



THE CARMELITE NEWS



AUTUMN 2017

Dear Friend of Saint Jude

It is a pleasure to be writing to you again! Some of you might remember that I was the Shrine Director here in Faversham from 1999 to 2002. That was a great experience to write to you, but more importantly to read your letters in reply.

Then from 2002 to 2014 I worked in Rome in our central headquarters or Curia. I was privileged to meet many Carmelites from all over the world and discover many different ways of living out the Carmelite charism. I hope over the coming months to share something of this experience, not only because it is fascinating in itself, but because your prayers and donations have contributed to the establishment and growth of Carmel in so many parts of the world. The prayers you offer and the material help you give are crucial in so many places. I want to share with you what you have achieved.

One of the most important contributions you have made, however, is not abroad in the far flung corners of the world, but here at home. The fundraising activities of the Shrine of Saint Jude exist to support the training programme for Candidates training for the religious life and priesthood. Although numbers are much lower than the last time I wrote- in 1999 there were ten or so students in the province- we are lucky enough to have one student at the moment. He will be writing here from time to time to keep you informed of his progress.

The biggest impact you make however is to Carmelite missions all over the world. I will be writing about the various missions you have been supporting with your prayers and donations.

A Word of Thanks

Before I get any further, however, I must offer a word of thanks to Fr Antony Lester, my predecessor as Prior Provincial and writer of this newsletter. I always enjoyed what he had to say with his easy, familiar style and I know you did too. It's quite a discipline putting pen to paper (or finger to keyboard!) four times a year! Thank you from all of us Fr Tony.

Remember our Novenas

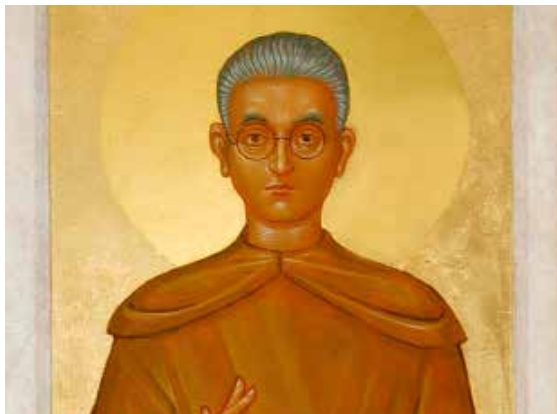
Novena to the Little Flower: 23 September - 1 October 2017

Novena to the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary: 29 September - 7 October 2017

Novena to Saint Jude: 20 - 28 October 2017

Blessed Titus Brandsma (1882-1942)

This year sees the 75th anniversary of the martyrdom of Blessed Titus in the Nazi concentration camp of Dachau. Many of you know his story, but I am always impressed by two things in particular. First, he was a person interested in so many different fields: Carmelite, journalism, philosophy, spirituality, poetry, prayer, mysticism. He was a man of prayer and an intensive spiritual life so much so that he too can be considered a contemplative. He refused to obey the Nazi policy of anti-Semitism in newspapers and in schools. For this he was arrested in January 1942 and eventually sent to Dachau where he died on 27th July 1942.



The icon of Blessed Titus at the Shrine

While he was being interrogated and again in the concentration camp, he forgave his captors. This is my second point: he showed a Christ-like love that reached out to his “enemies”. We know that this is never an easy thing to do. Probably we don’t have “enemies” as such, but there are plenty of times when we clash with others or they appear to treat us badly. The lesson from Titus is that there is nothing to be gained from demonising the other and everything to be gained from keeping the lines of communication open. Christian love is not only for our friends or those that agree with us, but for those who disagree or who are even openly hostile.

The process from beatification (which took place in 1984) to canonisation – being declared a saint – has been a long one for our Dutch Carmelite. However, there have been several developments in Rome in recent months and we may see some progress in the autumn.

Coming Events

The major event on the horizon at this time of year is the Saint Jude Feast day weekend on the 28th and 29th October – a Saturday and Sunday. There will be a number of Masses and devotions over those two days and we hope that many of you will attend. The veneration we offer to Saint Jude is a way of expressing our discipleship of Jesus Christ. Through Saint Jude we can draw near to Christ and listen to his words, as Jude himself did in his life. As one of the 12, Saint Jude reminds us also that the Church is built on the witness of the apostles as the closest followers of Christ and that the principal task of an apostle is to “go out” and spread the Word. So too are we called to follow Christ closely and to carry his Word to those around us. The preface in the Mass for Apostles sums this thought up:

For you have built your Church to stand firm on apostolic foundations, to be a lasting sign of your holiness on earth and offer all humanity your heavenly teaching.

