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# THE CARMELITE NEWS

AUGUST 1981

WHITEFRIARS — FAVERSHAM — KENT

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## ELECTED SILENCE

Hello, again! Now that we've got a minute or two to spare after the pressure of the day, let's slip off the shoes and put our feet up and be comfortable. There, that's better. Oh, the peace of that — to be in one's own room surrounded by quiet, with the noise and bustle left outside.

Did you hear about the man who decided he had a vocation to one of the strict, contemplative Orders with a vow of silence? Well off he went to a monastery where silence was so strict that each monk was allowed to speak only once every ten years. Not only that: he could speak no more than two words. There's worse to come: these two words could be spoken only to the Abbot! (I can think of a few short phrases I'd like to use on some people, Abbots or not, but I can't wait for ten years without bursting!)

After his first ten year spell our friend presented himself to the Abbot for his long awaited conversation, all two words of it. He was so overcome with emotion that he couldn't speak!

"Come now, brother", said the Abbot, "get a grip on yourself and speak up". So, screwing his courage to the sticking point, our man blurted out, "Food cold" and bolted out of the room.

Ten years later he presented himself again. This time, after all that

practise, he was more confident and quite calmly said his piece: "Bed hard", and walked out.

Another ten years went by, and positively blasé by this time, he went into the Abbot's study and said, "Going home", and stood there to see what the Abbot would say. "I'm not a bit surprised", came the answer. "You've done nothing but complain ever since you got here".

If any of you are thinking of joining the Carmelites, I assure you we do not wait for ten years to speak to our superiors—though some superiors might count themselves happy if we did!

*A special word of thanks to those of you who sold raffle tickets for us and to those of you who bought them. Selling them can be tedious, though it's one way of meeting friends, and buying them can be painful. Yet once again you have responded with your usual good humour and generosity. "God loves a cheerful giver", says St. Paul. In which case, He must love you all very much.*

## JUSTICE

On the 15th May, 1891, Pope Leo XIII published an encyclical letter to the whole world of his time. It was called, as are all encyclicals, after its opening words in Latin: "Rerum Novarum", but in the English speaking world it became known for what it was and was soon called, "The Workers' Charter".



In my last letter, May 1981, I made a few observations on the situation of some people in the world of today and in doing so looked at Brazil for a moment as well as El Salvador. **In this context** I said, "No need to label as 'Communist' everyone who tries to change the 'status quo'. Communism isn't the enemy: greed is the enemy. A greed that keeps millions in poverty so as to amass millions in profit".

One lady wrote to me to say she was quite surprised that I had both "exonerated Communism by implication" and easily forgotten Our Lady's warnings at Fatima regarding the errors emanating from Russia. She then went on at some length to point out the evils of Communism and the danger it poses to all countries, including our own. In fact I could not agree more with all she says about Communism.

In theory it does not make sense for human beings; furthermore it is materialistic, atheistic. In practice it has proved itself the second greatest tyranny the world has ever known, and that takes some doing.

## **TYRANNY**

The greatest tyranny, in my opinion has been, and still is, the tyranny of greed on a vast scale. The scale is universal in time—it was condemned by the prophets of the Old Testament before Communism was ever thought of and by Jesus in the New and is still being warred against by the Church today, thank God. It is universal in space from Europe to the Americas, from Africa to Asia.

Communism and Greed are both against the teaching of the Gospel,

but Greed uses antipathy to Communism to protect itself against necessary and just change.

## **LETTER FROM AMERICA**

If I may quote from a letter I received from a Bishop in Latin America in acknowledging some small donation we had made:

"Our 'democratic' government is rather questionable. It represents the richer classes only, and they are doing all they can to 'legally' defend their interests, and, of course, any opposition is considered by these 'pious' christians to be 'communist'!"

It was in this context that I wrote what I wrote in May and in that context I believe it to be

### **OUR COMING NOVENAS—**

September 23rd — October 1st  
**THE LITTLE FLOWER**

October 7th — October 15th  
**THE HOLY ROSARY**

October 20th — October 28th  
**ST. JUDE**

true. However, I hope that any misunderstanding about my opposition to Communism or to the evils of it has been cleared up.

## **POLITICS**

Another lady wrote to say she did not like my introducing politics in my Newsletter. I must emphasize that I was talking about **Justice**, and justice is a moral value by which people should be guided in all spheres of human activity—politics, economics, planning etc.

In a world where the poor are getting poorer on a vast international scale and also in our own country to a measurable degree, justice demands that we try to put right what is wrong. I know it is



not easy to do, and there can be quite legitimate disagreement about how to do it.

