

The Carmelite News

DECEMBER 1959 — JANUARY 1960 NUMBER

WHITEFRIARS · FAVERSHAM · KENT

REMEMBER THE DEAD LIST

The last "Carmelite News" was a flop. I was too ill to write anything so we printed a recruiting leaflet instead. I have been ill most of the year. In hospital twice, I am afraid I will have to go in again for a short while. My spirits were very low over the year.

Anyway, the Dead List is terribly important to us because we rely on it to support our students. If people neglect to send in the Dead List we are sunk for the year. In a way we are in low waters at the moment. Well, one can hardly expect people to give if they are not asked, so will those who have not sent in their Dead List please remember to do so.

There are seven houses in the Anglo Welsh Carmelite Province but

all are struggling foundations which cannot do much more than pay their way. All except Faversham and Aylesford; but Aylesford doesn't belong to the Province—its Superior and finances are governed from Rome. Faversham is the only exception. It is my duty to provide the money for college expenses and for the students. Without students we can never become a real Province; we must attract more Novices and we must have the means to educate them; that is why in the last edition of the "Carmelite News" we printed a recruiting leaflet to fill up the student lists. **It is a fundamental mistake to put money into stones and mortar, instead of into flesh and blood.** First things first.

Please remember our needs.

OUR STUDENT FUNDS

There are many ways in which you can help our student funds. Either by sending a donation direct to one of the Burses (a list will be found at the end of the "News"), or by signing a covenant to give us so much each year. This applies only to England, Scotland and Wales because it is really a reclaim of Income Tax. We do all that for you.

Or, maybe you are making a Will. Why not think of paying a little tax to God by remembering our Education Fund? Another way is to leave the residue of one's estate after all other bequests have been paid out, to our Education Fund. These residues from Wills are sometimes worth only a few pounds but occasionally there is a substantial amount in them.

Worth asking for anyhow. Executors sometimes do not know what to do with these residues.

Nearly all Religious Orders are in difficulties about educating students. The cost has risen enormously. A Roman student now costs £350 a year. Students in home colleges are costing £250. Even at that figure we are not counting the salaries of Professors.

Our old money raising schemes are rapidly going out of date. No aid comes to us from the State. It is seldom that Catholic business men, some of whom have made substantial fortunes out of trade, remember the needs of the Church in their Wills. The Church has so little to draw on beyond the charity of the people. Invested funds are very small.

Reserves are continually being depleted and exhausted by the continual call to build, build, build. It is said that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of the Church of England made £15,000,000 paper profit on their investments because they turned over from gilt edged securities to industrial shares. I wonder how many Superiors of Religious Orders have been able to invest anything at all? It remains for us to go around with our cap in hand, and by occasionally reminding people, gather in a pound or two.

One queer thing comes into my mind as I grow older—the years I

spent studying the classics, then the years of philosophy and of theology, training oneself as far as possible to fine reasoning, until finally, one is ordained. Then out you go to run whist drives and raffles and to write one appeal after another for the rest of your life. It is enough to make you weep. Then you say to yourself—is there another way—and you are forced to the conclusion that there's no other way. Maybe it is the cross that one must bear for being a priest knowing that once the oil is on your head that you must beg for the rest of your life. Is there no other way to heaven?

DOORS

You would hardly believe that religion enters into door making. Well, it does. If you look at the outside four panels of a door you will find that they form a cross; if there are six panels in the door it will be a double cross—in other words, the cross will have two cross beams, the cross of Lorraine. Even on doors that have plain surfaces the cross will sometimes be seen in the battening

on the back.

It was this cross that was blessed in ancient times in the blessing of a house. Sometimes a picture of the Patron Saint of the house was painted on the back of the door so that when the door was closed family prayers could be said looking at his picture. Of course we are speaking of the very simple peasant houses in France, Italy or Spain.

THE HOLY CHILD

Christmas cribs were built up in the same popular way—turning the things that were at hand to a religious purpose. The custom of little boys whittling a stick with a knife is thousands of years old; and the first crib figures were small figures a few inches high fashioned by boys who afterwards became the craftsmen who built the old cathedrals and carved the statuary and pews that are the wonder of today.

In France, Italy and Spain, crib figures, even to-day, are only a few inches high—the biggest are not more than twelve inches, and sometimes they are not merely carved, but also dressed in whatever finery can be found; remnants left over from the making of dresses, or, indeed, old dresses cut up for the purpose.

The family crib started in a small way with Mary, Joseph and the Child,

and straw for a manger. It was easy for a whittling boy to carve a donkey or a cow because children were looking at cows and donkeys every day. The sheep came easy too.

