

25th
YEAR

St. Peregrine Cancer Centre

REVIEW

25th
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Vol 25.

SUMMER 2011

No. 2

Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Summer edition of the "Review." Once again we celebrated the Feast of St. Peregrine, May 4th with a variety of devotions at our Servite locations here in Dublin, London, Manchester and Dundee. We also had reports of devotion to St Peregrine being promoted in parishes by priests and the other groups who are involved in the church's ministry to the sick. We welcome this development and are always willing to help in any way we can.

Here at Benburb our Triduum at the beginning of May was very well attended with people from all over the North. On the middle night we had Mairead Quinn from Macmillan Cancer Care here to give us a talk and provide much useful information on the many services they have available to help the sick and their families. We thank Mairead for giving of her time to give this presentation and remain on to answer questions and meet with people afterwards. We will continue our association with Macmillan Cancer Care and hope to have Mairead with us again next year. We concluded our Triduum the following night with Mass and a communal anointing of the sick. However, all the names recorded in our St. Peregrine Novena were placed before the altar and remembered in all our Masses and prayers for the sick throughout the month of May.

It was with deep sadness that we learned of the sudden death on July 1st of Mrs. Josie McGleenan. For many years Josie had been one of our most valued voluntary helpers here at the Priory and was well known to many of you through her assistance in our St. Peregrine Ministry with our Masses and devotions each month. May the Lord bless and reward Josie with the joy and peace of eternal life and grant her daughter Marie and son James and their families the courage and hope they need to help them journey on. We thank you for all your help and support of our work at St. Peregrine Centre. Be assured of our prayers for you - please pray for us also.

Fr. Sean O.S.M. Editor.

THE LAST BEAN-SIDHE (BANSHEE)

It is a world of fast change now. The bean-sidhe is gone. But memory still has her tied up in old ruins, old woods, and fields where she cried. Perhaps she was only a thought in the mind; maybe no more than a strange spirit of insecurity within us - but she kept the inevitably transient life before us.

A long-lost beansidhe crossed my path,
As I walked home the lea.
I heard her cry a sad lament;
Things gone that used to be.

She cried on top of ruined walls,
Where people's houses stood;
I well believe she knew them all
When days were old and good.

She cried around the little copse;
One lonely oak remains;
The ash, and all the sycamores
Succumbed to time and change.

Throughout the bottom field she cried,
Where slender cowslips grew,
Where corncrake called, and skylark sang;
But they're all vanished too.

And everywhere she went had changed;
She cried in every place.
As I walked home, I found a tear
Come rolling down my face.

- Paddy Meegan



MAN OF PEACE CONVERTS MAN OF VIOLENCE

Philip Benizi was born in Florence in 1233. That was the same year The Order of Friar Servants of St. Mary, the order he was to enter, was founded. His family lacked nothing and he received a good education in medicine. Philip was guided to the new order in 1254 and his gifts of integrity and love of Justice flourished. He was a brother to everyone, especially the very poor, the sick and prostitutes. They were all victims of man's greed and he showed them God's love and healed them. He loved justice and walked hundreds of miles to settle wars and divisions.

Peregrine Laziosi was born in 1265, in Forlì, Italy, at a time when there was great discord in his city and other cities in Italy.

As a young man, Peregrine was a member of the Ghibellines and lived a rebellious and violent life. As leader in this faction fostering civil discord and opposition to the Pope, he confronted St. Philip Benizi who was sent as an apostle of peace to the city of Forlì. As Philip was making a public appeal, Peregrine struck him in the face.

Deeply affected by this holy and peaceful man, Peregrine felt remorse and later looked for Philip. Finding him, Peregrine asked for his forgiveness and advice. Turning his back on his former way of life, he renounced violence and began a life of respect for others, prayer and penance.

Everywhere Philip went people listened and received new hope. He was elected Prior General in 1267 and died at Todi in 1285. Pope Clement X Canonized him in 1671.

PRAYER TO ST. PHILIP BENIZI, O.S.M.

