

THE CARMELITE NEWS

Whitefriars, Faversham, Kent.

Sept.—Oct. Number, 1947

MY VISIT TO ROME.

The last time I wrote, I was about to leave for Rome to attend the General Chapter of the Order. Rome has changed amazingly in 21 years and I hardly knew the place. It must be the noisiest city on earth—no silencers on cars, motor cycles, or lorries. The people get really alive at about eleven at night and then out comes the old concertina. Their voices are pitched about three tones higher than we are accustomed to, so that one gets the impression that they are trying to shout each other down. It is nothing worse than a leisurely release of spirits after the heat of a sweltering day.

The General Chapter was impressive and interesting. The Cardinal Protector was ill and could not preside, but he sent the Vice Regent of Rome in his stead. It was a joy to hear the Latin sentences roll off his tongue as he gave the opening address, and I found myself wondering if in any language under the sun can human thought and dignity be expressed with such order and grace as in the speech of the Ancient Romans.

The great business of the Chapter was the election of a new General. The choice fell on Very Rev. Edward Kilian Lynch, Provincial of the New York province. As I went forward in my turn to kiss his hand before the Altar in token of obedience, I kept saying to myself "Isn't it queer to be going up to kiss the hand of your youngest brother as Prior General of the Order?"

Of course it wasn't queer, because I felt very proud of him, and I felt prouder still of the old Irish province of the Carmelites that it had now given for a second time a Prior General to the Carmelites.

Fr. Kilian is the youngest of a family of nine brothers and four sisters, and like the rest he was born in the Wicklow Mountains near the Vale of Avoca. May God prosper his efforts in the land of Carmel.

When the Chapter was over we were all received in solemn audience by His Holiness. I have seen three Popes—Benedict XV, Pius XI, and now Pius XII. When one goes to see the pope one is overwhelmed by the pomp and splendour of the Vatican. The Swiss Guards in their slashed uniforms of yellow and blue standing with halberds at the doors; the papal police in black busbies and white breeches,—one always wonders how they ever get into those big patent leather boots that come up nearly to their thighs. Then the Noble Guard at the doors of the Antechamber. Even in their ordinary uniform of blue and gold they look resplendent, but one should see them on a festal day. Top boots, white breeches and scarlet coats, topped by a helmet burnished like the sun and down behind from the peak of the helmet the tail of a horse so black that it must come from the wild horses of the Tartar steppes.

It is customary to say that all popes are charming, and because they are Christ's Vicar on earth that they are holy and wise. They can be all these things and yet one may not see it.

I do not ever remember seeing any man in which God's kindly light shone so truly as in the present pope. He is lovely. He looks thin, worn and old, and yet he moves with the grace of a bird. He gives you the impression that he is not of this world at all, that somehow he has just come and may not stay long. When he speaks he has a soft mellow voice and you know that he is gentle and kind. I am glad God gave me the grace to see him, because I prayed for him all through the war.

The Father General brought him round and introduced each member of the Chapter to him. He asked me where I worked and I told him. I begged of him a special blessing for all the members of our three societies and for all who help in our work, and he freely gave it.

"I give you a special blessing he said, because of the Father General."

Well, you all share in this, my dear members, and I send his blessing to you, as it came to me.

THE CARMELITE HOLY SOULS SOCIETY AND DEAD LIST.

R. I. P.

We ask you to read the little folder we enclose on the November Dead List.

The Dead List is very important to us, because it is one of the main supports of our student fund.

We have increased the number of students this year, because we have now the Rhodesian Mission to care for, and we intend to further increase the number of students for the Missions as funds will allow.

Our students receive a University education as far as their capacity will allow. A missionary priesthood should be a well educated priesthood.

You can help us in three ways with funds; by putting us in touch with boys who show promise of a vocation; and by praying for our work. Boys may join the Order with a view to working as priests on the African or Welsh Mission, but of course every religious must remain under orders of the Provincial as to what he is to do, or where he is to work. The will of his superior is the voice of God.

Our Coming Novenas.

	FEAST DAY	NOVENA
The Little Flower	Oct. 3rd	Sept. 25th—Oct. 3rd
St. Jude	Oct. 28th	Oct. 20th—Oct. 28th

THE INTERCESSION OF ST. JUDE.

Dear Rev. Father,

Enclosing 5/- P.O. as offerings of thanks to St. Jude for favours granted. Please publish the following paragraph in your editorial.

