

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

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin #999

July 29, 2007 – Green

Mass of Sunday; Gl; Cr; Pref. Holy Trinity; comm. SS: Felix, Simplicius, Faustinus, and Beatrice

THEN CAME SIN

In the first days of the creation of human life, Adam and Eve realized the ideal of the living of the spiritual life – that is a life lived with God at the very center of it. We are told that in the cool of the evening God visited Adam and Eve and spoke with them with the familiarity of a companion. The life of these first human creatures was a happy life because it was as God had meant it to be. **THEN CAME SIN** and all this happy state of things was wrecked. All had come to an abrupt end! Through sin the world and all that was in it was ravished of all its beauty and all its harmony. The union that was enjoyed between man and his God was ruptured. In addition, man, severed from God, had nobody left for him to fall back on. The separation was instantaneous. Immediately after they ate the fruit of the Tree, they ran. They hid themselves from the very One Who was the answer to all their needs. What was once free and beautiful for all to behold, they quickly covered with clothes.

In himself, man found emptiness and his cravings for satisfaction became ever stronger and stronger, and an unknown feeling came upon him. He felt a restlessness, a nervousness, an interior burning sensation that was quite new to him. Neither in himself, nor in any of the creatures that were all about him could he find anything at all that could satisfy the unbearable hunger for that – whatever it was – which he no longer really knew, which he could no longer find. It was the infinite that he once searched for that got him into trouble. Did not the tempter (“you will become like gods, you will know the difference between good and evil”), did he not offer him the infinite? Now, though man had lost the infinite altogether, his hunger for the infinite became even stronger. In his attempt to satisfy his hunger, man flung himself into the pursuit of absolutely everything that might hold even the slightest promise of pleasure and gratification. As time moved on we begin to see man seeking his satisfactions in expensive trips and vacations – vacations to all parts and ports and “fun places” of the world; costly and rare gifts; palatial houses; fine clothes; gourmet foods served in kingly restaurants; the most expensive of things, automobiles, boats, yachts, experiences unmentionable and available just for the asking, and, MONEY! The simple accumulation of money, even by small children. Man has persuaded himself that happiness is found in all such things. Pleasure, yes, but true happiness? NO! “Vanity of Vanities” – vain endeavor!

Man, rejecting God as his happiness and obstinately resolved to find his happiness elsewhere, had plunged from depth to depth into an abyss of moral nothingness and total misery; into boredom, loneliness, brain-searing drugs, killings, a total lack of decency and modesty in manner and dress, all manner of sexual permissiveness and perversity, and all the rest. Man has given complete freedom to a cancerous career of error and deals with reality without any reference to God. His will emancipated of all control other than its own desires, man is forever proclaiming his power to achieve his well-being. He continues to look for a happiness that will more than compensate for that which he lost while eating of the fruit of a certain Tree. The very pitiful hollowness of his vain pretensions is, at this point in the history of man, revealed in a civilization sliding steadily and quickly towards a barbarism lower than that of the paganism of old. History, as far as it tells of man’s wanderings in the lands of his desires and travels, relates how he continues to wander father and farther away from the paternal home that had been intended for him. History has become nothing more than a record of man’s disillusionments and desolation. He is living in an age of disappointment, an age of despair. Of disappointment at the failure of his efforts to better himself in independence from his God. Moreover, what is worse, in his despair man searches not his own heart; he has no comprehension of repentance. Mankind, that thought it could do without God, is lost in a loveless and howling desert.

If only, by some act of God, man would come to his senses and turn to God, Who alone can lead him back to the true land of promise. If only, by some act of God, man would realize that there is nothing under heaven that is capable of filling the void that was created on that awesome and terrible day **when a miserable apple seemed to be a tasty morsel.**