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WHITEFRIARS — FAVERSHAM — KENT

SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER, 1975

The Carmelite News

Published by the Carmelites of England and Wales

BEYOND THE MIST

HOW the time flies. Here we are at the fall of the year again; an eventful year it has been for us. Fr. H. A. Brennan has been transferred to Aylesford. It is my pleasant task to write this as the new director of the Societies.

When we look out and see the golden leaves falling and making a crisp mat under our feet it reminds us of nature going to sleep for the Winter. Everything seems dead but it is in fact only a change which will come to life again in the Spring. In a way our lives are like that too. We come to the end of our life span on this earth and we die but it is not the end, it is the beginning. The Preface of the Mass for the Dead says, Life is but changed, not ended.

Unfortunately not all of us are sufficiently prepared to enter into that glorious life of everlasting happiness. We have some of the stain of sin to be wiped-out. The Church teaches us that these are wiped-out and purified in the fires of purgatory. Because we got our opportunities in this life to prepare for our entry into our heavenly home we will not be able to shorten our time in purgatory but our friends can by praying and inter-

ceding for us. We are members of one church. We are brothers in Christ and he hears the prayers of one on behalf of the other. This is why the Church always recommended and encouraged that we pray for the dead. Even in the Old Testament we find that praying for the dead "is a holy and wholesome thought that they may be loosed from their sins." For members of our Holy Souls Society a Mass is offered up each day of the year. I am sure that you do not need reminding to send the names of your family, relatives and friends to be inscribed in this Society.

Another of my tasks is in a way very pleasant but from another aspect is very difficult. The pleasant side of it is the care and training of Novices and Students. We professed seven at the end of last month and they have gone to Rome to start their studies. Six new Novices have started their first year of training. I am sure your prayers have been an important element in this new upsurge in our vocations—we shall have three times as many students in Rome in the coming year as we had last year—thank God. Please continue to pray for them. All of this

costs money and that is the unpleasant side of the task. Where does it come from? I am sure all of you will continue to support our Societies and Burses and in this way make that particular task so much easier. Not only we here but all our students in Rome pray for your intentions and your welfare.

The renovations at Hazlewood are going ahead very well and the part which is finished is really beautiful. Quite a number of people want to come and stay.



DON'T FORGET

Our Coming Novenas in honour of

The Little Flower
Sept. 25th—Oct. 3rd

Our Lady of the Rosary
Sept. 27th—Oct. 7th

Saint Jude
Oct. 20th—Oct. 28th



There is the opportunity to pray and talk to a priest. Also attractive is the peace and quiet that one can almost feel in sauntering on the walks through the woods. It is a wonderful change from the rat-race and the noise and fumes of the cities to simply stroll through the woods where nothing is to be heard except the humming of the bees, the chatter of the grasshoppers and to watch an occasional fox trot by. One can't help feeling relaxed in contemplating the beauties and powers of the wonderful Creator. It is in itself a spiritual experience when we sit and think and realise that the good Lord is watching over every little insect and sees all they are doing and provides for them. How much

more interested he is in our welfare seeing that we are created in His own image and likeness and destined to see Him face to face. If only we could relax a little more in the right setting we would be able to co-operate much more fully with the grace of God. I am convinced that Hazlewood will do a lot of good for souls. That reminds me. One of the features of Hazlewood is the lovely Rosary Way. It is shaped like an "L" in reverse seen in a mirror as it were. The wooden plaques with the pictures depicting the mysteries are set into a warm red brick wall, not a hard glazed brick but a soft brick that glows in the sun, particularly in the evening sun, and holds the warmth and shares it with you as you make your way along it. You get a feeling of being removed from the mind-battering pressures of life, with the trees set close together and shutting out the whole world—or perhaps one should say enfolding you in the world of Christ and His Mother. All I can say is that it is a refreshing of the whole person to experience the Rosary Way in Hazlewood.

MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Far from decrying this devotion the Council (Vatican II) stressed its value. One could say the Rosary kneeling or sitting but of course that is not to be taken as restricting you. Yoga adepts may well prefer to say it standing on their heads; others find walking very conducive to prayerful thought communing with God through nature He created; while if you cannot sleep and anxious thoughts oppress you, the Rosary is like

talking to a friend. Whatever way you say it, be comfortable; the idea is to concentrate quietly on Christ, not to be painfully pre-occupied with knees sore from kneeling, as St. Theresa of Avila once said.

