

SPEECH DAY, ST DOMINIC'S PRIORY

21 OCTOBER 1977

IT IS A GREAT PRIVILEGE FOR ME AND MY WIFE TO HAVE BEEN INVITED TO SHARE THIS SPEECH NIGHT OCCASION WITH YOU. ST DOMINIC'S PRIORY IS A SCHOOL WITH A WIDESPREAD AND DESERVED REPUTATION FOR COMMITMENT TO HIGH SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT, FOR SCHOOL SPIRIT, FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF RELIGIOUS AND MORAL VALUES, AND FOR COURAGE. IN SHORT, YOU CONDUCT YOURSELVES AS WORTHY DISCIPLES OF YOUR PATRON, ST DOMINIC. *Serious /*
I MENTION THE QUALITY OF COURAGE PARTICULARLY, FOR THE STAND THIS *→ D. rivalry* SCHOOL HAS TAKEN CONCERNING ITS DEDICATION TO THE PRINCIPLE, EXPRESSED NOT ONLY IN WORD, BUT IN PIONEERING EXAMPLE, THAT YOU ARE HERE TO SERVE ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY. IT IS NOT EASY TO CHALLENGE ESTABLISHED SHIBBOLETHS, ESPECIALLY WHEN BACKED UP BY THE SANCTIONS OF LAW.

THAT YOU HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO ENROL, AND ENROLLED SUCCESSFULLY, MEMBERS OF ALL RACE GROUPS, IS A DECISION WORTHY OF THE HIGHEST ADMIRATION AND PRAISE. I SHOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF FORMALLY CONGRATULATING YOU FOR THE EXAMPLE YOU HAVE SET.

THE GIRLS WHO ARE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE RECEIVING, OR WHO HAVE RECEIVED, A LARGE PORTION OF THEIR EDUCATION HERE, BELONG TO A VERY PRIVILEGED MINORITY. ~~JUDGING BY YOUR APPEARANCE TONIGHT YOU ARE WELL NOURISHED, WELL-GROOMED, WELL HOUSED AND WELL EDUCATED.~~

THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE HAD ENOUGH TO EAT TODAY ALREADY PUTS YOU IN A MINORITY, FOR MORE THAN HALF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN GO TO BED HUNGRY. ADD TO THAT BASIC BODILY REQUIREMENT ALL THE OTHER MATERIAL ADVANTAGES WHICH YOU ENJOY, AND YOU WILL READILY AGREE THAT YOU ARE FORTUNATE.

MUCH MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, HOWEVER, YOU HAVE PARENTS WHO CARE SUFFICIENTLY ABOUT YOUR INTELLECTUAL AND RELIGIOUS FORMATION TO HAVE MADE THE NECESSARY SACRIFICES TO SEND YOU TO THIS SCHOOL. WITHIN THE SCHOOL TOO, YOU ARE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF CARING AND CONCERN, NOT ONLY ON THE PART OF THE SISTERS WHO DEVOTE THEIR LIVES TO SERVING YOU, TO THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD, BUT ALSO ON THE PART OF THE LAY TEACHERS AND STAFF.

WITH ALL THESE BENEFITS BESTOWED UPON YOU, YOU ARE UNDER A HEAVY OBLIGATION NOT TO EXPLOIT YOUR PRIVILEGED POSITION EXCLUSIVELY TO YOUR OWN BENEFIT AND ADVANCEMENT, BUT ALSO TO SERVE YOUR FELLOW MEN AND WOMEN. FROM THOSE TO WHOM MUCH HAS BEEN GIVEN, MUCH WILL BE EXPECTED.

I AM SURE WE CAN ALL ACCEPT WHAT I HAVE SAID IN THEORY, BUT HOW CAN EACH OF US PUT IT INTO PRACTICE? THE GENERAL IDEA IS VERY WELL EXPRESSED IN THE LINES FROM THE WELL-KNOWN HYMN BY THAT GREAT ENGLISH POET AND DIVINE, GEORGE HERBERT :

"TEACH ME MY GOD AND KING
IN ALL THINGS THEE TO SEE;
AND WHAT I DO IN ANYTHING
TO DO IT AS FOR THEE.

