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COMMUNITY OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

DIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL,
WAVERLEY SCHOOL, ~~JOHANNESBURG~~

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WAYERLEY.

MARCH 13, 1949

OCTOBER 29, 1951

The LOG

March
1949

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THE MONTHLY LETTER

of the

Community of S. Mary the Virgin, Wantage.

S. Mary's Convent,

July 1949

My dear Friends,

A letter from the Sister Superior of S. Mary's, Waverley, describes the opening and blessing of the new Preparatory School. When our Sisters began work at this School nearly three years ago, they were horrified at the inadequate and unsuitable accommodation for the small children, and the Sister Superior was unfaltering in her efforts to get a new block of buildings erected for them. Some of the Governors did not at first see the necessity; but all seem pleased with what has been achieved. The Sister Superior writes, 'The Lower School was duly opened and blessed yesterday. That building was what I began asking for in September 1946 at my first Directors' meeting. Here it is at long last. It was really a very nice opening, well-rehearsed beforehand. All the Directors except Mr. Skeels and Mr. Lamb turned up, three Inspectors and two of their wives. These with Mother P. and I were on the stoep outside the Lower School. The 170 Lower School were *in* the building in their respective form rooms with their own form mistresses, the Upper School on the right, facing the building and sitting in the drive, and the Middle School on the left, with parents and visitors between. Mr. Trevor-Williams was in the chair and intimated that the Chapel, the Hall and the Swimming-bath were still needed! Then the Dean spoke on the immense importance of a School which gave definite and regular religious instruction, and appealed to the parents to make home life what it should be. Mr. Abernethy, our Chief Inspector,

spoke *very* well, and emphasised the kind of education which was given at S. Mary's, even if the girls did not matriculate, and the importance of worthy buildings. He ended by saying that S. Mary's was a School full of promise for the future etc., etc. Then the Dean went and vested in the Staff house, the Acolytes and Choir went to get on veils, and they, with the Sisters, 'processed' from the Staff house along the stoep to the main doorway on the east. The Upper School followed us. In the meantime the Middle School and visitors moved round to face the door. Mr. Abernethy unlocked the door and declared the School open. The Dean, Acolytes, Choir and Sisters went round the building and the Dean blessed each room and used incense and holy water. As the door was opened each classroom had its glass doors folded back so the visitors could see in beautifully from the north side. We came back on to the stoep for the last hymn and blessing. After that people went round the new School and then to tea which was in the dining-hall for grown-ups, hall for big School and common rooms for Standard II downwards. The Dean was most gracious and said how glad he was to have renewed his link with the School, he had not been in it for some years. We are being given four tickets for the enthronement of the Bishop on the 24th and four Prefects may go.'

From India comes interesting news of S. Mary's School, Poona, and its cosmopolitan population. In spite of ups and downs in the general outlook as to how our educational work would be affected by new Government regulations, the popularity of the School certainly continues, and it obviously meets a very real need. A Sister writes, 'On the first day of term an army captain walked in — Indian, with the Indian flag and the Union Jack under his arm. He came to ask whether we could lend him a large Union Jack for his unit for the King's birthday; apparently he had been all round the shops and could not get one the right size. We had to own to not possessing one at all, though later the College managed to produce a small

one for our use. He told me Southern Command Headquarters was also telephoning all over the place to get one. India was really celebrating the last time it would have to celebrate the King's birthday; it was a public holiday and people were rather shocked we did not keep it, but we really could not have a holiday the day after term began. The same Indian captain asked whether his wife could continue her education with us. However, she has been fixed up at the College as being more suitable. He kept saying how much this kind of School was needed in India and how he hoped we were getting Government support. I thought that after Independence there really would not be much demand for the School, but there seems to be more than ever; army people in particular want us. The odd thing is that, though we are getting constant applications for admission from people who have been transferred here, the people whose place they come to take, do not remove their children, but either try to persuade us to take them as boarders, or else keep their families in Poona. I keep suggesting other Schools and all they say is, 'Oh, but we have heard this is the best School'.

Then we have several children of European mothers married to Hindus or Mohammedans. We had a couple in at the beginning of term. I asked, 'What religion?' He, a Hindu, said, 'They can choose for themselves when they older. I think she ought to be a Christian.' He wanted her to attend Divinity classes. I pointed out we should have to put down something for purposes of classification, so he had her put down as a Christian. He is one of the assistant Directors of the National Chemical Laboratory that is being set up in Poona. The Director is an American, now in America, and will probably be bringing back some biochemists and their wives and families, so they are talking of running a special car to bring the children into school.

We have two non-Christians in Standard IX, a Mohammedan and a Sikh, who are becoming boarders for their last 6 months as their families have left Poona; they are going to share a room

in College as they are great friends. And now we have been asked to keep a very nice Hindu girl for the same reason. We are completely full as regards boarders—of course, we cannot take quite so many now, as the top room over at S. Lucy's is now the Nursery School, most flourishing, all communities represented. It really lends tone to the place, as the children are nearly all of the more wealthy, and great opulent-looking cars wait outside all the morning. It's rather amusing, because really it is a very home-made affair, but Sr. E. is quite excellent there, and two of our old girls, also ex-students, Parsis, are helping for love.'

One of our Sisters in India has lately been translating some of the poems of the Marathi poet Tilak. I will end this letter by passing on to you one of the most beautiful, which seems a remarkable illustration of S. Paul's words, "speaking the truth in love".

LOVE.

If you speak, let your words be full of love;
Otherwise t'were better to be vowed to silence.
But love does not mean flattery.

