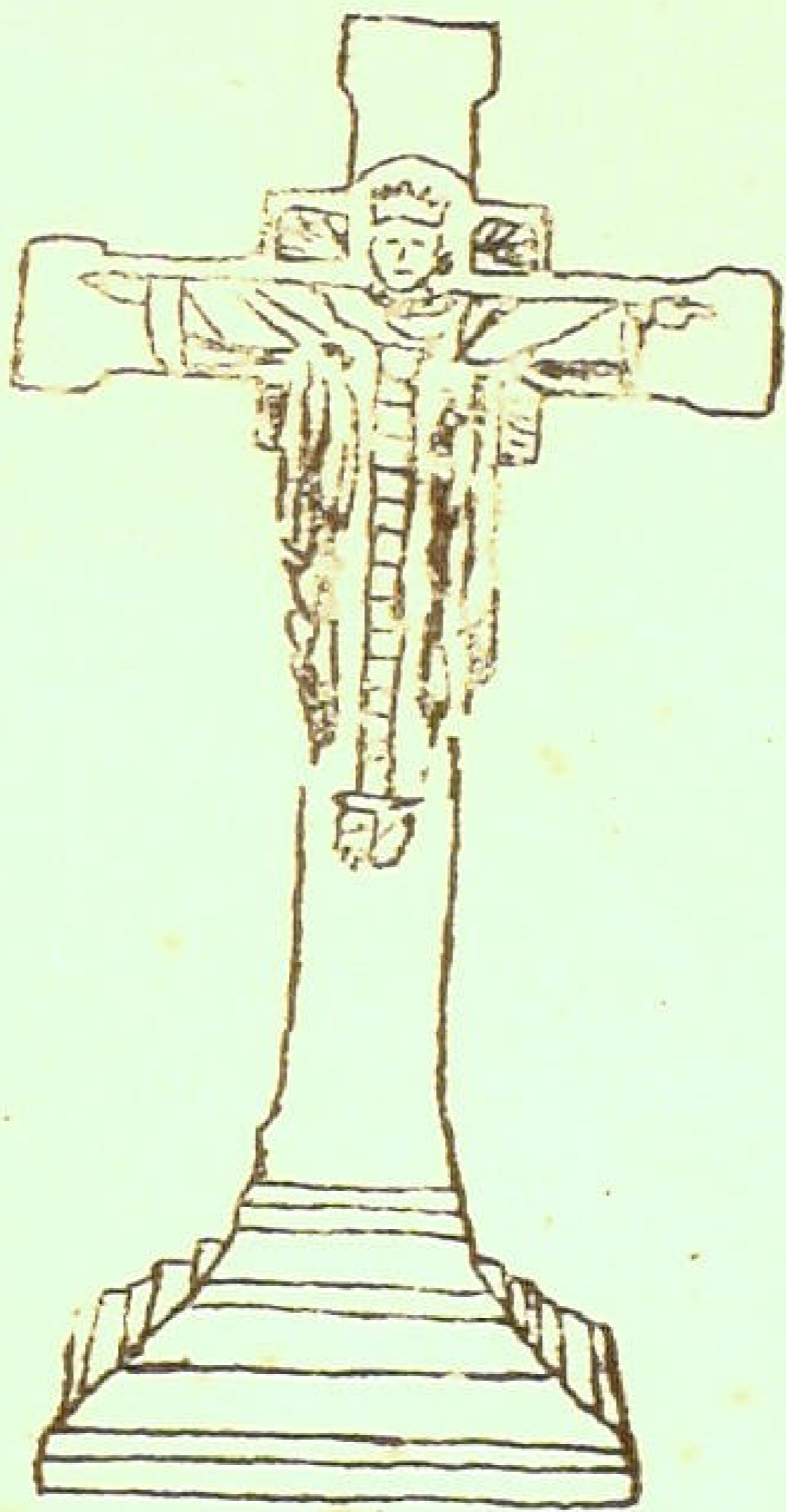


## **Autumn 1940**

In the summer and autumn of 1940, Germany's Luftwaffe conducts thousands of bombing runs in the Battle of Britain, attacking military and civilian targets across the United Kingdom. At first, they bomb only military and industrial targets. But in September, the Germans begin bombing British civilian centers. Thousands of pilots and aircrews engage in battle in the skies above Britain, Germany, and the English Channel, each side losing more than 1,500 aircraft by the end of the year. Prime Minister Winston Churchill, speaking of the British pilots in an August speech, said, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." St. Marys of the Angels Song School burns.





necessary ports in Eire; we went to the help of Poland, however ineffectually). Axis nations make treaties with the express intention of breaking them when it suits their purpose. We love freedom and fair-play. We do not machine-gun women and children. We are not embarking upon reprisals for the bombing of London. We know how to laugh. We acknowledge God by days of prayers.

