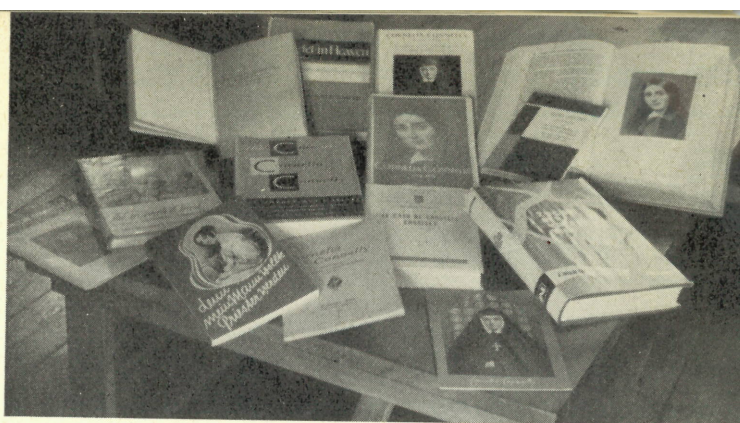


Cornelia Connelly

THE CAUSE ROOM



Roger Pain

A visit to the Cause Room, four floors up in the oldest part of The Old Palace, Mayfield, Sussex, would certainly dispel any misapprehension that modern saints are proclaimed by the Church upon a sudden wave of enthusiasm. The rulings concerning the development of a Cause are still, substantially, those formulated by the distinguished jurist, Pope Benedict XIV Lambertini, in those leisurely pre-French Revolution days when a Conclave could last six months. In more ways than one "the mills of God grind slowly" but there is no hint of this in the Mayfield Cause Room which shows a dauntless determination to have all the bags of corn waiting outside the mill by the time Providence needs them.

When Mother Cornelia Connelly died, the little row of spiritual notebooks on the shelf in her room, were found to have been despoiled of their written contents and a legend grew up that her writings were extremely rare. During the spring of this year that legend was demolished for good and all. Volume after volume of typed quarto pages of *Corneliana* were stapled and bound until five copies of the sixty-three books thus assembled were ready for the Process on the Writings. As each of the official copies had to be checked, signed and sealed, on every single page, both by a member of the Historical Commis-

sion or an archivist of the Society, the work fitted perfectly into that category of "fidelity in little things" so characteristic a saying of Cornelia's.

The scene of these labours is a long room with three dormer windows and a large window facing south. From it can be seen the roof of the Synod Hall (the convent chapel), the Noviceship Tower and the 14th century parish church, St. Dunstan's. One must lean out to look down upon the little cloister garth called *Paradise* where an inscription on the wall tells that after her exhumation in 1935, Mother Cornelia Connelly was placed there in a vault below the Memorial Chapel.

But, it must be admitted, the workers on the Cause have no time to look out of the window. The major responsibility and work fall on Mother Mary Evangelist of the English Province, Mother Marie Madeleine of the Rosemont Province, U.S.A., and Mother Mary Clara who has long been a member of the Mayfield Community. In the distant future, however, the youngest postulants, will be able to claim with pride that they had their share in the beginnings of the Process. Holy Child alumnae also have their representative in Miss Muriel Grinham who is a most devoted secretary. As time drew near for the first Session



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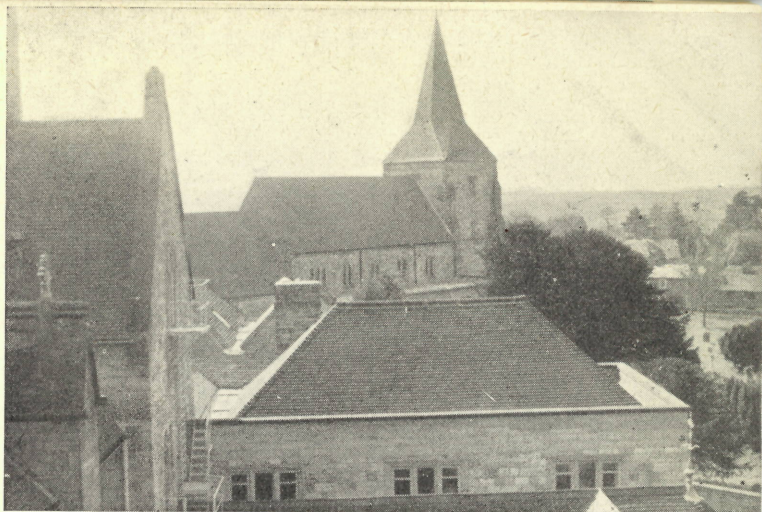
on the Writings it was interesting to see just how many extra helpers could be added to the floor space without upsetting the smooth organization by which everything went ahead, and is still moving forward on the much wider material of the Informative Process. In

counting helpers one must not fail to include the donors of filing cabinets, of the indispensable photocopying machine, of stacks of construction paper and furlongs of Mystic Tape. Without their help the work could only have gone at a snail's pace.