GOD OUR FATHER, you are the fountain of all holiness; all good gifts come from you. In a wonderful way you called St. Philip Benizi to be a faithful Servant of Mary. You made him an example of true humility and service to you and his neighbour. In your mercy and through his intercession may we find strength in our weakness, courage in time of trial, healing in sickness of mind, body or spirit and a love for you and for all our brothers and sisters. We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours;
Yours are the only hands
with which he can do his work,
Yours are the only feet
with which he can go about the world,
Yours are the only eyes
through which his compassion
Can shine forth upon a troubled world.*

*Christ has no body now on earth but Yours.
(Teresa of Avila)*



Words and Deeds

Every so often a book on spirituality appears and becomes a surprise bestseller. Many people find that while religion may not be to their taste, spirituality certainly is - which is why books like *The Road Less Traveled*, *Anam Cara* and *The Power of Now* become so popular.

There's a certain irony here. For while these books do critique materialism and promote spiritual values, their publishers naturally get excited as sales figures rise. A sequel is needed, preferably one with a title that connects with the original - hence the appearance of books like *Further Along the Road Less Traveled*, and *Practicing the Power of Now*.

But does the fact that such books are being read by large numbers of people mean that our society is becoming more spiritually healthy? I doubt it, since many readers of these books remain individualistic in their desire for spiritual advancement.

This unpleasant truth dawned on me a few years ago, when I spent some time with a religious community, at a priory, situated in beautiful countryside near the city of Oxford. One afternoon I had been asked to look after the door. It was quiet, and I did not expect to be disturbed. I was in my room, reading a wonderful book about love. The window was open, the sun shining, birds singing. The writer had just quoted Meister Eckhart, the great German mystic: 'Holiness consists in doing the next thing you have to do, doing it with your whole heart, and finding delight in doing it.'

I paused to savour these words, took a sip of coffee, closed my eyes and sat back in my armchair ... It felt good to be spiritually healthy. Then the doorbell rang ... Now who the hell is that? I got up, went down two flights of stairs, complaining all the way: That blasted door. Why can't they all just get lost? I'm trying to read about love here ...

When I opened the door, I saw a frail figure standing a few yards away. He was a homeless man who occasionally called at the priory. His name was William, and he would ring the bell and then shuffle off to the edge of the grounds. I knew the drill, so I went and made him a cup of tea and a sandwich, and left it on one of the outside tables.

Once the coast was clear, William would come and get it and later return the empty cup and plate to the table. He never spoke to anyone.

Before I went back upstairs, I looked at William standing off in the distance - disheveled, bearded, and even Christ-like. Two things became clear to me. First, reading about the spiritual life is far easier than living it and living it will always involve leaving my comfort zone and showing concern for others; and second, my ability to appreciate the fine sayings of great saints and sages in no way indicates that I have joined their ranks.

- Martin J McGuinness

ANNUAL DEVOTION

in honour of

St. Philip Benizi O.S.M.

on Sunday, 21st. August, at 3 p.m.

at Servite Priory, Benburb.

Service will include the blessing of water and bread, prayers for healing and blessing of the sick. Children especially welcome.

Devotions will conclude with Benediction.

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order were men dedicated to a vision - that the world could be a better place if people had hope in God. Today, Servite priests & brothers & sisters & nuns, and lay people make hope real by compassionate service to others.

Why not join us?

Consider being a Servite Priest, Brother or Sister

WASTED TALENTS

THERE is a great deal of sense in the following saying "The woods would be very quiet if no birds sang there except those who sang best." What a lot of talents are wasted and kindness, compassion and good done in our society because of low self esteem, people convinced they have nothing to offer. The following words from the pen of a great writer are certainly worth reflecting on and I quote: "By accepting what I am and making the most of it, I shall find contentment within myself and a willingness to let others be themselves. I shall no longer need to prove myself better than others, nor fear that others might put me to shame by their superior qualities. I shall seek no earthly advantage or convenience at the expense of truth and honesty. I shall be following the example of Jesus, who died for me rather than tell a lie."

Julian of Norwich tells us "He did not say "You shall not be tempest-tossed, you shall not be work-weary," you shall not be discomforted." But he said "You shall not be overcome." God wants us to heed these words so that we shall always be strong in trust, both in sorrow and in joy."

- Jill Sheehan

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.

LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, 10am:

- Servite Priory, Kingsway East, Dundee, Scotland DD4 BAA. Tel. (+44) 1382-500-446.



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, Blakestown, Marley, London, Kersal and Dundee. 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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