

Balancing The Books

A Facile Pen: Sparks Fly, Light Kindles

By Rev. John S. Kennedy

You can add Father Hubert van Zeller, a monk at the Benedictine abbey of Downside in England to the scanty list of writers on the spiritual life whose books are not to be missed.



He belongs to a select company whose writings have great appeal not because they water down Christian spirituality to the point that it is effortlessly easy, but because they make it clear the reasonableness of its demands, the practicability of its discipline, and the richness of its rewards in day-to-day living.

His eminently quotable new book is called "We Work While the Light Lasts." It comprises forty-two brief essays, averaging three pages, on a variety of themes but linked in basic subject matter, the application of the same principles to different situations and concerns, and, of course, by tone of treatment.

It begins with some incisive pieces on work. If there is anything more grotesquely misunderstood at the present time than work, I cannot name it off-hand. Its essential nature, its purpose, its place in the development of the human person and in the economy of salvation are commonly ignored or misconstrued.

After the probing provocative essays on work, there comes a really splendid section on marriage. Here Father van Zeller's

quality is best demonstrated. On the one hand, he holds steadily to the magnificent truth about marriage, its sacramental character, reiterating it in a dozen different ways, keeping it ever before the reader's eyes. On the other, he comes directly and candidly to grips with the difficulties which ruin many a marriage.

For example, sexual relations before marriage. I have never seen this troublesome topic handled so impressively as here. In four paragraphs the author demonstrates that such relations are "happens committing suicide." He does this by showing that the marital act is a HUMAN act in a sacramental relationship, not just an animal act, that it is appropriate only in marriage, that indulgence in it previous to marriage wreaks horrible havoc.

THE AUTHOR is equally apt and forceful in treating purity within marriage. He has wisdom to offer husbands and wives for their adjustment each to the other, their responsibility each for the other, their sanctification each of the other. In one sentence he can stir in them appreciation of the sublime meaning and power of marriage; in another he can bare the slimy ugliness of contraception; in still another he can convince women of the disaster they are courting by pulling a long face and calling for pity.

Friendship, too, is instructively dealt upon. It goes on the rocks, usually, either because one person insists that the other conform exactly to a certain stereotype or because one would comprehend the other exhaustively as only God can do.

The human urge to assimilate, to pin down, to control, is

at the back of all our frustrations and most of our estrangements. . . . We clamor to know what is going on in the other's mind, we think that without an inventory of the other's emotions and mental processes, the relationship cannot survive. We forget that our friends are made in God's image, not in ours.

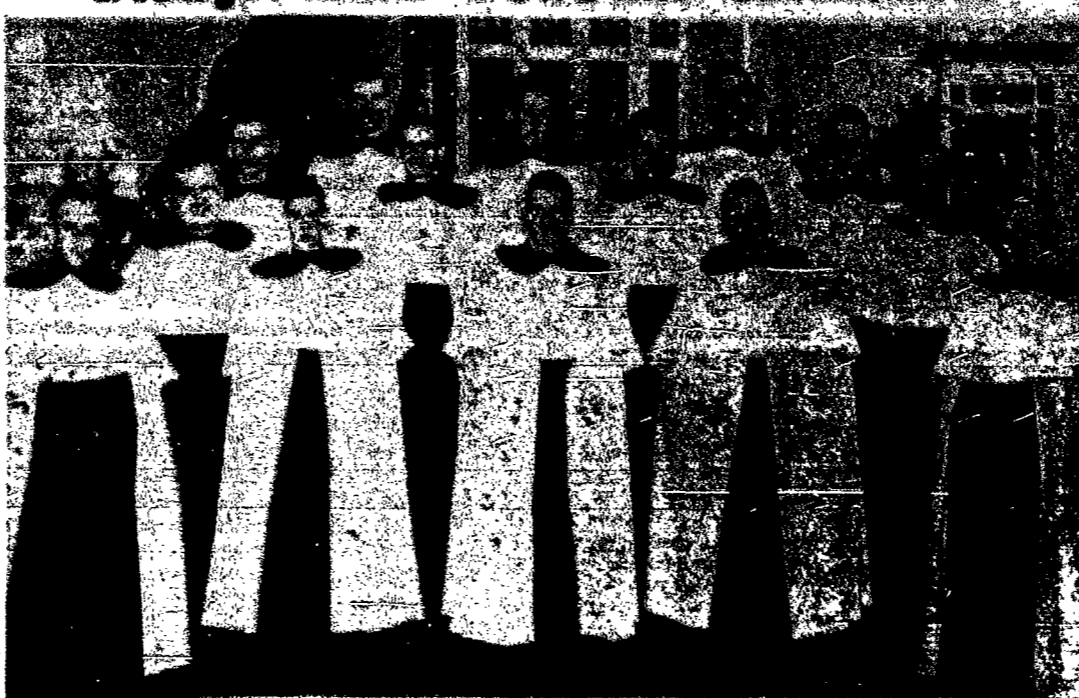
Whoever and wherever Father van Zeller's pen strikes paper, sparks fly up, a light is kindled. In a few words he can do more to unmask the evil of selfishness than is effected by a fat chapter of platitudes from another writer. In a flash he makes plain the moral failure, rather than any shift in convictions, which accounts for lapses from the Church.

In a sentence he can account for the libertine more accurately and cogently than a novelist who runs on for 400 pages: "The libertine is seldom either a careless pallander from the start or a consummate by nature; more often than not he is a man who has spoiled his share of love, and is out to discredit love itself."

Here is a terse, pungent writer who knows divine truth and divine law, has insight into the human heart and the fallen world, and can rally the heart, beset and beguiled by the world, to its duty and its destiny. Already he has won a numerous following in this country, and it will grow with each new book, for he draws the reader magnetically, and draws him home.

