Alabama

10:45 AM

Only on first Sunday
of each month

St Pius V Chapel

Birmingham, Alabama

9:30 AM

Every Sunday except
first Sunday of each month

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin #895

August 7, 2005 – Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Trinity; Comm. St Cajetan

Jesus, Mary, I Love You! Save Souls!

For those who want to believe, no argument is necessary.

For those who do not want to believe, no argument is possible.

(Part 2)

Even with the burning fire of love in our hearts, it sometimes happens that we forget to express our love for God – for Jesus and Mary. It may even happen that our forgetfulness may last some days at a time. This is natural. We always forget things, and the distractions that surround us can be quite powerful. This must not be a source of discouragement for us. As soon as it comes back to our mind we simply take it up again with a good and sincere will. In time, the practice of our acts of love will become a habit and then we will repeat them over and over – silently.

There will be times when we will feel a warm devotion in this regard, and we may even have tears in our eyes as we make our acts of love for God. When this happens, let us not fail to thank Jesus and Mary for the spiritual consolations which are meant to encourage us to go ahead. We have to remember however, that we must love our Lord and His Blessed Mother with our will and that warm feelings and tears are not at all essential to our acts of love. On the contrary, the acts of love we make when our hearts are cold as ice and our minds as dry as the desert sands require a more generous effort of our will and therefore are much more meritorious in the sight of God. When our rebellious minds tell us that our prayer of love for God is quite silly and is the result of senseless fantasy, that is when our continuous prayer is most fruitful. If it is fantasy, which of course it is not, better such a fantasy than some of the fantasies many turn to and which they defend with vigor. Some of our fantasies are quite detrimental to the spiritual life and should be carefully avoided. (We are not speaking here of the fantasies and fairytales of childhood.)

An act of love of God is spiritual dynamite that with one stroke eliminates all barriers; it pierces Heaven and puts us immediately into intimate contact with the Heart of God. Our Blessed Lord values so much this direct, spontaneous way of loving Him, that He once told a pious soul: “For a single act of love I would create Paradise. For a single act of true love, I am ready to forgive and forget a whole life of sins and crimes, as I did in the case of the Good Thief who died by Me on the cross!” This is not fantasy talk! Such a statement cannot but fill the heart and mind with consolation, and its implication should be carefully cultivated, in opposition to popular presentations which keep the mind, especially of a child, filled with agitation. No good thought built around the love of God causes agitation of mind.

Saint John of the Cross had this to say: “The least act of pure love has more importance in the eyes of God and is more useful for the Church in general and for the soul in particular than all the other goods works put together.” We may add: this act of love must indeed be pure and it must be absolutely genuine. In perfect accordance with the words of Saint John, Blessed Peter Julian Eymard maintained that “one single act of love that remains hidden in the soul gives more glory to Jesus than all the apostolic works in the world.” Padre Pio adds: “One single act of love on the part of man, one single act of charity, is so great in God’s eyes that He could not repay it even with the immense gift of the entire Creation!” God has no alternative but to give Himself in exchange for the acts of love we offer Him.

We must at this point most surely come to understand that what is being recommended in this instruction is not the adoption of just another ejaculatory prayer, to be repeated over and over again with more or less attention, simply as a pious exclamation. Let us understand, rather, that the holy practice of dedicating ourselves to Jesus and Mary by acts of ACTUAL LOVE, are acts in which OUR WILLS AND HEARTS are focused directly toward Jesus and Mary with an intensely preferential affection and devotion.

The prayer and petition, “Jesus, Mary, I love you! Save Souls!” suggested here is intended only to be a help and it was proposed (as is piously believed by those who want to believe) by Our Lord Himself for that purpose. But, as everyone knows, an act of love can be made without using any words at all, in a flash, with an intimate surging of love in a heart burning with love for God and His Mother.