

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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin #901

September 18, 2005 – Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Trinity

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 6)

Whatever we set out to do must have about it the qualities of decision, determination, commitment, and a solid desire to carry out to its conclusion our intention to give glory to God, and extending to Him the full dimension of our love. The more we love God, the stronger will be our determination to avoid sin.

Sin is a misfortune, and all of us know the weight of the misfortune of sin. But let us always be mindful that should we have the misfortune of offending God grievously, we must never lose heart as some do. Those who lose heart throw up their hands in despair and say: "Ho! It is useless for me to try to avoid sin. I am too weak and the temptations are too strong." When such thoughts come crashing into our minds we must recognize that all such thoughts are the direct work of our spiritual enemy. We have to learn not to listen to him, because that would be playing into his hands. On the contrary, after every fall, we must react promptly against evil and say, not once but many times: "Jesus, be not my judge, but my salvation. JESUS, MARY, I LOVE YOU, I AM SORRY FOR MY SINS. SAVE SOULS."

It is useless to deceive ourselves, as we are constantly in needs of God's mercy because our life in this world is a life of transgressions and shortcomings, and our performance is never up to specifications. Besides, the very thought of striving after perfection frightens us profoundly. A saintly old priest once said: "I am convinced that we generally reach sanctity of life only through a long series of falls from which we get up."

After we have committed a sin, the devil tries artfully to instill into our minds that God now is seriously angry with us. We are told that this time we went altogether too far. The fear is put into us that our condition of sin is so bad that straightening things out with Jesus will be most difficult, even impossible. Scrupulous people ordinarily come to the erroneous conclusion that their sinfulness is really more than God can forgive. These are all lies. We have to learn the sound of the voice of the devil, and we must learn not to listen to him or his lies. The devil has always been a liar and he will always be one. On the contrary we must accept the wise words of St. Augustine who wrote: "If after a fall you promptly get up and throw yourself headlong into the arms of Jesus, do you think that He will, just as promptly, step aside and let you fall flat on the ground? Such action on the part of that Jesus Who brought to earth from Heaven the Parable of the Prodigal Son is utterly inconceivable." St. Augustine ought to know!

After any one of our falls we must believe rather that JESUS IS RIGHT NEAR US, WITH HIS ARMS WIDE OPEN, eager for a reconciliation, ready to embrace us and press us to His loving Sacred Heart at the very first hint of repentance on our part. And if we delay to run to Him, He will leave us no peace. He will hover about us, inviting us to come back. He will make us more uncomfortable by His persistence. He will arouse in us a feeling of regret for having traded all the merits of our past good works for a handful of mud. Throughout the world Christ will have prayer said for us. He will put His Angels to work scanning all through the treasures of the Communion of Saints to find the lever that will effectively lift us from our stubborn lethargy, inoculate into us the vim and vigor necessary to break the shackles that tie us down, and set us humbly marching back toward our Father's House (*CONVERSIO*), the only place where we can regain true peace of mind and heart, by being reinstated in His grace – by reestablishing our friendship with Him. It is only in *CONVERSIO* that we will recapture our lost place in the Kingdom of God and the precious heredity that being a child of God gives us title to.