Soon it will be time to start our Novena to St. Therese. Recently I was talking about her to two young visitors. One of them a teenage girl said she was inspired by St. Therese's idea that ordinary actions took on enormous value if done for love of God—an inspiring thought. She felt this gave meaning to everything you did particularly when you weren't somebody special with important things to do. It is true isn't it? Simple things done for love are transformed. They take on the value of the person loving and of the person loved. This is true of everything we do from a motive whether for friends, family for the sick, the deprived and especially for those we find it difficult to get along with. We should remember that they are loved by God just as much as we are. Our Lord told us we must love our enemies. Mind you, He didn't say we must like them because we cannot control likes and dislikes, but we can control what we do

about them. We can and should wish well to those we dislike, to those who dislike us who even persecute us. Not that we wish them well in their wrong doing if they are guilty of this, but pray that they may be enlightened and so be better and happier people. So often harshness, waspishness, irritability, aloofness, lack of humanity are the symptoms of unhappiness deep in the person who manifests these qualities. Very often they need help more than those who bear the brunt of their unpleasantness. Surely those who follow Christ can help them? The trouble is that we react so often from our own hurt feelings not from love of Christ. We need to pray much about this.

For the first time in my life I went north to Scotland in the Summer just passed; not to anywhere in Scotland but way up to the North West Highlands—awesome in their vastness and incredibly beautiful with little villages tucked-in at cross-roads under the skirt of a mountain or nestling at the base of a loch that points its long finger to America or the Arctic. One day started badly so far as weather was concerned. We were driving along single-track

THANKS

To Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and St. Jude for favours received.—E.M., Slough.
 For favours received.—C.R., Glasgow.
 To St. Jude for favours received.—A.M.R., Gorey.
 For examination successes. — A.W.R., Glasgow.
 For favours received.—K.C., Tullamore.
 In gratitude for help received.—M.O'B., New Ross.
 For special something.—R.H., Scotland.
 To Our Lady and St. Jude for examination successes and many favours.—M.M'G., Glasgow.
 To Our Lady, St. Jude and Sacred Heart for successful operation.—M.T., Southampton.

To St. Jude, St. Martin and Our Lady for my husband's successful operation.—C.B., Ayrshire.
 To Holy Child Infant of Prague, Sacred Heart and Our Lady, St. Jude, St. Martin and Our Blessed Lady of Mt. Carmel for favours.—Mrs. B., Newcastle upon Tyne.
 To Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the Sacred Heart of Perpetual Succour, Our Lady of The Wayside, St. Martin de Porres, St. Jude, St. Anne, Holy Souls and Sr. Benedicta for better job.—I.C.H., London.
 To Holy Child of Prague, Our Lady, Sts. Joseph, Anthony, Jude, Anne, Martin for miraculous recovery and many favours.—S.C., Co. Wexford.

roads hoping we would not meet too many cars coming in the opposite direction though the Scots with typical thoroughness have made passing places every few hundred yards very cannily sited and due to the heavy cloud, rain and mist we needed the headlights on in the middle of the day. In the afternoon all was changed to glorious sunshine except for a collar of thick mist that hung below us on the mountain-side. The view was breathtaking and made the morning's rain worthwhile. Yet to travellers still in the valleys the day remained dull and above them hung this bank of thick and uninviting mist.

Anyone down there would have thought it better to sit in the valley unless someone above the mist, like ourselves, were to tell them how beautiful it was on our side.

It struck me that there is a sort of parallel between this situation and our journey through life. We are in the valley as it were with the uninviting mist of death hanging over us. Yet if only we knew it there is more beauty and love and happiness on the other side of that mist than we could ever dream of. St. Paul says:

"Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, nor hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive what things God has prepared for those who love Him."

Christ guarantees this. His Resurrection and ours are fundamental truths that inspire hope and courage. To grieve when loved ones die—when they disappear

from us in the mist—is natural but we should never grieve for them personally. They pass through the mist to the glory on the other side. There should be joy in our sadness, joy at their great pain. They have reached the end of their search for truth and love and found both in God. As a poet says:

O grave where is thy victory,
O death where is thy sting.

Some people worry about the state of the soul in which we die. St. John frequently repeats that God is Love. Can we really doubt that the loving God will set limits to forgiveness? We do not pray for the dead and have Masses said for them because we doubt God's mercy but because we wish to hasten the process of purification which enables them to see God face to face in the glory of heaven.

Please pray for the dead of our Order and all associated with it; in particular for Father John MacNamee who died at Easter and Brother Leo Maher who died at the beginning of August both after a long life spent in the service of God and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. May they rest in peace. Pray too for those who grieve for the loved ones they have lost. Nor should we forget to pray for ourselves as our life moves onwards.

Our Lady keep you!

Yours in Carmel,

Edward Augustine O'Connell