



TYBURN TALK

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Sacred Heart 2015

Dear Friends,

“I rejoiced when I heard them say let us go to God’s House” (Psalm 121)

These words sum up the message of the first events of this year for our Community. First, on the 17th January, we witnessed the Monastic Profession of Mother M. Josephine. It was a beautiful day, and Mother made her Vows before a large congregation which overflowed into our choir. Some of her friends and family did the readings and offertory procession, and the celebrations continued into the afternoon with a reception and then more community festivities. Mother looked so happy, as this was the day for which she had been preparing for over five years, praying, studying, listening to God’s Word and giving herself more and more to all that is asked of her in community life. She is now aglow with the joy of being fully consecrated to the Lord and using her gifts and talents in the service of His Church.

Just under a month later our dear Mother M. John Baptist went to her eternal home at the age of 92, after 57 years of dedicated service as a Tyburn Nun. Right up until her last days she was a constant source of love, peace and joy in our community and is still greatly missed by all of us. Some of you will have known her well as a pillar of our Congregation in her position for 30 years as secretary general and fulfilling other roles such as media sister and mistress of ceremonies. Australian by birth, she entered one of the Congregation’s early foundations in Manly, Sydney and played an important part in the establishment of Tyburn Priory before travelling over here to England, to be assigned to the Mother House. Part of her work as Secretary General involved meticulous archiving of the hundreds of documents written by or connected with our Mother Foundress, and in recent years this archival work has proved invaluable for the compilation of Don Gianmario Piga’s biography “The Path of Marie Adele Garnier”. Thanks to her work, the author was able to assimilate and publish the wealth of history and spiritual riches contained in Mother Foundress’ letters. Many of you unknowingly encountered Mother through Tyburn Talk, which she wrote for 30 years! When the time finally came for Mother to go to her heavenly reward, she showed her characteristic determination to do everything to the best of her ability, and in spite of her seeming weakness and frailty participated in the last rites with fervour and devotion, and renewed her vows clearly and firmly before the sisters assembled at her hospital bedside. She often joined in the recitation of the rosary and even sometimes managed to join us chanting the psalms. During the 6 days she was in hospital Mother received Holy Communion every day thanks to the devoted pastoral care of the hospital chaplain, Fr. Kingsley and our own chaplain Fr. Patrick Cope. If Mother had been too sleepy when one of them went in the morning, the other would try again in the evening! She slipped away quietly on the morning of 12th February. Mother M. Lioba was with her and wrote that “there was such an incredible sense of peace and of God’s presence” around her death-bed. We thank God for the life, example and holy death of Mother John Baptist and ask your prayers for the repose of her soul. RIP.



One of Mother John Baptist’s many great contributions to our community was her Monastic Afternoon talks which were masterpieces, and the talk on the martyrs which she left us in writing is a

model to inspire sisters coming after her. You will find enclosed a poster advertising our Monastic afternoons, which we hope you can display in your Parish or other appropriate place, to carry on Mother John Baptist's great work of kindling love for the Martyrs and for our vocation of Eucharistic Prayer and Worship.

Another Tyburn Martyr event took place on the 4th May, anniversary of the death of the first reformation martyrs, St. John Houghton and companions. This year for the first time, the Anglican



brothers of the London Charterhouse joined us for a special commemoration service after Holy Mass in the Martyrs' Crypt. We decorated the Crypt with greenery, and vases were placed on the Martyr's Altar beneath the Tyburn Gallows replica. During the ceremony the sisters, brothers and some guests placed 20 red roses in the vases in honour of the Carthusian Martyrs. The whole ceremony, which included a moving account of the martyrs' preparation for death, their arrest and passion, and prayers for Christian Unity, was so beautiful and fitting that it seemed as though we had always done it!

Afterwards there was a happy gathering for a celebratory luncheon.

St. John Houghton was also remembered at another ceremony, when June Herridge became a novice Oblate of our community and took him as her patron with the name Sr. Joanna of the Holy Trinity. Sr. Joanna, who comes from the Isle of Man, was at first forestalled in her attempt to come to us, as a thick fog descended over the airport and all flights were cancelled! However a few days later the skies cleared and she received her oblate name and scapular on Divine Mercy Sunday. To her delight several of our oblates were able to attend and celebrate her special day with her. She is now happily spreading the joy of living according to the spirit of the Rule of St. Benedict.

Those of you who knew the community at St. Benedict's Priory in Wadhurst, which moved to Cobh, Ireland in the 1990's, will remember Mother M. Benedicta. We recently received the news of her passing to the Lord on 5th May. She had long since celebrated her Diamond Jubilee, and to the last she lived up to her surname: "Joy". She is greatly missed by her sisters, family and many, many friends.

Now that we are half way through the year, sisters are turning their hands to various crafts in preparation for the Tyburn Fayre on 31st October, and our kitchen sister is already acquiring the ingredients for the Tyburn Christmas Cakes. As the season for berries arrives we will be filling our freezers with fruit for our Tyburn Jams, and as you can see the Grand Draw is already underway. If you would like more raffle tickets please let us know, and we also greatly appreciate any items you can donate to sell at the Fayre or to Raffle.

All the Tyburn Community would like to thank you our friends for your prayers and the support you give us in so many ways. We want to assure you of our daily prayers for all your needs and concerns, whether they be the daily trials of the home and workplace, sickness, financial crisis or any kind of misfortune in your own lives or those of loved ones. Faced with the many crises and sufferings of today's world, some of you may be seeking the strength to persevere in Faith. Whatever your need, it is presented to the Sacred Heart each day in our Community prayers and Adorations before the Blessed Sacrament. Our Conventual Mass on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart will be offered for the intentions of all our friends and benefactors.

The Tyburn Nuns

Please pass Tyburn Talk on to a friend