

The Carmelite News

MAY 1976 — JUNE 1976

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CRIME DOESN'T PAY

One of our priests in a parish that shall be nameless went upstairs to his room the other day to find a man, a complete stranger, standing at the desk. "What are you doing here?" said the priest: no answer. The question was put again, whereupon the intruder made a dash for the doorway where the priest was standing and finished up on the floor with the reverend gentleman gripping him by the scruff of the neck. The intruder had taken over £100, which the priest had put in his brief-case on the desk ready for the bank. So when the police arrived in response to the house-keeper's S.O.S. the situation and the burglar were both well in hand with our own Mick McManus of the Carmelites victorious by a fall and a submission. Les Kellet had better watch out! The modern Religious in this Order of ours is up to date not only in Philosophy and Theology but also in Karate, Judo, All-in Wrestling and the Gentle Art of Self-Defence! Who says we don't read the signs of the times?

Student Training

Which brings me to the question of the way we train our students. One of our readers asked if our students were trained in genuine

conformity with the teaching of the Church. At first sight you may think it an odd question, but I don't think it is. There are not a few crackpots around nowadays, individually and in groups, whose attitude to the church's official teachings and practical directives is eccentric, to say the least. I think it is natural for a person who is contributing to the student education fund of our Order to hope that the students who benefit will be given an orthodox education during their seminary training. Well, I can assure you all that we are very much concerned that our students should get sound training. We don't want narrow minded puritans any more than we want broad minded permissives; we

"True liberty is having the freedom to do what you ought, not what you want."

— from an article on Field Marshall Montgomery.

The Times 25.3.76.

don't want hide-bound traditionalists who can see nothing good in modern ideas any more than we want do it yourself theological whizz-kids who think there was nothing worthwhile in the church before they came along. We want men of sound judgement and real thought based on solid study.

Theology is not the Faith. It is thinking about the Faith and applying the Faith and interpreting the Faith in the light of both Reason and Revelation. The Faith needs to be expounded to different ages, different cultures; it needs to be understood in the light of new insights: that is the job of Theology. The Faith remains the same. Theology is like a great river whose source is Christ's teaching but with all sorts of tributaries of human wisdom feeding it down the centuries and itself irrigating with the truths of Faith vast territories of humanity.

Popes and Martyrs

So we send our students at present to Rome - so that the Pope himself can mark their work! Many of them attend the Gregorian University, where Pope Paul VI and four of his predecessors in this century studied their theology. You will not find anything but orthodoxy in the writings of Leo XIII, Benedict XV, Pius XI and Pius XII, although the first and the last of them gave a great lead in the development of Catholic Theology. Did you know that this University has a link with our martyrs?

Priests of the English Mission in the penal days lived at the Venerable English College in Rome and attended the Gregorian for their studies before coming to their perilous apostolate in the England of their day. Among them were some of the Forty Martyrs. I'd say that up to date Theology and a tradition of heroic defence of the Faith is not a bad atmosphere for a student aspiring to work on the English Mission to absorb.

Some go to other well established and highly reputable colleges there such as the Angelicum, St. Monica's and the Beda. This last is especially reserved for late vocations and has produced many first rate priests for the English speaking world. So, to the person who commented on the matter I say, "Thank you", for giving me the opportunity to explain our attitude and, I hope, reassure you all. I also thank them and *all* of you, especially those of you who worked so hard to make this year's Raffle a great success, for their generous donations.

**Don't forget the Coming
Novenas —**

17th - 25th June

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

8th - 16th July

**OUR BLESSED LADY OF
MOUNT CARMEL**

16th - 24th August

SAINT JUDE

It occurs to me that some of our readers may think that a splinter group of excommunicated people in Palmar de Troya in Spain who oppose the Pope is associated with the Carmelite Order. It is true they call themselves "Carmelites of the Holy Face", but this is a title they took for themselves. They are no more Carmelites than are the ducks at Aylesford - less so in fact, since the ducks are genuinely associated with the Order, whereas

these people are not. They and the people they lead astray need our prayers.

The New Mathematics

Did you hear about the fellow who was asked what a cubic foot was? He answered, "I don't know for sure, but it sounds terrible painful"! I was told the man in question was a Cork man, but a good friend of mine from Kinsale assures me on the highest authority it was a Kerryman from Glin. Of course, I believe him!

New Blood

You know how people seem to go on and on, they are the solid stuff of every congregation and society and committee? Then one day they are not there. Well, that happens to the circle of people who take our Newsletter. They take it for years, twenty, thirty years perhaps. Then one day we get a letter returned saying that person has died. It is happening a lot, so that the number of our subscribers and supporters in terms of good will, prayer and money is bound to drop badly if we do not get new blood into our membership. You faithful ones are the only people who can help us in this. Will you make a special effort to get *one*, just one will do, new member to take the Newsletter? It could be your target to get a new subscriber by July so that we can send the next newsletter to them. Please help.

