

B.S.F.

Quarterly Notes for the "Friends of the Brotherhood of S. Laurence."

Pitzroy, Vic.

October, 1888.

No. 2.

Dear Friends,

Soon after my last letter to you, I went to Newcastle for our festival. It was a great joy to me to be there again, and to find all going well, both in the parish and in the Brotherhood House. Dr. Russell seems to be proving himself a worthy head, and his brothers and the people of the parish are backing him up well.

We had a very happy festival, but we missed our Bishop. The Eucharist was celebrated in the presence of the Vicar General. The Rev. E. H. Barrmann, Warden of S. John's College, preached the occasional sermon. Some 30 clergy partook of the lunch prepared by the local friends of the Brotherhood. We are very grateful to them for the help they are giving us at the home base.

On my way back to Melbourne, I stopped in Sydney for a day, where I met many of our Sydney friends. We had afternoon tea together at the A.B.M. tea-rooms. Miss Milner Stephen kindly made the necessary arrangements and acted as hostess. Dr. Micklem presided, and spoke of the need of such brotherhoods as ours. It was a great pleasure for me to meet our Sydney friends, who are doing so much for us. I told them that now that our work has expanded, we are relying on their sympathy and prayers more than ever.

In regard to our work here at Pitzroy, we are having a most interesting and encouraging time, and we feel sure that we did right in coming. We have a wonderful opportunity; may God give us grace to make the most of it.

Relat.
who we like
We have been very fortunate in securing the help of the Rev. George Green, who has undertaken to act as our honorary organiser. His advice has been of the greatest help to us, and he is now preparing a circular, which tells more fully than these notes are able to do of our hopes and ideals. He is one of those who feel the need of such brotherhoods as ours, and we are most fortunate to have him with us.

Bo. Lett. in Paper
As I write, we are very busy making preparations to open a hostel for unemployed men. It is called the House of S. Francis. We have taken three houses in a terrace of nine which is situated a few yards from S. Mary's Mission. Certain friends here made themselves responsible for the rent of the houses, and, in response to a letter I inserted in the daily papers, we have nearly sufficient furniture for the houses. Our aim is to befriend some of the thousands of young unmarried men who are out of employment through no fault of their own. The men receive 12/- per week sustenance money from the Government. This is given to us; we keep 7/6 for expenses, and give 4/6 to each man for himself. I do not think that people realise the conditions under which many men are existing at the present time. In the industrial parts of Melbourne (I presume that it is the same in Sydney and other such cities) there are groups of men living in dilapidated houses, without furniture or the means of maintaining the decencies of life. It is said that the Communist Party see that disciples of their system become members of these communities, and so sow the seed of their anti-Christian creed. The present is a wonderful opportunity for communism, and the advocates thereof are making the most of it. It is none the less a wonderful opportunity for the Church, but one wonders if she is making the most of her opportunity. I think you will see that our venture is not only a Christian one, but also a practical one. When the House of S. Francis is fully established it will be self-supporting. The initial outlay is comparatively small. We estimate that under our scheme 16 homeless men can be given homes for 8/- a week. For 8/- a week, 16 men, now living in a state

unworthy of Christian society, can be befriended in the name of Christ and His Church. I think you will see that it is worth while. We of the Church often bemoan the fact that we have lost touch with our men. Here is a God-given opportunity to remedy this defect. Personally, I feel that in the present depression the Church has the greatest opportunity of her history. May she make the most of it.

We have been very fortunate in securing a staff for the House of S. Francis. Mr. Alwyn Gregory, the son of one who worked with my late father in years gone by on similar ventures, is to act as honorary superintendent. Mr. Gregory is assistant librarian at the Prahran Library. He will have a room in the House, and will devote much of his spare time to the work. Sergeant-Major Corlass, who has been with us at S. Mary's since we came here, is to live at the House of S. Francis, and will look after the material needs of the men. He has already been of the greatest help to us, and we are very glad to have him with us in our new venture.

You will see that we have had much to encourage us since we came to Melbourne, but what encourages us more than anything is the splendid backing we have had from the Archbishop. We are including in these notes extracts from His Grace's charge to Synod, which is now sitting. Nothing he could have said could have pleased us better. Needless to say, we are in absolute accordance with what the Archbishop says in regard to teaching Brotherhoods. The challenge His Grace makes to the younger clergy is the challenge the Brotherhood has been making since its inception. The encouragement we have received from the leaders of the Church in Melbourne is rather wonderful to me personally, for I recall that some twenty years ago I was one of five young priests who offered their services to a former Archbishop for work in any poor industrial centre. We only asked for sufficient money to feed and clothe ourselves. Our offer was not accepted, but now my dreams of long ago have come true. I am no longer young, but perhaps

that is an advantage, and those who are with me are still in the full vigour of youth. The Archbishop, in his charge, told of a dream that he had many years ago. I would to God that our Brotherhood could do something to make that dream come true—not in Cambridge, but here in Melbourne.

