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THE CARMELITE NEWS

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WHITEFRIARS - FAVERSHAM - KENT

THREE HOLY PEOPLE

IT is wonderful the variety of distinguishing names or "nicknames" that is found where ever there are a number of families with the same name. The people use them so naturally that strangers have difficulty in following them. One kind reader sent in a list of "nicknames" they have round County Kilkenny. It adds to the list we have at home in Roscommon (the Toms, Dans, Billies, etc.) It was great hearing them again when I went home for a few days back after Christmas. The peace and quiet there was wonderful after the noise and din of the traffic on the roads here. The mild stillness of the evening was disturbed only by the lonesome cry of the curlew and the quiet night broken only by the hoot of an owl or a bird fidgeting in the hedge.

CARMEL

I could not help comparing the calm, still freshness with the noise and oppressive heat of Rome when I was there for the General Chapter.

By the time I write to you again we will have finished our own Provincial Chapter over here in England. At the present we are preparing for it, as it will start on Easter Monday. I am sure you will all pray for the success of the Chapter, that the Risen Lord will help and inspire us. A big problem will be how to keep up with the enormous increase in work as we haven't had a corresponding increase in vocations to cope with it. Our three novices who started last year are still doing well Thank God and we hope for another group next year.

Carmelite Pilgrimage to
LOURDES
for Vocations.

21st - 28th JULY, 1972

Cost £42 inc.

Carmelite Pilgrimage to
LOURDES
and Shrines of France

24th Aug. - 2nd Sept. 1972

By Coach £58

Apply -
ST. CHRISTOPHER TOURS
10 Thurloe Place, London SW7

To help young men know a little more about us I got new leaflets printed giving a very brief outline of our life and prayer, short descriptions of the different types of Apostolates we do, a brief history of the Order and the requirements for entry into our Order. If you know of any young man, or even of organisation where good catholics work, that would benefit or would be interested in reading the leaflets please write to me and I will send them on to you. As they are rather expensive I do not want to give them away to anyone and everyone, only to those who might be interested or would benefit.

BRIGID

St. Brigid, "Mary of the Gael" lived some fifteen hundred years ago. She so endeared herself to the heart of her people that the story of her life is

enriched with legends and fancies. She was born at Faughart around 450 and died about 523. Many of the lives written about Brigid contain anecdotes miracles and stories, some of them far-fetched. But they have a background of beauty and give an impression of a strong, gay, compassionate character imbued with a shining charity.

Until recent times, many places in rural Ireland, had the custom of making St. Brigid Crosses the evening before her feast. These were woven from straw or rushes. They looked simple enough but it took some skill to make them. They were placed on the back of doors in the house and stables asking God's Blessing and Protection, through St. Brigid's intercession, on all who entered through that door. This cross-making grew from the story of St. Brigid and the dying chief. It appears that a certain chieftain was very tough and would have nothing to do with Christianity and nobody could convert him. St. Brigid looked after him in his last illness, never leaving his bedside. To occupy herself she plaited the rushes from the floor into crosses. The old warrior waking up one night saw that she was busy and watched her intently for some time and then asked her what she was doing. She explained that she was making a Cross and then went on to tell of Christ's great mercy and that the measure of his love of each of us was that He was willing to die for us. The chieftain was so taken with the story that he asked to become a Christian. Shortly after his baptism he died. Because of this miraculous conversion the tradition of St. Brigid's cross has continued down to today.

PATRICK

She is frequently invoked with two other great Irish Saints, linking the three together Patrick, Brigid and Columcille. But of course the best known is St. Patrick. He, in his preaching (on the Blessed Trinity,) must have really stressed the Trinity, so much so that in folklore we have the theme of three coming in again and again. We have it in the Children of Lir, Sorrows of Deirdre, Trials of

Uisneah and so on. I suppose it was a good way for showing that the three were needed to make the story perfect, then it wasn't hard to transfer the idea of three to the Blessed Trinity and show how each one was part of the Perfect Being, God. There is great talk now-a-days of new ways and means of teaching things, especially religion. Wouldn't you agree that we can learn a lot about methods and techniques from some of those great apostles and saints who kept to simple stories and examples.

Again this year we will, as usual have the Novena in honour of St. Patrick and St. Joseph, that quiet, staunch supporter of the Holy Family.

JOSEPH

The more you think about it the more extraordinary it seems that we should know so little about St. Joseph. Because we have so little detail many stories have been told to show his constant care and concern for those who pray to him. There was a time when St. Peter suspected that there were more in heaven than he let through the pearly gates, so he had a roll call. Sure enough, there was a great crowd that he knew nothing about, so he investigated and found a new wooden backstairs had been built. Well, there was nothing he could do, they were in. Some time later there was terrible hammering going on and as St. Peter was busy at the gates he sent a messenger with orders to stop the noise, but it continued. So after sending three or four messages he went to tackle the problem himself. What did he find, but St. Joseph building another stairs. Peter gave orders for it to be boarded up. St. Joseph threatened that if it was he would leave and take his Wife and Child with him!