I still say that three million unemployed is a waste of people's time and talent. What I do not say is that it is the fault of any one government or of government only or attributable to any one cause. I do not believe this to be so. The economies of all countries, rich as well as poor are dependent upon each other to a great degree and upon many groups within each country.

### **HOLIER THAN THOU?**

What I do believe—and Papal pronouncements over the last hundred years, not to mention earlier ones, support me in my belief—is that inadequate housing facilities and mass unemployment are evils and must be remedied. I am not introducing party politics when I say this. My observations in the May letter about our own country were intended to show that while there are great injustices in Latin America for instance, we our-

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#### **DRAW RESULTS — JULY 1981**

- H.02994 — Mrs. Margt Power,  
Holy Ghost Home, Waterford,  
Ireland.  
G.13436 — Mrs. Whelan,  
139 Rock Avenue, Gillingham, Kent.  
J.27805 — Jim McIntyre,  
26 Bond St., Belfast 7.  
V.00147 — M. Costello,  
39 Cranbrook Drive, Glasgow G20.  
S.10412 — Lorna Leahy,  
14 Foxwood, Swords, Co. Dublin.  
F.13581 — Mrs. M. Cresswell,  
154 Langwith Road, Langwith  
Junction, Mansfield, Notts.  
P.14752 — J. Gribben,  
3 Dechment St., Hamilton, Lanarks.  
A.24818 — Eileen Mayne,  
10 Chorlton Grove, Wallasey,  
Merseyside L45 8QQ.
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selves are not free from criticism either, so we have no right to adopt a "holier than thou" attitude.

I must close this topic by thanking the two ladies who wrote, because by doing so they enabled me to remedy any misunderstanding, I hope. I must also thank them for the donations they sent and for their past and continuing interest.

Perhaps we shall come to a time when a twenty-hour week will produce sufficient for our needs, provide full employment and leave us more free time for leisure, reflection, prayer and the cultivation of friendships in particular and relationships in general. Why not?

### **A BOOK AT BEDTIME**

You know how you feel after a long day of serious study or discussions or anything demanding concentration? Well a week or two ago I had just that experience and thought to myself that the best way to relax was to get a good paperback story and go to bed with it and so to sleep.

I found quite a good one with an intriguing plot and pleasant, light-blue—unusual really—cover and put it on the office table while I made a couple of phone calls. That done I looked around carefully—all was well, picked up my book, switched off the light, locked the door and with an audible sigh of relief went to my bedroom. After all the usual rituals I hopped in, bedside lamp glowing nicely, and settled comfortably to read my book. Peace, perfect peace!

I picked up the book—"Vatican Council II: documents and post-conciliar documents"! That put me to sleep alright. Mind you, it had a pleasant, light-blue — unusual really — cover.



## ORDINATIONS

You will be pleased to know that your prayers and generosity have helped to bring two more Carmelite students to the priesthood: one in Glasgow on 5th July and the other at Aylesford on the 19th. Deo Gratias. Without you it would not have been possible. Thank you.

### A PRAYER

May God remember the soul of  
....., who has entered  
the life of eternity.

May he/she be at one with God,  
who is eternal life.

May I always honour the memory  
of my beloved

through acts of brotherly love and  
generosity.

Let his/her memory inspire me so  
to live

that through me his/her highest  
ideals and noblest hopes

may be brought nearer to fulfil-  
ment.

## LIFE HERE AND HEREAFTER

I came across the above prayer only the other day, and it struck a response in my heart. I like it.

I like it because its emphasis seems right in referring to a person who has died as "entering the life of eternity" rather than as "departing this life". Both aspects are true, but the former is so much more positive, looking forward to the reality of happiness in eternal life rather than backwards to the shedding of this transient and often difficult one.

I like it because it keeps fresh the memory of those we loved—and still do—in a way that is so

close to the way Jesus asks of us: "acts of brotherly love and generosity".

I like it because it helps us to draw inspiration, as God intended we should, from the lives he gave us to share not only during their time here but always. They still influence us for the better, lift us above ourselves, keep us from self centredness, widen our horizons, keep our hopes, our ideals from fading into dull oblivion.

I like it because it stresses inspiration from their presence rather than grief from our loss.

I like it because it helps us to think of them with more thankfulness than pain and so heals and strengthens us.

I like it because it reminds us that we give from what we receive and receive from what we give. Blessed be God for ever.

## TIMELESS

As you know we say Mass, which transcends time and space, every day for those whose names you send us and whom we specially remember in November. In the Mass through Jesus Christ—"Yesterday, today, the same forever"—we reach out to them and they to us. May they rest in peace.

The summer has not been brilliant but a golden autumn will more than make up for it and heal our hearts. God bless.

Until next time,

Our Lady keep you,

Edward August O'Leary