

In a true Christian, dialogue between himself and his God is never ever completely shut off. The interior life of the Christian finds its most noble expression in prayer. For him, prayer is a constant pouring forth of adoration, and an unrelenting desire for union. In the very middle of the most complicated business transactions, the activity of prayer is continuous. It may be in the background, but it is there nevertheless. Love cannot be turned off! True faith and true hope cannot ever be totally distracted by the clamor of the marketplace.

“Be you therefore perfect, even as your heavenly Father is perfect.” There! The order has been given, and it has to be carried out as given. In all truth, therefore, we must consider the Divine Presence as the very summit – the very peak of the mountain – of our earthly existence, of our earthly accomplishment – even though impossible, obviously, to reach with complete fulfillment. “My soul is restless until it rests in Thee, O Lord!” This is the summit from which there comes down to us in the integrity of all our actions, in all our dealings, in all our hopes and fears, in true humility, and in good order and in peace, the energy (the grace) to take yet another persevering, oftentimes strenuous, step toward the impossible. If we desire joy and peace in this present existence we will enjoy them only if we direct to this summit we here speak of – ALL the effort of our quest for that summit, ALL the enthusiasm of our desire for union with Him Who is the summit. God rewards the effort, not the result!

For every willing and properly disposed child of God – for US – Christianity, which is the way of Jesus Christ, is not a coat to be put on over man’s naked nature. Christianity is a new nature. Christianity is a *CONVERSIO* – a turning – transforming the whole man. And if the observance of our faith is only skin deep, only following the allurements of spiritual theatrics, it will betray itself in our actions. IT WILL IN NO WAY HELP US TO THE SUMMIT.

One thing more we must always keep in mind. No man whose foot has ever touched the crust of this earth, no man whose foot will ever touch the crust of this earth, no devil who lives in eternal hell, has the strength or the power to turn the face of one whose eyes are fixed upon the summit.

1. **CATECHISM CLASS:** Children 6 to 14 please meet Father Joseph in the vestibule right after the 10:00 Mass.
2. There WILL be 5:00 PM Sunday Vespers and Benedictine of the Most Blessed Sacrament this afternoon.
3. **N.B.:** Due to the increased number of people attending the 6:00 AM Mass on Sunday, Father Francis will hear confessions during the 6:00 AM Sunday Mass each Sunday (except the first Sunday of each month), as soon as he finishes saying his own Mass (about 6:15 AM).
4. Thursday, January 25, 2007, is the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul.
5. **PLEASE NOTE:** Anyone wishing to have candles blessed on Candlemas Day (Friday, February 2, 2007), should bring them in nicely decorated containers, WITH PROPER IDENTIFICATION, and place them in the vestibule of the Abbey Church **no later than next Sunday, January 28, 2007.**
6. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels. LET US ALSO PRAY FOR EVERYONE. Let us pray for ALL the priests and religious men and women of the world. NO MAN, WOMAN, OR CHILD SHOULD BE LEFT OUT OF OUR PRAYER. God made all men to be with Him in heaven for all eternity, and this includes every human being on earth, regardless of station or condition or place. While Our Blessed Lord was hanging on the Cross He did not look around and pick and choose those for whom He was dying. He did not exclude a single member of the Human Race – even His enemies – from the wounded Love that came forth from Him during those momentous moments. Weak human nature and erroneous persuasions will prevent some from achieving the purpose intended for them by God, but that matter remains entirely between all such and God. Our only duty is to pray for souls. We make no judgments concerning such matters. If there is any sifting to be done, it is to be done by God, Himself alone. We are NOT the ones to do the sifting.
7. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard’s schedule only)
 - SUNDAY: For the People of our Chapels
 - MONDAY: Deceased Anna Rita Huelskamp
 - TUESDAY: Deceased Inez Isbell
 - WEDNESDAY: Special intention John Ward
 - THURSDAY: Deceased Isaac Soileau
 - FRIDAY: In thanksgiving Mr. and Mrs. Stephan Holup
 - SATURDAY: Special intention Joanie Christen

