

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

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin #906

October 23, 2005 – Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Trinity

PURGATORY

The reward or punishment appointed for us after the particular Judgment is Heaven, Purgatory, or Hell.

Since November has been set aside by the Church for the Souls in Purgatory, our meditation today shall be on Purgatory.

Those who die in the State of Grace but are guilty of venial sin or have not fully satisfied the temporal punishment due to their sins of previous times, are punished for a time in Purgatory, forgiven though they may be. There is a certain amount of satisfaction that must be rendered for every sin committed, even though forgiven in confession. This satisfaction is rendered by suffering either in this life or in Purgatory.

Purgatory is God's "hospital" for souls, where those who do not love Him enough in this life must go to before entering Heaven. There they will be cured through great suffering, though they do have the consolation of the assurance of eventually entering Heaven.

Only those who love God perfectly can enter Heaven. But even many good people die with only a weak love of God. They have more interest in the people and things of this earth than they do in God. They do not love Him with their whole heart and soul. They waste many opportunities to please Him.

Love is purified, increased, and perfected by suffering. This means not only bodily pain, but crosses of every kind. God sends everyone the sufferings they need on earth to cleanse, strengthen, and perfect their love. But most people waste their sufferings. They do not want them, they complain about them, and they work to escape them in every manner possible, even by committing sin. Because of this attitude, the fires of their earthly suffering are unable to burn away the selfishness of their love. Consequently their love of God remains very imperfect.

Such souls must then spend time in Purgatory, where they will suffer much more intensely than they would have if only they had accepted the sufferings God sent them while yet on earth. The purification of their love for God which did not take place on this earth will be completed in Purgatory. It must be remembered that love in Purgatory is only purified – it no longer enjoys increase or growth. The amount of love that is in the heart at the moment of death will not increase in Purgatory. Love increases only while we are alive on this earth. After the moment of death, all increase ends.

In Purgatory, God's cleansing fires burn away the soul's selfishness. After all selfishness is burned away, after all tarnish is scrubbed away, the soul is then perfect, and it is then that flights of angels come to take that soul to the Presence of God.

The punishment of Purgatory is God's loving, corrective medicament. It is like the bitter medicine a loving mother gives her sick child. The punishment for sin is measured out – measure for measure – either on this earth or in Purgatory. Every sin ever committed has a "price tag" attached to it. The sin is forgiven, but the cost of it has to be paid in full, either in this life or in Purgatory. The payment of the sins of the just will be finally paid, and all temporal punishment will come to an end. Eternal punishment (Hell) is God's angry punishment, which balances out the scales of Justice upset by un-repentant grievous sin. This punishment (Hell) is Reserved for those who refuse to let God correct them on earth – for those who place no importance on *CONVERSIO*! This punishment has no end, and it is known to those in Hell that this punishment has no end, and this is a punishment all in itself. The knowledge that there is no hope of ever getting out of Hell is one of Hell's worst punishments.

Those who die in a state of un-repentant mortal sin are punished forever in Hell; they are deprived of the Vision of God and they suffer dreadful torments, especially the knowledge that they can never leave and that they are there through their own fault – through their own choice!