

THE CARMELITE NEWS

Whitefriars, Faversham, Kent.

February—March Number, 1948

May we wish you all a happy and a prosperous New Year.

There was a time when we looked forward to the end of the war, and we were simple enough to think that it would be the end of our troubles. We did not believe the prophets who told us that it would only be the beginning of the end. Certain it is that now we find the post-war period far more difficult than the days of war. Paper supplies are precarious, labour is difficult and taxation is enormous.

I need not tell you of this because it is the common experience of us all. Nevertheless, we must plan for the future in spite of it; and while we take note of the difficulties of the times we must not forget to thank God for the many blessings he has showered upon us.

I make an apology for inflicting on you such a volume of legality in the beginning of a New Year, so to ask your forgiveness, I will talk to you about ideas that have been in the background of my mind for a long time.

As you may imagine, we receive an enormous volume of correspondence. People seek our advice upon almost every conceivable subject. It is my duty to be their adviser upon a host of subjects ranging from religious vocation, to choice of career, for marriage difficulties, to spiritual problems and the practical conduct of every day affairs. I am very glad to be able to help our clients in every way that I can, and I make a strong effort never to fail an enquiry.

There is one matter upon which I have had to write many letters. It concerns the leaving of a sum of money or the residue of an estate to charitable and religious purposes. It does not concern us particularly, but very often people write to me to say that they wish to leave a sum of money to a church or to a priest, to benefit the church or the priest, or to a religious Order for missionary purposes, or to a religious congregation of nuns, and they enquire of me "How do I word it?" so that when the will comes to be proved there may be no dispute about the matter.

Well, I think that I can answer many of these enquiries (and diminish my post) by sending you two forms of bequest. The first form concerns the leaving of a fixed sum of money in favour of a church, a religious congregation or a charitable purpose, and all you have to do is to change the name of the charity and it will be perfectly valid.

The second form concerns the residue of an estate. It is sometimes difficult to estimate in a will what will be left after all claims have been satisfied. The residue may be great or small, but in these modern days it is difficult to estimate exactly what may be left. It is a pious practice to leave the residue of an estate for religious purposes. I have therefore given a form of bequest that gathers up the tag ends of an estate in favour of charity.

Both forms have been made out in favour of the St. Mary's College Building and Missionary Fund, but of

course the name can be varied in favour of any other religious charity that you may prefer.

I will briefly tell you about the St. Mary's College Building and Missionary Fund. Here, in the Carmelite Monastery at Faversham we have the Carmelite Press. It is simply a printing press that supplies the literature and propaganda of three societies, e.g., The Holy Child Society, The Little Flower Society, and The Society of St. Jude. These three societies have a certain income, and when the running costs have been paid, the profits (memberships, donations, etc.) are invested in what is called the St. Mary's Building and Missionary Fund. This fund looks after the education of students, the equipment of colleges, the purchase of sites for missionary expansion in England, Wales and Rhodesia. In time we hope to expand this missionary work on a much wider basis.

Well, I have suggested to you quietly and without any insistence that this charitable missionary purpose might find a response in your heart. I am not a high pressure and insistent propagandist, even in the interest of the St. Mary's College Building and Missionary Fund. I do no more than humbly suggest that you may consider our efforts worthy of recognition. You may have other loves and preferences. All are good! Do not let me persuade you against them, because whatever is done for charity is done for the Love of Our God, and what is denied to one is no injury to another.

The St. Mary's College Building and Missionary Fund is a Trust Fund recognised by the Charity Commissioners, and any bequests made to the fund are smoothly received.

Our Coming Novenas.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES, Feb. 3rd—11th.

ST. PATRICK, March 9th—17th.

ST. JOSEPH, March 11th—19th.

The Intercession of St. Jude

Dear Reverend Father,

Will you accept my small donation of 10/- for your Dead List and 5/- for The Little Flower. I hope and pray that you have every success with the new college you have just opened.

I must tell you of a little incident that happened just twelve months ago. We are a family of six (a very happy one) thanks be to God. Our eldest daughter Anne was taken seriously ill. After having *three different doctors* to her, each one said Meningitis. She was rushed to hospital, and I cannot tell you how terribly upset we were, but I would not give up hope and prayed hard to St. Jude, and had Masses said. To our amazement the fourth day in hospital, hubby and I went in to see her, and the sister called us aside, and asked us if we should like to see Anne. She said she could not make the case out at all. The doctors were puzzled, too. When we saw her we were overjoyed. She was sitting up in bed

THE CARMELITE NEWS

looking lovely. Thanks to St. Jude, and the Sacred Heart, she was home with us in less than a month, and the hospital staff could not understand and did not know what was wrong, although she had every symptom of Meningitis.

