

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)

(Formerly 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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

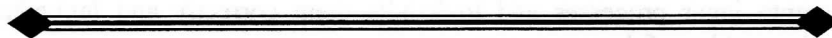
Weekly Bulletin #954

September 24, 2006 – Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Holy Trinity

For the past few weeks our Bulletins have turned our attention to the defense of our true and holy Faith, which is being attacked from all sides, even by those who ought to know better. Where is the Omnipotence of our all-loving God in any confused argument or debate. The answers to all questions concerning our holy Faith are in the *Baltimore Catechism*. Anyone who does not find an answer in the *Catechism* is simply not looking for an answer. A Catholic is one who subscribes completely to “these and all the truths which the Roman Catholic Church teaches,” and not one who believes or chooses selectively. After focusing on what one must believe in order to be Catholic, we now return to our normal and all important concern:

WHAT MUST WE DO TO BECOME SAINTS?



TEMPTATIONS

(Part I)

Who is there that is not troubled with temptations – temptations of every conceivable sort and kind? Temptations raise their heads in each of us by our first thoughts and by our first sights as they present themselves constantly to our mind’s eye. Our very first impressions – the moment we become aware of absolutely anything whatsoever – produce an immediate imprint on the mind. This imprint is not forgotten, and at some later and undetermined and unexpected moment will have an effect on our attitude. Sometimes the imprint is that of beautiful, lovely, friendly, compassionate, or pleasant emotions. At other times the imprint calls forth judgments that are unloving, rebellious, vainglorious, envious, jealous, or angry. They can also produce feelings of brash self-sufficiency, superiority, bitterness, impatience, idle curiosity, attraction, or repulsion. How often do our thoughts fall prey to the most clear-cut visions that give rise to emotions of impurity? There is a whole wilderness of thoughts that parade through our minds at every waking moment. The majority of these thoughts are quite involuntary; as long as they remain involuntary we need not worry. Only when they become and remain voluntary, then we have cause for worry and concern. Sensitive and good souls can, and very often do, suffer greatly from first thoughts. First thoughts and emotions – temptations of any sort – are not sins. Uninvited thoughts or emotions or temptations are not sins. They are sinful only when one places oneself in the situation that produces evil thoughts – evil temptations. First thoughts are serious only when one knowingly and willingly allows the evil thoughts free run for development, causing them to take priority over free will. First thoughts are natural and necessary processes that lead to the various determinations of free will. They are inevitable, but must be treated with wisdom, patience, and prudence.

Who is it that does not suffer from the unwanted promptings of the mind? In spite of one's greatest efforts to rise above physical and carnal promptings and to rise to a more spiritual plane, how often does such a one continue to suffer greatly with the most disturbingly sensual thoughts and presentations? Many souls are greatly discouraged by this and consider themselves “Satan's fodder.” In error and discouragement they quit trying and unfortunately fall away, to the utter delight of the devil. The disturbing thought is not necessarily “Satan's fodder” – discouragement is!

So many of our first thoughts and emotions, carrying within them the germs of sinful temptations, are a very true and a very heavy cross for anyone who seeks after virtue – for anyone who truly seeks God. Who is the saint that has not endured such suffering? Temptations are trials sent by God in His divine love. They are our tests! God allows us to be subjected to these reactions in order that they may reduce us to shame and an honest appraisal of self. God allows us to be subjected to these reactions in order that they may show us our own inner corruption and evil inclinations. God allows temptations to point out to us our personal unworthiness. He wants us to see plainly how ignoble and ugly we continue to be in His sight! He wants us to see plainly how mean and unspiritual we can be in our thoughts, judgments, actions, wishes, impulses, feelings, attractions, repulsions, and hypocrisies! The human mind is so full of distractions for all of us. (Continued on page two)