
THE CARMELITE NEWS

— SEPTEMBER 1982 —

WHITEFRIARS — FAVERSHAM — KENT

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A TALE OF TWO CITIES

You know the wild and woolly way that hair can grow, a sort of unilateral declaration of independence? Well mine is a bit that way inclined and is the bane of every barber.

Early this summer I went up to Liverpool to give a retreat and, badly needing a haircut, I saw a ladies hairdressers with a small annexe for men. Greatly daring I walked in. There were these women, each in her own chair with a sort of papal tiara stuck on her head! I know the Pope went down a bomb in Liverpool but this is ridiculous!

Talk about science fiction horror films. There they sat in mathematically precise rows, a metal bonnet on each head with wires sprouting out of it and plugged in to some infernal circuitry as if their minds were being taken over and alien thought patterns introduced! "The mind-benders", "Thought-Warp", "Personality Programmers" — all went through my mind until a young lady whisked me into a small room next door. "Tidy me up but don't scalp me," said I, and she did. The best haircut I've had in years, but I can't go up to Liverpool every time I want one!

A couple of months later I was in Dublin, badly needing a haircut and relating my Liverpool experience to one of the brethren. "I know just the place," he said, "and

I'll take you there myself." Off we went to a replay of my Liverpool experience except that when I said, "Tidy me up but don't scalp me," she did just that—scalped me! and I mean it!

Still, the people at the meeting that afternoon got an unexpected laugh when I turned up looking like a fright, and they started the proceedings in rare good humour. No mean achievement for someone who wasn't trying to be funny in the first place!

LIFE IS CHANGED . . .

There is a beautiful passage from the old Preface of the Mass for the Dead, still part of the liturgy today, which goes:

"In him, who rose from the dead, our hope of resurrection dawned. The sadness of death gives way to the bright promise of immortality.

Lord, for your faithful people, life is changed not ended.

When the body of our earthly dwelling lies in death we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven."

Everything is there, Christ, the foundation of our hope, and

OUR COMING NOVENAS—

September 23rd — October 1st
THE LITTLE FLOWER

October 7th — October 15th
THE HOLY ROSARY

October 20th — October 28th
ST. JUDE

heaven, the fulfilment of our joy. And every day in every Mass the risen Christ leads us through his suffering and death to his resurrection and ours. Every day we say Mass for those loved ones whose names you send us. The fact we miss them still is part of our offering as the suffering of Jesus was part of his. Thank God we have loved enough to feel their loss.

DRAW

That is the word that has heralded the shoot-out in many a Western film, but this time it is nothing like so violent. It is the draw of the ticket not the gun I'm referring to.

It always amazes me, though it shouldn't if I judged by experience, how many of you sell our raffle tickets for us despite the many calls on your time and patience by other organizations like parishes, Oxfam, and so on. Every year you turn up trumps, and many of you, who find it too difficult to go around selling the tickets, buy them yourselves. For your constant support for our apostolic work and for helping us to train our students I thank you all in the name of the Provincial and Province.

EVANGELIZATION

You may be interested to know that we have undertaken to help missionary areas with the education of their own native students for the priesthood, which is an essential pre-requisite for the success of the church. It is important that the Church should be seen as universal, catholic, not as something foreign. Therefore pope after pope has urged the preparation of local candidates for the priesthood and encouraged the appointment

of native bishops. Irish for the Irish and English for the English is all very well, not to mention Scotland and Wales, but the same must be true in God's good time for other countries and peoples too, black, white, red or yellow and all shades in between.

One of the greatest contributions we can make to the development of the church is to prepare an indigenous clergy to take their rightful place in the evangelization of their own people. We Carmelites are trying to do just that.

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES, THE MURPHYS AND ALL

I heard a story the other day that only a true Catholic could relish to its fullness and savour from the human as well as the supernatural angle. After all, a true Catholic is one who combines and integrates both. So far as this story is concerned it was told to me about a man from the south-west of Ireland but it could have happened anywhere in the world where a parish priest is a parish priest and a man has to have an eye to the main chance.

This P.P. was disturbed at the weak state of the parish finances and particularly disturbed that they should be so precarious in a prosperous farming area, where

PEACE PILGRIMAGE

Bishop Daly of Derry will be at Aylesford on September 26th. There will be Mass at noon and Procession and Benediction at 4.30. Perhaps you might like to join in it if not by actually attending, then by your own prayers for peace, especially in Ireland.