The priest from the church nearby says it was a miracle, and I definitely think it was.

St. Jude is, and always will be our family patron saint. Please remember us all in your prayers and we shall not forget you.

Yours sincerely,
(Mrs.) M. B. F.

* * *

My Dear Father,

I hope you will yourself read this little letter, which comes with a small thanksgiving offering to St. Jude. (You will find the best use for it).

It is not much more than a week or so ago that I wrote to you telling you of a most distressed young woman, an Italian, at our church, and asking very specially the prayers of St. Jude on her behalf. Well, these prayers are already answered, and surely this is another case of miraculous help. The cause of her unhappiness had been many months long and then someone said "We must turn to St. Jude!" This was done, and prayers for her were made at your own Shrine. And now all is well and happy, and yesterday our little friend received the Holy Communion (and also today) at our little church of the Immaculate Conception here. We are filled with a great gratitude and joy.

Yours very sincerely,
(Mrs.) D. M. H.

* * *

Dear Father Lynch,

I wrote to you just before the Novena of The Little Flower. I also asked your special prayers for my husband whom all doctors had given up, even before the novena. A specialist examined him and told me he could never work again. A friend of mine sent me a card with the rose on it, also the print on the rose of The Little Flower. Something came over me and I put my trust and heart in the novena. He was examined again a week after the novena and was found cured. Twice the doctor got the cardographs of the heart taken. All was perfect and he has gone back to work, starting with three days each week. Is it not wonderful?

I wrote to my friend asking her if she had another card. The chemist where I was getting the prescriptions since 1943 asked me if I could get him one. Would it be too much to ask you for a couple as everyone is asking me. Everyone says it is so wonderful.

Please remember him in your holy prayers.

Yours very gratefully,
A. T.

The White Cliffs of Dover.

Some friends of mine came to Faversham recently for a holiday. Of course they were interested in fruit because we are a celebrated fruit area, but primarily they were interested in the White Cliffs of Dover. These, they wanted to see before anything else. I warned them beforehand that there were not any blue birds around,

but had they given me sufficient notice I could have had some dyed in Ricketts Blue so that they should not have been disappointed.

I wonder, however, if seagulls are so impudent anywhere as in Dublin. I was looking out of the window of our Convent in Whitefriars Street one day last summer and I saw a seagull coming down and stealing the bread out of the hand of a little girl standing at an open window opposite. She looked very surprised and startled but it was not long before the seagull came back for more. The little girl saw the possibilities of a new game so went to her mother and got more bread and this too went down the seagull's neck. Then the mother found out what was happening and came and banged the window.

A few days later I was walking up Camden Street with some English friends. The shops were full of stockings, clothes, meat, sausages and indeed everything you could wish to see, but they were not one bit interested in the shops. They were far more interested in the antics of the seagulls. One of them had spied women selling sprats from an old fish woman's barrow, and they were intensely amused to see her fighting off a seagull with a pot stick. (By the way, a pot stick is a stick about 3-ft. long used for stirring the porridge while it is boiling). Long boiling makes them as hard as iron and they are much better than a policeman's baton in a street fight. Seeing that my friends were so interested, I went over to the fish woman and said to her "Do the seagulls often steal your fish." "Only when we have sprats, Father, herrings are too big for them." I afterwards found the explanation why the seagulls were so daring. These old women use to gut the herrings and throw the guttings into the gutter where they were immediately devoured by the seagulls. Many years ago the Dublin Corporation tried to stop street trading by declaring that these fish-women created a nuisance, and one of the arguments against the fish-women was that they threw the offal of the fish into the gutter. It was very cleverly argued on their behalf that this was the quickest, cleanest and most effective way of disposing of it because the seagulls gobbled it up almost before it hit the ground. The Corporation did succeed in moving them from the footpath into the street. When a demonstration of gut disposal was given the seagulls nearly ate the demonstrator.

* * *

Sometime ago I found myself in hospital at a sort of super clinic in North Wales. Luckily I was not seriously ill and was soon back at work again. I was only a day or so in the place when I had a deputation from the kitchen to know if I was any relation to Father Lynch of Faversham, and when I confessed the guilty truth I became an object of general curiosity to the whole staff. Even the matron who is a Scotch Presbyterian and the dead image of Queen Victoria came along to investigate.

I thought that Queen Victoria was dead but it is a grave historical blunder. I couldn't possibly be mistaken because once I had to look at her picture opposite my bed for two lonely years, in the house of a Quaker. That old lady left me undying memories of her personality.

Our Lady keep you!

Yours in Carmel,

M. E. LYNCH, O.Carm.