Roger Pain



Seen from the south window: The top floor of the new Noviceship wing, and beyond, St. Dunstan's pre-Reformation Church.



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The first Session of the Process on the Writings took place at Mayfield on Tuesday, March 22nd 1960, and the closing was at Bishop House, Southwark, on Friday, May 27th 1960.

The Process was formally concluded by His Lordship Cyril Conrad Cowderoy, Bishop of Southwark, in the presence of the Judge Delegates and other members of the Diocesan Tribunal. His Lordship handed over the Writings to the Diocesan Postulator, the Rev. James Walsh, S. J. for despatch to the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

The Roman Postulator for this Cause is the Rev. Paul Molinari, Postulator General of the Society of Jesus. Recently the Roman Postulator petitioned His Holiness Pope John XXIII to appoint Cardinal Bea as Cardinal *Ponens* in the Cause of Mother Connelly. His Holiness was pleased to make the appointment.

The Cardinal *Ponens* or *Relator* of a Cause for Beatification and Canonisation is appointed by the Holy Father from amongst the Cardinals in charge of the Sacred Congregation of Rites. The Cardinal *Ponens* makes a special study of the Cause, and makes himself

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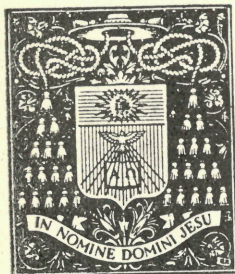
Mother Mary Clara (*left*) and Mother Marie Madeleine at the filing cabinet. Seated, Mother Mary Evangelist.



responsible for it in the Session. of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

The Roman Postulator has recently petitioned the Sacred Congregation of Rites to open the Apostolic Process on the Writings of Mother Connelly. Two theo-

logians - Consultors to the S.C.R. - will now be appointed to examine the Writings to discover whether they contain anything contrary to faith or morals; and positively, to ascertain what picture they present of the virtues of the Servant of God.



Augustin, Cardinal Bea, S. J.

To the world at large Cardinal Bea is known as the Jesuit who was confessor and friend of Pope Pius XII and the President of the Pontifical Commission which re-translated the Psalms for the Roman Breviary, positions which already demanded *eminence* of judgments and scholarship. Even a short survey of his life shows how felicitous it is that the Holy Father has put the Cause of Cornelia Connelly into his hands.

The Cardinal *Ponens* was born on May 28th, 1881, in Riedböhringen, Baden, Germany, and made his first studies of philosophy and theology at Freiburg in Breisgau. In 1902 he entered the Society of Jesus in Holland and became a Superior only two years after his ordination in 1912. Three years later he began his long career as lecturer in Holy Scripture with an interval in the early twenties when he was Provincial of the Bavarian Province of the Society of Jesus. It was in this capacity that he came to know the young Papal Nuncio, Eugenio Pacelli, who was just then hammering out his first Concordat, that between Bavaria

and the Holy See. Friendship and mutual esteem grew up between them.

In 1924, Father Bea was called to Rome as Superior of a graduate house of studies. He was also appointed lecturer at the Gregorian University and professor at the Biblical Institute, where he was still teaching in December 1959, giving a course on Biblical Inspiration to a chosen international group of future scholars, when he received the *biglietto* that made him a Prince of the Church.

As Rector of the Biblical Institute for a period of twenty years, the future Cardinal directed it on a highly scientific level to keep pace with the advances in linguistic and archeological studies, in theology and exegesis, always keeping touch with ecclesiastical authority and working at times under the personal direction of the Pope. Pius XII, who gave a wide and constructive mandate to Scriptural studies - especially in the encyclical *Divino Afflante Spiritu* (1943) - had, in Father Augustin Bea, the scholar of his desires. The Institute of which the latter was