A SERVANT WITH THIS CAUSE
MAKES DRUDGERY DIVINE.
WHO SWEEPS A ROOM AS FOR THY LAWS
MAKES THAT AND THE ACTION FINE."

THE TROUBLE IS, MOST OF US ARE NOT GOING TO BE SERVANTS. WHEN WE TRY TO THINK IN WHAT WAY WE CAN MAKE A CONTRIBUTION COMMENSURATE WITH THE GIFTS AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE BEEN VOUCHSAFED US, MANY OF US FIND IT DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO GET BEYOND GENERALITIES.

WHAT SPECIFICALLY MUST WE DO, EITHER AS INDIVIDUALS WITH A COMMITMENT TO MORAL IMPERATIVES, OR ORGANISED AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE CHURCH, IN ORDER TO LEAD THE GOOD LIFE? WE ARE AS FAMILIAR AS BREATHING WITH THE TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS LOVE GOD AND LOVE NEIGHBOUR. WE KNOW TOO WHAT ANSWER THE LAWYER RECEIVED WHO ASKED "WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR? ", AND WAS TOLD THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN. WE ARE PREPARED TO GO AND DO LIKEWISE, BUT OFTEN IN A LIMITED AND NOT VERY IMAGINATIVE WAY.

WE ALSO HAVE BEFORE US THE MANIFOLD GOOD WORKS OF THE ORGANISED CHURCH, EXHIBITING LOVE AND CONCERN FOR MEN BY PROVIDING H^SOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, MISSIONS, SPECIAL TRAINING AND CARE FOR THE DEAF, THE BLIND, THE ABANDONED, THE CRIPPLED, THE AGED.

AT THE SAME TIME WE HAVE SEEN THE STATE WITH ITS GREATER RESOURCES GRADUALLY AT FIRST, AND THEN ALMOST COMPLETELY, TAKING OVER THE HOSPITALS PIONEERED BY THE CHURCH, PROVIDING EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN, AND COMMITTING ITSELF TO THE GOAL OF UNIVERSAL EDUCATION, FINANCING THE UNIVERSITIES ALMOST COMPLETELY, AND PROVIDING A HOST OF OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES - CLINICS, PENSIONS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND THE LIKE.

WE THEN OBSERVE THE PHENOMENON OF CHURCH SCHOOLS OR HOSPITALS ACTUALLY CLOSING THEIR DOORS^x, AND CAN WE BE BLAMED IF WE BECOME A LITTLE CONFUSED? DOES THE CHURCH THEN HAVE NO MORE PLACE IN PROVIDING SERVICES?

DOMINICAN CONVENT, KWT

THE SOURCE OF THIS CONFUSION IS REALLY DUE TO A VERY COMMON HUMAN FAILING OF NOT MAKING A CAREFUL ENOUGH DISTINCTION BETWEEN GOALS AND MEANS OF ACHIEVING THOSE GOALS. THIS TROUBLE ARISES MOST SHARPLY WHEN A PARTICULAR MEANS OF ACHIEVING CERTAIN GOALS HAS BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL OVER SUCH A LONG PERIOD THAT THE MEANS ITSELF IS ELEVATED TO THE STATUS OF AN END, AND WE FIND OURSELVES ALMOST IDOLATROUSLY COMMITTED TO THE MEANS RATHER THAN THE END. IN SHORT WE SEE IT AS IMPORTANT, EVEN VITAL, THAT THE CHURCH SHOULD GO ON PROVIDING, OR ATTEMPTING TO PROVIDE, SCHOOLS FOR ALL ITS CHILDREN, OR HOSPITALS FOR ALL ITS FLOCK, WHEN RATHER WHAT IS VITAL IS THAT THE CHURCH SHOULD GO ON SERVING MANKIND. IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, AND IN CERTAIN PLACES, SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS WERE THE MOST OBVIOUS NEED, BECAUSE NOBODY ELSE WAS PROVIDING THEM. THEY WERE THE MOST SUITABLE VEHICLES THROUGH WHICH THE COMMANDMENT "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR" COULD BE EXERCISED.

