

The **CARMELITE NEWS**

WHITEFRIARS
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MANIFESTO.

A HAPPY New Year to you all!

I usually make a Manifesto at the beginning of the year, to thank you for what you have done for us in the year that is gone, to tell you what we are doing, and what we propose to do in the year to come.

1. We never ask for money.
2. We will tell you what we are trying to do. If you have the goodwill to help us, we will be thankful indeed.
3. Our great need is to educate our young student priests; someone to carry on. That is a universal need of the

Church; not merely of Diocesan organisations but also, of Religious Orders. On our part, it is not a responsibility that we can neglect. We are entitled to place our needs before you; we are not entitled to exercise any kind of pressure on you. We leave that to Divine Providence and to your goodwill. Easy does it! and let us keep a gay heart in spite of it all. At my age in life, I can say that nothing can happen to me now that has not happened to me before, so why worry. As the Belfast man said to the banana boy, "Keep pushing the barrow on."

May every blessing come to you in 1953.

Scapular History

LOURDES

SEVENTEEN times Bernadette had seen the Lady of the Grotto between the dates of February 11th and April 7th. Thereafter for three months the fourteen-year-old girl went daily to pray at the Grotto. Still there was no sign of the Immaculate Virgin. There was really no great reason why she should appear again. Bernadette had received the full message of Lourdes and had already given a full account of all she had been privileged to witness.

The multitude of pilgrims was increasing every day and the Grotto was already famous. The populace were convinced of the truth of the visions and full of confidence in Our Lady's power to help them. Yet the civil authorities were more active than ever in railing off the Grotto and discouraging the people. The Church kept aloof in official silence.

Bernadette was anxiously praying for one more appearance of the Virgin, if only to dispel the official suspicion and convince the authorities of her truthfulness. Her hope was realised.

JULY 16th

With an aunt and two other companions she repaired to the Grotto. The usual crowds of people were absent owing to the attitude of the police, who would, had they known, have prevented even this small party from approaching the Grotto.

The day was the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the 16th July, 1858. St. Bernadette always said that Our Lady was particularly beautiful that day. The light in which she appeared was never so vivid, Her aspect and bearing never so graceful or dignified.

So enraptured was Bernadette by that last vision of Our Lady Immaculate that the river, the Grotto, the place of vision, everything and everyone around her vanished as if they did not exist. In the happiness of the Vision, she was as one no longer of this world; such was the ecstasy.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

The coincidence of this Apparition with the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was noted by Catholics at the time it happened. To-day, after the far more striking appearance of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Fatima to Lucy in 1917, that coincidence of Lourdes can hardly be regarded as fortuitous.

The Church, in approving many devotions which honour Our Lady under the varied manifestations of Her glories and Her virtues, has always pursued the single intention of paying homage to Mary. Under diversity of form that intention gives unity of purpose to all our devotions, each of which has its appeal to the maternal Heart of Our Heavenly Patroness.

Is it not fair to say that the Virgin of the Grotto and of the Cova da Iria wished to associate the Patronage of Carmel with her new honours? Surely she was paying a compliment to Carmel in Lourdes and Fatima and saying, in effect, that the lustre of Her latest prodigies was to reflect her approval on the ancient homage of Carmel.

And who shall presume to measure the work for souls accomplished by Our Lady's inspiration at Lourdes and Fatima? It is good to know that Carmel is as dear as ever to Her Heart.



CARMEL IN PORTUGAL

Portugal, the country which Our Lady of Fatima chose for the Apparitions, was always devoted to the Mother of God, and, in particular, to the Queen of Carmel. As in the neighbouring country of Spain. Carmelites made an early conquest of this Catholic nation for their Celestial Mother. Thus, when the national hero of Portugal had liberated his country from the oppression of the kingdom of Castile, he consummated a noble life spent in his country's cause by entering Carmel as a humble lay brother. Here after eight years of truly mortified life he gave his soul to God in 1431.

Still regarded as the Saviour of Portugal he is also revered as Blessed Nonio (Nuno) Alvarez Pereira.

As a result of his military victories, Portugal achieved greatness as a commercial power. The "Holy Constable" had a deep devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Those who reaped the reward of his victory showed a similar loyalty.

Everywhere the Portugese missionaries went in the wake of their military and commercial colonists they planted devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the hearts of their flocks. Secularism and anti-clericalism however, got a foothold, which in time led to the revolution of 1820, which spelled national disaster for the Church and education. Confiscation and conversion of monastic and other ecclesiastical property was rendered all the easier by the legal suppression of all the orders of clerics, brothers and nuns.

Work for the Church's rehabilitation was slow and insecure, even after the Revolution of 1910 (which swept away the monarchy) and the Concordat of 1911.

The Church has been working in far more favourable conditions for a score or more years now, a healthy atmosphere of co-operation characterising the behaviour of State authority towards the clergy. Portugal has been classed by connoisseurs as the ideal State from the social guild system everywhere evident. The deep faith of its population lives on unimpaired by time, and part of it is the abiding affection for Our Lady of Carmel.

In a single day last year the Lord Bishop of Leiria, to whose diocese Fatima belongs, enrolled 40,000 pilgrims in the Scapular of Carmel. The statue of Our

Lady of Mount Carmel was borne from Lisbon, the capital, to Madrid, through several intermediate towns, stopping for a while in each place, and received everywhere, including the Shrine of Fatima, with intent interest, acclamation and reverence. Over 16,000 people were enrolled in the diocese of Lisbon alone.

Very recently our Portugese Carmelites have had the happiness of seeing their convent at Braga raised to the status of a Carmelite Missionary seminary. For its success they implore the patronage of Our Lady of Fatima.

