

**BISHOP LIFTS BAN ON ATTENDANCE AT MASS AT CHRIST
THE KING MONASTERY, NEAR CULLMAN, ALABAMA**

Following years of discussion between bishops of Birmingham and members of Christ the King Monastery, the two remaining members of the monastery were reconciled with the Catholic Church during the Lenten season. On May 1st Bishop Robert J. Baker formally accepted the vows of these two monks as Benedictine Hermits, with the title of Brother. They will continue to live at and operate Christ the King Abbey, Inc. with the help and assistance of Father James Isaacson and two Brothers of the Canons Regular of Saint John Cantius, of Chicago, Illinois.

The two members of this community, which had been established as a schismatic community over twenty years ago by a former member of St. Bernard's Abbey, have fulfilled all the requirements expressed by Bishop Baker, in consultation with the Vatican, for their admission into the Catholic household of faith.

This community will continue as a monastic community, celebrating Mass in the Latin Tridentine form, also known as the Extraordinary Form, a practice which has been promoted by recent popes. Pope Benedict XVI endorsed the celebration of the Extraordinary Form of the Mass in his Apostolic Letter "Summorum Pontificum" (July 7, 2007) and followed that document with a further Instruction on April 8, 2011, which gives more clear guidance on the celebration of the Mass in this manner.

Besides this monastery, there are two other sites in the Diocese of Birmingham where the Extraordinary Form of the Mass is celebrated each Sunday, though in conjunction with the Ordinary Form: Blessed Sacrament Parish in Birmingham and St. Mary of the Visitation parish in Huntsville.

As a result of the reunion of Christ the King Monastery with the Catholic Church, Bishop Baker has now lifted any restrictions on attendance at holy Mass at this monastery. Mass is offered in the Extraordinary Form daily at 7 AM and on Sundays at 7 AM and 10 AM.