10p in the plate was the norm. He heard about Ian Paisley's "silent collection" (all paper money and by the bucketful) and decided to do something about his own situation. The next Sunday he announced that he would expect anyone who asked for a Mass to be said to make an offering of £5 and furthermore, if they wanted it announced in the notices, it would cost another pound. On the Monday morning one of his parishioners approached him and said he'd like a Mass offered for the local sergeant, recently deceased, and would the P.P. announce it in the notices? "Of course," said the P.P., "but you remember what I said yesterday?" "Well," said our friend, "if it's all the same to you, Father, here's a pound for the announcement, and you can forget about the Mass!!" "Be ye simple as doves and cunning as serpents" says the scripture, but somehow I don't think our friend got it quite right. What the P.P. said isn't recorded!

ST. TERESA

We are coming towards the end of the centenary year of St. Teresa of Avila, the great Spanish Carmelite, woman of prayer and practical organization, close to God and human with it. Her feast on the 15th October will be celebrated with particular solemnity at Aylesford, with a Pilgrimage Mass at 5 p.m. at which Archbishop Bowen will preside.

SILVER JUBILEES

Those spiritual descendants of St. Teresa, the Spanish sisters at Aylesford, recently celebrated the Silver Jubilee of their arrival there. Their English was not much better

DRAW RESULT — JULY 1982

- £500—L.20053: Mrs. A. Scott,
13 Henrietta St., Scoutstoun G14.
£100—B.08024: Mr. G. Foster,
34 Hall Lane, Simonswood,
Kirkby, Liverpool.
£100—C.20907: Mr. Martin Lilly,
Drumkeen, Ederney,
Co. Fermanagh.
£100—L.01249: Mrs. Margaret Cullen,
Cloughscragg, Thomastown,
Kilkenny.
£100—E.20632: Miss C. Kearney,
30 Dealtry Road, Putney,
London, S.W.15.
£100—R.20126: Patrick Griffin,
Ballycarbery W., Cahirciveen,
Co. Kerry.
-

than Father Malachy's Spanish, which seems in retrospect to have suited both sides! They have prayed and worked and smiled and helped and have been a source of inspiration and support for all who live at and all who visit Aylesford. The place would not be the same without them.

Another Silver Jubilee was celebrated at almost the same time, marking the foundation of our Youth and Retreat Centre at Allington Castle, once the home of Sir Thomas Wyatt, who received The Friary at Aylesford from Henry VIII on the occasion of its suppression. The wheel has come full circle.

ST. JUDE

Just a reminder that we shall be celebrating the Novena to St. Jude and also his feast on October 28th here at Faversham in the lovely shrine dedicated to him. Though small, it is a gem in its own right with a distinctly oriental atmosphere, as befits a saint whose mission was to the East. Perhaps we should commend the East, Near, Middle and Far, with all its

potential and all its troubles to this man, Jude, more than we do.

PAPAL INTEREST

Did I tell you before that when the present Pope was Archbishop of Cracow he used to ring up our friary there and pop in for the Mass of St. Jude and refreshments afterwards? So we devotees of St. Jude are in good company, none better in fact!

POLAND — MARY —

Talking of the Pope reminds me that this year is the 6th centenary of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Like the Irish, the Poles have been oppressed for centuries and like the Irish their faith has been and still is at the core of their culture, the guardian of their national soul. And at the heart of the faith is Jesus, and at the Heart of Jesus is Mary. The ikon of Our Lady of Czestochowa is evocative of all that Catholic Poland is and stands for.

FREEDOM IS A CRIME

Shall we remember the Polish people, the Polish church, a little more urgently in our prayers at this time, with a special remembrance for those brave men and their wives and children who have dared to say, "We want freedom", where freedom is a crime against the state? Perhaps we might attend the Polish pilgrimage at Aylesford on September 5th. True, it will all be in Polish, but at this time it might be good to show solidarity, to stand up and be counted with our brothers and sisters in the Faith.

KNOCK

You remember the old jokes: "Knock knock"—"Who's there?" Well, the Carmelites of the Irish

Province are at Knock in County Mayo—just an advanced guard at the moment, but they intend to start a foundation there. Knock is the place of the apparitions of Our Lady in the last century and has become a great centre of Marian pilgrimage. The Carmelites in olden days had houses nearby.

MARY OF THE POOR

Mayo was synonymous with poverty and starvation at the time of the famine, enshrined in the stark phrase, "Mayo, God help us". No wonder Mary appeared, she who in her *Magnificat* praised God:

"He puts forth his arm in strength and scatters the proud hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.
He fills the starving with good things
sends the rich away empty."

Again, the wheel has turned full circle. Praise God. May all prosper with the new foundation.

LAGER DONATIONS

There is a famous T.V. advert that "reaches the parts other beers cannot reach". Well your letters reach the hearts that other letters cannot reach, so kind and encouraging are you. One lady wrote the other day, and I quote, "I am sorry I cannot send you a *lager* donation!" God bless her. So am I in the hot weather!

May Autumn be gentle to you, and till next time

Our Lady keep you

Edward Hughes