OUR COMING NOVENAS

OUR LADY OF LOURDES	-	Feb. 3rd — Feb. 11th
SAINT JOSEPH and SAINT PATRICK	-	March 9th — March 19th
SAINT JUDE EASTER NOVENA	-	April 4th — April 12th

THE FEASTS OF MARCH AND APRIL.

THE great national Feast of St. Patrick occurs on the 17th March. The thought that strikes us is that we in the home country make it more a secular than a religious and spiritual occasion. In recent years it can hardly be said to bring large congregations to the Sacraments. Parents should give the younger generation the lead and inspiration in this aspect of the National Holiday.

Our National Army gives, in its public-religious ceremonies in the Feast, an example many might follow with advantage.

Our exiles abroad should, in their loyalty to the National Apostle, be an inspiration to us to prevent the grand holiday from degenerating into just

another public holiday.

Wearers of the scapular should have great devotion to their heavenly protector, St. Joseph. His feast-day is March 19th.

The great feast of Our Lady's Annunciation is no longer a holiday of obligation, but we should regard the 25th March as a day of special devotion. Our Lady of Lourdes chose this feast to disclose her identity to St. Bernadette in the now famous words: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

The feast of Our Lady's Seven Dolours on April 6th, brings us near the ceremonies of Holy Week and the greatest feast of the year, that of Our Lord's Resurrection.

A Word in Season.

Congratulations to Miss Philomena McCluskey the Stewardess of the Aer Lingus plane "St. Kieran" which crashed near Birmingham. "Fasten your seat belts, and pray hard." They did, and twenty-two of them walked out alive.

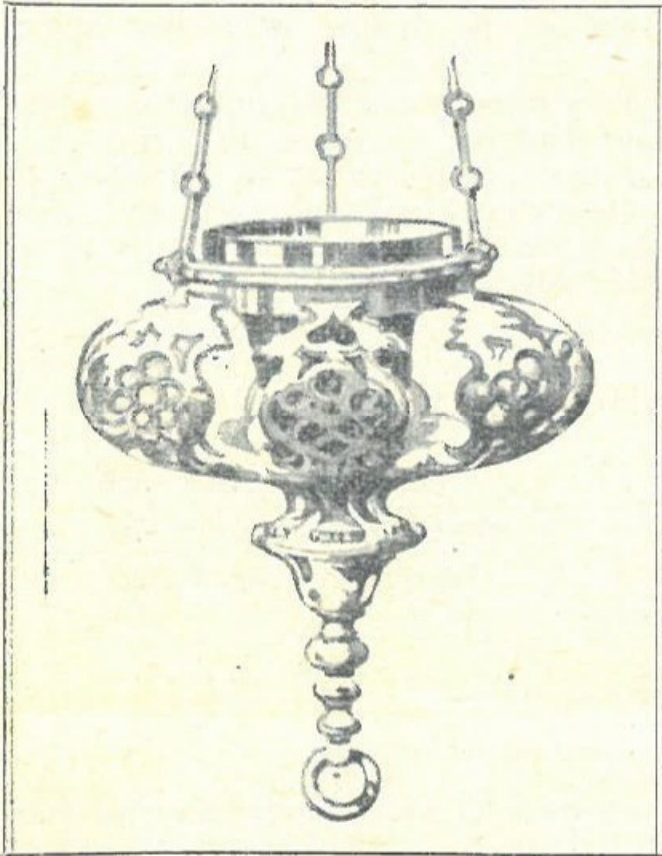
It is given to us perhaps only a few

times in our lives to say the right thing, at the right time, in the right place. She did. We wish her and the crew of "St. Kieran" many happy flights in the cause of air travel.

I always travel by Aer Lingus on my trips to Dublin.

VIGIL LIGHTS.

WE now have long burning vigil lights for the Shrines of the Little Flower, the Holy Child and St. Jude. They burn for eight days. It is a new system of enclosed wick.



The cost of an eight day vigil light is 5/6. A series of smaller vigil lights that burn for twelve hours costs eightpence each.

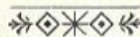
COLLECTION BOXES.

OUR collection boxes did very well in 1952. In fact, they brought in nearly £600. That is a lot of money to come out of the few collection boxes we have in distribution, and it shows the great interest of the collectors.

There is a most original pub in London presided over by two Irish women, called "The Horse and Groom." I don't know how they do it, but sometimes they return as much as £8 a month from the two collection boxes on the counter.

The girls of the "Gem" shops in Dublin are also very good. If we return grateful thanks to them please take it that we are also thanking you and the many others who are helping.

Our collection boxes are now working for our Burses. Every Religious Order must cope with the costs of educating priests to follow on. Every Bishop must do so as well. You are all familiar with the annual appeal by Bishops in favour of seminary funds. Even Bishops are not exempt from that law, it is the law of necessity. Well, we try to cope with the problem in our own ways. Our collection boxes are one way and if you adopt one of our collection boxes you become our ally. You help to solve a problem that is perennial.



		<i>Already acknowledged.</i>		<i>Increase.</i>
The St. Jude Burse No. 2	...	£357	8 10	now £405 18 10
Holy Child of Prague Burse	...	303	5 9	311 13 3
The Holy Face Burse	...	92	10 8	97 10 8
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Burse		125	2 0	146 4 6
Little Flower Burse	27	1 0	47 3 6
St. Anne Burse	2	13 6	4 16 0
St. Anthony Burse	2	1 6	5 1 6
St. Martha Burse	850	0 0	851 7 6
Sacred Heart Burse	312	0 0	313 17 6

Our Lady keep you! Yours in Carmel.

*M. E. Lynch
O.Carm*