

The Friends of Cardinal Newman

During his lifetime, (1801-1890) John Henry Newman was blessed with friends in abundance. Fr Henry Tristram in his little book on *Newman and His Friends* quotes Newman's remarks in the *Apologia* on this phenomenon: My habitual feeling then and since has been, that it was not I who sought friends, but friends who sought me. Never man had kinder or more indulgent friends than I have had: but I expressed my own feeling as to the mode in which I gained them... speaking of my blessings, I said: "Blessings of friends, which to my door unasked, un-hoped, have come." They have come, they have gone; they came to my great joy, they went to my great grief.'

Newman himself said about Christian friendship: 'There have been men before now, who have supposed Christian love was so diffuse as not to admit of concentration upon individuals; so that we ought to love all men equally. And many there are, who, without bringing forward any theory, yet consider practically that the love of many is something superior to the love of one or two; and neglect the charities of private life, while busy in the schemes of an expansive benevolence, or of effecting a general union and conciliation among Christians. Now I shall here maintain, in opposition to such notions of Christian love, and with our Saviour's pattern before me, that the best preparation for loving the world at large, and loving it duly and wisely, is to cultivate an intimate friendship and affection towards those who are immediately about us' (*PPS II pp. 52-53*)

Newman attracted friends because they were drawn to him by the purity and holiness of his life, and the convincing eloquence and truth of his words, which brought them out of darkness into light. And this goes for Catholics, Anglicans and Protestants alike, for clergy, laity and religious. So the Catholic lay theologian, W. G. Ward, wrote: 'I was enmeshed in the toils of a false philosophy which could have no other legitimate issue, except a further and further descent towards the gulf of utter infidelity. From this thralldom, the one human agency which affected my deliverance was Father Newman's teaching. My deliverance was wrought, not merely through the truth and depth (as I consider) of those philosophical principles he inculcated: but also through the singular large mindedness, whereby he was able to make those principles both intelligible and attractive to every variety of character.'

This power of Cardinal Newman's to help and influence by word and example we believe lives on today, and is extended far beyond the confines of England. The visitors' book in Newman's room at Birmingham Oratory contains the record of visitors from no less than 109 different countries.

His influence too has the approval of the highest religious authorities. Thus Pope John Paul II speaking at Coventry on Whitsunday,

1982, said:

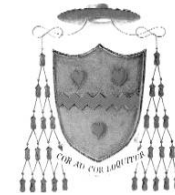
"I cannot come to the Midlands without remembering that great man of God, that pilgrim for truth, Cardinal John Henry Newman. His quest for God and for the fullness of truth—a sign of the holy *Spirit* at work within him—brought him to a prayerfulness and a wisdom which still inspire us today. Indeed Cardinal Newman's many years of seeking a fuller understanding of the Faith reflect his abiding confidence in the words of Christ, 'I shall ask the Father and He will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him' (*Jn 14: 16-7*). And so I commend to you his example of persevering faith and longing for the truth. He can help you to draw nearer to God, in whose presence he lived, and to whose service he gave himself totally. His teaching has great importance today in our search for Christian unity too, not only in this country but throughout the world. Imitate his humility and his obedience to God; pray for a wisdom like his, a wisdom that can come from God alone."

NEWMAN'S CAUSE AND THE FRIENDS OF CARDINAL NEWMAN

Newman's Cause was introduced in 1958 by the Archbishop of Birmingham. The Diocesan Process of the Cause was completed in June 1986 and proceeded to Rome. In January 1991, Newman was declared to have the virtues in an heroic degree and declared 'Venerable'. The Postulator of the Cause was the Rev Dr Vincent Blehl, SJ, an eminent Newman scholar, who died in November 2001. He is succeeded by the Very Rev Fr Paul Chavasse, of the Oratory.

The Cause has a Secretariat at the Oratory which deals with correspondence addressed to the Postulator, answers queries and collects funds for the running of the Cause. Prayer cards, images, relic cards and promotional literature can be obtained from the Secretary of the Cause.

The Friends has since its beginning supported the Cause in every way and especially by encouraging PRAYER for his canonisation and for the extension of his influence, believing that Newman can, by his life and writings, lead men to God, sustain them in union with Him and help them in turn to become perfect, attain sanctity, & inherit everlasting life.



A Selection of Publications obtainable from the Society

Details & a full list of publications, images and cards are available on application to the Secretary.

	Price
Prayercard for the beatification of Cardinal Newman	
Novena Leaflet to ask for beatification	10p
Newman Prayerbook with a prayer for every day of the month chosen by the Revd Fr Vincent F. Blehl, SJ	50p
Tract on Cardinal Newman by the Revd Fr Gregory Winterton of the Oratory	30p
John Henry Newman —a short life by Revd Fr Vincent F. Blehl, SJ	50p
John Henry Newman—A Study in Holiness published by the Guild of Ransom	£2.50
John Henry Newman—Apostle to the Doubtful C.T.S.	£1.95
Newman, the Oratory & the Laity	20p
Newman's Teaching on the Blessed Virgin Mary	50p
The Oxford of Newman	£2.00
Newman at Littlemore by Bernard Basset, SJ	£1.00

Please indicate items and state the number required.

Postage and packing extra.

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Application Form

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Cheques and postal orders, make payable to "The Friends of Cardinal Newman", and send to **The Secretary, % The Oratory, Hagley Rd, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 8UE**
e-mail Oratory@Globalnet.Co.Uk
Facsimile **0121-455 8160**.

Reg'd Charity No 274474

The Friends of Cardinal Newman

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Patron

His Grace the Archbishop of Birmingham

President

His Grace the Duke of Norfolk

The Society is governed by an Executive Committee of which Mgr Anthony Stark, Master of the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom, is Chairman. It holds an Annual General Meeting in Birmingham, or other large city in England or Wales, & keeps members informed of important events connected with the aims of the Society.

The Purpose of the Society

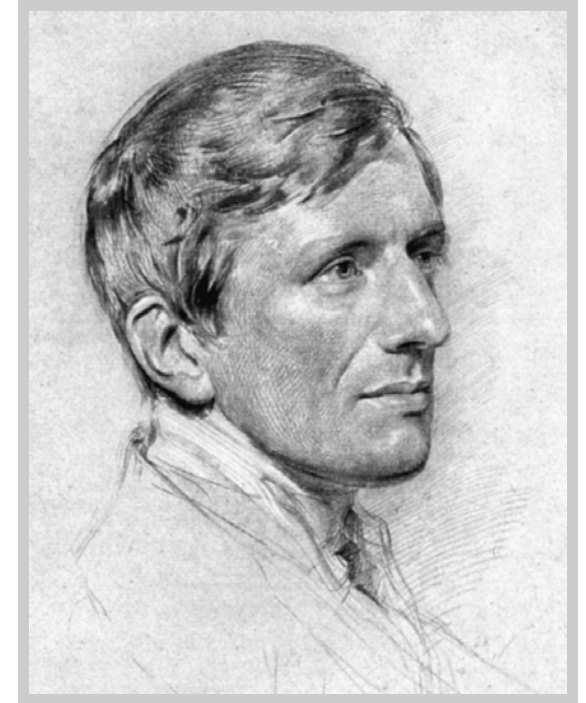
- (a) To disseminate knowledge of the teaching and philosophy of John Henry Newman;
- (b) To assist the Postulator in collecting evidence of devotion to Newman for the furtherance of his Cause;
- (c) To raise funds for popular publications and audio-visual aids.

Membership

Open to anyone interested in the aims of the Society.

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**A Society for Spreading
Knowledge of his Teaching
and for Furthering his Cause.**