



St. Peregrine Cancer Centre REVIEW



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Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Spring edition of the "Review." I was talking to a woman at the beginning of the year and she was not looking forward to the coming year, it being 2013. She had a fear of the number 13 as it's considered to be an unlucky number. Edgar Wallace the well-known crime writer of the early last century perpetuated this myth by titling one of his novels "Room 13" where a gruesome murder takes place in a hotel. To this day thanks to Mr Wallace, room 13 is seldom offered to guests if hotels but used as a utility room or something else. In more recent times our friends in Hollywood haven't helped matters by making movies like "Friday the 13th" and keeping this number in our minds as a bad omen.

From now on 2013 will be remembered as the year our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI resigned causing shock and awe throughout the world. However let us remember that this man accepted the leadership of the Catholic Church at the age of 76 when most of us at that age have long since retired from major responsibility. Pope Benedict will be remembered for his eight years of dedicated service by upholding and teaching gospel values especially in the areas of justice, peace and morality - values sadly lacking in our so-called progressive world of today. May God now grant him a peaceful and prayerful retirement and may his successor be blessed with the wisdom, courage and strength he will need as the next Holy Father.

As the old saying goes - "life is what we make of it" - so let's hope and pray that God will direct us in the choices we make as we journey through 2013. May we become more aware of all the goodness in ourselves and each other and have faith to pray for the strength courage and hope we need to help us and each other during the difficult times when they arise.

May the joy of our Risen Lord be in all your hearts this Easter to lighten your journey on the road ahead.

Fr. Sean O.S.M. Editor.

Take Up Your Cross

Your pain is deep, and it won't just go away. It is also uniquely yours, because it is linked to some of your earliest life experiences.

Your call is to bring that pain home. As long as your wounded part remains foreign to your adult self, your pain will injure you as well as others. Yes, you have to incorporate your pain into your self and let it bear fruit in your heart and the hearts of others.

This is what Jesus means when he asks you to take up your cross. He encourages you. to recognise and embrace your unique suffering and to trust that your way to salvation lies therein. Taking up your cross means, first of all, befriending your wounds and letting them reveal to you your own truth.

There is great pain and suffering in the world. But the pain hardest to bear is your own. Once you have taken up that cross, you will be able to see clearly the crosses that others have to bear, and you will be able to reveal to them their own ways to joy, peace, and freedom.

PAPER ROSES

The rose is one of the most beautiful flowers of all. However, it requires a lot of careful tending if it is to be seen at its best.

In the part of the world I then lived in, we were lucky to have an expert on roses. Damien was his name. His fame had spread far and wide. Proof of this could be seen in the fact that he was in constant demand.

He travelled the length and breadth of the country giving talks and slideshows. He spoke not only with great knowledge of his subject but also with great love of it. Thanks to his talks, many people filled their gardens with exquisite roses.

As I am keenly interested in roses, there was a time when I followed Damien around, lapping up every word that fell from his lips.

One of the very first things I heard him say was, 'No garden can truly be called a garden if it does not possess at least one rose.' I also heard him say, 'If you wish to have good roses be prepared for a lot of hard work. If you are afraid of thorns then leave roses alone.'

One day I shook hands with him after one of his talks, congratulating him on the excellence of it. As I did so I was conscious of one thing. This was the hand of a master rosegrower.

Naturally I expected his hand to be hard and coarse. Yet to my surprise I found it to be soft and smooth. I looked at it. It didn't bear the slightest mark of a rosethorn.

The following evening I found out why those hands were so well-preserved. I visited the expert in his own home. To my astonishment I found that his garden - that little plot of ground which had been given to him alone to till - was not only bereft of the humblest specimen of rose, but also overgrown with weeds.

A Prayer For Healing

Father, I surrender to You completely now. I yield everything to You - my body, my soul, and my spirit, my family, my job, my finances, my weaknesses, my strengths, my past, my present, and my future, everything I am, for all eternity. I ask You, Lord, to give me a repentant heart for all the things I've done to grieve You, all my sins, my iniquities, my coldness of heart, and my lack of trust. I ask You to empower me to turn around, to go the other way, the way that pleases You. Holy Spirit, I welcome You into my life right now. I praise You and love You. I ask You to help me receive the things I've asked for from the Father through Jesus. Help me to come into fellowship and communion with You, for I really don't know how to myself. Make me fully aware of Your presence and enable me to hear Your voice. I promise to obey. Lord Jesus, anoint me with the Holy Spirit as I obey and learn. Give me Your power to touch those around me and those You will bring across my path. Show me what to do next. And help me never to neglect Your fellowship. I pray in the name of Jesus my Lord. *Amen.*

Can You Ever Really Leave Home?

