

# THE CARMELITE NEWS

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WHITEFRIARS, FAVERSHAM, KENT

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## 1965

## AND BLESS YOU MY CHILDREN

I LIKE to tell a story, but not this one. It concerns rising costs, rising expenses, in fact spiralling costs in every direction in order to keep pace with the times. Paper costs rose very nearly 25 per cent in the last year—that includes envelopes. Wages have gone up sharply and now we are threatened with an increase in the postage rates.

Then again we are on the horns of a dilemma. We have thousands of people on our lists who are members, but never reply to us; we reckon that with postage costs, etc., every time we write to a member, and we write five times a year, it costs us about sixpence and that runs into a pile of money in the course of a year. But here is the dilemma. How does one judge whether the person to whom we are writing, and who doesn't reply, really wants to receive the "Carmelite News" and our other enclosures as well? You see, many of our people are old, many of them cannot see to read. Very often they must find someone to read the "Carmelite News" to them and if that relative or person is kind enough they will write and tell us how much the sick person enjoys it. Many of our old members are unable to write any longer. Sometimes they cannot gather their thoughts together in a way they would like to say, "Well, let it go." The last thing we wish to do is to deprive any of them disabled by the burden of life from receiving the "Carmelite News". It is written as a tonic paper for people who are cast down and perhaps feeling the strain of existence.

Yet we must be writing to many people who don't want to receive the "Carmelite News" at all, or who have lost interest in it. Perhaps the

novelty of it has worn off, or perhaps they are too busy to be bothered. If only these people would spare us a minute to send their names on a postcard to say 'please take my name off the list' it would save us great expense. Perhaps you would do this as a favour to us if we are bothering you.

Then we find that if we have been writing to a mother and she dies that the husband will continue the subscription. Sometimes it is taken up by a daughter, or indeed by a relative or friend, and in that way the link survives. We are always glad of new members; particularly members in the same family.

In our experience we have written to people for years because their names are on the list and we have never received a response, then suddenly someone dies in the family and we are remembered in bequest Masses or in some donation. Maybe by some bequest of Will or residue of estate.

Then we receive many replies from people whose name is incomplete because they do not state whether it is Mr., Mrs. or Miss. I know that after writing to us for a number of years we ought to know already, but we don't, because very often you will find a dozen people under the same name, but different initials, in our index, so we have to go through the index and ferret out which one has written. **AN EASY WAY TO GET OVER THAT IS TO RETURN THE ENVELOPE WE HAVE ADDRESSED TO YOU IN YOUR REPLY THEN WE SEE IMMEDIATELY WHO IT IS, WHICH ONE IT IS, AND USUALLY WE HAVE THE FULL ADDRESS.**

Increase of postage terrifies us



because when I first began writing through the post we were dealing with a ½d. post; now it is 2½d. for unsealed letters and 3d. for sealed, and the postage rate may go to 4d. It is easy to see how costs—paper, materials, labour and postage can jump by a £1,000 a year. So we must watch it. Will you please help us to keep costs within bounds?

Postage stamps are very useful to us. Eire postage stamps are not usable in England but we stick them on Eire postal orders and it increases their value and in that way we can cash them. This year we are sending out five draw tickets to each person, this means that we have to close the letters, postage costs will be 3d. on each envelope.

Well, we have been downhearted before, no doubt we will be downhearted again but something has always cropped up to keep us alive and we have no doubt that we will continue in the future with the help of our friends.

You know I started the "Carmelite News" during the last war as a tonic paper to cheer people up. Letters came into us by the thousands telling of sons and husbands lost at sea, either in the Royal or Merchant Navy; soldiers who perished on the battlefield; aircrews outward bound that never came back; hundreds of people who had been bombed out of their homes. In fact the totality of misery that we encountered was quite terrible. There is one little town in the South of Ireland, and its total population at the time was around six hundred men, women and children, of all ages—over seventy of its sons perished at sea or in the armed forces and you can imagine the accumulated grief of a little town like that. It seemed that seven out of ten people were going around in black. It was no uncommon sight to see mothers and sweethearts who sat in our church for hours on end until the very pews were soaked in their tears.

When the war was over I tried to stop the "Carmelite News" on the plea that it was too expensive to send out in our usual way. Being an enthusiast and something of an idealist I reckoned that if I could find

enough people to subscribe a 5/- annual membership fee to our three Societies we would cover the cost of writing to them. It was clear to me that I would have to keep on writing the "Carmelite News" because if I stopped people would write and ask the reason why. I did stop for one or two editions in the year after the war and the amount of private correspondence we had to answer explaining the reason why taught us that it was better to go on printing it because the alternative was unthinkable.

We have been the main force in popularising the devotion to St. Jude. In return St. Jude has become the sheet anchor of our student fund, because as financial procurator of the Anglo/Welsh Province of the Carmelites it is my duty to raise the funds to support students, to develop colleges, and the cost of this is rising year by year. It now costs as much to send a Carmelite student to our international college in Rome as it would to send a student to an English university; but it is a cost that we must face because otherwise we will be creating for the future a clique of narrow minded nationalistic young clergy who have no knowledge of the world outside, no knowledge of what Rome is, no knowledge of what the Universal Church really means. They will become insular, narrow minded, even bigoted. It is hard enough to live with clergy like that parochially, but it is hopeless to try to live with clergy like that in community.

