



The Carmelite News

February — March 1975

WHITEFRIARS - FAVERSHAM - KENT

Published by the Carmelites of England and Wales

A True Likeness

Most of us have photographs of those we love. And, usually, we display a few of them on the mantelpiece or on the TV. We use them, not so much to remind ourselves of what people *look like*, as to remind ourselves of *them!* We don't keep such photographs because we like their appearance; but, rather, because we love them.

SAINTS

It is hardly surprising, then, that Christians have always wanted pictures of those whom they especially love and look upon as 'saints'. For they are the distinguished members of the family who have made a success of their lives.

After the Blessed Virgin appeared in Lourdes, Bernadette was shown several paintings of Our Lady, and asked if any of them gave a true likeness of the woman she had seen. Bernadette didn't like any of them. But she pointed out one picture, known as St. Luke's Madonna, which she said was the 'least imperfect'.

No one imagines that any painting can perfectly portray the character of Our Lady; far less can it reflect her heavenly glory. But it would be an unusual Christian home which failed to display any picture of Mary. The ties of true family love surely demand some



CARMELITE PILGRIMAGE TO ROME FOR THE HOLY YEAR 1975:

Departures 3rd May and 6th September

To make reservation and for details
please write to St. Christopher Tours Ltd.

Key House, Horton Road,
West Drayton, Middlesex

State the pilgrimage. Approx. price £80

concrete expression of the love of our Mother!

The picture which Saint Bernadette pointed out was an 'icon'. Icons are pictures of saints painted in the eastern Church, which are growing ever more popular and successful in helping our true devotion to Our Lady and the saints. They do not give a true likeness. Rather, they succeed in showing a saint's holiness. They help us to understand a saint's character far more effectively than a more 'conventional' painting can. Indeed, we might say that all icons are like the 'first' or 'true' icon.

What was the 'true' icon? We are all familiar with the legend of how our Lord, struggling under the

MARRIAGE LICENCE

A CERTIFICATE THAT GIVES A WOMAN THE RIGHT TO DRIVE A MAN. J.C.S.

burden of his cross to Calvary, was helped by a woman who wiped his face with a towel. And on the cloth was imprinted a picture of Christ's face. This cloth was known as 'vera icon', which translated from the Latin and Greek means 'true picture'. Over the years 'vera icon' was corrupted to 'Veronica', which became the name of the woman who did this wonderful act of charity.

SPECIAL WORK

All the earlier icons were popularly believed to have been painted with God's help. But even later, only the most spiritual men among the monks were allowed to work on the icon. They prepared for their

work by fasting and prayer. And often, they mixed the bones of the saints into the materials they used. In this way they emphasised the great dignity of their work.

The best icons achieve their true purpose of bringing those who look at them closer to God. Christians in the eastern Church believe that to fix their gaze on the eyes of the saint in the icon helps them to come into contact in a special way with that saint. When they enter a church they go to bow before one

Don't forget the Coming Novenas
OUR LADY OF LOURDES:
 11th - 20th February
ST. PATRICK AND ST. JOSEPH:
 10th - 19th March
ST. JUDE: 2nd - 10th April

of the icons. For they realise that prayerful meditation before the pictures of the saints, and especially before the Queen of saints, cannot fail to draw us closer to them.

The old saying 'out of sight, out of mind' is a truth confirmed by experience. A deep devotion to Our Lady without the help of pictures is possible. But it isn't easy! Many icons of Our Lady are famous, especially Our Lady of Vladimir and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. But every Catholic home should have at least some picture in a prominent place to remind us of the Mother we cannot see.

Written by Fr. John Trenchard, C.Ss.R. and reprinted by kind permission of the Redemptorist Fathers.

CONFESSION OF SAINT PATRICK (A reading)

I, Patrick a sinner, am the most uncultivated and the least of all the faithful and am held in contempt by many. Yet, though I am imperfect in many things, I wish my brethren to know what manner of man I am, that they may be able to understand. The desire of my soul; to render somewhat to the Lord for His so great benefits.

Who was it that called me forth, fool though I am? Whence came to me this wisdom which was not in me? It was the gift of God.

