

THE CARMELITE NEWS

WHITEFRIARS — FAVERSHAM — KENT

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RELATIONSHIPS

OUR lives revolve around people, and their lives revolve around us. We are completely dependent on others in so many ways, especially for love, companionship, comfort, support, reassurance, guidance, relief, joy, fun, security. Which is a long-winded (did you ever think I'd be anything else?) way of saying our whole life is made up of relationships. It is from our relationships with others that we get the ingredients of a happy life that I've just mentioned, and by the same token others get those same ingredients from us. Or do they? There's the rub. We all rub against each other in our relationships, like the axle and the hub of the wheel, so there must be lubrication or else there is too much friction, and the relationship, like the machine, breaks down, and we are the losers; and so are others too.

What is the lubricant that helps a relationship to run smoothly? Well, it is made up of several ingredients, and St. Paul mentions most of them in his letter to the Corinthians, the first letter to them, I mean. Here is his recipe: love, patience, kindness, forgiveness, courteousness, consideration for other people, trust, hope, endurance. He also warns us what not to use: jealousy, boastfulness, conceit, rudeness, touchiness, resentment,

rash judgement. You can look it up in your New Testament: 1st letter to the Corinthians, chapter 13, verses 4 to 7. You could also check on his letter to the Colossians, chapter 3, verses 11-15, especially for families.

LOOK AT OURSELVES

Now, we've seen that relationships need some lubrication if they are not to break down. We've seen the ingredients that make up this lubrication. Here's the 64,000 dollar question: Do we take the time, trouble and effort to use it? We are at the end of 1976. What about taking an honest look at ourselves and trying to answer the question? Honestly, now, no cheating. There's no point in cheating yourself and you cannot cheat the Man above because he knows the answer already. Let's be honest with ourselves and not only find the answer but also **do** something about it in 1977—or as much of next year as God may give us.

But—and it all comes after the but—I have a feeling, like rheumatism twingeing before ever a cloud appears on the horizon, that left to ourselves we shall not do very much. At least I know I don't, and I don't think I'm the only one. So we need to think prayerfully of St. Paul's recipe for relationships and to ask the Holy Spirit, who is the greatest relationship of all—that between God the Father and God

the Son—to help us. Here is a prayer of St. Francis of Assisi that could help.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

by Saint Francis of Assisi

Written seven centuries ago, this prayer expresses simply and beautifully a way of life for our time—and all time.

LORD, make me an instrument of Thy Peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. **AMEN.**

GOINGS AND COMINGS

In my last letter I told you the good news of a new priest for us and of the two new deacons. Now, thank God, I have some more good news. In October we sent off to Rome, where they will study their philosophy and theology, five new students, and at almost the same time we had a new entry into the noviciate of five young men, eager to try their vocation.

There is no doubt in my mind that a great part in this growth is played by you. I do not here mean the financial support which you so generously give and without which we simply could not manage. Heaven knows I am most grateful to you, as are all of us, for this, but

what I mean mainly to thank you for is the prayerful support you give us, especially your prayers for vocations to the Order. It is true we need money, but money does not produce vocations or guarantee that a man will persevere. Only the grace of God will do that and the grace of God is brought down by prayer.

So, at the end of another year, on behalf of the Provincial, of all the priests and brothers and novices I say a heartfelt "THANK YOU" to you all for writing to us and encouraging us in our work, for bringing down the grace of God upon us by your prayers—especially your prayers for vocations—and for the generous support which you give at no small sacrifice to yourselves.

Let me assure you that we are mindful of you daily at the altar and in our prayers. May God be good to you, and may he strengthen especially all those of you who write to us about their difficulties and their sorrows.

HAZLEWOOD

It is over a year since I wrote to you about this lovely old place near Tadcaster in Yorkshire. We have an enormous programme of development to push forward and we can only do it a stage at a time. However, great progress was made last year in two respects so far as the buildings are concerned. We have completely converted the old Georgian stable block into a residential block, comfortable but not luxurious. The horses would not recognize it! As a result many more people are coming for Retreats, especially young people and teen-



DON'T FORGET—

Our Coming Novenas in honour of

SAINT JUDE

December 16th—December 24th

HOLY CHILD OF PRAGUE

December 25th, 1976—

January 2nd, 1977



agers. So the place is gradually beginning to do its work of bringing Christ to the world. The men, priests and brothers, up there need your prayers in these difficult early days so please remember them. On top of this, literally, we have almost completed the repair of the old copings and the roof. So we'll be able to keep the rain at bay very soon.

R.I.P.

We suffered a sad loss on the 15th of October. Fr. Bede Caine, one of the Hazlewood community, died in a nursing home in Leeds on that day, the feast of St. Teresa of Avila. It almost seemed as if he had waited for that day to go to God. He was near to death more than once during his illness, but God took him on the feast of that great Carmelite mystic to whom Fr. Caine had a great devotion. He was sixty-one and had spent most of his adult life as a Carmelite, devoting himself to the work he was given, mainly teaching and retreats. So please say a prayer for the repose of his soul and thank God for the good that he did.

