

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

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Weekly Bulletin #971

January 14, 2007 – Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Trinity; comm. St. Hilary and St. Felix

THE HIDDEN LIFE

By Bishop John Hedley, OSB (1837-1915)

“For the Hidden Life itself consists in that which is the only end, the only act, the only state, for which the soul was created; that is to say, the loving worship of its God. This is essential perfection – the more or less continuous and intense exercise of the act of charity. This it is which sanctifies, and which leads to success. This act is what occupied the Sacred Heart of Jesus all these years. ... Contemplate, one by one, the characteristics of His life at Nazareth. Observe the simplicity of His view – God alone. ‘O my Savior, give me grace to aim at God alone! Hitherto I have aimed at many things – the satisfaction of my vanity, of my flesh, of my ambition, of those about me! Hitherto my best actions have been tainted and spoilt by earthly, human, carnal, and degrading motives! All this I now turn away from. Do Thou pierce my heart and penetrate it with the one grand purpose of my creation – the will to live for my God!’ Then observe His Holy Indifference. The Everlasting Word handles the tools of the workmen, and shapes mean material into humble articles of use! ‘Give me, O Light of my life, the grace to take up what is low as heartily as what is dignified, and what is flattering as simply as what is humbling, and to see Thee beneath it all, and Thee alone!’ Last, His continuous and intense elevation of the Heart. ‘Oh! Foolish and mistaken this heart of mine! I fatigue my brain, my fancy, my tongue, my limbs – and all the time, one thing is really necessary – to worship, to love, to offer up, to accept, and to beg forgiveness! My Jesus, give me Thy Spirit! O Jesus of Nazareth, obscure, silent, and suffering, I detest all that is contrary to that Spirit of Thine. I detest unnecessary talk, which empties my spirit! I detest that coveting, that clinging, that having and holding, which binds me down to the earth! I detest the vanity of esteem and success! I long and pray that my life may be hidden with Thee in God!’ ...

“The Hidden Life means, not idleness, passive quietness, or empty silence, but very great activity of spirit. It means the most strenuous endeavor, by means of solitude, obedience, poverty and labor, to make the heart’s union with its Creator as intense and as continuous as possible. The Hidden Life thus implies a great simplicity of view – the view that if we love God above all things, it is for Him to take care both of ourselves and of His other interests. The Hidden Life means the absence of ambition. Place, position, power, and money are the dread of one who understands the Hidden Life, ... for all is vanity, except to be at home in the familiarity of God. External occupation, and even important, anxious, and absorbing business, is not incompatible with the Hidden Life. It may be God’s will that one has to be thus occupied; the essential thing is, not to trust to what is done by hand or tongue or brain, but only to the spiritual activity – the busy elevation of the heart, intensified by silence and hardship – which may well go on in the most active of lives. ...

“The Saints never wearied of protesting to God that He alone was sufficient for them – He was their portion, their inheritance, their staff, their glory, and their riches.”