Love and truth are kindred qualities.
Love gives bitter medicine to the sick, and bears calmly with
their anger.

For the sake of truth, Love was crucified, and wrought man-
kind's salvation

True gold can bear to be rubbed and beaten and burned in fire,
Some have loving thoughts and speak sweetly, yet do not bring
love into their actions.

If you would act with the sweetness of love,
You must embrace the feet of Christ.

The Servant says — May your thoughts, words, and deeds be
those of Christ alone.

Yours sincerely in our Blessed Lord,
✠ Theodora Hilary C.S.M.V.

1949.

March.

13. Lent II. Helen & Mary Diaco went to the Greek Mass with Helen's Godmother. Nearly 30 children stayed in. Mr. & Mrs. Reisman called to see Penelope. Mr. Menty brought & gave a Bell & Howell Projector to the school.
14. Monday. S. Christina went to the oculist (~~Dr.~~ Howell) who ordered her new glasses. Mrs. Davis, the new housekeeper came, sleeping in the staff house. Fr. Ross.
15. Tuesday. Mrs. MacWilliam called to apply for Wendy & Rosemary in 1951 & 1953. Mrs. Myers called to ask that Marilyn might go home for Passover. Highlands North Tennis Teams played our 1st & 2nd teams. Fr. Evans. Address & Confessions.
16. Wednesday. Fr. Evans said Mass. Mrs. Gregson called to ask if Diana could be a boarder from May to Dec. as she has to take her elder daughter to America for treatment. S. Christina went to Johannesburg to see Mr. Stuart. Fr. Evans left. Fr. Whitnall gave Lent address.
17. S. Patrick. Sisters went to S. Augustine's for Mass. Mrs. Eime came to ask for admission for child of 7 as boarder. (Not accepted.)
18. Friday. Meeting with Lower School Staff about duties for next term. S. Superior & S. Christina to Johannesburg.

9th mai. to make enquiries about films & also about exchanging
the silent projector for a sound one.

19. S. Joseph. F. King from Germiston sang the Mass.
No S. 3 or 4 came & some others were absent.
Mr. Rogers brought 16 more desks. Mr. & Mrs. Rushton
& Miss Pechin here. Mr. Gill came to ask for Pat
to be a boarder next term. S. Christina went to
Johannesburg with Miss Rosburgh & exchanged our
silent projector for a sound one. (Bell & Howell
for a Victor.) Miss Viner fetched F. Evans from
Rosettenville. Beetle Drive by Kaaney
at 7.30 p.m.

20 Sept III. S. Christina in Retreat. S. Ellen Mary took F. Evans
back to Rosettenville.

21. S. Benedict. Manson not well. Miss Foley fetched F. Ross from
Sophiatown. S. Christina went to fetch her glasses, see D.
Howell & arrange about films. She went to bed early with
a cold. Mrs. Ward called with Patricia aged 5½. told no
vacancy in Sept. Confirmation & Communicant classes.

22. Tuesday. Mr. Smith called about d. School building
being used for Art. Mrs. Anderson called about her work
next term. Mr. Burnham (an "old girl") called to apply

for her daughter Jacqueline (11½ S.S.) Boarder not possible.
day girl offered. Mr. Dalton asked if Jennifer could
be a boarder next term, as he & his wife are going
to England for 2 months. He saw the Art Room.
Projector (Victor) arrived.

23 Wednesday. Mrs. Fuller away all day to see her husband off
to England. S: Superior & S: Christina went to Johanna's
to take cheques for Mr. Stewart, & to get some books at
the Church Book Shop. Man from Africa: Thedie 1st about a screen.

24 S. Gabriel. Fr. Evans said Mass. Mrs. Stuart came to
enter her 18 months old daughter. Mrs. Dove (Miss
Ratjohns) came to lunch. Luita Watson went for
an Eisteddfod rehearsal. Mrs. Storr came to apply
for her niece (aged 9.)

25 The Annunciation. Low Mass at 7 a.m. Sung Mass.
(S⁵ 3 upwards) at 8.30 a.m. with a short address
from Fr. Shelley C.R. (Boarders in S⁵ 3 & 4 & all S⁵ 2^{A, B})
lessons till 9.20) Short for whole school. Kearney
came out with top points. Phelps House sold
morning tea. Film at 11.45. His Butler's sister
with Deanna Durbin. Treasure Hunt at 3.30 in the
garden. Braai/Vleis outside the Lower School - 6-9.
Members of the Lower School danced. About £100 made

Mar in aid of equipment for the lower School.

1/- entrance 6^o children & food bought.

26 Saturday. Fr. Barron from Germiston said Mass. S. Christina fetched Fr. Evans from Rosettenville. June House gave a Variety Entertainment at 7.30. Very good programme. Over £30 taken in tickets & collection.

27. Refreshment Sunday. Miss Foley took Fr. Evans back. The Sisters went to There for dinner, recreation & Vespers & brought Mother P. a bowl of lilies of the Valley (home-grown.)

28 Monday Mr. Durant brought the cheques. Mrs. Davis took the films back. S. Superior took both Confirmation classes together as Fr. Ross is ill. Fr. Whitnall came for Devotions & stayed the night. No Communicants' Class so S. Christina showed some films.

29 Tuesday. Fr. Whitnall said Mass. Roselle & Elizabeth Van Buren left as boarders as their parents returned. Fr. Evans gave an address & heard Confessions & stayed the night. Mrs. Cooke called asking for Cynthia to go to a funeral of Mr. Gusty's mother.

30 Wednesday. Fr. Evans said Mass & left after break^o.

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