

# Why A Provincial Annals?

IT IS FREQUENTLY ASSERTED that the writing of history arises from the desire to pay the past its due and to accord credit to those who have paved the way upon which the present generation is privileged to walk. That may be true of the historian, but it does not apply to the chronicler. The former may have wisdom; the latter adds to it vision. And in virtue of this vision he looks ahead and visualizes the generation that is to come. To him it is not merely a dream but a stern reality that in a hundred years, and most likely a far shorter period, from the present day not a single person now living will be alive. Our buildings and their appointments may survive us. There is the chapel where you pray; the refectory where you take your meals; the very room in which you live and which you love. Everything may look as it looks today; but you will be gone and someone else will be in your place, will sit in the chair where you now sit, hale and hearty.

Some of us may have left behind them certain marks or, to use a more glowing term, monuments — when you are gone, these may receive praise from a few; they are sure to receive blame and criticism from many more. The world does not change: least of all the Friar Minor. Our names will be found on a simple tombstone in the cemetery; on the "Tabula Fratrum Defunctorum" in the sacristy, and perhaps some kindly heart will cherish a faint memory of this one or that one among us. That is all. It is all that will be left of the vigorous, fast moving, exuberant life that now vibrates in our midst. Now is all this meant to die with us? Do we not care to let live and impart life to others through the things that have given life and joy to us, the things that make a Friar's life worth living? Surely, we must be humble; surely, we must be unselfish. But humility must bow to the zeal for the House of God, and unselfishness may never hide under the cloak of conceit or laziness. The same Lips that assured us that our good works would be recorded in the "Book of Life," also admonished us that we should let our light shine before men. At any rate, whatever conflicts may arise from these various considerations, there is in our Order and, for that matter, in the Church of God the ancient and sound policy of recording accurately and faithfully the things that happen today for the Glory of God, who remains forever, and for the edification of those that shall follow us tomorrow.

For these reasons the present Annals goes out to the various houses of the Province of the Holy Name of Jesus, with the full approval of antiquity and in the spirit of the best traditions of the Seraphic Order. To this I add my blessing with all my heart. May this publication serve as one more link of zeal and co-operation among the present generation, and as a link of wholesome emulation between the present and the future.

Sincerely in the Holy Name of Jesus

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Minister Provincial