

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

diary@thetablet.co.uk

Call to Recife

AT THE END of his sometimes excoriating pre-Christmas pep talk to the Roman curia – remember the year he lambasted them with a diagnosis of their “spiritual diseases”? – a relatively amiable Pope Francis quoted some words that every English Catholic of a certain age will know by heart: “When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist.” Into our memory comes a black-and-white poster with these words superimposed on a photograph – taken by the great Chilean photographer Carlos Reyes – of Dom Helder Câmara, the prophetic, impish Archbishop of Olinda and Recife, Brazil. There can’t have been a Catholic school noticeboard in the country that didn’t display this Cafod poster throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

But where did the words come from? When Cafod’s education team were putting their material together for its 1984 campaign, they were labouring to find a cover line for a poster that would electrify teachers and children. The then director, Julian Filochowski, rattled off the phrase, already in the air in Catholic social justice circles, and everyone agreed it



would be just the ticket. “Make sure you check the source,” Julian told them. But that was the problem. They scoured Câmara’s books and speeches, but there was no trace of him saying it.

“Let’s give him a ring,” Julian eventually suggested. To Julian’s surprise, the archbishop picked up the telephone immediately. “How can I help?” Julian repeated the phrase, and asked Dom Helder if he could remember when and where he had said it. The Brazilian was quiet for a while. “I am sure I did say those words, Julian ... but if I didn’t, I am say-

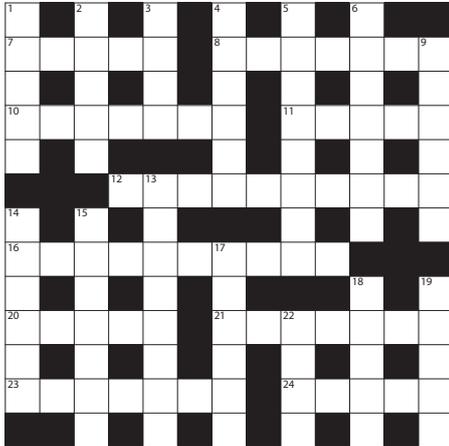
ing them now,” and he solemnly repeated them over the phone.

ONE OF THE first documentary films to introduce the ideas of liberation theologians such as Helder Câmara was made by Radharc, a small team of enterprising Irish priest film makers. *New Day in Brazil* looks at the innovative ways young Irish nuns and priests were bringing the Gospel to some of Sao Paulo’s poorest people. First broadcast on RTÉ in 1977, but still heartbreakingly fresh and hopeful, it is one of 12 programmes made by Radharc available to view in an exhibition from RTÉ archives: see www.tinyurl.com/thetablet-rte-brazil

The script for *New Day in Brazil* was written by Limerick-born priest Tom Stack, who died in Dublin on 27 December. Tom was one of the last surviving members of the Radharc production team, and later a much-loved parish priest in Milltown, Dublin. “Tom was a big man in every sense,” his old friend Jim Caffrey, a former priest of the Dublin archdiocese, now a Trappist monk of Mepkin Abbey in South Carolina, told us. “He was the best of fun and had a wealth of knowledge. More than most he was responsible for the implementation of the vision of Vatican II in the Irish Church.”

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 739 Enigma



Across

- 7 I didn’t cause trouble in Bali; I was halfway to Libya (5)
- 8 They come from Turkey to this part of Gibraltar, with permits (7)
- 10 They say the jewel scam was the point of no return (7)
- 11 The Catholic call to prayer is priceless (5)
- 12 In this country, they forbid open space in a forest. (Don’t tell anyone!) (6,4)
- 16 Spins round on the dangerous piste route (10)
- 20 Only the sane live the life of a wanderer (5)
- 21 I tell you there’s a reward if you inform (7)

- 23 We find Lily in the car describing music and poetry (7)
- 24 In the harbour, after our departure, start the engines for the recovery (5)

Down

- 1 Delay bringing a rodent back online (5)
- 2 Noisy mob! Get rid of the sailors’ overseas organisation; I don’t want it around here! (5)
- 3 It’s the 26th American company making metal (4)
- 4 Gone up, on a horse, for a beverage (6)
- 5 Put a stop to boat rage! (8)
- 6 We hear an untimely command to a member of the press to keep us waiting (7)
- 9 Look at this article and be furious! (6)
- 13 The water supplier is going over our heads! (8)
- 14 Pals in trouble with this type of cord (6)
- 15 First and most important, give that girl a bit of privacy (7)
- 17 Tries to make a net profit from the sea (6)
- 18 How many people dined, would you say? (5)
- 19 Colour backed by the English race (5)
- 22 Wine left on board ship (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 16 January, The Tablet, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY. Email: thetablet@thetablet.co.uk, with Crossword in the subject field. Please include your full name, telephone number and email address, and a mailing address. Three books – on Jesus, Christian Art and Catholicism – from the OUP’s Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random. **■ We cannot process entries or prizes at present. Please keep entering. Winners will be notified and prizes awarded as soon possible.**

SUDOKU | Challenging

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Each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9.

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