As the police say "Name and Address please!"

Thanks and Apologies

We are most grateful to all of you who contribute to our fund

and we know that the widow's mite is given with greater sacrifice and generosity than many a larger sum from the comfortably off. We try to acknowledge every donation individually but we are running into the problem of costs. Many of you appreciate this and say in your letters that you do not want a reply and would prefer the cost of postage to be devoted to our apostolate. After working out costs of paper, printing and postage we found that if we reply to those good people who send us 25p, *more than half* their donation is taken up on costs. We feel you would not want this and so hope you will not mind if we do not acknowledge individual donations of 25p. It is no lack of appreciation that prompts us to take this step. On the contrary we so appreciate the sacrifice that we think it wrong to waste it by reducing its effectiveness to 10p by spending most of it on paper and postage.

The 16th of July -

The 20th of July

These two dates are precious to every Carmelite. The first is the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel; the second is the Feast of St. Elias the Prophet. Mary is the link between the Old and New Testaments. Think of that providential process whereby God chose out a woman to be the mother of the redeemer, selecting the race, the tribe, the family, the parents, *the* one woman, Mary. She is the focal point to which the salvation history of the Old Testament leads. At the same time she is the well spring from which the New Testament flows. Mary is both an end

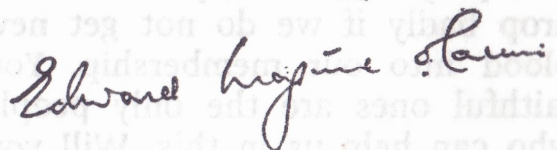
and a beginning, the end of stage one and the beginning of stage two in God's relationship with the human race. This young Jewess, steeped in the teaching of the Old Testament was so open to grace, co-operated so fully with God's invitation to her that the whole world was changed and all generations since have blessed her name. We should be following her in our whole hearted co-operation with God's invitation to us to co-operate with his grace so that our lives are better examples to the people among whom we live and work and play. "By their deeds you shall know them," said Our Lord. It is by our deeds that others come to know the Christ who dwells within us and who will use us, as he used Mary, to give himself to others. We need to pray daily that we will be as co-operative as possible with the grace of God, not only for our own good but also for the good of those we will meet that day. One day at a time then, is how we do it. We are only given one day at a time: let us make the best of it and go forward like Mary in faith and trust.

Elias, who lived in Palestine in the middle of the ninth century B.C., is the great example of a person who was not afraid to

speak up for what is right, even though he was frightened and weary and disheartened at times - just as we are. You can read about him in the first book of Kings, chapter seventeen onwards. His time was a time of turmoil rather like our own, especially in religious matters. He was an extraordinary man. He challenged the false tongues of his time, those who led people away from the truth of God. It takes courage to stand up and speak up for the truth, especially when your opponents are clever or well placed in power. Yet all through history men and women have found the courage to do so. Would you please pray for all Carmelites in the middle of July especially (mark the dates on your calendar) that we may follow Mary in faith and trust and follow Elias in bearing witness to the truth? You know that we always pray for you and yours.

Until next time God love you and Our Lady keep you.

Yours in Carmel



(Edward Maguire, O.Carm.)

THANKS

To Our Blessed Lady for a great favour received: One who believes in Prayer, Glasgow.—To St. Jude, Our Blessed Lady and the Sacred Heart. As promised: F.B.H., Bridgnorth.—To St. Jude, The Sacred Heart, Our Lady and many Saints for favour received: E.M., Baillieston.—To St. Jude for a great favour received: E.T., Omagh.—To St. Jude for a wonderful favour received and for help at all times: J.F., Castlemahon.—To St. Jude for change of house also thanking Our Lady of Rosary and all Saints: F.R., Glasgow.—To St. Jude in gratitude for numerous blessings: M.O'B., New Ross.—To St. Jude for many favours received: T. O'F., Worsley.—To The Holy Child of Prague, Our Lady, St. Joseph, St. Anthony, St. Jude, St. Anne, St. Martin and St. Oliver Plunkett for wonderful recovery: L.C., Wexford.—To St. Jude in gratitude for successful operation: L.N., Ballinasloe.—To The Little Flower in thanksgiving for recovery from illness: E.P.H., Shepperton.—To St. Jude for very special favour received: C.T.B., Miltown Malbay.—To The Sacred Heart, Our Lady and St. Jude for many favours received: M.O'N., Reading.