

B.S.L. NOTES

For the Friends of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence

The Brotherhood helps those in need and endeavours
to arouse thought and action on social questions.

FITZROY

AUGUST, 1958

No. 131

The Superior writes on . . .

CONTINUAL CRISIS - CHRISTIAN METHOD IMPROVING HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Dear B.S.L. Friends,

Once again the world has become involved in a serious crisis. Today's headlines tell us that American marines have landed in Lebanon. We have become almost hardened to such tidings. The majority of people seem to go on their several ways oblivious of the danger that threatens civilization. Thoughtful people must know that this kind of thing cannot go on indefinitely.

Time is running out.

In spite of sincere efforts being made to bring about understanding between East and West the deadlock continues, and each block continues to spend countless millions to "defend" itself against those with whom they would be friends. This simply does not make sense. In spite of warnings given by the leading scientists of the world in regard to the danger of nuclear energy, we continue to pile up atomic bombs, and nations continue to vie with each other as to who can make bigger and better missiles. While all this madness continues, young men in their thousands are being trained in the latest technique of mutual killing. I am not saying that we should not be prepared to defend ourselves. As matters are at present such is essential, but we are only putting off the evil day unless a better method to obtain understanding amongst the nations can be found the "show-down" must come, and come before we are very much older.

CHRISTIAN METHOD

What is to be done? As I see it the hope of the world lies in the application of the Christian method—the only infallible method to create good-will, and good-will is absolutely essential to the salvation of the world in our own day and generation. I know that to refer to Christianity anywhere except in a church building is, in the eyes of many, to divorce oneself from what is called practical politics, and this in spite of the fact that the Christian Way is the most practical way ever devised.

One of the tenets of Christianity is that evil can only be overcome by good, the need before all needs at the present time is to create good-will. Although we are surrounded by dark clouds, some of those clouds have silver linings. One of these is the Colombo Plan. All who have the welfare of mankind at heart should do all in their power to encourage the Government to enlarge that Plan.

28th
Patronal Festival

Sunday, 10th August

FEAST OF ST. LAURENCE

CHORAL EUCHARIST

Carrum Downs, at 9.30 a.m.

Preacher:

The Right Rev.,
The Administrator
(BISHOP JOHN McKIE)

All Brotherhood friends are
invited, and a light breakfast
will be served in the dining
room after the service



Two vans are available to collect clothing and household goods in the suburbs. How are clothes used? See story on page 3.

The Superior's Letter (Cont.)

I know that money is needed for the Snowy River Scheme and other such projects for national expansion, but what will be the value of such expansion if the present threatened danger becomes a reality? Perhaps a still brighter lining, although less spectacular, is the "Volunteer Graduate Association for Indonesia" founded here in Melbourne. Many young doctors, teachers, technicians and the like from Australia are working alongside Indonesians receiving the same pay, living in the same houses and with the one objective, that of creating good-will and understanding amongst our near neighbours. Surely this is of greater value than all the threats of armed force?

FOOD FOR PEACE

I think that our "Food For Peace Campaign", also founded here in Melbourne, constitutes a silver lining. A certain number of people crying for food in far off India are given new hope because of the good-will of friends here in Australia.

To change the metaphor, these of course are but drops in the bucket, but they are drops of good-will and good is infinitely stronger than evil.

One of the sad aspects of the present time is the stress laid upon purely material gain. It is said that the best men can only be had for any task by offering the best salaries. Amongst the happiest people in the world are those who regard financial gains of quite secondary importance. There can be no richer reward than that which comes from the knowledge that one's job is that of making some contribution towards the welfare of mankind as a whole. We are told by some that our greatest need is for more scientists and technicians, such may constitute a need, but the greatest of all needs is for men and women who will produce good-will and understanding and so improve human relationships.

If human relationships are to be improved amongst the nations, they must first be improved in the individual nation. We seem to be failing in this respect in Australia. Class against class, party against party and even church against church seems to be the order of the day. We should set our own house in order in this respect.