It is a sinister fact that reputedly Catholic nations are arrayed against us. Italy, Austria, parts of Catholic Germany, near-Catholic France. Spain will join our enemies actively just as soon as she thinks we are certain to lose. "Where the carcass is ..."

General Franco, who I believe has since been blest by His Holiness the Pope, put Madrid through two years of the torment we are now experiencing ourselves. Most of us went on our ways indifferent. (The thought of how little I myself realized it, stabs me).

There must, therefore, be lonely souls in the Latin Communion who are looking for the coming of one with the spirit and power of St. Francis, an Elisha to follow an Elijah, though sundered by the centuries. Meanwhile, to each of us in the Franciscan family is given one small lamp to be kindled and kept brightly burning. See to your one.

ANTONY, T.S.F.

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#### EDITORIAL.

Once more we must celebrate our happy festival of St. Francis-tide amid the havoc of war. Last year we had but just entered upon it and knew not what we were facing. Today we do know, and in spite of all the horrors the past year has revealed, we can still thank God and take courage. Awful as the revelation of man's hatred of God, of revolt against all spiritual

18

values has been, it has at least shown also how much real, if undeveloped, religion there is in the world. Yes, and another deeper lesson, one that perhaps we only grope after dimly even yet, that all the pain and suffering, alien though they be to the primal Will of God, are but another way of teaching His rebellious children the one lesson, for the perfect observance of which the Son became Incarnate. "That they may all be one, even as Thou, Father, art in me and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us". That is the overwhelming answer to all futile strivings after human perfectibility, whether they lie in "humanistic religion" or in more sinister nationalistic strivings, and God grant we remember it when we have to build again "the waste places", to raise up a new and clean civilization from the wreck of the old.

It is an inspiring thought that we, poor human frailties, may yet be co-workers with God and His saints, and I am sure that it is one our own St. Francis would have us follow. If he were on earth now, would he not be preaching a new "Franciscan Crusade; would he not see in these "sounding years of glory and of grief" a God-sent opportunity for his missionary spirit?. So it seems to me at least, and I would invite you all, at this St. Francis-tide, to enrol in this modern Crusade. Some of you may not be able to see your way as yet to anything very definite, but if you enlist at once in the Franciscan army and pray very earnestly, I think there is small doubt you will be shewn what God would have you do. To some it may only mean going on in the old paths, but with an added and deeper consecration; for this phenomenal war cannot leave any one of us as it found us - we must needs be better or worse men and women because of it. To some it may come in the call to some special work for God. Apropos of this, I would like to say with deep thankfulness that there is

a possibility of a House of our Friars being started here after the war, some of our Tertiaries having expressed a desire for such a House. It is only a possibility, and I do not yet know if the Father Minister will be able to accede to the request, but the very fact of such a desire is significant and I would ask you all to pray earnestly about it. There are of course already many Franciscan Houses in England, all doing splendid work, but none exactly on the lines proposed. And there is always room for more workers in the kingdom of God. Then my thoughts have been running much of late on a great Federation of ALL Franciscans, both Roman and Anglican. It would be difficult to effect, doubtless, in any tangible form, but war is a great leveller, and with God nothing is impossible. So please pray about that also, and ask our Seraphic Father to help with his powerful prayers.

Wishing you all a blessed and happy St. Francis-tide.

SISTER MARY FRANCESCA.

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Notes and News.

My address for the present will be at:  
THE CHURCH FLAT, THROWLEIGH,  
Near OKEHAMPTON. Devon.

Throwleigh is a beautiful little village on the edge of Dartmoor, and I am living with one of the church-workers in a picturesque thatched cottage, tacked on to the Lych-gate, quite an appropriate habitation for an anchoress.

Enclosed with this No. is a leaflet, setting forth briefly some of our aims and ideals for the Franciscan Crusade. Please read carefully and then pass on to anyone who you think may be interested, whether already a Franciscan or not.

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Under authority of REV. DESMOND MORSE-BOYCOTT,  
St. Mary-of-the-Angels Song School, ADDLESTONE.