

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)

(St Francis of Assisi Chapel)

www.christthekingabbey.org

Cullman, Alabama

Every Sunday: 6:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Daily: 6:00 AM

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

SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY

February 19, 2006 – Purple

Mass of Sunday; no Gl; Cr; Pref. Trinity

Weekly Bulletin #923

SEPTUAGESIMA

OF LENTEN RESOLUTIONS

During Lent it is customary for most people to make what are commonly called “Lenten Resolutions”. People make resolutions not to curse, not to drink alcoholic beverages, not to eat candy; resolutions to control fits of anger, temper, etc.. At the same time, the other problems in their makeup remain unattended to, problems such as disobedience, impurity, lying, impatience, unapproachable attitude toward one’s neighbor, and all the rest. One might very well not curse during Lent, or get drunk, and yet remain utterly impossible to live with – an affliction to his or her neighbor!

It is too well known that SPIRITUAL RESOLUTIONS have little lasting good effect on the life of one who needs to give serious thought to his or her eternal salvation. Resolutions may bring a man temporarily near the seriousness of his purpose here and now on this earth – man’s purpose as intended by his Creator – but they will not enable him to claim the full reward of his service to his Creator. It is of the very essence that anyone anxious about salvation simply has to go beyond – far beyond – mere resolutions. One simply does not make a resolution to save one’s soul! While in the midst of observing one or two good resolutions, one may well do much that is right and good as far as those resolutions are concerned, and even avoid much that is evil, BUT WITHOUT BEING RIGHT IN THE SIGHT OF GOD. Such a man may be enjoying a “truce” with this or that bad habit and yet lack the essential quality of a serious and conscientious Catholic Christian, a quality which does not admit of any compromise where evil is concerned.

For every serious and conscientious Catholic Christian man or woman, the absolute turning to God is that which is called for – in every instance! This, of course, is very much against the tendency of the fallen human nature of EVERYMAN, who in every instance is drawn to turn away and depart from the Creator. The total turning away from self – the CONVERSIO – is what is necessary for everyone and anyone of serious disposition. The CONVERSIO – the serious spiritual attitude of mind – attends to all the vices all at the same time. The CONVERSIO does not give attention only to two or three problems that need attention while totally ignoring all the rest.

It is certainly reasonable and understandable that there will be occasions for special attention to be given to a particular and predominant vice or moral problem. In such wise, the problem should be singled out and given whatever treatment is needed to correct it.

Attending to the spiritual life of a well kept soul is the same as attending to the needs of a well kept garden. In the garden, the gardener does not go after only the thistle, leaving the cockle behind to grow unattended to. The industrious gardener goes after all the weeds at the same time, even though he knows full well that they will appear once again in the near future. It is understood that the weeds will return, but being undaunted, every time the weeds reappear, the gardener goes after them. As long as his or her efforts are constant the weeds will be kept under control. It is the sincere, conscientious, determined, and persevering effort behind the entire purpose of good gardening that makes the effort finally successful. If the gardener only half weeds his garden, he may just as well not weed his garden at all. In the spiritual life, the “weeding” is the work of the will. The CONVERSIO is the work of a strong and undaunted will, a will that has been given reasonable inspiration by the mind, and fueled by the love that comes from a heart that truly loves God.

The usual resolution of attending to one or two predominant faults, good as it may be in itself, is nothing but worthless self-deception, if the rest of the soul is allowed to go unattended. If one makes no attempt seriously to change his complete spiritual attitude concerning the spiritual life, except to avoid this or that particular fault, while at the same time allowing all other faults to remain unattended to, such a one will soon find by experience that he has done nothing! Too late will he learn that he is unacceptable to God.

One must not, however, be frightened or discouraged. Like the undaunted gardener, the child of God works without ceasing – determined, conscientious, persevering, trusting, and believing in the mercy of God Whom he truly loves.