

From the desk of Fr.Dominic

Fellow Rosarians It is a joy to be writing to you again but first I must thank you for your prayers. I have had a difficult time with illness over the past eighteen months and still am to have another operation. The thing about illness is it gives you time to pray and meditate; you are not rushing around with all the distractions of ordinary life.

I thought about our Guild and the " old Days ". One Summer Festival always comes to mind. It was at St. Mary Magdalene Munster Square. The congregation was about 400. Miss Heasman the then Secretary had put a small advert in the Church Times. Most of those who came were members; others not, but many joined after. Father Whitehead led us in singing the Joyful Mysteries. . . praying the Sorrowful Mysteries . . . and then in procession singing the Glorious Mysteries. Followed by Benediction and then Exposition - a real chance for us to talk to Our Blessed Lord. I remember it as a wonderful day. Other occasions I remember were when we joined with the parish of Father John Twisaday for Corpus Christi. A great procession through the streets around the Church the canopy being held over the Blessed Sacrament by four Life Guards. We never see such devotional liturgies today! Then there were the quiet times of Rosary and meditation at St.Michael's Bingfield Street. By then we were loosing numbers and it was attended by 70 /80 people. The last time we had a "festival" it was attended by 12 members who prayed the Rosary with fervour and joy. Since then we had not had a public meeting!

BUT . . . Among the members I know of two, one a lady of deep prayer and even deeper meditation. I know her personally and value her prayers more than I could say. The other a young man who does a work on FACEBOOK producing pictures and prayers for the feasts of the saints. (I do wonder where he gets the moving and attractive pictures) There are others who work for the church in diverse ways. We may be small in numbers now but our prayer life is strong. I must just say how I value the work of Christopher our Secretary he manages and does not give up. Christopher has a strong devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham and that keeps him going. May I remind you we have a lamp burning at the shrine.

We live today in a world so different from the world when the Guild was founded in 1905 but we are still here . . . what about that? Of my own family two grandmothers, three aunts, my mother but not my father - he was not one for joining things. They have all gone and nobody replaced them. Only me to carry on the tradition. It is the same for Christopher all gone but he keeps the tradition of his family. I am sure there are others in our Guild who keep the tradition going.

Small as we are we have a great prayer work "When two are three are gathered together". At the present we must pray concerning the Islamic State. May they be brought to peace and cease to be a violent and cruel organization. May the martyrs whom they have killed Pray with us for the conversion of the Islamic State. I am sure you read that the martyred Coptic Christians died with the name of JESUS on their lips. Such strength of faith. Would we be as strong?

So much violence in the world that can only be overcome by prayer.

I enclose for you a card of Blessed Oscar Romero who is being invoked as a Prophet of Peace as you will know his death at the altar as he said mass was violent to the extreme.

Well my dear friends of the Rosary. Each day that passes you are in my prayers as I say my Breviary. Pray for me.

With my blessing

Father Dominic