I was brought captive to Ireland—I was at that time about sixteen

TALE OF A TINKER

Many years ago in Co. Wexford, an old tinker named Felix used to 'do his rounds' in the vicinity of New Ross, always making sure to call on the Parish Priest, of course. Without fail the P.P. offered him a drop of whiskey always adding "Felix, don't you know every drop of whiskey you take is a nail in your coffin?" "Ah, well," Felix would reply, "sure you might as well put another nail in it, Father."

years of age and I paid no heed to the living God . . . with so many thousands of persons because we turned away from God and kept not His commandments, and were not obedient to his priests . . . but He that is mighty came and in His mercy lifted me, and indeed raised me up again. . . .

In the land of my captivity I sought Him in earnest—and there I found Him. The love of God and

the fear of Him increased more and more, and my faith grew. In a single day I prayed as often as a hundred times, and by night almost as frequently, even while I was in the woods and on the mountain.

And there one night I heard in my sleep a voice say "Thou art soon to go to thy native country." And so I took flight and left the man with whom I had been for six years. My kindred besought me that I should not leave them any more.

After a few years I beheld in a vision of the night a man whose name was Victor coming as it were

Prayer to St. Patrick, for Peace

O God, you sent Saint Patrick, your bishop to the people of Ireland to preach your glory. Grant by his merits and prayers that we who are proud to bear the name of Christian may at all times make your glory known to men. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

from Ireland with letters innumerable. And he gave me one of them and I read the beginning of the letter which contained The Voice of the Irish; and while I was reading the letter methought at that very moment I heard the voice of those who lived beside the Wood of Foclut which is near the Western Sea. And as with one voice they thus cried out "We beseech thee, O holy youth, to come and walk once more amongst us." And I felt quite broken in heart and could read no more. And so I awoke.

Thanks be to God, that after many years the Lord granted to them according to their earnest cry.

I, though ignorant, set about this work so holy and so wonderful. By means of my humble person the Lord everywhere ordained clerics. I baptised many thousands of men, by the help of God, I have done everything diligently and most willingly. The sons of the Irish and the daughters of chieftains are seen to become monks and virgins of Christ.

Behold I call God to witness that I lie not . . . I have simply mentioned those things to strengthen and confirm your faith. Would that you also would imitate greater things and do more notable works.

THANKS

To St. Anthony and St. Jude for safe return of car and contents. S.R., Seaham, Durham.

To Sister Benedicta for special job obtained after prayer. C.M., Co. Antrim.

Ever grateful thanks to St. Jude and wonder at the numerous petitions granted and all the help given in so many ways. M.O'B., Co. Wexford.

Most grateful thanks to the Good Shepherd, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Jude and the Little Flower for great favour received. E.M.K., London, S.W.20.

Grateful thanks to St. Jude for nothing short of a miracle, safe arrival of a bouncing baby boy. W. and M.D., Co. Tipp.

This will be my glory, for a wise son is the glory of his father.

But what shall I say or what shall I promise to my Lord, for I see naught that is mine except what He Himself has given to me . . . yet may it never happen to me from my God that I should ever lose His people. . . .

Whosoever shall have deigned to look at this document, which

Patrick the sinner, wrote in Ireland, let no one ever say that it was I in my ignorance who did whatever little I have done or taught that is pleasing to God. Let it be most truly believed that it was the gift of God.

And this is my confession before I die.

Here you have the words of St. Patrick himself, the Apostle of Ireland. What can I add to them. Let us, during this Holy Year, read them over and over, think on them, and try to follow his good example.

Our Lady keep you!

*A. A. Brennan
O'Carroll.*



**" BREASTPLATE OF
ST. PATRICK "**

*Christ as a light
Illumine and guide me
Christ as shield
o'ershadow and cover me.*

*Christ be under me
Christ be over me
Christ be beside me
On left hand and right.*

*Christ be before me,
behind me, about me
Christ, this day,
be within and without me.*

*Christ the lowly and meek,
Christ the all-powerful, be
In the heart of each to whom I speak.
In the mouth of each who speaks to
me
In all who draw near me,
Or see me, or hear me.*