

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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin #897

August 21, 2005 – Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Trinity; Comm. Bl. Bernard Ptolomeo

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 3)

All those who are in Heaven reached there because they loved God. Love is the only passport to our Father's House. Too many Roman Catholics over the years, and now especially in our troubled times – troubled religious times – have developed a very convenient religious program. In the opinion of too many there are certain indisputable passports to Heaven – or at least to Purgatory. For them the recitation of specifically prescribed prayers; the making of the nine First Fridays; the making of the five First Saturdays; the making of pilgrimage trips; and such like; all are guarantees that cannot be doubted. For them the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the frequent reception of Holy Communion are signs of near predestination. For them the recitation of the daily Rosary is unfailing in its efficacy. They insist that the wearing of every Scapular and Medal in existence guarantees eternal salvation. There are those who firmly believe that the wearing of the sacred religious habit of monks and nuns supersedes all else. **Nobody can question the profound importance of such devotions and practices, and nobody has the liberty to speak of any of them with derision!**

However, a partial quotation of the all important Epistle of Saint Paul – his first to the Corinthians – might well be inserted here. The language of it is painfully clear: “And if I should have prophecy and should know all mysteries, and all knowledge, and if I should have all faith, so that I could move mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing!” The Latin word for love is *caritas*. Unfortunately the Latin word *caritas* has been translated into the English word charity (in other languages, something equivalent), meaning to the average person charitableness or charitable good works. When Saint Paul wrote this Epistle he had only one thought in mind and that was “love of God.” No doubt, for him “love of God” involved God's commandment of love of neighbor. In the Latin, the word *caritas* has an implication of love, which is stronger than charitableness. If love is missing, our every action is barren.

If there is no interior conversion, interior change, interior resolution, interior desire, and genuine interior intention to love God with all one's heart, even if we “deliver our bodies to be burned, and have not charity (love) it profits us nothing.” These words are grave, serious, and fearsome, to be sure.

No matter how wonderful our devotion may be, no matter how praiseworthy our spiritual work may be, no matter how dedicated we may be to the work of God, if we do nothing about our anger, our pride, our self-importance, our impurity, our uncontrolled temper, our selfishness, our disobedience, then no devotion, regardless of strict dedication, will carry efficacy with it. All will be wasted. If I do nothing about SELF, I am only “a sounding brass.” If we are truly serious about saving our souls, about “passports”, about keeping God in our lives, then the reconstruction of the interior spiritual life of the soul has no equal in its importance. No other way will work. What a horrible fate, that after a long life of prayer and sacrifice and all else, damnation waits! “And if I should have prophecy and should know all mysteries, and all knowledge, and if I should have all faith, so that I could move mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing!”

Love (*caritas*, in its absolutely correct meaning and interpretation), is the only passport to our Father's House. The various degrees of glory in Heaven are established by the intensity of the love one has for God while yet on this earth. Only after death overtakes us will we be able to fully understand the miraculous power of a single act of love for God, but then it will be too late! After death we lose our ability to show love and to gain merit. It is now that our offerings to God must be made, now while we are still among the living. It is now, while yet on trial, while yet struggling to prove ourselves, while yet in a state of probation, that the sincerity of our love for God gains worth! The moment of death, the moment the soul leaves the body, is the final moment of proof – the final moment of trial. It is then all over, and our condition of life, at that precise and most precious moment, for good or for bad, is what we present to God for judgment. It is at that precise moment that the starkness of reality hits us. May the saints and the angels be there with us. 