

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

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Bulletin #1155

July 4, 2010 – Green

Mass of Sunday GI; Cr; Preface Holy Trinity

THE POWER OF PRAYER

RICHARD GRÄF, CS.Sp.

Part 34

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It is our very nature to love; love is the fullness of our lives. It is the most valuable asset we have; it is the motive power within, driving us ever forward, brooking no sluggishness. For all things of earth, including man, are powerless to still the craving of our hearts for love. God alone can satisfy them fully; He has made us for Himself; only in Him do our hearts find rest. Each one stands or falls by the love he has. “The lover lives where the object of his love is, and not where he is himself.” He leaves self in order to possess the loved one; he takes on a likeness to the beloved. “Tell me whom you love, and I will tell you what you are.” “Love makes friends like-minded” (St. Teresa). “He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him” (1 Cor. 6, 17). He who loves sin takes his character from the devil and becomes one with him (1 John 3, 8). The man who sets his heart on a creature will have found a certain degree of security, a home in a sense. But even the ideal human friend is powerless to bestow on us ultimate happiness. For this we have to go beyond man and reach out to God. Those who neither can, will or ought to set their hearts on a creature (Matt. 19, 11.) must, if they are to break through their isolation, seek in the supernatural world an object of their affection. For all of us, and especially for the isolated, the choice of Christ as the primary object of our intimacy will present itself. He is such a palpable element in our lives, the basis and the support of our existence. “To me to live is Christ.” He dwells within us as our Guest, and we in Him, now and for ever.

He who has found Christ as the central object of his affections has found all else and can well dispense with a human partner. His life is fully lived, his love fully engrossed. He is filled unto all the fullness of God (Eph. 3, 19). For in Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col. 2, 3). When Christ, the day-star, arises in our hearts the dawn will break (2 Pet. 1, 19), and in the light of this surpassing knowledge we shall be ready to abandon everything, count everything as loss, if only we may gain Christ (Phil. 3, 7). Through love for Him our nature attains its most ample dignity, and we can be all things to all men as occasion demands (1 Cor. 9, 22). We possess that love which feels no envy, bears all things, endures all things (1 Cor. 13, 4.); we possess that love which is strong as death (Cant. 8, 6).

If we have found in prayer, especially in our private prayer, the intimate partner with whom to converse, we should, as a general rule, when prayer is resumed, re-establish contact with the same partner. If we lightly change our acquaintances we reach familiarity with none and relationships are set up more slowly; whereas if we usually speak to the same person we learn to know him much more quickly and more intimately and, as a result, love him better. Whether we have a human friend or not, in the last resort we all stand in need of a divine Friend; we all need God; He and He alone can satisfy us (St. Teresa of Avila).

3. What we should pray about:

The aim and purpose of prayer is to know God and to love Him. Just as we get to know people by engaging them in conversation, so we get to know God by speaking with Him. The subject-matter is usually of secondary importance: prayer becomes prayer not by what we say to God but by the very fact of speaking familiarly with Him. To occupy oneself with religious or pious thoughts is not prayer: it is merely improving the occasion. What constitutes prayer is the conscious vital contact with an intimate Friend, living and present to us. Usually it is through speech that this relationship is most readily initiated and maintained. Conversation is the bridge which unites both extremes, God and man, and seeks to draw the links between them more securely and more intimately.

What do people talk about when they converse? Usually about what interests them most. For many this will be something to do with themselves, with their personal experiences. They can talk at such length about these things that they often weary their partner in conversation. But we can never weary the Saviour with our talk, even when we treat of the petty everyday affairs of life. The reason is, He loves us with an unfathomable, an everlasting love. He has loved us to the extent of dying for us on the cross (Phil. 2, 8). He loved us even when we were still His enemies (Rom. 5, 10). So that, far from being wearied, He rejoices when we come to Him and pour out our souls before Him.

For many the neighbor is even a more promising and comprehensive theme of conversation. Material here never fails! Man is a social being and hence is disposed to talk. To know when to keep silent is a great art, and few there are who acquire it; the effort demands resolve. "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man. He is able also with a bridle to lead about the whole body" (James 3, 2). "The tongue no man can tame" (3, 8). Many are in the position of that Eliu who would instruct Job: "I am full of matter to speak of, and the spirit of my bowels straiteneth me ... I will speak and take breath a little" (Job 32, 18, 20).

Happy Fourth of July

After much prayer and careful study and consideration, the Superiors of Christ the King Abbey deem it necessary and advisable to discontinue Holy Mass one additional Sunday each month at St. Pius V Chapel in Birmingham, Alabama.

Therefore, beginning with September 2010, the THIRD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH, Mass will not take place at St. Pius V Chapel in Birmingham - which means that there will not, henceforth, be Mass at St. Pius V Chapel on the First and Third Sundays of every Month at St. Pius V Chapel in Birmingham.

1. Oblate meeting today after the 10:00 AM Mass
2. There will be Catechism class today after the 10:00 A.M. Mass.
3. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels. LET US ALSO PRAY FOR EVERYONE.
4. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)

SUNDAY:	For the People of our Chapels
MONDAY:	Special Int. Patricia Jones
TUESDAY:	Dec. Steven Holup
WEDNESDAY:	Special Int. Milton Schmitzinsky
THURSDAY:	Special Int. Ella Souleau
FRIDAY:	For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
SATURDAY:	Special Int. Vinita Kelley

A Thought To Remember ...

"Regular reading of a suitable sort plays a more and more important part in the life of Catholics today, and for the educated at least, is well nigh essential for their progress if not also for their salvation. This practice ranks equally with mental prayer and the other exercises of devotion in importance and in fact it is so closely connected with these other exercises, especially the essential one of mental prayer, that without it—unless one finds some substitute there is no possibility of advancing in the spiritual life; even perseverance therein is rendered very doubtful."

M. EUGENE BOYLAN, O.C.R. in *This Tremendous Lover*