TODAY AND IN THE MOST IMMEDIATE FUTURE, THIS MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE SO. DO NOT MISUNDERSTAND ME. SCHOOLS SUCH AS ST DOMINIC'S PRIORY ARE AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY. THIS IS SO, NOT PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF THE EDUCATION THAT THEY PROVIDE, BUT BECAUSE IT IS VITALLY NECESSARY THAT SOME SCHOOLS REMAIN OUTSIDE THE STATE ORBIT, EXACTLY SO THAT THEY CAN PROVIDE THE KIND OF MORAL EXAMPLE THAT THE PRIORY IS SETTING. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SUCH A NEED, SO I HOPE THAT SOME SCHOOLS SUCH AS THIS REMAIN OPEN TO SET EXAMPLES OF MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL LEADERSHIP AND EXCELLENCE, TO DEMONSTRATE WHAT IS POSSIBLE AND ATTAINABLE.

WHAT OTHER PRESSING TASKS ARE THERE IN OUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT WE, THE COMMITTED PEOPLE OF GOD, WHETHER SINGLY OR CORPORATELY, SHOULD BE UNDERTAKING, IN ORDER TO FULFIL EFFECTIVELY THE COMMANDMENT OF LOVE?

CLEARLY IN SOUTH AFRICA, A PRIME AND OBVIOUS TASK, IS TO FURTHER AND CONTINUE CONTACT ACROSS CULTURAL AND ETHNIC LINES. THIS IS NOT ALWAYS AN EASY, POPULAR OR, AS BATTLE LINES ARE DRAWN, AND POLARISATION RUNS DEEPER, A PARTICULARLY SAFE THING TO DO. YET IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE. CONSIDER AN EXAMPLE FROM NORTHERN IRELAND, WHERE, IT HAS OFTEN BEEN SAID, THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH RELIGION, AND NOT ENOUGH CHRISTIANITY. A DEEP AND IMPLACABLE HOSTILITY HAS EVOLVED OVER 350 YEARS OF BITTERNESS AND STRIFE, BETWEEN TWO MAJOR POPULATION GROUPS.

* Atheist Joke.

THIS HAS CULMINATED, IN THE LAST SEVEN OR EIGHT YEARS IN CIVIL COMMOTION, URBAN TERRORISM AND NEAR CIVIL WAR. TERRORISM HAS BEEN COUNTERED BY REPRESSION, LEADING TO YET MORE TERRORISM AND YET MORE REPRESSION. NEITHER SIDE, CATHOLIC NOR PROTESTANT, HAS BEEN CONSPICUOUS IN DISPLAYS OF BROTHERLY LOVE. A DECADE OF FURY AND VIOLENCE HAS SOLVED NOTHING. A SHORT WHILE AGO ONE QUITE ORDINARY CATHOLIC LAYWOMAN, AFTER WITNESSING A YOUNG CHILD BEING BLOWN UP BY A BOMB, DECIDED THAT THINGS HAD GONE FAR ENOUGH AND THAT SHE WAS GOING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. IN FEAR AND TREPIDATION SHE ARRANGED TO MEET A (PROTESTANT) WORK ACQUAINTANCE OF HERS TO SEE WHAT THEY COULD DO TO START THE WOMEN OF NORTHERN IRELAND WORKING TOWARDS PEACE AND RECONCILIATION. IN SPITE OF INTIMIDATION AND DEATH THREATS THEY PERSISTED AND THE MOVEMENT IS NOW SNOWBALLING.

THOSE TWO ORDINARY WOMEN_A SHARED THIS YEAR'S NOBEL PEACE PRIZE.

THE TENSIONS ARE GRADUALLY LESSENING AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS THERE IS HOPE IN THE AIR. 14 Months. Violence cut by 1/2

THE CALCULUS OF LOVE SEEMS TO WORK THIS WAY. THE POLITICIANS AND MEN OF POWER VENT THEIR FURY. PEOPLE SUFFER AND PEOPLE DIE, BUT NOTHING IS SOLVED. EVENTUALLY, IT NEEDS THE COURAGE AND DETERMINATION OF A FEW ORDINARY PEOPLE TO CONFOUND THE STRONG. IT IS NOT ONLY IN ULSTER THAT SUCH THINGS HAPPEN. HERE IN PORT ELIZABETH TWO COURAGEOUS WOMEN PAINTED OUT SOME APARTHEID BEACH SIGNS. MUCH FURY AND INDIGNATION AND OFFICIAL DISPLEASURE ENSUED, BUT THE DIVISIONAL COUNCIL HAS REMOVED BEACH APARTHEID ON THE BEACHES IT CONTROLS.