Incidentally, many people commented on the extraordinary patience with which he bore his illness and on how he had been an

example and inspiration to them. One young nurse said it was an honour to be able to look after him. So there's an encouragement for those of us who are ill or old or both to see the usefulness of that condition. If we accept it in the right way, we can still give something to others.

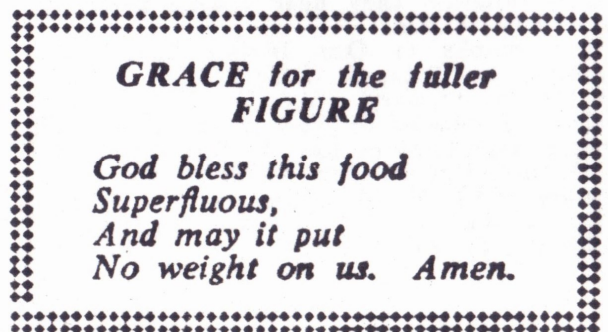
CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

As you probably know from reading the newspapers, Bishop Donal Lamont of Umtali in Rhodesia has been given a heavy prison sentence by the courts of Ian Smith's regime. He is at present at his home there awaiting the outcome of his appeal against the sentence. He comes originally from Ballycastle in Co. Antrim and has all the Northern wit and humour—and shrewd judgement and courage. He is one of us, having joined the Carmelites in 1930.

Over the years he has consistently spoken out in defence of the rights of the majority of the people and condemned the injustices inflicted on them by the government. At the same time he has clearly stated his opposition to violence. Men like this and the countries in which they work and the leaders in those countries need and deserve our prayers. If you feel like writing to him, just a couple

**GRACE for the fuller
FIGURE**

*God bless this food
Superfluous,
And may it put
No weight on us. Amen.*



of lines to tell him he is not forgotten in your prayers, his address is: Bishop D. Lamont, Bishops House, P.O. Box 47, Umtali, Rhodesia. Incidentally, don't mention this newsletter — it might look like advertising!

GOD IS WITH US

One of the names used in the Old Testament for the Messiah who was to come was "Emmanuel". Like most special names it had a meaning, which was, "God is with us". What a thought! And it is so true. God is with us in so many ways but at Christmas we are reminded especially of the fact that God actually became one of us and lived with us to show us how to live. He gave to our ordinary humanity a dignity beyond words by becoming a part of it, by becoming our brother. Pope Leo the Great in a sermon for Christmas said, "O Christian, be aware of your nobility—it is God's own nature that you share." We should remember this and not debase that

nature by anything which is unworthy—especially in our relationships. Let this Christmas be a time of forgiveness, reconciliation, love and joy, a time of thanks to God for all the love we have experienced in our lives.

Happy Christmas

I shall be spending Christmas in Rome with our students as a sort of link with home for them. From them, from all here at Faversham, including myself, a sincere and prayerful greeting to you all—may the peace of Christ be with you and all your loved ones this Christmas and throughout the New Year so that your joy may be full to overflowing.

Until we meet again, Our Lady keep you.

Yours sincerely in Carmel,

Edward Augustine Law

THANKS

Thanks to the Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Jude and many other saints for the happy death of my husband. — E. McCarthy, Kerry.

In thanksgiving to St. Jude for favour granted.—M.M.S., Clare.

Thanks to St. Jude and St. Peter of Alcantra for favour received. — M.C.R., Crieff.

Grateful thanks to Our Lady, St. Martin and St. John Macias.—B.O'B., N.W.1.

Grateful thanks to my dear friend St. Jude, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Sacred Heart, Miraculous Infant Jesus of Prague, St. Martin de Porres and St. Dymphna for all the wonderful help and consolation they have always given to me.—A.G., U.S.A.

Our thanks to Our Blessed Lady, St. Anthony, St. Rita, St. Jude and St. Gerard for favours received.—V.M.D., Liverpool.

Grateful thanks to The Divine Infant of Prague, Our Lady of Lourdes and Our Lady of Mount Carmel for granting my three favours.—M.H.M., Croydon.

Our thanks to St. Jude for his help.—M.Mc.G., Coventry.

Thanks for many favours received over the years, to The Sacred Heart, Our Lady, St. Jude and St. Joseph of Cupertino.—M.N., Naas.

My sincere thanks to Sister Benedicta for favour received.—H.Y., Bury.

Grateful and heartfelt thanks to St. Jude and Our Lady of Knock for wonderful favour granted.—A.K., Co. Clare.

My sincere thanks to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our Lady, St. Jude and St. Joseph for success in examinations and many other favours.—T.O'L., Clare.

Grateful thanks to the Sacred Heart, Our Blessed Lady, St. Jude, St. Anthony, St. Joseph, St. Martin, The Holy Souls and St. Joseph of Cupertino for success in exams.—C.F., Galway.

Grateful thanks to The Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Jude and St. Oliver Plunkett for many favours received.—E.S., Fermanagh.

Heartfelt thanks to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and our Lady of Lourdes for many favours granted.—A.H., Dungannon.

My grateful thanks to St. Jude for all favours received.—M.H., Tynemouth.