

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

LOW SUNDAY

April 11, 2010 – White

Mass of Sunday GI; Cr; Comm St Leo Pope Preface of Easter

Weekly Bulletin #1143

THE POWER OF PRAYER Part 27

RICHARD GRÄF, CS.Sp.

For the laity.

It is absolutely essential that the growing boy or girl be further helped to pray in a personal, self-reliant manner; and the pity is that the school fails so often to foster that living, unself-conscious prayer that has been learnt in the home. Only one side of spiritual formation is generally attended to, namely, the acquisition of religious *knowledge (and religious information)*, whereas, side by side with the latter, the spiritual life should be catered for through prayer, at least in the sense of a living contact with God. **Prayers should not invariably be recited in common, nor should there be a rigid insistence on a prescribed and unbroken sequence.** Otherwise there is a danger that the young people will be unable of themselves to fill out a five minutes' pause; they will be waiting to be told what prayer is next on the list! The result is that prayer becomes an utterly mechanical thing. Many of these young people later on will be leading lives of complete spiritual isolation (*and desolation*). Many too will run into difficulties and dangers of various sorts; there will be no one, then, to stand by and tell them what Prayer next to say. Prayer books are not at hand, and many will have forgotten even the most ordinary formulas of prayer. “Lord God, behold I cannot speak” (Jer. 1, 6); I cannot pray.

How will a person remain master of his soul, make life serve the interests of his eternity, when cut off, for example in captivity, from all priestly and sacramental help, when he has no friend, no book to fall back on, when he finds himself in serious trouble of soul or body? Maybe that a man learns to pray when in trouble! But in trouble of an overwhelming kind he is tempted rather to curse than to pray; and in such extremity his mental anguish is lost sight of in the more palpable pain he is enduring without, so that often he has no strength left to grope his way to God. The temptation might present itself: “Bless God and die” (Job 2, 9)! No, it is when we are young, in our good days, that we have to choose the road leading to God, so that in our days of affliction we may be able to turn to Him. Hence training in mental prayer should not be confined to priests and religious. In actual fact it is much more necessary for the laity who have to live lives far less sheltered than they, far more exposed to peril, and who, besides, have not such full and ready access to those other means of grace which the Church provides. **(Nota Bene — a note from the Abbot — I urge you to read this instruction with the greatest of care — not just once, but as many times as necessary for you to get the full message. Look after your children**

NOW,

while you yet have the chance to exert control over them. After the concern for the salvation of your own souls, in the proper order of priorities, the correct and common sense spiritual care of your children comes boldly into focus! TAKE HEED! Do not omit daily spiritual reading).

OF MORTAL SIN

The first step in carrying out the Will of God is to avoid mortal sin, thus, the **DECISION** to avoid mortal sin is vital to the spiritual life. Where there is a habit of mortal sin **WHICH ONE DOES NOT INTEND TO GIVE UP**, there is no spiritual life and the soul of such a one is dead. If a man is in that state, he has urgent need of making a good confession and of making the decision to fight manfully against his bad habits. The fight may not be easy; he may, perhaps, even fall again and again; but he must be resolutely determined that even if he falls down again, **HE WILL NOT STAY DOWN**, and he must follow out that determination grimly. The argument that since he continues to fall again and again, what is the good of going to confession, is simply not a valid or sensible argument. The argument that the confession of the same sin over and over again is embarrassing and boring is not a convincing argument. If a person is the source of one's sin and the cause of one's sin, then one must decide between that person and God. If a place is the source of one's sin and the cause of one's sin, then one must decide between that place and God. If a thing is the source of one's sin, and the cause of one's sin, then one must decide between that thing and God! It is quite impossible to possess both. Mortal sin must be regarded as the greatest possible evil - one to be avoided at all or any cost. **On this point there can be no compromise.** An offense against God is an offense against God, and no human speculation or analysis can change the fact that **GOD MUST NEVER BE OFFENDED!!** Neither can any human agency or tribunal remove sinfulness from an offense which God has preordained to be sinful and offensive. **The law of God is unchangeable, and its application is not open to anyone's private interpretation!**



1. There will be Catechism Class this morning.
2. **Please — we shall continue to remind you to do some spiritual reading DAILY — this is really important!**
3. 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**
4. **MASSSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)
 - SUNDAY: For the People of our Chapels
 - MONDAY: Welfare of Father Hector Bolduc
 - TUESDAY: Dec. Joseph Haase
 - WEDNESDAY: Special Int. Linda Mader
 - THURSDAY: Dec. Robert Baker
 - FRIDAY: Dec. Sister Mary Michelle R.S.M.
 - SATURDAY: For the Poor Souls

A Thought To Remember ...

Works in themselves do not give honor to God. Only the genuine and honest spirit and enduring love of the heart that prompt good works, give merit to them.

Jesus, in the Gospel, clearly censures the unfaithworthy works of piety and penance which are falsely performed for the sake of ostentation.