

Dear Daddy,

Hope you are all keeping well. I'm keeping fine. Sorry for not writing a bit more often. I am now using the fact that it is starting to getting around to writing. We had about 3 weeks without a drop of rain so it was badly needed the rain. Without it a lot of plants & crops were beginning to die. This time of year is very nice here as at night it gets quite cool and during the day very warm. In January and February the climate gets very warm here. The land here is very special. There isn't a stone to be found but as it has been worked very little - it is virgin land it has little if any organic matter. For that reason once it dries out, after a shower of rain it becomes as hard as a tar road. One has to harrow or cultivate it immediately. At times it is so hard that the plants from the seeds are unable to grow through the crust of earth especially where the land is whitish. Here they ^{one} has to work a lot the land in order to get a good crop of anything.

In Ireland now you are probably starting with the beet. Here they grow a lot of sugar cane. Like the beet it takes a lot of work but produces a lot. As it grows very high and thick although to taste it

the Sugar Beet is much sweeter than Sugar Cane.
 In comparison with Ireland sugar is cheap here although
 the people use a lot of it. In the mate tea they use
 an awful lot of sugar.

How are things going at home? Mummy has a
 lot of Turkeys as usual I imagine? It won't be
 too long now when Christmas will be coming around again.
 I hope you get the letters I send. ~~It~~ Probably in
 January & February I will go to another part of
 Argentina to do a type of Retreat during ~~the~~ some
 three months. In a few weeks time I will get to
 know. It is the same place where I was last year
 in La Rioja. I had a letter from Noel Carroll -
 who was ordained with me and is from Dundalk -
 one of the first times you came to Donegan you got
 to know him. He is in Indonesia. He seems to be
 getting on very well. He wrote to me asking me about the
 life of the Brothers Sam & now working with. I don't know
 if I've already explained in other letters about the Brothers
 w/1 which I have been working this year and ~~with~~ which I
 will stay working next year. They are called "Little Brothers
 of the Gospel" of Charles de Foucauld - a French

Saint who founded the Group. In the world they are about
or 600 in the order so it very small although it is spread
out throughout the world. The majority are French and Italian.
They are some North Americans and some English I think. They
have a place in London. The difference with the SVD is
quite big. In the first place the Brothers work exclusively
with the poorest people, whereas the SVD work with all. Then
the Brothers live differently, much more poorer than the SVD.
The Brothers work in order to live - Here for instance we live
working - driving a pick-up - working in a big garden -
making bricks etc - Donations etc usually go to other things -
Mass - offerings in the same way, i.e. this money we usually destine
to some fin. like helping people that have a lot of necessity. Also they
do the ordinary pastoral work like whatever other priest.
Then also they have permission from Rome to work etc and
also that they don't have to wear the clerical clothes. I am

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