Bro. Evans, who has been with the Brotherhood at Adamstown since the beginning of the year, is to join us here. He will continue with his studies for the priesthood, and will help us in the work. I had hoped that I should have been able to tell you that a third priest had joined us here, but in this respect we have been disappointed. The need in this respect is great, but I am quite sure that the right men will be forthcoming. God has been wonderfully good, and we are very thankful for the encouragement we have received. It is a great help to us to know that you, our good friends, are at the back of us. I know that we could not have done what we have done but for your prayers and sympathy. There is still much more to be done, but with you behind us, and with God's help, it will be done.

With best wishes from us all,

I am, yours sincerely,

G. KENNEDY TUCKER,

Superior, B.S.L.

P.S.—You may be interested in the leaflet about the House of S. Francis which I enclosed with this.

G.K.T.

SUBJECTS FOR INTERCESSION.

(1) That the hopes of the Archbishop for Melbourne for a Teaching Brotherhood may be realised.

(2) That young priests may be ready to make the sacrifice asked of them by the conditions of the times in which we live.

(3) For the Brotherhood's organiser in his efforts to make known its ideals and secure for it more friends.

(4) For the House of S. Francis, for those who live therein, and for the staff thereof.

(5) For at least two more young priests.

(6) That the Brotherhood may be able to take more of the young laymen who are willing to join.

CENTRES OF BROTHERHOOD WORK.

S. Stephen's Church, Adamstown, N.S.W.

S. Mary's Mission, Fitzroy, Victoria.

"FRIENDS OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF S. LAURENCE."

To these are posted copies of the "Quarterly Notes." Friends are asked to pay the sum of 3/- a year. Those who wish to become friends are asked to communicate with the Superior at the Fitzroy address.

THE BROTHERHOOD PRAYER.

O God, Who didst enable Thy deacon, S. Laurence, to suffer for Thee and Thine; Grant to Thy servants of the Brotherhood of S. Laurence so to cherish the flock committed to their care that their sanctuary may be a treasure house of all pleasant store, and that joy may be theirs now, and in the day when Thou makest up Thy jewels, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Subscriptions (3/- each).—Mrs. Ogilvie, Miss Pinnenger, Miss Trail, Miss D. Gregory, Mr. Dando, Miss Rosengren, Sister Constance Lloyd, Reverend C. R. Dalton, Mr. Irving, Mr. E. S. Paul, Mrs. J. Wilson, Mrs. Taylor-Baker; per Mrs. Baxter-Bruce (2).

Donations (over and above the 3/- subscription).—Mrs. Stewart Webster, 17/-; Dr. Stacy, 7/-; Mrs. Inglis, 10/-; the Misses Paul, 1/-; Mr. and Mrs. Wiedemann and family (5), 5/-; Miss N. Brookes, 17/-; Miss Miles, 17/-; Miss Blade, 2/-; Miss Galloway, 17/-; Miss Brown, 17/-; Miss

Clare Richardson, 2/-, and pillow slips, etc.;
"Malvern," £1; Mrs. Inglis, blankets and linen.

These acknowledgments do not include amounts
received for social work in Fitzroy.

2/10/33 FROM THE CHARGE OF HIS GRACE THE
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE TO THE
SYNOD OF 1933.

"A new experiment to solve the problems facing the Church in our big industrial areas is being made this year by the Rev. Gerard Tucker, who has come to S. Mary's Mission, in S. Peter's parish, Eastern Hill. He is introducing there the Brotherhood of S. Laurence, the members of which are in Holy Orders and live as celibates so that they can work together on a minimum stipend and extend the influence of the Church where it is most needed, and, at the same time, most difficult to provide. We shall watch this experiment with interest, and we should pray for its success. If we could have a teaching brotherhood to undertake work in some of our boys' secondary schools, and to start elementary schools, we should be able to solve some of our more pressing educational problems. I should like to see some of our younger clergy and laymen agree to forego marriage for five years and manage a school on similar lines to those of the Christian Brothers in the Roman Catholic Church. I remember how four of us who were friends at Cambridge at the end of last century used to discuss the possibility of such an enterprise, but it fell through because two of us were recalled to Cambridge to teach, and the others were absorbed in other work. But it is a grand ideal, and perhaps others will be found today to undertake in this diocese what I failed to achieve over thirty years ago. Our younger clergy are sometimes all too anxious to be married. Such a teaching order as I suggest must rule out marriage at any rate for a few years. In self-defence, I may say that I was not married till I was thirty."