BROTHERHOOD'S PART

I like to think that the Brotherhood has done, and is doing, something to improve human relationships. The rich do understand the needs of the poor as was not the case in the past. The conscience of the nation is now more alert to the suffering of the "underprivileged" than in years gone by. This is all to the good, but this silver lining will only dispel the dark

FOSTER HOMES NEEDED FOR CHILDREN

An appeal for foster homes for children was made by Miss Nancy Hillas, the Brotherhood's Senior Social Worker. "Social workers are frequently faced with the need to find a suitable temporary home for children in cases of sickness or the temporary absence of the mother", Miss Hillas said.

"In some cases it is possible to find a housekeeper if the mother is ill, but very often this is not possible and the best solution is to find a suitable temporary home. Failing this the children may have to be sent to institutions.

"The Brotherhood would like to have a register or list of families prepared to provide a home for a child or children when the need arises as these family emergencies occur very suddenly."

Miss Hillas pointed out that in some cases the need is for a home for only a short period but sometimes the placement may be for several months or even indefinitely. It would be helpful to know the number and preferred ages of the children any family would be willing to take. A Social Worker would visit any families who offer and explain the circumstances.

In most cases a payment is made to cover the cost of maintaining each child.

Offers from families who would be willing to take children during holidays would also be welcomed. Widows and deserted wives who are working find it extremely difficult to make satisfactory arrangements for their children during holidays.

Anyone who is able to assist in this very important work is asked to contact Miss Hillas at 67 Brunswick St., Fitzroy. JA.7055.

BUS TRIPS TO CARRUM DOWNS

Bus trips to Carrum Downs will be organised on the following days:

Saturday, August 23rd.

Saturday, September 20th.

Saturday, November 1st.

(Carrum Downs Market Fair)

TRAINING

My last thought on this subject is to parents and school teachers. The University of Melbourne has a Department of Social Studies which gives excellent training for those who would equip themselves for the kind of work to which I have referred and which is of such importance to the world. When your young people are contemplating their future career, I would that you put before them the value of such training and the value of the work to be done.

With our greetings to you all, from us all,

I am, dear B.S.L. Friends,
Yours very sincerely,

G. Kennedy Tucker
Secretary B.S.L.

P.S.: Two final points —

1. I hope that as many of you as possible will be with us at Carrum Down on August 10th.
2. Will you please only address letters of a private nature to me at Carrum Downs. Others should go to 51 Royal Arcade, Melbourne.

clouds when our homes and our schools produce streams of young people filled with the spirit of service, inspired with the desire to promote the spirit of good-will and convinced with the knowledge that real satisfaction in life comes from doing a job absolutely necessary for the welfare of mankind. I am convinced that there is not one problem amongst all the problems with which the world is faced that could not be solved by the Christian methods, we must employ those methods.

GUIDANCE FOR YOUTH

If what I have written is of any value, I hope that it may be heeded by parents and school teachers, and especially teachers of Church schools. As things are at present, the future for youth is dark indeed, it need not be so if we realise the situation, and if we train our youth to work for those things that bring about sympathy and understanding amongst the peoples of our own country and of all countries. The Brotherhood is ever in need of such men. I am now looking for a young man with some business training and organising ability to help me in an important part of our work. We do not offer rosy salary baits, but enough to keep oneself and family (if there is one!) and a life full of interest and satisfaction.

The Salvage Division Slogan is:—

"ANYTHING YOU DON'T WANT WE CAN MAKE USE OF"

Each day some 40 people ring the Brotherhood's Salvage Division and offer clothing, ornaments and household articles. "We need, and could cope with, twice as many offers", said Mr. Graham Walker, Manager of the Division.

The Salvage Division has two main functions. The first is to provide a supply of good, used clothing for old people, families and children who cannot afford to clothe themselves adequately.

Mrs. C. is typical of those who rely on this service. She is a widow with five school age children and, until twelve months ago, the family lived in one room in Fitzroy. In August, 1957, Mrs. C. was given a Housing Commission home. She is a first rate mother and a very independent person. After Mrs. C. moved to her new home the Social Worker heard nothing of her until two weeks ago when she called at the Social Service Bureau.

Mrs. C. and her children were managing remarkably well on the limited income of pension and allowances from the Children's Welfare Department. The rent was up to date and the children were well fed. There was nothing on hire purchase although there is little furniture in the home. Mrs. C's main worry was clothing for the children. The Social Worker has undertaken to provide clothing from the stocks that come into the Salvage Division.

