

THE CARMELITE NEWS

WHITEFRIARS — FAVERSHAM — KENT

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GOD GIVES . . .

IT'S Autumn once again, and soon it will be November, the month when we remember our loved ones, family, relatives and friends who have died. In our Holy Mass we not only remember them, we are united with them in Christ, the risen Christ who lives on and with whom they live on. As you know we say Mass every day of November for your dead, whom you ask us to remember at the altar of God.

It is good for us to remember those we have loved and, for a time, lost. There is healing in remembrance. As the song says, "Without a hurt the heart is hollow."

It is good to remember too that God gave them life here so that they might be happy in the life hereafter and on their way He shared them with us. And as surely as there is a God He will share them with us again when He gives us eternal life as He has already given it to them. Surely the main thing is that He has given them eternal life? Thank God for that even if it means we miss them. "Without a hurt the heart is hollow."

KEEPING IN TOUCH

I remember once, when I was in Rome visiting our students, going to see an Italian lady whose daughter worked in our parish. The good

lady was overjoyed to see me, not because of my fascinating personality and handsome appearance, I regret to say, but because I was someone who had recently seen her daughter and was able to give her first hand news of the girl and reassure her that she was well and happy. We do like to keep in touch with our loved ones don't we? And rightly so.

One of the hurts that hits us when someone dies is the feeling that we have completely lost touch with them. It is true, of course, in one sense. There is no phone, no postman, no visitor between them and us. But that is not the whole truth. We are able to keep in touch by communicating with a Friend who is constantly in loving contact with them, Who never lets them out of His sight. I mean of course the Lord himself. And no one loves them more than He does. As we pray to Him and allow His message of faith and hope to fill our hearts we are reassured that our loved ones are safe and happy. We are in touch with them through Christ.

THE MASS

But there is more yet. God reconciled the whole of humanity to himself by the death and resurrection of His Son. That reconciliation is a continuous process because mankind needs it from one generation to the next. So Christ continually intercedes for us at the right hand of the Father, as

St. Paul says, and we share in his great act of reconciliation and victory over evil and death through the Mass. Christ gave us it as the great way of sharing in his death and resurrection and all it achieved for us as we helped our loved ones in life, so we can help them even in death by drawing down upon them through the Mass the reconciliation and union with God, and the happiness that goes with it, that we all look forward to. Do not forget to send in the names of those you wish to share in the Holy Mass which we offer for them every day of the year, except the three days of Holy Week.

THE VISIT

I was talking a few weeks ago to Noel Purcell, the actor, now in his seventies. It was a treat to listen to his comments on the world, the Church, on all sorts of people — charitable comments of course, as you'd expect of a Dubliner!

Do you remember Finlay Currie the Scottish actor? Well, Noel told me that on one occasion in the States he and Finlay Currie were out walking together and came to a church. Without any words being spoken they both went in and said a prayer. When they came out Noel said to Finlay that he liked to pop in like that because it was sometimes difficult to get to church when he was working on a film. Finlay said he felt the same and had a little rhyme about it, which ran:-

*"Whenever I am near a church
I walk in for a visit
So that when I'm carried in
The Lord won't say, 'Who is it?'"*
What do you think of that?

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

In a few weeks time four young men will start to try out their suitability for life in our Order by coming into the Noviate at Aylesford. At roughly the same time four others who have spent a year in the Noviate will make their first Profession and go off to study for the priesthood in Rome. In 1973 we had two candidates for the priesthood studying in Rome. In October of this year we shall have eighteen. Your prayers for vocations are a very important element in this marvellous increase of labourers for God's harvest, and all of us thank you and remember you in our prayers and masses. Another very important element is the work of our Vocations Director in contacting, advising and encouraging men who are wondering if our Carmelite life is the life for them. We are deeply indebted to him too. Unfortunately he has been ill recently, and I ask you please to pray for his complete recovery so that he may continue his vital work. Pray too that the men who come to the Order through his work and your prayers may persevere.

DON'T FORGET —

Our Coming Novenas in honour of

LITTLE FLOWER - ST. THERESE

September 25th - October 3rd

HOLY ROSARY

October 7th - October 15th

SAINT JUDE

October 20th - October 28th

However, man (especially young men) does not live by prayer alone. Prayer doesn't keep out the cold and rain or buy books for the mind or food for the tummy. Without your generous offerings to our Burses we simply could not manage. So let me thank you once more for the sacrifices you make in order to give us, especially our students, your support.