"I sat a very important examination and was certain I did not do so well in it. Failure would have meant a great take down and worry. However I prayed hard to St. Jude for good results and thanks be to himself I did receive good news. St. Jude has never failed me, and I have been in many a difficulty, but through devotion to him I got over all. My family has adopted him as one of our patrons and since doing so we have been rewarded."

(Signed), "A HOPELESS CASE."

Thanks to St. Jude for accommodation. Anon.

Recovery of husband from serious illness when there was no hope. Mrs. McMARRAY.

PARADE.

"There's no hurry."

The devil once was dissatisfied by the poor returns of all his efforts—so few people were arriving in hell. So he summoned a conference of his three Assistant Chief Devils, to see what could be done about it. The first said: "I'll go up into the world and tell everybody that there is no Heaven."—"That has been tried before," objected old Nick, "and it didn't work. They wouldn't believe it."—"Well," said the second A.C.D., "let me go up and tell everybody that there's no hell."—"They wouldn't believe that either," said his nibs, "they know better."

He turned to the third A.C.D. and asked: "Can't you suggest something?"

"Oh yes," replied this genius. "I won't tell them that there's no Heaven, or no hell, but I'll say that there is—No Hurry."

He did, too, and multitudes believed him, and soon they had to open a new wing down below.

* * *

Irishmen, whether Protestant or Catholic, somehow or another seem to be good friends abroad. Their relations at home tend to be a little strained, so they enjoy telling stories against each other. You may have heard the one about the Orangeman who lived in the same building as a catholic. Every morning as he passed down the stairs he gave a little kick at the door of the Catholic and said, "To h—l with the Pope." Then the Pope died, so he omitted the observance until the new Pope was elected. Then he started off again. As chance would have it, he fell down the stairs and broke his leg so they telephoned for an ambulance. As he was being carried away the Catholic put his head out of the window and said to him, "You won't find the new man as soft as the old one."

The little more . . .

Overheard in Whitehall: "Why be difficult darling, when, with a little patience, you could be impossible?"

THE COLLEGE IN THE NEWS AGAIN!

A Dream realised.

In the last issue of *The Carmelite News* we told you that we were preparing the way to open the new College at Llandilo in Carmarthenshire.

Father Malachy, the former Prior of St. Mary's College, Aberystwyth was given the task of planning the alterations and renovations necessary to put the new property in working order. This was no easy task. Great difficulties were encountered from many quarters. At last the licenses required to carry out such work were obtained.

Thank God, all difficulties were overcome, and the New College will be opened towards the end of September.

Everybody knows how difficult it is to staff an establishment in these days. There again, Providence has been on our side. Any shortage in hired labour has been made good by the most generous help of voluntary and enthusiastic helpers.

Another great problem today is the food problem. One of the great difficulties of the war was the problem of feeding a College of boys out of the shop. St. Mary's College in Aberystwyth had only one acre of ground. We could not have our own vegetables nor keep our own poultry. This experience persuaded us never to attempt that proposition again. When buying the new College we also secured a farm of seventy-five acres of land. Now we shall be able to provide from our own farm the eatables necessary to keep boys in good health.

We intended the College to house forty to fifty boys. The number of applicants for admission stands around the fifty mark.

Most of these boys are to study for the priesthood on the Welsh Mission. Our new College will therefore be the training ground for the future Apostles of Wales. The Catholic history of Wales is unlike that of most Protestant countries. Wales never voluntarily gave up the Faith. Catholicism simply died out owing to the lack of priests. Wales today needs priests and missionaries with a burning zeal to bring back the Faith of her fathers. The life of the average priest in Wales is a lonely and isolated one. There are few large towns in the Country. The Catholic population is concentrated mostly in the seaside places. Catholics in the countryside are few and far between. We can then well imagine what the life of a Welsh priest in a country parish is like. These circumstances must be taken into account in the training of boys for the Welsh Mission. Llandilo is a typical Welsh country town, the future Apostles of Wales shall be acclimatised there to the atmosphere of the field of their future missionary activities.

Without your generous help this dream could never be realised. I am deeply grateful to you for your magnificent response to our appeal for this new venture. Remember that we are only commencing a great missionary effort we will still need your continued support and prayers, which we are sure will be most enthusiastically forthcoming.

Our Lady keep you!

Yours in Carmel,

M. E. LYNCH, O.Carm.