Remarkable how women are often to the fore in these matters.

WHY IS IT THAT WE ALWAYS HAVE TO LEARN THE HARD WAY? VIOLENCE AND INTRANSIGENCE ARE ESSENTIALLY ADMISSIONS OF FAILURE, BUT THROUGH SOME PERVERSITY OF HUMAN NATURE WE INSIST ON TRYING THEM UNTIL THEIR BANKRUPTCY CAN NO LONGER BE HIDDEN. BANNINGS OF EDITORS, CLOSING DOWN OF NEWSPAPERS, DETENTIONS, MASS ARRESTS WILL NEVER LEAD TO JUSTICE AND PEACE IN SOUTH AFRICA. NEITHER WILL THE STONING OF VEHICLES AND SCHOOLS, THE BURNING DOWN OF OFFICES AND BEERHALLS, INTIMIDATIONS, STRIKES AND STAY-AWAYS. EVENTUALLY, SOME HUMBLE BUT COURAGEOUS, BUT OTHERWISE ORDINARY, FOLK ARE GOING TO DO WHAT THE POLITICIANS AND ARSONISTS CANNOT : SHOW US HOW TO LIVE TOGETHER.

THERE ARE MANY OTHER, PERHAPS LESS STRIKING AND PERILOUS WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN LOVE OUR NEIGHBOUR.

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LET ME GIVE you a EXAMPLES

1. ONE OF THE MOST INIQUITOUS FEATURES OF MODERN LIFE IS HOW THE CONSUMER AT THE LOW END OF THE WAGE SCALE IS TREATED. PRICES ARE MANIPULATED, TEMPTING BUT UNREALISTIC HIRE-PURCHASE BAIT IS HELD OUT AND BECAUSE THE POOR CAN ONLY BUY IN SMALL QUANTITIES THEY PAY THE HIGHEST PRICES. THE S A COUNCIL OF CHURCHES HAS RECOGNISED THESE PROBLEMS AND HAS APPOINTED A CONSUMER OMBUDSMAN. HERE IS A NEW AREA OF SERVICE FOR THE CHURCH. NOBODY ELSE IS DOING IT AND IT IS OFF TO A VERY GOOD START.

2. ANOTHER DESPERATE NEED IS THE PROVISION OF INEXPENSIVE HOUSING. THIS TIME IT IS PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN WHO HAVE SHOWN THEIR NEIGHBOURLY CONCERN BY MAKING POSSIBLE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE URBAN FOUNDATION, WHICH IS ALREADY PROVIDING PROMISING TECHNICAL IDEAS, AND SEED MONEY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW APPROACHES AND NEW IDEAS TOWARDS THE SOLUTION OF OUR INTRACTABLE LOW COST HOUSING PROBLEM.

3. A PROBLEM THAT IS ENCOUNTERED IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD IS THE DIFFICULT SITUATION OF RURAL POVERTY AND STAGNATION, WITH THE CONSEQUENT DRIFT TO THE TOWNS, HUGE MUSHROOMING SLUMS IN THE PRINCIPAL CITIES AND MINDLESS REPETITIVE JOBS IN SOULLESS FACTORIES - "DARK SATANIC MILLS" AS WILLIAM BLAKE CALLED THEM. RURAL SELF-HELP SCHEMES HAVE BEEN TRIED, OFTEN WITH INDIFFERENT RESULTS. ONE SUCCESS STORY COMES FROM A MUCH EARLIER AGE. WE ARE PROBABLY ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE BEAUTIFUL LACEWORK FOR WHICH THE ISLAND OF MADEIRA IS FAMOUS. HOW MANY OF US, I WONDER, KNOW HOW THIS SIMPLE COTTAGE INDUSTRY, KEEPING THOUSANDS OF RURAL FAMILIES BUSY, CAME INTO BEING? ONE BRITISH WOMAN, WELL OVER SEVENTY, AFTER A LIFETIME OF DOMESTIC SERVICE, RETIRED WITH THE FAMILY WITH WHOM SHE HAD WORKED TO MADEIRA.

