

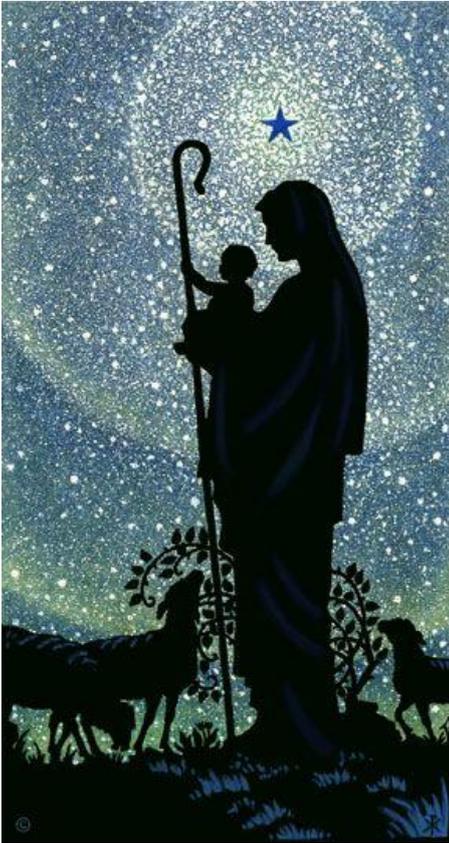
TYBURN NEWSLETTER

TYBURN MONASTERY COR JESU FONS VITAE, 74 DODS RD. NGAKURU RDI, ROTORUA 3077

CHRISTMAS 2019

www.tyburnmonastery.co.nz

Dear Friends of Tyburn Monastery



This Christmas picture of the Child Jesus grasping a shepherd's crook is perhaps not quite realistic, yet it does have the symbolism of Jesus who was born into our world to become the Shepherd of His people, and of all people. His people did not recognize or accept him, but that is typical – one owner of sheep recently complained that sheep never seem to come to recognize or accept their owners. Jesus calls us sheep not without reason.

The picture also has the sense of peace and stillness which were part of the first Christmas though very rarely part of ours. Reading the gospel accounts of the whole Christmas story, one is struck by the silence. And by the words that were *not* spoken. There were no words of excuse from Mary when she conceived by the Holy Spirit, no words of blame from Joseph. Later, no complaints from either when forced to make a long journey to Bethlehem at the worst possible time (naturally speaking) when the birth of their Son was imminent. No words of anger when Herod sought the Child's life and took other innocent lives. The Angels are the only ones who seem to make any noise! This reminds us that it is good to refrain from unnecessary words. Our Rule of St Benedict tells us that "in much speaking you shall not avoid sin".

And if we keep quiet, God has a chance to speak to us and for us. As we can see in Christ's history, everything really does work out for the best if we can only allow God to act, and accept His will in our lives.

This year has kept us very busy with many guests, both individual and groups. We have welcomed Catholics, Christians of other denominations and people of no particular faith. All seem to find in the peace and beauty of the surroundings, something that helps them. We believe *that something* is Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, exposed throughout part of each day. Many try to practice silence also, and find it a help to their prayer. In June we were able,



with the help of oblates and friends, to celebrate the 40 hours of continuous adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

prior to the feast of Corpus Christi. This is always a special time of grace for those who participate, and hopefully their prayers call down blessings for many others in need, in our country and throughout the world. On Sunday it was raining, so our procession with the Blessed Sacrament once again was not able to take place outside but went through the guesthouse. Our Prioress thinks it rained because the Lord wished to bless the dwelling of all those who sacrificed their time and their rest in order to watch with Him during the 40 hours adoration!



We recently read about Alicja Lenczewska (1934-2012) a mystic from Poland. Brought up in the faith, she became a member of the Communist party but later converted and dedicated her life to Jesus. She left behind a spiritual diary which was examined by a theological commission, at the request of Msgr. Andrzej Dziega and was found consistent with Church teaching. Like our Foundress Mother Marie Adele Garnier she received special graces during the Holy Mass. At Communion time she was granted the gift of conversations and mystical meetings with Jesus. She wrote of the ***“magnitude of the great, unique love of Jesus”*** which could ***“only make one cry over one’s ingratitude”*** Regarding the Eucharist He told her: ***“During Mass I make a Sacrifice of myself for you and at the same time I come to you first in order to make you willing to invite me into your life...Adoration I offer the Father in your heart, in your soul. You should consciously participate in this adoration, you should join your sacrifice with mine...Beware of a thoughtless and indifferent receiving of me in Holy Communion. This is a great sin and profanation of my Love and my Gift born in the Blood of Golgotha...Do not care about the priest who offers my Sacrifice. Do not observe him, do not evaluate him. Do not choose the Sacrifice offered by your favourite priest. Do not go there for him. Come only for me – for making a gift of yourself on the altar and accepting my gift in Communion...”*** (Excerpts taken from: Love one Another, Catholic Magazine)

Our animal population has increased with the kind gift of 6 new chickens who are all laying well for us. The sheep grazing the pond area produced three lambs which was a surprise both to us and the farmer as they were not expected. One ewe chose a narrow path on a steep hillside to produce twins. Naturally, one slipped off the path and being still very weak, was unable to return. It was fortunate that our chaplain saw it and being a practical good shepherd, he put it back on the path with it’s mother. We are still awaiting the cria of our three alpacas.



