



B. S. L.



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

Adamstown, N.S.W.

July, 1932

No. 3

Dear Friends,

We have not anything of special importance to report to you in regard to our doings of the past quarter. Bro. Weidemann, who had just come when I last wrote, is now quite one of us. His work lies in a neighbouring parish which provides the funds for his maintenance. I wish that other parishes would utilise the services of some of the many young men desirous of coming to us as students. But yet if we did receive more men we should have to take it in turn to go to bed! Even as it is now when we have visitors for the day some of us have to retire to the kitchen for our meals! These draw-backs, however, are of little consequence. What does hurt though is that we have to refuse to take some really excellent men. It seems to me that there is something wrong that such should be the case.

One young man, with very good credentials, writes: "If you could take me I would be ready to serve anywhere after ordination, and should only ask for my board and a few shillings a week pocket money." This young man has quite a good position, and is ready to give it up in order to serve the Church in the Sacred Ministry, but yet the Church says "We cannot use you." There are any amount of men available, and God knows there is any amount of work to be done, but there is not sufficient money with which to train them. It is not as if these men ask for large stipends, they are content with just enough to live upon. It does seem tragic does it not? It is only the Church that can

save the world, but yet the Church is hopelessly understaffed. The Brotherhood System can help to solve the problem of how to provide more men to do the work of the Church. Dear friends, do continue to pray for an extension of the Brotherhood System.

We little realised when we formed our Brotherhood to what extent it might grow. At first it was just a method for the staffing of this parish, but we are realising more and more the greatness of its possibilities. We have not only scores of applications from young men wishing to join us, but we have been approached by the authorities of two dioceses as to the possibility of our establishing branches in the dioceses they represent. This at present is quite out of the question as none of the three priests here can be spared, (in fact, we need a fourth). It does, though, make us realise the need of more brotherhoods and the interest there is in our venture. Our hope is that more priests of some experience will throw in their lot with us, and then after a time we could launch out. In the meantime it is for us to continue patiently with our work here, and to prepare ourselves for what other work God may have in store for us. He has been wonderfully good to us, and we are most thankful for His many blessings.

Since I last wrote to you we have formed another auxiliary, which we call The Local Friends of the B.S.L. These friends are chiefly of this parish. From the inception of the Brotherhood many of them have shown a very real and practical interest in its welfare. Being near at hand, many of them are able to help us in a way impossible for our absent friends. To have friends ready to help with our washing and mending means much to us.

Speaking of absent friends reminds me that I have been asked by some of you good people to tell you of some little thing you might send us. There are of course a lot of things we want. I did not realise, until I became the head of a large household, of the nasty little habit things have of

wearing out. I used to imagine that sheets, towels and other such things lived for ever, but such I now know to be far from the case. I realised this the other day when I saw one of our priest brothers making his bed. The cover which I saw him put over the under blanket was more hole than sheet. One good friend sent us some single sheets made out of partly worn double sheets — an excellent idea! We find, too, that tea towels wear out, and that more are needed in the winter than in the summer. A pillow put under the under sheet saves a slip, but even that does not prevent the one used from wearing out.

You will be glad to hear that we have just concluded a wonderfully successful Mission which was conducted by the Bishop of Wangaratta. This was the third Mission we have had in the parish since I have been in charge. After the other two missions I had to try and do all the following up (perhaps the most important part of a mission) by myself. After this Mission it is being done properly because there is an adequate staff to do it. Yes, my vote goes to the Brotherhood system every time.

We much appreciate the help and sympathy you are giving us. We do not forget to pray for you. Wednesday is our special day for remembering the Friends of the B.S.L.

On behalf of us all, I am, yours sincerely,

G. KENNEDY TUCKER, Superior.

SUBJECTS FOR INTERCESSION

1. That the seriousness of the times may cause all to realise that no plan but the Plan of Christ can turn the sorrow of the present time into joy. (It is only the Church that can proclaim the Plan of Christ, but the Church is so sorely understaffed). Pray that the Church may be enabled to train and send forth more men to do the work.

2. For those Bishops who are planning to establish Brotherhoods in their diocese, and that their hopes in this respect may be realised.

3. For the efforts being made to form into a federation some of the Brotherhoods already established, and for guidance for the heads of those brotherhoods who are to meet to discuss the matter.

[The Brotherhoods referred to are the Brotherhood of S. Barnabas, Nth. Queensland; the Brotherhood of S. Andrew, Rockhampton; the Charleville Brotherhood, Brisbane; the Brotherhood of S. Stephen, Willochra; the Brotherhood of S. Laurence, Newcastle.]

THE PRAYER OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF S. LAURENCE

“O God, who didst enable Thy deacon, S. Laurence, to suffer for Thee and Thine; Grant, we beseech Thee, 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

For Building Fund: The Bishop of Newcastle, £5; Robert Lethbridge, 5/-; Mrs. Bradley, 9/-; A.Z.G., 5/-; J.S., 5/-.

Articles for Household Use: Mrs. T., Table Napkins; Mrs. G., Table Napkins; Mrs. S., Sheets.

For Table Use: Many good things from “local friends,” too numerous to give in detail.

“FRIENDS OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF S. LAURENCE”

Those who wish to become friends are asked to communicate with—The Superior, Brotherhood of S. Laurence, S. Stephen’s House, Adamstown, N.S.W.