SHE WAS DEEPLY MOVED AND DISTRESSED BY THE ABJECT POVERTY SHE SAW ALL ROUND HER. WHAT COULD SHE, A FRAIL OLD LADY, WITH LITTLE EDUCATION AND LESS STRENGTH CONTRIBUTE? SHE HAD ONE TALENT, PERFECTED THROUGH A LIFETIME OF PRACTICE : EMBROIDERY; SHE TOOK IN A FEW NEIGHBOURING WOMEN AND TAUGHT THEM HER SKILLS. THAT IS HOW IT ALL BEGAN.

IN MORE RECENT TIMES THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN BRILLIANTLY ANALYSED IN MORE GENERALITY BY A GREAT MAN WHO HAS JUST DIED - ONE OF THE EARLIEST GERMAN RHODES SCHOLARS, FRITZ SCHUMACHER. SCHUMACHER DESCRIBED HIS IDEA OF AN INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY FOR THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN A NOW CLASSIC ARTICLE ENTITLED "HOW TO HELP THEM HELP THEMSELVES". THE EXPERTS WERE AT FIRST CRITICAL AND SCORNFUL, BUT THROUGH COURAGE AND PERSISTENCE SCHUMACHER GRADUALLY SAW HIS IDEAS ACCEPTED, PARTICULARLY HIS FAMOUS SLOGAN "SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL".

SCHUMACHER, DURING HIS YEARS AS A PLANNING CONSULTANT IN INDIA, SAW THE APPALLING EFFECTS OF POURING IN AID IN THE FORM OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY TO AN UNDEVELOPED COUNTRY. MACHINERY BROKE DOWN AND COULD NOT BE MAINTAINED. WHERE IT DID WORK IT FLOODED THE MARKET WITH CHEAP GOODS AND SOUNDED THE DEATH KNELL OF RURAL INDUSTRY. HIS IDEA WAS TO INTRODUCE UNSOPHISTICATED INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY THAT COULD BE WORKED BY THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES AND WOULD GIVE THEM TIME TO ADJUST LESS DISRUPTIVELY TO THE DIFFERENT WORKSTYLES AND PATTERNS OF LIVING OF THE MODERN WORLD. TOWARDS THE END OF HIS LIFE HE BECAME MORE SCEPTICAL OF ALL OVERDEPENDENCE ON TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING HIS OWN. HE SAW A DEEPER MALAISE IN OUR MODERN LIFE. NEW MEANS WOULD NEVER SOLVE THE EXTRAVAGANCE, WASTEFULNESS, AND INHUMANITY OF A TECHNOLOGICALLY-BASED SOCIETY.

OUR PROBLEMS LIE NOT SO MUCH WITH MEANS, BUT WITH ENDS. TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY, HE MAINTAINED, WAS THE PRODUCT OF A CRIPPLED AND IMPOVERISHED VIEW OF SOCIETY, RESTING ON (THE OFTEN UNCONSCIOUSLY HELD,) CONVICTION THAT ALL IMPORTANT REALITIES ARE MEASURABLE. UNLESS WE GET AWAY FROM THIS MISCONCEPTION, SCHUMACHER MAINTAINED, AND GET BACK TO IMPORTANT REALITIES THAT ARE NOT QUANTIFIABLE, WE SHALL BE WITNESSES TO A WAY OF LIFE THAT WILL DESTROY ITSELF THROUGH ITS INTERNAL INCONSISTENCIES WITHIN HALF A CENTURY. OUR GRASPING CONCERN FOR EXTRACTING RAW MATERIALS AND ENERGY AT THE LEAST POSSIBLE COST FROM A MORE AND MORE RELUCTANT EARTH, MUST END IN DISASTER, UNLESS WE SOON COME TO OUR SENSES.