CALLING ALL SAINTS

The Saints are people like you and me. Where they are unlike most of us is in their clearer understanding of God and their greater love of Him. Their appreciation of God is a real force in their lives, urging them on to a way of living, of loving God and men, that is an inspiration and an example to the rest of us. We all need this inspiration and example.

Just think how the courage of a widow fending for a young family encourages us to meet our own difficulties; how the dignity and independence of the old or the sick mellowed by appreciation of other people's concern influences our attitudes; how the generosity of someone we know makes us ask ourselves, "Am I doing enough?" Wouldn't our lives be lacking in inspiration if we did not know people like this? How much of the good we manage to do, how much of our improvement in understanding and in attitudes is the result of what someone else has done or said? Quite a lot, I suspect. So it is only natural that we should be influenced by the example of the saints. Perhaps we need to pay more attention to

the examples of good nowadays when the press, radio and television put before us so many examples of what is bad.

NOT ONLY IN THE PAST.

We can look at the lives of people who are saints in the formal sense, i.e. canonized by the Church, but we should not restrict ourselves to that sort of example only, as if the power of God was active in the lives of men and women in the past but not in the present. God's power for good is active all the time. Think of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, of Martin Luther King in the U.S.A., of Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder in England, and think of the good they have done: Mother Teresa for the poor, Luther King for race relations, Cheshire and Sue Ryder for the chronically handicapped and the deprived. Without their understanding of God and the love of God and man that flowed from it the world would be a poorer and a sadder place.

If God can so work in them, He can do the same in me — if I let Him. There's the rub. But I could start by wanting to let Him and working up from there. Maybe I'm not in a position to do great things like the people we've mentioned. That's not the point. The point is: am I sufficiently in tune with God to do what is possible in my own life, in my own circumstances? It isn't what I *do* that is the key to sanctity (closeness to God) it is what I *am* that counts. Am I the sort of person who tries to listen to God, to follow the will of God in the concrete circumstances of my life?

To want to be this sort of person is the most important thing. It is to start life's journey in the right direction. To try every day to be this sort of person is to come step by step along the way. And, although we may not be aware of it at times, like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus after the Resurrection, Christ is with us every step of the way. Remember, it's the union of mind and heart that makes us close to a person, God included. What we do flows from that. I've just had a thought: if we aren't saints today the Church won't have any canonizations tomorrow! We'd better get a move on!

WHAT — ME?

Yes you, because closeness to God is not only for the great ones the world gets to know about, it's for all of us, if only we want it. husband and wife, farmer and typist, apprentice and manager, young and old. That is the message of St. Therese of Lisieux.

Some people would go so far as to say even priests and monks and nuns can achieve it!

Remember, we draw close to God in the circumstances of OUR OWN lives, the monk as a monk, the housewife as a housewife. I approach God as myself not by pretending I am somebody else.

MUSIC HATH CHARMS

A couple of months ago I was

passing through Richmond Park which overlooks the river Thames on the outskirts of London. In a quiet spot, on a bench with his eyes shut and quite oblivious of all around him, sat a man of about sixty playing a mouth organ. The lovely dappled deer in the trees behind him took not a blind bit of

THIS COULD BE ME?

"I may have my faults but being wrong isn't one of them".

notice as they grazed. Peace.

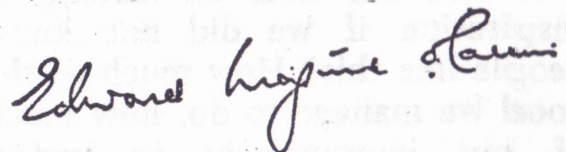
A couple of weeks ago in the Wicklow mountains I saw a boy of about twelve with his back against a tree and a dog lying quietly at his feet. The boy was wholly absorbed in piping away on a tin whistle. Peace.

Nature and music are better than any pills for drawing out the worries and tensions of life and helping us to relax.

Well it's time I got out the old mouth organ and played myself to sleep. Who cares about the man next door! Good night and God bless.

Until next time. Our Lady keep you.

Yours sincerely in Carmel,



E. Maguire, O.Carm.

THANKS

Grateful thanks to Our Lady, the Sacred Heart and St. Jude for favours received — Anon., Glasgow.
Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, St. Jude and St. Therese Conderc for so many answers to prayers. — E.E.F., Liverpool.

My Grateful thanks to St. Jude for his powerful intercession for the many favours and blessing obtained for us, and also thanks to the Sacred Heart, Our Blessed Lady, St. Martin and St. Peter of Alcantra. — Anon., Paisley.