

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)

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 7, 2010 – Purple

Mass of Sunday no Gl; Cr; Preface Holy Trinity

Weekly Bulletin #1133

Septuagesima Season

Sexagesima Sunday

THE POWER OF PRAYER

RICHARD GRÄF, CS.Sp.

Part 24

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i. FOR THE LAITY

Where lies the responsibility for training in prayer? First and foremost with the family, the home, and more particularly with the mother. She promotes devotion in the house. Nothing is more disastrous than a failure in the home, especially in the domain of religion. Neglect here can scarcely ever be made good; preachers and catechists, even the best equipped, will scarcely succeed. Hence due attention to young mothers to see they do justice to their consecrated duty in the home would seem to be the most important duty of a pastor. If we have the mothers we have the families too; we have the young people; we have, in consequence, future generations. If we lose the pious influence over the family then we lose everything. No association, no regimentation, will be effective in the long run.

In the school we can usually do little more than teach the children their catechism, just as we teach them their poetry. Whether the art of praying can be taught at school, along with the background that makes their prayers real prayer—that is the great question. It may be that prayer is only learnt in a *religious* atmosphere of silence and calm such as is found in the quiet, of home, quiet cultivated and maintained by the mother for herself and her children. Hence first beginnings in the habit of prayer are made most effectively, if partly unconsciously, at a mother's knee. At school, in church, where there is question of a large number of children this devout atmosphere of prayer can scarcely be created.

And even if in school and church children could be taught how to pray, little would be gained if the home fails to cooperate. If prayerfulness is missing from the home, if no family prayers are said, no prayers morning or night or at meals; if the parents never say their prayers, never get the children to say theirs—then, despite all that is done by teacher or priest, no prayerful spirit will be developed. And if such a spirit of prayer is not fostered in the home then the children forget even the *Our Father* and the *Hail Mary*, just as they forget the poems they learnt by heart. What results can we expect if the family breaks down here? If children from Catholic circles and Catholic families come to school unable to make the sign of the cross or say their *Glory be to the Father* or their *Hail Mary* correctly? What hopes can we entertain for the future when Catholic parents adopt an attitude of utter irresponsibility in this matter, saying perhaps to themselves: no need for us to teach our children how to pray; our priest is there for that; he is paid for that!

St Scholastica - Pray for us.

Wednesday, February 10, 2010



1. There will be Catechism class today after the 10:00 AM Mass.
2. There will be an Oblate Meeting after the 10:00 AM Mass this morning.
3. Those who brought candles to be blessed may pick them up today, the candles have been blessed.
4. Saint Blaise Blessing will be given today **after** all Masses and next Sunday at St Pius V Chapel, Birmingham.
5. February 10, 2010 is the Feast of St Scholastica. Please pray most earnestly for our Benedictine Sisters. Pray that St Scholastica will always be for them their mother, their patroness and help. Please pray that St Scholastica will protect our Sisters from every harm and danger. The importance of the prayers of our sisters cannot be measured.
6. February 11, 2010 is the remembrance of the Apparition of our Lady of Lourdes. May the Blessed Mother lead us safely through the possible and probable afflictions and sufferings in store for all of us. Prayer alone, in union with Jesus and Mary, is the only hope for any true child of God,
7. **Be reminded of the Lenten Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament every Friday night of Lent at 7:00 PM.** Those who, because of distance, cannot attend this ceremony are urged to follow through with it, every Friday night in their own homes and in the presence of their HOME CHAPELS. Also it would be laudable for the Stations to be prayed more often during Lent.
8. 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. **Do not forget and continue praying for the dead and wounded and dispossessed people of Haiti.**
9. Please do not neglect the daily Septuagesima Readings.
10. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)
 - SUNDAY: For the People of our Chapels
 - MONDAY: For Melvin McKennon
 - TUESDAY: For Katherine Kraulis
 - WEDNESDAY: For our Sisters of St. Joseph's Convent
 - THURSDAY: Dec. Dr. Rama Coomaswamy
 - FRIDAY: Dec. Rita Brueggemann
 - SATURDAY: For the Poor Souls



A Thought To Remember ...

Praise adds nothing to your holiness, nor does blame take anything from it. You are what you are, and you cannot be said to be better than you are in God's sight. If you consider well what you are within, you will not care what men say about you. They look to appearances but God looks to the heart. They consider the deed but God weighs the motive.

From the Imitation of Christ – Thomas À Kempis