YOU WILL NOTICE, THEREFORE, THAT THE GREAT GOSPEL QUESTION "WHO THEN IS MY NEIGHBOUR?" CAN BE AND HAS BEEN ANSWERED IN A VAST NUMBER OF NEW, UNCONVENTIONAL AND IMAGINATIVE WAYS. A NUMBER OF POINTS STAND OUT IN COMMON. IN EVERY CASE ONE OR TWO INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE. SOMETIMES THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN CLEVER AND ULTIMATELY FAMOUS PEOPLE. IN OTHER CASES, QUITE UNREMARKABLE PEOPLE HAVE RISEN TO THE OCCASION. IN ANY EVENT THEY HAVE ALL EXHIBITED REMARKABLE COURAGE, PERSISTENCE AND CONCERN. LOVE IS NOT A LIGHT THING. IT IS NOT EASY OR UNCOSTLY TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR. THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE I HAVE DESCRIBED HOLD OUT A CHALLENGE TO US ALL, FROM THE YOUNGEST GIRL IN THE HALL, THROUGH ALL THE MATRIC CLASS WHOSE LAST SPEECH DAY THIS WILL BE; TO THE OLDEST PARENT AND MEMBER OF STAFF PRESENT.

THE CHALLENGE IS THIS : IN PRINCIPLE EVERY ONE OF US COULD MAKE THE KIND OF CONTRIBUTION THESE PEOPLE DID. IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE ALL HAD THE LARGENESS OF HEART TO DO SO. THIS SCHOOL, THIS CITY, THIS COUNTRY WOULD BE TRANSFORMED INTO SOMETHING TRULY WONDERFUL. ALL IT NEEDS IS A LITTLE COURAGE TO START, PERSISTENCE, AND ABOVE ALL LOVE. WE GET EASILY DISCOURAGED BECAUSE IT IS SO DIFFICULT TO START AND THE WAY AHEAD LOOKS SO STONY, STEEP AND LONG. THE CHINESE PROVERB SAYS "A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES STARTS WITH THE FIRST STEP". THE SECOND STEP IS EASIER THAN THE FIRST, THE THIRD STEP EASIER YET, AND SO ON.

WE HAVE BECOME EASILY DISCOURAGED AND GIVE UP FEEBLY YET THE TASK IS NOT SO DAUNTING WHEN WE REALISE THAT WE ARE NOT ALONE.

I CANNOT SUM UP MORE APTLY WHAT I HAVE BEEN SAYING TO YOU THIS EVENING THAN BY ENDING WITH THESE WELL-KNOWN LINES FROM THE 19TH CENTURY POET ARTHUR HUGH CLOUGH. IN THE DARK AND SOMBRE DAYS THAT UNDOUBTEDLY LIE AHEAD OF US IN SOUTH AFRICA WE WOULD DO WELL TO MAKE THEM OUR OWN :-

"SAY NOT, THE STRUGGLE NAUGHT AVAILETH,
THE LABOUR AND THE WOUNDS ARE VAIN,
THE ENEMY FAINTS NOT, NOR FAILETH,
AND AS THINGS HAVE BEEN THEY REMAIN.

IF HOPES WERE DUPES, FEARS MAY BE LIARS;
IT MAY BE IN, IN YOUR SMOKE CONCEALED,
YOUR COMRADES CHASE E'EN NOW THE FLIERS
AND, BUT FOR YOU, POSSESS THE FIELD

FOR A WHILE THE TIRED WAVES, VAINLY BREAKING
 SEEM HERE NO PAINFUL INCH TO GAIN,
 FAR BACK, THROUGH CREEKS AND INLETS MAKING,
 COMES SILENT, FLOODING IN, THE MAIN.

AND NOT BY EASTERN WINDOWS ONLY,
 WHEN DAYLIGHT COMES, COMES IN THE LIGHT,
 IN FRONT THE SUN CLIMBS SLOW, HOW SLOWLY,
 BUT WESTWARD, LOOK, THE LAND IS BRIGHT."

Final word of congratulation to the
 prize winners, a message of good wishes for every
 success in the future to the girls who are leaving and
 an expression of appreciation, encouragement and support
 for the good sisters for the wonderful work they are doing and will continue
 to do in the dark days that lie ahead.