MARY

On February 2nd, following the feast of Mary of the Gael, we have feast of the Purification of Our Blessed Lady. This is to commemorate Her Purification in the Temple, according to Jewish law. It was just another example of Mary's humility and obedience to the laws of the

times that she who was spotless went through this ceremony. The feast is now called The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, as it was first called when it originated in Jerusalem in the 4th Century. From there it slowly spread to Rome and all the Church.

In this feast the Church celebrates the Virgin Mother offering publicly the Saviour of the world, to his Father. In offering Christ to God, not only did Mary offer Him but she offered us also. In Him and by Him she offered us, for the Son she offered to God was offered as her 'first born', "the first born of many brethren" who by the death of her Son, were to become her own sons. In this way, we ourselves have been brought into the temple and have already formed, in the person of Christ, a part of that offering made by the Blessed Virgin. The mystery of the Presentation is therefore a mystery that concerns each of us very closely. In order to make ourselves more worthy to share in this presentation we need to do penance to cleanse and purify ourselves of our faults and failings. This call to penance was made a number of times by Our Lady particularly in her apparitions at Lourdes. She was of course reminding us of the message of Her Son "Unless you do penance you shall all likewise perish". Penance is not meant to be easy and our Blessed Mother knows that. Let us join in in the Novena for her feast of Lourdes and ask her help to bear our crosses and trials as patiently as she did. Ask her for the courage to make this Lent a genuine one of penance and prayer. Not only for ourselves but for others as well, especially for our friends and benefactors who have great troubles and crosses to bear. We are then being true children of Mary, all members of a great family and like a good family all helping each other.

All your intentions will be included in the Novena in honour of St. Jude. We get a lot of letters telling us of favours received through his intercession.

With best wishes for Easter and hoping you don't eat too many Easter Eggs!

*Our Lady Keep You!
Yours in Carmel,*

*A. A. Brennan
O.Carm*

TO THOSE PAYING INC. TAX COVENANTS

Very many of our readers send us donations and subscriptions to our Societies every year. We are always grateful for them and we give in return the only thing we can and that is a constant remembrance in our prayers and Masses. If these subscriptions and donations were covenanted to us it would help us even better. Let me explain. If you live in Great Britain or Northern Ireland and pay the normal income tax of thirty-five pence per week we could get that tax on your subscriptions by means of the covenant. If you were to covenant say £1 per year, we can reclaim 63 pence from the tax people, giving us a total of £1.63 pence. If you covenant £5 a year we get £3.17 from the tax man, making our total £8.18. It is important to remember that you must be paying tax and living in Great Britain before you can covenant. To have it legal, it must be on the correct covenant form, which I can send you, and also be for a period of seven years. But then many of you have been sending us donations for far longer periods than that. It is not necessary to pay the whole sum you covenant at once. It can be paid in small amounts in the course of the year. Anyway if you are interested please ask for a form explaining it and I will be delighted to send it to you.

Thank you for all the stamps you send - both Irish and English stamps (unused) are a great help to us.

THANKS

Grateful thanks to St. Jude, T.D., Brentford, S.T., Barry Dock, A. O'Neill, Co. Antrim, M.G., Co. Down, Mary G., Monaghan. Heartfelt thanks to Our Lady of Fatima & St. Jude, J.C., Glasgow. For favours received thanks to Sr. Benedicta, V.E., Hinckley, E.M., Darlington. Thanksgiving to The Sacred Heart, St. Jude, St. Martin and Our Blessed Lady, Maura G., Monaghan. Thanks for work obtained through Sr. Benedicta, M.B., Nuneaton. Thanks to Fr. Titus Brandsma for special favour granted. Thanks to Our Lady for safety E.E., Wolverhampton.

The real reason that it is hard to bring up children correctly is that they insist on imitating their parents.

REMEMBER OUR COMING NOVENAS

- Our Lady of Lourdes February 11th - 19th
St. Joseph and St. Patrick March 10th - 19th
St. Jude Thaddeus April 17th - 24th

The man who is too big for the little job sometimes turns out to be too little for the big job.

PETITION FORM

A NOVENA OF MASSES will be offered during each Novena on the dates mentioned on the Novena leaflet.

- Health
Holy Father
Family Safety
Family Happiness
Conversion to Faith
Release from Worry
Satisfactory Employment

If you cannot be a priest, or have one in the family

HELP US SUPPORT A CARMELITE STUDENT FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

Any offering, however small, will be gratefully acknowledged by :-

REV. H. A. BRENNAN, O. Carm. WHITEFRIARS, FAVERSHAM, KENT.

OUR STUDENT BURSES

Table listing student burses with names and amounts: The St. Jude Burse No. 8 (115.34), Holy Child of Prague Burse No. 3 (490.15), Our Lady of Mount Carmel Burse (348.00), Our Lady of Lourdes Burse (707.75), Immaculate Conception BVM Burse (394.80), Little Flower Burse No. 2 (379.20), Sacred Heart Burse (281.11), St. Anthony Burse (258.60), St. Joseph Burse No. 2 (169.60), Holy Souls Burse (690.35), St. Martin de Porres Burse (116.55), St. Martha Burse (108.00), Our Lady of Seven Dolours Burse (101.15), St. Patrick Burse No. 2 (138.70), Father Cyril of the Mother of God (165.25), Father Titus Brandsma (57.50).