This is a good reminder for us to renew our own commitment to the holiness that we are all called to.

Saint Jude’s outreach

As I mentioned above, the prayers you offer and the material help you give is certainly not confined to this part of the world. The British Province of Carmelites has always tried to support the establishment and growth of the Order’s mission areas and recently we have decided to give special attention to the island of East Timor, just north of Australia. The British Province has pledged £25,000 per year to support the training programme for young Carmelites in East Timor and in Australia itself. Just to give you an idea, the Australian province spends about £290,000 on formation each year, so the British contribution is quite significant.



Seven new deacons for East Timor

This is a part of the world which has only recently achieved peace. When I was there in 2010, it was the only place I had ever visited where I passed through Customs and Immigration manned by United Nations' Peacekeepers. Over the years the political situation has steadily improved and the country is now a stable democracy.

The Australian Carmelites began a mission there in May 2001 with the acceptance of a parish and the opening of a house in the capital Dili. A noviciate and student house were built in the following years and opened in 2006 in Hera, just outside Dili.

Here is an extract from a newsletter that I received recently from the Australian province.

15 YEAR MILESTONE FOR TIMOR-LESTE MISSION - CARMEL CONTINUES TO GROW IN TIMOR LESTE

August 15 2015 marked 15 years of our mission in Timor-Leste.

In August 2001, Wayne Stanhope (Prior Provincial) and David Hofman (Provincial Councillor) travelled to East Timor to take responsibility for the East Timor mission and the Timorese Carmelites. They were joined by Heribertus Purwanto (Provincial, Indonesia).

On August 15 2001 at an open-air Mass celebrated in Zumalai, Fr Heribertus was formally entrusted to care for the East Timor Mission of the Australian Province. On behalf of the Australia Province, Wayne Stanhope (Prior Provincial at the time) formally accepted this responsibility.

At that time there were 3 Solemnly Professed (1 priest & 2 deacons), 6 brothers in temporary profession, 2 novices and 10 candidates.

Today there are 17 Solemnly Professed (11 priests, 1 deacon, 2 brothers & 3 students), 16 brothers in temporary profession, 9 Novices and 9 Second Year pre-novices in Timor-Leste.

This is a project well worth supporting and I commend it to you. I have included some photos from the project on the next page. You can donate towards our project by visiting: <http://tinyurl.com/CarmeliteMissions>





Br Agedo sorting out food parcels



Three deacons were recently ordained to the priesthood



In 2016, second year novices took lessons on how to use the library with a lay Carmelite



Celebrating 15 years of the mission

Keep in contact with the National Shrine of Saint Jude

Website: <http://www.stjudeshrine.org.uk>

News blog: <http://tinyurl.com/StJudenewsblog>

Donate on-line: <http://tinyurl.com/DonatetoJude>

On-line shop: <http://tinyurl.com/SaintJudeShop>

And finally...

Well, I have come to the end of my first newsletter and I hope you have found something of interest. Here at the shrine we are now preparing in earnest for the feast day and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Please pray for all the Carmelite Family in Britain as we work to be praying communities in the midst of the people. Until next time, I wish you every blessing in the Lord, the protection of Mary and the intercession of Saint Jude.

In Carmel,



Kevin Alban O.Carm.
Prior Provincial



The gardens surrounding the Shrine are beautiful this time of year

Prize winners of Saint Jude's Burse Draw 2017

1st prize, £1000: Mrs M Curran

2nd prize, £250: Mrs S Heap

3rd prize, £100: Mrs P McCarthy

Runners up prizes: Mrs M Hill, Ms G Hendrickx, Miss YT Burnes, CE D'Silva, Mrs S Brennan, MT Gannon, A Anoje, Miss M Walsh, Mrs R Farrell, Mrs C Malone

The tickets were drawn by Fr Richard Cosey, O.Carm, member of the community here. Congratulations to all our winners and thank you to everyone who took part!

Feast of Saint Jude celebrations 2017

Saturday 28 October 2017

Saint Jude Mass with the Blessing of Oil and Anointing
at

12.00pm - 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Sunday 29 October 2017

Saint Jude Mass with the Blessing of Oil and Anointing
at

12.30pm and 2.30pm

ALL WELCOME

Friends of Saint Jude who cannot attend can purchase a pillar candle by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/2017candle>. This will be lit at the Feast weekend.



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Front cover - Statue of Saint Jude pictured in the candle tent at the Feast of Saint Jude. All photos, copyright Order of Carmelites.