We Work While the Light Lasts, by Hubert van Zeller, O.S.B., 116 pages. New York: Sheed and Ward. \$2.25.

Pledge Their Vows As Carmelites



AT WHITEFRIARS Monastery in Auburn are shown officiating priests and 10 young men who took part in profession of religious vows of the Carmelites on Sept. 8. Front row (from left), Rev. Bernard Dally, Monastery priest; Fraters Edward Connon, Justin Boyd, Ambrose Boyd (brothers) and Very Rev. William P. Russell, New York, Provincial who received the vows; second row (from left), Very Rev. Leo Walker, Chicago Provincial, retreat master; Fraters Regis Kesselstadt, William Rogers, Rev. Finbar Lynn, Novice master at Whitefriars; third row (from left), Donald Dolan, Malachy Mahoney, Daniel Lynch, Matthew Spizzullo and Charis Nagarty.

10 Young Men Profess Carmelite Vows In Solemn Ceremony At Whitefriars

By EDWIN M. NOLAN

Auburn - With the Very Rev. Patrick W. Russell, O. Carm., Provincial of the Carmelite Province of St. Elias officiating, the impressive ceremony of the profession of vows by 10 young men in the Carmelite Order took place last Saturday, Sept. 8, in the chapel of Whitefriars Monastery in Auburn.

The ceremony began with the presentation of the candidates to their provincial with their petitions that he receive their vows of obedience, poverty, and chastity. In response, Father Russell, in a brief sermon, counseled the candidates on the importance and significance of the step they were taking.

He recalled the words of His Excellency Bishop Kearney of Rochester in his sermon on the occasion of the dedication of Whitefriars Monastery six years ago, also on the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

BISHOP KEARNEY at that time offered the new monastery to the Blessed Mother as a birthday gift, and Father Russell also asked the young men to offer their lives and work as Carmelite to Mary as their individual birthday gifts to Her.

The provincial also noted the privilege enjoyed by the young candidates in making their profession in the year marking the 100th anniversary of the conferring of the scepter by Our Lady of St. Simon Stock, which Carmelites throughout the entire world have been celebrating this year.

In the ceremony of profession itself, each candidate pronounced his vows three times as he knelt in the sanctuary before the Provincial, into whose hands each young man placed a written copy of his profession. This copy was later placed upon the altar.

Immediately afterwards, Father Russell recited special prayers for the young religious and blessed the habits, in which each was subsequently invested. Then followed a final blessing and prayer that the candidates would be faithful in the wearing of their habit and in the observation of their holy vows and promises.

THE CHOIR intoned the Te Deum, the Church's official hymn of praise and thanksgiving, during which the newly professed prostrated themselves. At the

Mission To Open Sunday For Men At Sampson Base

All Catholic personnel of Sampson Air Force Base, will have the opportunity to attend a Mission to be conducted in Chapel One, Sunday, Sept. 16 through Sept. 21.

Masses will be celebrated at 7 a.m., 12 noon and 4:45 p.m., followed by a short instruction. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament following which a sermon will be preached by the Rev. Raymond J. Cotter, S. J.

The choir under the direction of Cpl. Frank Carroll will sing at the evening services.

THE REV. EUGENE L. LAMB senior Catholic Chaplain at the Air Force Base, has explained that the mission will be conducted to recall the fundamental principles of religion and morality and to help elevate the standards of the servicemen and civilians.

The schedule is arranged that all services are held during off-duty hours, allowing the airmen every chance of attending.

Nazareth Academy's PTA Meets Tuesday

First autumn meeting of the Nazareth Academy Parent-Teachers Association will be held at 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 18, in the newly-decorated auditorium at the Lake Avenue institution.

New officers of the association will preside for the first time. They include Raymond L. Nary, president; Mrs. Cornelius Danahy, secretary, and William Knaut, treasurer. The Rev. J. Joseph O'Connell, chaplain of the Academy, is spiritual director of the PTA.

Socialists Here Find City Of New York Has A Plan

One of the chapters in the Socialist Action conducted at Fordham University last night with all its usual aims and objectives.

Upon their arrival in the metropolis Mary Agnes and her friends heard Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral, visited the Bronx Zoo and Radio City Music Hall, and "walked" what must have been miles.

AFTER ONE DATE's experience at Fordham, Mary Agnes noticed that her feet were beginning to swell and when the house doctor at the hotel in Manhattan, where the girls had rooms, was consulted, he advised her to bed, diagnosing the ailment as blood poisoning caused by blisters.

The matter on the hotel still brought her down to her knees. She lay in bed and when the nurse brought her a glass of water, she refused to take it, saying she would rather die than drink it.

THE REV. DANIEL HENRY, S.D., who conducted the social Mass, took the girls to the Pine Room at the Hotel and then

at a party given by the chapter.

She was taken to St. Patrick's Cathedral and her friends were with her.

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Large advertisement for GENEESEE Beer & Ale. Features illustrations of people enjoying picnics, staying at home, and fishing. Includes text: 'Going on a picnic?', 'Staying at home?', 'Going fishing?'. Large logo for GENEESEE with 'Old-Fashioned Beer & Ale Goodness' and 'ASK FOR GENEESEE...IN THE 6-CAN PACK!'.

Advertisement for SPINET PIANOS. Features text: 'SPINET PIANOS', '\$40 DOWN \$13 MONTHLY', 'Levin Music Store', 'DAVIDS'.

Advertisement for DAVIDS suits. Features text: 'DAVIDS', '59.98, 69.98 and 75.00', 'SALE of new fall', 'Suits', 'for Friday...', '200 suits of luxury woolsens from Miron and other famous mills...'.