TYPICAL

Mrs. C. is typical of the people who are helped with clothing through the Division. Social Workers make out orders covering the requirements of the families or old people and these are passed on to the Salvage Division where they are made up, if the clothing is available in the sizes required.

In the past twelve months 1,300 orders have been made up for some 4,000 men, women and children.

HELPS WITH FINANCE

The second objective of the Salvage Division is to assist in financing the Brotherhood's social service activities. Clothing not required by Social Workers for their clients, household articles and ornaments and anything that is saleable is sold through the Brotherhood's suburban Opportunity Shops. The sale of waste products such as newspapers, rags, milk bottle tops, adds to the revenue of the Salvage Division and makes possible much of the Brotherhood's work.

At the Division's Store in Westgarth St., Fitzroy, and in the Opportunity Shops, most of the work is carried out by voluntary helpers who assist with sorting and running the shops. Groups of ladies work during

the day and on most evenings groups of young people are to be found at the Division giving up their leisure time to help the work.

TWO VANS

Two vans are available to collect clothing and household articles in the metropolitan area. Cartons and parcels from the country are carried free of charge by the Victorian Railways if addressed to the "Brotherhood of St. Laurence, Flinders St. Railway Station".

Some organisations and Parishes have arranged their own salvage drives and the clothing and goods gathered are called for by the B.S.L. Van or sent by rail. This helps greatly as only one van trip is required to pick up the goods from a central point.

To help people with goods and service the Brotherhood can use an endless supply of clothes and household goods.

NOTES FROM AUXILIARIES

NEW GROUPS AT DANDENONG AND BOX HILL

BOX HILL: At a meeting held in St. Peter's church hall on June 30th, an auxiliary was formed at which Mrs. McGregor was elected President with Mrs. Dawson as Secretary/Treasurer. This auxiliary has decided to hold their meetings on the fourth Monday of each month.

DANDENONG: A very successful meeting of the friends of the Brotherhood was held at the home of Mrs. Stewart and at which Mr. David Scott spoke on the work of the Brotherhood. An auxiliary was formed which will help to stock and serve at our Dandenong shop. Mrs. M. Pawsey was elected President and Mrs. I. Snell as Secretary. We welcome this new auxiliary and hope they will enjoy working for the Brotherhood.

PRESTON: The Preston auxiliary had a very successful card night on Friday, 27th June, at which two new members joined the auxiliary. The Preston Council have again co-operated with the auxiliary and have given permission for a "Button Day" to be held in Preston on August 29th. Mrs. R. W. Gardiner, President of the auxiliary, would like to hear from anybody who would be interested to help the Brotherhood by joining the auxiliary — JU 5833.



Helpers sorting in the section of the Salvage Division that supplies clothes for families and old people.

CAMBERWELL: The Camberwell auxiliary had a record number of people (93) when Mrs. Melaux Herbert spoke at the French Luncheon which was held at the home of Mrs. Ross Eva, in July. The next luncheon will be held at the home of Mrs. L. W. Roach of 79 Wellington Street, Kew (WA 4605), on Thursday, 7th August, when Mrs. D. Parkinson, a Spanish member of the auxiliary, will speak on Peruvia. All Brotherhood friends are very welcome and should ring Mrs. Eva at WA 2491 if they would like to attend.

FITZROY: Fitzroy Shop Auxiliary held their annual meeting on Wednesday, July 9th, when Father Tucker presided and Archdeacon Sambell was present. About 30 members of the auxiliary were at the meeting and Mrs. D. Southern and Mrs. N. Bucknall were re-elected President and Secretary, respectively. Mrs. V. Hancock and Mrs. O. Healey, Vice-presidents. This auxiliary has given loyal service to the Brotherhood for over 24 years. On June 1st they moved to a shop across the road in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, as, owing to building programme, the original shop has been demolished.

ORMOND: The next meeting of the Ormond auxiliary will be at the home of Mrs. T. A. Stevenson of 30 Newham Grove, Ormond (LW 4139), on 5th August, at 8 p.m. The Brotherhood's shop which is run by this auxiliary is looking for more help. All unwanted clothes and household goods are always welcome to the shop at No. 2 Katandra Road, Ormond.