Myself, I am an internationalist. I am a Carmelite. My roots go back to Mount Carmel; my contacts spread all over the land of Carmel, which is the world. I am no longer an Irishman, I am a Carmelite, an international man. I hope I am also a cultivated European. I despise any man who is less because we have suffered from them so much. Maybe if you scratch me too much you may find me different.

Well, this is to tell you that we will try to keep it going. There are a few points about the "Carmelite News". It is light and entertaining—at least we hope so. We never ask for money—like the Dublin jarvey,



"We love it to yourself, Ma'am." If you do not write at all we don't complain, we just feel sorry; then one day along comes a generous person and sends us a generous donation and we say that the world isn't such a bad place after all.

Maybe it is the residue of an estate. Maybe it is a life insurance policy. Maybe it is a remembrance in a Will. Sometimes it is anonymous. When a day like that comes I take a walk down the bottom of our garden, there a stream runs past, more like a pool than a stream because it moves so slowly. In hard weather the wild duck fly up the creek, those lovely little mallards and maybe the shel-drake, and they find quiet and shelter on its waters. I used to throw bread at them then hide behind the fence to see what would happen. They would wait a while and then swim out and take the bread before it floated too far away. They liked best of all Kellogg's corn puffs because they floated on top of the water. I say to the little mallards, "Good morning, ma'am; isn't it a very nice day!" Virtue is not its own reward, but it has its consolations. Sometimes we get a bouquet with a brick inside and you never know what has hit you until after.

In order to build up our index, we used to pick out names at random from newspapers until it became big enough for our needs. But we have been going twenty years. Colleges are not built in a day. Students leave or become ordained. Others take their places and the job is unending. Our list of names is getting smaller. Can you, either as a member, or as a disappearing member, send us on a sheet of paper the name of someone who would be glad to receive the "Carmelite News?" I promise that they will not be overpowered by any pressure from us. We write five times a year. The annual subscription is 5/- and we are never short of people who say that it is well worth it. Some of the stories told in the "Carmelite News" have become world famous. I am hoping to publish some of them in my reminiscences which I have been compiling for many years.

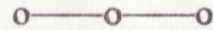
Alright my friend. If you can give

us a new name we will index it and they will receive the "Carmelite News" and other contents regularly.

It is a remarkable experience to have conducted a society like ours for over twenty years. Sometimes we write to people for years without any response at all, then suddenly someone in the family gets ill or someone dies, and they remember us in bequest Masses or even in a contribution.

MASS STIPENDS are very useful to us because we have many priests on the foreign missions. Priests who work in our colleges here in England receive very few stipends and we have a clearance policy by which Masses that come in during the week go out before the end of it. Try to remember that the priests who teach in our colleges teach without salaries; that students in our colleges seldom pay a fee, and that it is a valuable contribution towards the support of a house if a priest is able to say Mass at a 10/- or £1 stipend. It is like gathering straws to make a hay stack, but we gather the straws.

So, we leave it there for 1965. May good fortune attend you and may all your days dawn brightly.



Will they ever stop telling stories about Pope John 23rd! There is a story that has come straight from Rome about him, that one of the Cardinals died and was sent down to Purgatory for a session in order to cure his pomposity. To his surprise he saw Pope John sitting on a chair in a corner, so he went up to him and said, "Your Holiness, I am surprised to see you here." "Well," said Pope John, "they sent me here because I called the Vatican Council and they threatened not to let me out until it was over, but I think they will have to because the place has been crowded out ever since it started."



#### THANKS

Grateful thanks to St. Jude and the Sacred Heart for favours received.

P. Walsh, Barking.



# THANKS

My grateful thanks to Fr. Titus Brandsma for three wonderful favours received. Mary Towey

Grateful thanks to Fr. Titus Brandsma. Mrs. Malone, Offaly.

Grateful thanks to St. Jude, The Little Flower, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady Queen of the Holy Rosary, St. Peter of Alcantara, Forty Martyrs, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

Stockton-on-Tees

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(Mrs.) Josephine O'Rourke

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Thanksgiving for favour received, St. Jude and Holy Souls. M. Sweeney

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Many thanks St. Jude for success in examination. M.O'D., Co. Tipp.

Thanks St. Jude.

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M. C. Ballydoey, Roscommon.

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## OUR COMING NOVENAS

OUR LADY OF LOURDES - - -	Feb. 3rd — Feb. 11th
ST. JOSEPH AND ST. PATRICK - -	Mar. 10th — Mar. 19th
ST. JUDE - - - - -	Apr. 22nd — Apr. 30th

## OUR BURSES

	Already acknowledged	Increase
The St. Jude Burse No. 3 ...	993 7 6	997 7 6
Holy Child of Prague Burse ...	1,120 7 0	1,520 8 6
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Burse ...	489 16 0	490 16 0
Our Lady of Lourdes Burse ...	108 17 6	109 17 6
Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Burse	166 13 6	168 13 6
Little Flower Burse ...	877 15 0	878 5 0
Sacred Heart Burse ...	77 2 6	79 2 6
St. Anthony Burse ...	72 12 6	73 2 6
St. Joseph Burse ...	1,048 17 6	1,049 2 6
Holy Souls Burse ...	17 19 6	18 9 6
St. Martin de Porres Burse ...	9 19 6	10 9 6
St. Martha ...	2 7 6	2 17 6
Father Titus Brandsma ...	19 7 6	27 7 6

*M. E. Lynch O.T.*

Our Lady keep you! Yours in Carmel