The three wise men were always a problem. What did they look like? How were they dressed? Did they ride camels, or walk; if so, what was a camel like? Gradually the crib grew, every year a few new figures were added, till in the end large cribs contained hundreds of figures.

Then, of course came the background for these figures. The roads, the fields, the village, the little tips of pine trees stuck in the ground that made the forest. One crib would have a troop of Roman cavalry, another would have a company of Roman soldiers. In fact there is no ending to a crib. It can go on for ever.

The bagmen, or travelling pedlars, played a large part in this. They found in one village a carver who could make crib figures in wood, and they hawked them round to the peasants and villagers. Plain figures a few inches high, simply carved, and it was up to the housewife and children to dress them up if a little more finery was needed. One must always be in fashion. A purley wooden crib well carved cannot compete with a dressed crib, and so on. Every crib is an adventure—a spiritual fashion show. Our Lady was dressed up like the lady of the Manor or Hall.

Cribs could cover a wider scene than ever Joseph and Mary saw in the village of Bethlehem on the edge of the desert. I saw a Christmas crib in France where the figures showed the curé (priest) choir and congregation, crowding the steps to welcome Mary and Joseph. The maker evidently wanted to show that the story had changed and that there was "room at the inn." The local inn-keeper was there with a large flagon of beer for the thirsty travellers.

Small figures have a great advantage. I have often been astonished at the huge life size figures in Irish and Scotch cribs, all made of plaster, usually chipped. It is never long before the ox loses his horns and the ass his tail. There is hardly ever room for it in a small church.

These cribs miss the very soul of a crib, because the heart of a crib lies in the personal love and care that goes into the making of it. Then, the crib means something, and the smaller the figures the neater they are, and the more skill they show.

Until a few years ago the crib, in England, was regarded as a Popish

thing. Only Catholics have cribs. To-day the Anglican and Evangelical Churches are making cribs. It is rather astonishing to walk up the main street of Canterbury and to see a fully stocked crib in the main window of Woolworths. There is a little arcade in Maidstone that houses a Christmas crib and it is always a delight to children and grown ups. There are hundreds of window cribs in private houses. It is always interesting to see applications to town councils and local authorities for permission to put a crib in some place or other where local permission is required. In nearly every case permission is given unless there is a substantial reason for not giving it.

It is all to the good! I don't know if it proves that religion is coming back or not, but it does show that the Christmas story hasn't yet been entirely forgotten.

Why not let the children make their own Christmas crib and dress their little doll like figures as best they can? I will be glad to hear if anyone takes up the idea. Don't aim at perfection. Love and simplicity are the keynote of it all. A child will love what a child does, even if to the eyes of an adult it is crudely done.

In the old French cribs there was always a character who could be called "the wonder man," the man who was ravished, astonished and overcome by the wonder of it all. He was usually displayed waving his hat and quite hysterical at the idea of Mary and Joseph and the child born in a manger. Sometimes the "wonder man" was just simply "Daddy, himself," the father who was filled with Christmas good cheer.

