

THE CARMELITE NEWS

WHITEFRIARS — FAVERSHAM — KENT

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Ordinations—

A New Priest

We had an occasion of great joy a few weeks ago on the 18th of July at Aylesford. A new parish priest was ordained for our Anglo-Welsh Province of the Order. He was the first for four years, so you can imagine how happy we all were, not only for him, but for us and our apostolic work and the people for whom we work. So now another Carmelite Priest can add his talents, natural and supernatural, to ours so that God's work may go on. Thanks be to God.

We must thank God, obviously, for the Grace of Vocation came from Him, but in God's providence others also helped: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, who kept a motherly eye on this man; the brethren who trained him and encouraged him; his father and mother, who planted and watered the seed of Faith; the rest of his family and his friends, who helped to make him the sort of man he is. There is still someone else to thank, though. Yes, someone to whom we all, not only the new priest, owe a debt of gratitude: YOURSELVES. You, by your interest, your prayers, your generosity, have been part of the plan of God for this man and for all our other students and novices.

Not only have you co-operated with God in the making of a priest, you will, in a real sense be a part of his apostolic work by the very fact that you have helped him to become a priest. It would be a pity to leave it at that though. As you have helped him in the past please pray for him in the future. We are not talking about the production of a motor-car which comes off the assembly line and is forgotten by those who helped to make it. We are talking of a human being who still needs our interest and prayerful concern.

TWO NEW DEACONS

At the same time Archbishop Cyril Cowderoy raised to the Order of Deacon two other Carmelites, these both for the Irish Province. It was a wonderful and moving sight: the Archbishop in his splendid vestments of blue—specially for Our Lady and Aylesford—like the two principal assistants on either side of him; the concelebrating priests in a semi-circle of white vestments inside the High Altar of the Shrine, itself decorated with freshly cut flowers; at the back the statue of Our Lady of the Assumption set in a recess of various shades of blue with a splash of gold and a touch of red here and there. In front of the Shrine, was a happy congregation, old and young, perhaps three thousand

of them, and between the congregation and the Archbishop three figures in white albs with chasuble or dalmatic over one arm, waiting to be ordained priest and deacons: brothers in Carmel, servants of the people of God.

There is a moment of silence as if the world had stopped for a moment to listen—just like you get at a wedding when the bride and groom are about to make their promises to each other. Into this pool of silence drop the words of the Archbishop asking each of the ordinands if he is willing to be ordained and to discharge his responsibilities thoroughly. The answer is simple, but it establishes a whole way of life: "I am". A moment of truth, but it lasts for a lifetime. It made me think of when I stood in front of a bishop in the same sort of circumstances more than a few years ago. A sort of review of one's own priestly life flashes through the mind, and one is humbled. I'm sure every other priest felt the same.

SOLEMN PROFESSION

The last occasion I saw these three young men was when I visited our College in Rome last December. On that occasion they were making their Solemn Profession, i.e. vowing themselves for life to the brotherhood of the Order and the service of their fellow men. The three of them are Irish, but the one for England is a better class of Irishman of course, or he wouldn't have had the good sense to join the English Province, now would he? (Please wrap your bricks in blankets before you throw them!)

There you had three young men, gifted, intelligent and in the prime of life giving their lives to God and his people through the particular way of life of our Order. The Prior General himself did them the honour of presiding at the ceremony, receiving their vows and being principal concelebrant at the Mass that followed.

We then had dinner (about seven in the evening) followed by a party. It was great fun. What a mixture of songs, music and dances we had: Spanish, Irish and English and Italian. One of the young Spaniards

DON'T FORGET

Our Coming Novenas in honour of

THE LITTLE FLOWER

September 25th—October 3rd

THE LADY OF THE ROSARY

October 7th—October 15th

SAINT JUDE

October 20th—October 28th

grabbed me by the arm and pulled me (he's a hefty lad) into one of those Spanish dances in which you link arms in two's and go round in a circle kicking your feet up. It nearly killed me, but I wasn't going to admit it to any youngster, and I kicked with the best of them. Phew! I am getting into training before I go out again. They're a good lot of lads. They work hard, and enjoy the simple things of life, like friendship and the fun that goes with it. They benefit too from the cultural opportunities of Rome—and I don't mean "La dolce vita"!

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Talking about the simple things of life reminds me of how we take them for granted. I was talking to some severely disabled people the other day and was struck by their spirit of happiness. Yet some could not walk, others spoke only with great difficulty. Everyone of them was so glad to be able to do and enjoy the little he or she could. Surely there's some lesson there for us?

GONE BUT STILL HERE

Some of you have written to say how sorry you were to hear that Fr. Brennan, who looked after the Newsletter before me, had left the Order and that you were praying for him. Well! Don't you know you can't get rid of a bad penny? I'm glad you've been praying for him. Don't stop just because I tell you he's still very much with us and doing great work.