Several years ago Carlo Carretto, one of the great spiritual writers of our time, returned to Italy from the Sahara desert after many years as a monk among the Bedouin. He then wrote a spiritual testimony, *I Sought and I Found*. (DLT, 1984), within which he chronicles his journey towards, and struggles with, God. He ends the book with a love letter, addressed to the church, the visible institutional church. A paraphrase of the opening lines reads like this:

How much I criticize you, my church and yet how much I love you!
 You have made me suffer more than anyone and yet I owe you more than I owe anyone.
 I should like to see you destroyed and yet I need your presence.
 You have given me much scandal and yet you alone have made me understand holiness.
 Never in the world have I seen anything more obscurantist, more compromised, more false, yet never have I touched anything more pure, more generous or more beautiful.
 Countless times I have felt like slamming the door of my soul in your face - and yet, every night, I have prayed that I might die in your sure arms!
 No, I cannot be free of you, for I am one with you, even if not completely you.
 Then to - where should I go?
 To build another church?
 But I cannot build another church without the same defects, for they are my own defects. And again, if I were to build another church, it would be my church, not Christ's church.
 No. I am old enough. I know better!

"I want to preach the Gospel with my life. Today especially people no longer want to listen to sermons. They want to see the Gospel in action"

- Charles de Foucauld

The Circle of Love

Apprehensive smile on a young girl's face,
 Pink with the blush of love;
 Happy to lean on her father's arm;
 Grace with the music moves

To her new life with the heart she picked
 From the flames of ardent youth;
 Her boy rises and takes her hand;
 They pledge love, honour and truth.

A sly tear is soft in her father's eye,
 As he gives his girl away;
 The circle of love has turned full for him;
 He got her mother that way.



- Paddy Meegan

Language of the Heart

Dear God, You know my needs before I ask, my heart before I pray, and my gratitude before I even offer my thanks. You understand me better than I understand myself, and I thank You for communicating with me in the language of the heart.

MASSES IN HONOUR OF ST. PEREGRINE

SERVITE ORATORY - ST. PEREGRINE CENTRE

At Rathfarnham Shopping Centre, Dublin, Special Mass for the Sick every Wednesday at 4.30 p.m. followed by Novena Prayers and Blessing with Relic. Counselling Service available Monday through Saturday. Phone (01) 4936300.

FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, 7.30pm:

- St. Mary of the Servants Church, Blakestown, Dublin 15. Tel: 01-8210 874.

FIRST AND THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, 8pm:

- Servite Priory, Benburb, Co Tyrone. Tel. Benburb (028) 3754 8241.

FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, 7.30pm:

- St Mary's Church, Greencastle, Shore Road, Belfast.

FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, 10.00am:

- Divine Word Parish, Marley Grange, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16. Tel. 01-4944 295.

LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH, 6.30pm:

- St Mary's Priory, 264 Fulham Road, London SW 10 9EL. Tel. (+44) 20-7352-6965.

FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, 11am:

- Servite Priory, Bury New Road, Kersal, Salford, Lancs. M7 OWP. Tel. (+44)161-792-2152.

A book of petitions is open at each Priory to record the names of our sick brothers and sisters. We offer those names to the Lord at our Masses and Healing Services for the Sick.
 OUR THANKS TO YOU

St. Peregrine Centre depends on the generosity of our friends and supporters in order to provide our services to the sick. We ask for your continuing help in the light of the additional expenditure in maintaining the Oratory and the development of the ministry at Benburb, Kiltipper, Marley, London and Kersal. All donations, wills, bequests and offers of help through fund-raising will be most welcome.



MAILING LIST

For future issues of the "REVIEW" send this coupon to: Fr. Sean, O.S.M., Editor, St. Peregrine Publications, Servite Priory, Benburb, Co. Tyrone, N. Ireland BT71 7JZ

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