Our Coming Novenas

SAINT JUDE

Dec. 16th — Dec. 24th

THE DIVINE INFANT of PRAGUE

Dec. 24th — Jan. 2nd

THE HOLY FAMILY

Jan. 3rd — Jan. 11th

A Happy Christmas

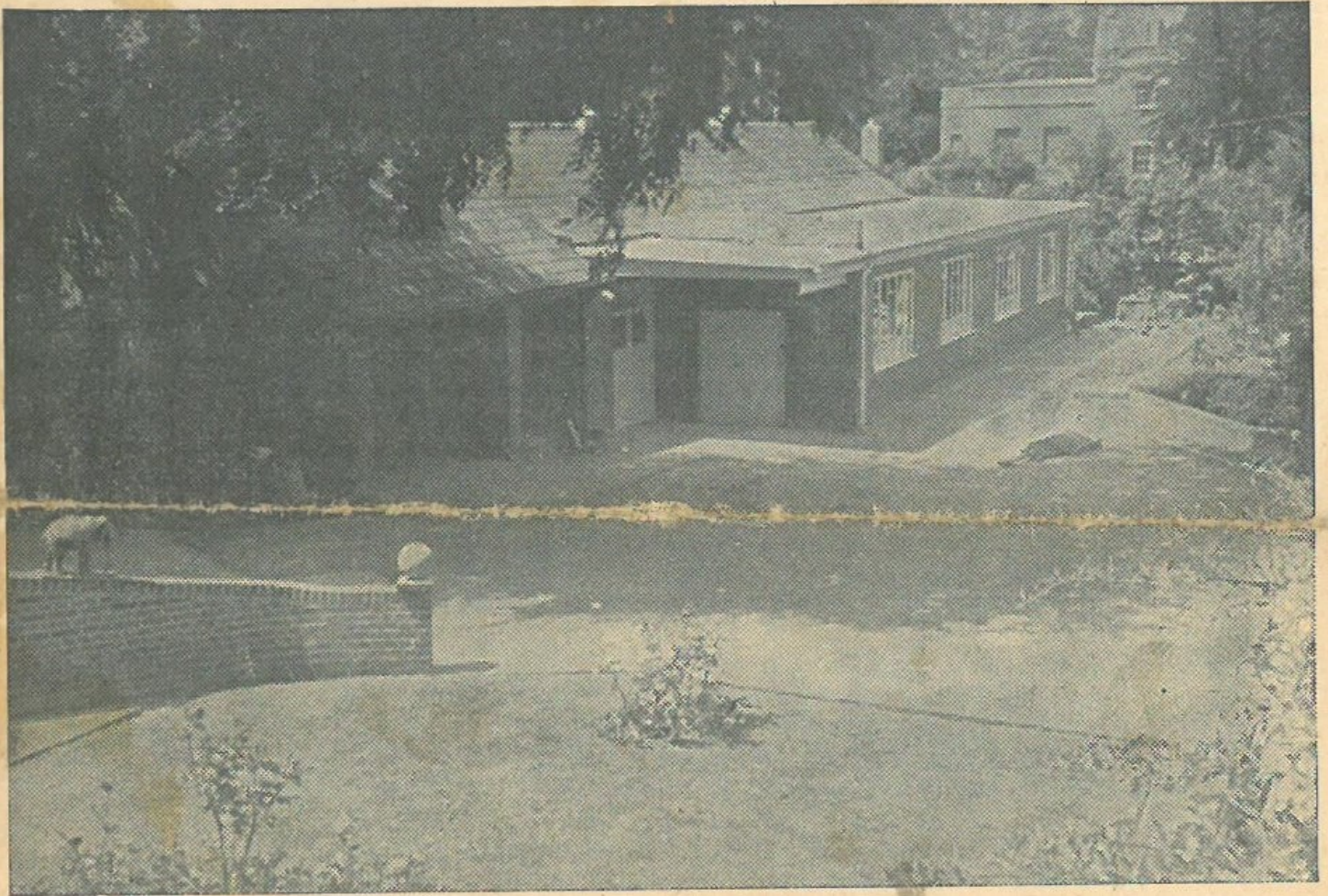
and may the Blessings of the Holy Season come down on you from the Holy Child as you kneel at the Manger.

OUR CARMELITE PRESS

We have extended and modernised the Carmelite Press. We are now equipped to deal with most requirements in letterpress and lithography; anything that doesn't involve book binding. All our pictures, in black and white and in colour, are printed on our Press.

The new extension is beautifully

bright, takes the sunshine, and the inside walls are painted in pleasing colours. Central heating is by an oil burning, thermostatically controlled plant. The working conditions are as good as we can make them. The floors are tiled to eliminate sticky oil and dust. We hope to further extend its range of work in the future.



THE CARMELITE PRESS

A NEW SAINT ?

At the moment we are printing original pictures of Cardinal Newman. The Archbishop of Birmingham has appointed an historical commission to enquire into his cause, to see if there is just reason for his canonisation. Last year I asked Michael Leigh, an established and really competent Catholic artist, to paint us two studies of the Cardinal in colour. One shows him as a student at Oxford, and the other as the aged Cardinal lined by the cares of

life. Both pictures turned out well and we are hoping that cards in prayer book size, will be widely adopted by those who wish to further the cause of the Holy Cardinal.

These pictures with a prayer for his canonisation, will soon be ready in full colour. They should interest all Catholics—the Irish as well—because he was above all responsible for an Irish Catholic university system that was not tinged with the taint of Trinity and of Elizabeth.

ADOPTING THE St. JUDE BURSE No. 2

When we were building the Shrine of St. Jude and adding the necessary ornamentation, we found that people readily adopted the idea of giving something definite to the



Shrine; something they could picture to themselves in their own minds, such as a lamp in honour of one of the twelve Apostles. There are twelve lamps in the Shrine, and all have been gladly subscribed by clients of St. Jude. Also, the altar fitments came quickly enough from their generosity; the windows and ceramics as well. Can we suggest now that our clients adopt the St. Jude Bourse No. 2 for the education of Carmelite students to the priesthood.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

You would not think that a printers' strike would affect us, but it did. In the beginning of the year we purchased a number of designs for Christmas cards. They were very good. Before we could get the plates made (from which the designs are printed) along came the strike and the plate makers told us that they could

not deliver for two months. That made it too late, so this year we shall have to do our best with what we have in hand. We can send you half a dozen cards with envelopes to match for half a crown.

RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

One of my staff has just turned round to say that it is getting near Christmas and I oughtn't to talk so much about dying. Well, that is just the point! Round Christmas time people suffer awful bouts of indigestion and it makes them think of another and a better world. By the time Christmas is over, this mood has definitely settled in, and then along comes New Year with demands for income tax, insurance, car tax and all the rest. Why not then renew your membership to our Societies and send us something as well as all the rest?

... Do your best and you are bound to succeed—there is so little competition.
Edinburgh. F. Marian McNeill.

"Anyone who remains calm in this confusion, simply does not understand the situation."
Alton. R. G. Debenham.

... Blessed are they who go around in circles, for they shall be called the Big Wheels.
London, E.8. Ralph Fen.

BAKED OR FRIED

A Cannibal chief on a cruise for his health had booked a passage on a luxury liner. With some misgiving, the dining steward guided him to a seat by himself, and upon request brought his strange passenger the ship's wine list.

After the cannibal had ordered and consumed several drinks, the steward decided that it was time to intervene. "Would you like to consider the menu?" he asked, producing a beautiful folded card.

"No, thank you," replied the cannibal politely, handing it back. "Just bring me the passenger list."

THANKS

Thanks to St. Jude—Good time girl settles down to steady job, prospects good. M. E. M. Co. Durham.

Thanks to St. Jude—Ex clerical student recovers health and becomes Solicitor. M. E. M. Co. Durham.

Grateful thanks to St. Jude and St. Anthony for recovery from illness. (Mrs.) A. A. McCoy.

Thanks to St. Jude for favour received. A. H. Skipton.

Grateful thanks to St. Jude.

H. D'A. I.

Grateful thanks to Our Lady of the Rosary for successful operation.

M. Gallacher.

Grateful thanks to Our Lady, Sacred Heart, St. Jude, St. Christopher.

D. Berrill.

Thanks to the Sacred Heart, Our Lady, Saints Joseph, Teresa, Anthony, Jude, and Child Jesus of Prague for prayers answered. H. Goodwin.

Grateful thanks to Our Lady, St. Joseph, and St. Jude, for a favour received. M. H.

Thanks to St. Anthony and Holy Souls for favour received. "G"

Thanks to Fr. Titus Brandsma for favour received. Mrs. K. Parker, Manchester.

Thanks to St. Jude for recovery of Brother. J. Nolan, Co. Carlow.

Everlasting thanks for favours received. K. B.

Grateful thanks to Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Jude, St. Philomena, and St. Anthony for favour received.

M. A. Walker, Preston.

Grateful thanks to the Sacred Heart and Our Lady for favours received. P. Acton.

Thanksgiving to dear good St. Jude for help. I. M. and R. M. Barbados.

Grateful thanks to St. Therese for prayers answered. P. D.

Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart, Our Lady, and the Saints for Prayers answered. M. T. Tettenhall.

Thanks to St. Jude for favour received. M. D., London.

My grateful thanks to St. Jude, Divine Infant of Prague for recovery from T.B. "M. H."

Grateful thanks to Our Lady, St. Jude, and the Saints for good health again. Mrs. M. Bennett, Liverpool.

Grateful thanks, Sacred Heart, Our Lady, St. Jude, and St. Joseph for favours received. Merthyr Tydfil.

Grateful thanks, Our Lady, St. Jude, St. Rita, Blessed Martin for favours received. M. Donnelly, Durham.

Grateful thanks, Sacred Heart, Our Lady, St. Jude, and St. Michael for favour received. "Highgate"

Very many thanks to Our Lady and St. Jude for many favours received. Matthias O. Asielue, Ibadan, Nigeria.

Grateful thanks to St. Jude for favour received. R. Mulligan.

Thanks to Sacred Heart, Our Lady and St. Jude. P. Griffin.

In Memoriam—Gertrude Boffa, R.I.P. Paula, Malta.

OUR BURSES

	Already acknowledged				Increase		
The St. Jude Burse No. 2 ...	£407	11	6	now	£457	11	6
Holy Child of Prague Burse ...	27	1	0		28	1	0
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Burse ...	14	1	6		14	11	6
Our Lady of Lourdes Burse ...	11	0	6		12	0	6
Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Burse	40	15	0		42	15	0
Little Flower Burse ...	17	7	6		18	7	6
Sacred Heart Burse ...	11	15	0		12	15	0
St. Anthony Burse ...	13	7	6		14	17	6
St. Joseph Burse ...	10	10	0		11	10	0
St. Kilian's Burse ...	6	10	0		7	0	0

A happy Christmas to you all.

Our Lady keep you! Yours in Carmel

M. E. Lynch O.C.