The 3rd of October was a special day for the Congregation as our 2 ‘Monks of the Sacred Heart’ were clothed in their new habits as novices. They are receiving some formation from Benedictine Monks in England, as well as from our own Congregation. These two Colombian priests were attracted by the Charism of our Foundress Mother Marie Adele Garnier. Their enquiries corresponded with the finding of a document written by Mother Adele titled “The Monks of the Sacred Heart” in which she sets out her vision for a male order similar to ours. They shall be starting their own Congregation, though sharing the same Foundress as ourselves. Rev.Fr Manuel has taken the name of Benito Maria and Rev.Fr Hector the name of Bernardo Maria. May the Lord bless these ‘missionaries of the last times’ as Mother Foundress called them.



Our monastery took part once again in the Rotorua Festival of Gardens which is always a good opportunity to welcome many new people who had not been here before. Some were surprised to find it was really an active monastery and that the Sister praying in the sanctuary was not a statue but a real, live Nun! Our oblates and friends valiantly served Devonshire teas and light lunches as well as selling beautiful craft items which

they had made.



THE CHURCH – THE BODY OF CHRIST



Recently we were permitted to watch the canonization of Cardinal John Henry Newman, an Anglican convert to Catholicism, who was canonized with four other new saints from different parts of the world. It is always a marvel that God continues to raise up numerous saints in the Church, despite the troubles that all times experience. Likewise today has it's own troubles and many of the faithful are scandalized by clerical abuse, or angered by the leadership of the Church. Cardinal Sarah has written 'The Day is Now Far Spent' regarding the current state of the Church. He urges us to: ***Hold fast to doctrine, hold fast to prayer. The devil seeks to make us doubt the Church, he wants us to regard her as a human institution in crisis. However she is so much more than that, she is the continuation of Christ. The devil drives us to division and schism, he wants to make us believe that the Church has betrayed us, but the Church does not betray. The Church, full of sinners, is herself without sin. There will always be enough light in her for those who seek God. Do not be tempted by hatred, division, manipulation...***

Given the surge of sins in the ranks of the church we are tempted to try to take things into our own hands. We are tempted to try to purify the church by our own strength. That would be a mistake. What would we do? Form a party, a movement? That is the most serious temptation. The showy disguise of division. Under the pretext of doing good people become divided, they criticize each other, they tear each other apart, and the devil snickers... We do not reform the Church by division and hatred. We reform the church when we start by changing ourselves. Let us not hesitate, each one in his place, to denounce sin, starting with our own. I tremble at the thought that Christ's seamless garment is in danger of being torn again. Jesus suffered agony when he saw in advance the division of Christians...Let us not be afraid to say that the Church needs profound reform and that this happens through our conversion...

NEWS FROM OTHER MONASTERIES

During this year in the Congregation, the Motherhouse welcomed a new novice in April, Sr Mary St Maurus. In August Sr Esperanza in Peru made her Temporary Profession, and Mother Rosa also in Peru (see right), celebrated her Silver Jubilee. This month Sr.M Ethelburga will make her monastic profession in Largs, Scotland. In France was celebrated the first anniversary of the opening of the House of Marie Adele. Thanks be to God!



Right: the community in Ecuador with the Bishop

Below: 1st anniversary of 'Maison Garnier'





Our Community in Peru



Novice and Postulants in Colombia

Let us renew our efforts to pray for the Church and for priests – which while it is the duty of all Catholics, is of course our own special calling. Early next year we expect the postulants for the cause for Canonization of our Foundress Mother Marie Adele Garnier to be in New Zealand to interview people regarding their devotion to Mother Adele. As we approach Christmas, it is a good time to recall that it was at the Christmas Mass of 1888 that Mother Adele received the grace of interior priesthood from our Lord: ***“Jesus again made me understand that his altar would be in the centre of my soul, that there he would unceasingly immolate me with himself and that I would immolate myself by abandon. He showed me that for this I had to attain very great purity of heart, soul, mind and body...”*** These graces were not just for herself, they were given ***“most especially for the sanctification of priests.”*** Again: ***“...And thus held fast, I hear him say to me: ‘It is in Me and through Me that you live, that you give yourself, that you sacrifice yourself. Your soul is all mine, and I render it sacerdotal: offer yourself at all times with me, and offer me to my Father, with yourself; you have all power over me, and I deliver myself to you, that you may glorify my Father and that you may be at the service of souls, of the souls of priests especially.’”*** It is because of these and similar graces that some think she could be called a patroness of priests.

We hope you all have a fruitful Advent, preparing to celebrate the birthday of our Saviour, which day we trust will be a happy and blessed one. Our prayers will be with you all, in deep gratitude for your support, especially at Christmas. May God bless you, your families and loved ones also throughout the New Year.



“May each Christmas, as it comes, find us more and more like him, who at this time became a little child for your sake, more simple minded, more humble, more holy, more affectionate, more resigned, more happy, more full of God.”
St John Henry Newman