CHELTENHAM - MENTONE: This auxiliary held their July meeting at the home of Mrs. Edmund, at which their opportunity table proved a great success. Arrangements have been made by the group to visit Carrum Downs on July 13th to present a garden seat in memory of the late Mrs. Dorothy Geer, a former member of this group. The group is now endeavouring to help furnish and

renovate a sitting-room for the elderly folk at Carrum Downs. Their August meeting will be held at Mrs. Kelly's home, 11 Ellen Street, Parkdale. Ladies who would like to join this group are always cordially welcome. Mrs. Kelly's phone is XY 3939.

BRIGHTON: Congratulations to this auxiliary which has been working for the Brotherhood for 12 months! At their annual meeting, Mrs. K. D. Green was re-elected President, with Mrs. A. B. Houghton, Secretary, and Mrs. H. Cameron as Treasurer. They regretfully received the resignation of Mrs. H. D. Hillis, former Secretary, who was unable to carry on due to illness. This auxiliary specialises in street stalls. £24 was made at their last one and the next will be held on Friday, August 8th, in Church Street.

GLEN IRIS: The Glen Iris group is holding a picture night on Saturday, July 19th, at the home of Mrs. A. H. Smart, 181 Glen Iris Road, Glen Iris. Arrangements are being made for an Australian Tea "Bring-a-Gift-Buy-a-Gift" for later on in the year.

MIDDLE PARK: This group has been busily organising two street stalls which were held on May 31st and June 21st. £38 was the netted result. Another stall is expected to be held early in December. Meanwhile the group shall continue to hold their very successful card parties.

CUSHION CLUB: The last meeting of this group was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. Hedding at Blackburn, where coloured films showing rural development in various countries were shown. An International Games night is to be held on July 26th at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Griffiths of Mentone.

ESSENDON: This small group of workers held an evening at the home of Miss Dot Ellis, Learmonth Street, on Saturday, 12th July. In spite of the cold weather which kept many folk away, it is gratifying to report that £21/5/- was raised. Thanks go

to Mesdames Cook, Nicoll, Berriman and Shattock for their efforts, also to Miss Ellis for making her home available. We are also grateful to those who, by their attendance and support, contributed to an enjoyable and profitable evening.

"FORTUNAS GROUP": This new group held a very successful party night on July 26th at one of the member's homes. They also helped out for two nights at our Mannequin Parade in the Mural Hall of Myers and have arranged a picture night for the middle of August.

ARMADALE: The Armadale auxiliary are wanting friends of the Brotherhood to make babies' clothes and tea cosies for their stall at the annual Fair on 8th October. Anybody who can help in this way should contact Mrs. Thorn, President of this auxiliary, at UY 7169.

MELBOURNE YOUNGER SET have £1,500 already towards their target of £5,000 for the year. Their monthly meetings are held at Menzies Hotel on the first Monday of each month and already they have many new members. At present they are in the process of doing-up and ducing two Land-Rovers which they were given and which they hope to sell to swell the funds of their group. Plans are now in progress for a "Progressive Dinner" which will be held later on in the year.

CARRUM DOWNS FAIR ON NOVEMBER 1st

The Annual Carrum Downs Village Fair will be held on Saturday, November 1st, and residents are already hard at work to make the Fair a big success. Please make a note of the date now.

MARKET FAIR IN OCTOBER

Friends are reminded that the annual Fair will take place at the Lower Melbourne Town Hall on Wednesday, October 8th.

The committee would be very grateful for any gifts of babies' wear, toys, sweets, etc., eggs, jams or produce of any sort. For our friends in the country, these will be carried free on the railways. All gifts may be left at our city office a few days before the Fair.

We want to remind you also of the apron competition and the tea-cozy competition. Entries for the apron competition to be sent to the president of the Brighton Auxiliary, Mrs. K. D. Green, of 226 Were Street, Brighton (XB 1085), and the tea-cozy entries to Mrs. D. Thorn of 81 Kooyong Road, Armadale (phone UY 7169). Prizes will be given for the most original in both sections and all aprons and cozies will be sold at the Fair.

DONATION SLIP

THE SUPERIOR,
BROTHERHOOD OF ST. LAURENCE
51 ROYAL ARCADE,
MELBOURNE, C.I. MF 3011

Please find my donation £ : :

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."