NEW READERS

Here's a welcome to the newcomers to our circle of readers and friends and a big "Thank you" to the people who introduced you. I hope you'll find our bits of news, our serious moments and our corny jokes worth reading. The jokes are put in to give you a chance to practise the virtue of patience.

CHARITY

Talking of patience reminds me that the feast of St. Therese is coming soon. She once said:

"We practise charity better with a person who is less congenial to us." If one tried to live

up to that what a difference it would make to some of the people we find it difficult to get on with. You might say what a difference it would make too if they lived up to it! But we cannot avoid the challenge that way. She always thought of others. During the last three months of her life, which were spent in the infirmary, she would not allow anyone to stay up with her even for a single night. The very night before she died she begged to be left alone so as not to be the cause of anyone's being tired. That is real concern for others isn't it? I wonder how many of us have the same sort of concern? Just ask yourself—and keep the answer to yourself too. I couldn't bear to be talking to all you people if I knew you were saints already!

LIFE VIA DEATH TO LIFE

Talking of St. Therese's death brings me to the final point of this letter. (Will the man never stop!) November is the month when the Church asks us to remember the dead. It isn't that we don't remember them at other times, but it is important to think of them, important for them, important for us. So to set aside a special time for this makes good sense. If death were the end of everything, then we should just remember them, grateful for the joy they gave us and the good they did. But since death is not the end there is more to it than just remembering. They are real people and we should treat them as such by doing what we can for them. They are still part of our family, still part of the Church and so can be

helped to the complete love of God, which is complete happiness, our family, by the Church. Just as we prayed for those we loved when they were with us, so we pray for them now in the same spirit of Faith, in the same spirit of Trust in God, in the same spirit of Charity. In Christ's death all of us are redeemed, in Christ's resurrection all of us rise to life eternal.

*It is not how much we have
but how much we enjoy that
makes happiness!*

The Mass, the daily renewal of that death and reminder of that resurrection in which we all share, is the great way of uniting ourselves and our dear ones with Christ and his Father. In Christ and his Father all of us, living and dead, are together, linked by love, a love

that is human on our side and Christ's, but also divine on the side of Christ, his Father and the Holy Spirit. Human and divine love are not only brought together in the Mass, they are focussed on all our family, friends, relatives and benefactors, and death is no impediment. In fact, it is only we ourselves who put obstacles in the way of love. Those who have gone beyond the gates of death are more open to love than we are. So let our love go out to them, and let it be joined by prayer and through the Mass to the love that is at the heart of the universe, God's love for us all.

Our Lady keep you!

Yours in Carmel,

Edward Maguire et al.

THANKS

Grateful thanks to St. Jude. A Sinner, Liverpool.

Thanks to Our Lady, St. Jude, St. Joseph and Almighty God for saving my life. L.M.G., Heston.

Grateful thanks to St. Martin, St. Jude and Our Lady of Lourdes for favours received. G.D., Preston.

E.M. returns most grateful thanks to St. Jude, St. Anthony, the Sacred Heart, Our Lady for great favour received. E.M., Baillieston.

Thanksgiving to St. Jude for special favour received. M.S., Worsley.

Thanksgiving to St. Jude. P.C., Drinagh.

Grateful thanks to St. Jude for many, many favours. A grateful Mother, Kells.

Most grateful thanks to Sister Benedicta for wonderful and speedy answer to prayer.

Thanksgiving to Infant of Prague, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Anthony, St. Joseph, St. Anne, St. Dominic for favours received. M.D., Crumpsall.

Heartfelt gratitude to St. Jude through the intercession of the Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Lourdes for so many favours granted. M.O'B., New Ross.

Thanksgiving for change of house, St. Jude and for numerous favours. The Sacred Heart, Our Lady of the Rosary, the Child of Prague. F.R., Glasgow.

Heartfelt thanks to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude for many favours granted and blessings. E.F., Fife.

Thanksgiving to St. Jude for wonderful favours received. J.C., Mohill.

In thanksgiving for prayers answered, the Holy Infant, St. Jude and St. Therese. H.C., Cork.

In thanksgiving to St. Jude for wonderful request granted. E.F., Dublin.

In grateful thanks to Our Lady of Mount Carmel for safe arrival of new baby. D.B., Wimbledon.

In sincere heartfelt thanks to St. Martin and St. Jude and Our Blessed Mother for all favours granted when everything else was so remote. C.L.F., Croydon.

Thanksgiving to the Divine Infant of Prague for wonderful answer to prayers. M.A.H., Kilkenny.

Sincere thanks to St. Jude for prayers answered. M.D., Bury.

Sincere thanks to St. Jude from a believer in prayer. J.K., Thurles.

Thanksgiving to St. Jude, St. Martin, Oliver Plunkett, St. Anthony, the Sacred Heart and Our Holy Mother and the Child Jesus. E.Mc., Longford.

Grateful thanks to the Divine Infant, St. Jude and St. Theresa for daughter's success. M.C., Limerick.