

RELIGIOUS LIFE AND RULE. The Chapter of 5 December 1916 discussed the qualifications for a future Chaplain. They desired someone who would be in close touch with the Community, in relationship with young women who might be drawn into the Community, with understanding of the claims and difficulties of parish work, who would take a definite place in our Community life, and be a member of the Community of the Resurrection. The same Chapter listed "the desirability of a more definite Rule suitable to our life as Sisters and our work as Deaconesses"; note that here the Religious life was placed before the Deaconess ministry. This work of revision was deferred until the guidance of a new Chaplain was available. Mother Frances resigned and Mother Sibylla was elected 29 June 1917.

The very close connection of the Community of St Andrew with the Community of the Resurrection (CR, Mirfield) began at this time. CR had a London Priory (branch house) at 77 Westbourne Terrace from 1914 to 1937. Fr Cyril Bickersteth, CR, who had been one of the six founding members of the Community of the Resurrection in 1892 became the Chaplain to CSA in 1917 and would so serve until he became the Sub-Warden for 1930 -1935. Fr Seyzinger, CR, would conduct the November 1917 retreat.

The names of several Sisterhoods are linked with priest advisers or even founders: Clewer with T T Carter, Wantage with W J Butler and the Society of St Margaret with J M Neale but the Community of St Andrew had been mainly linked with the Deaconess Order which it pioneered.<sup>27</sup> The Community of the Resurrection (Mirfield) Fathers had been responsible for aspects of the rules of many communities and at this time influenced CSA and CSN, New Zealand.

Mother Hilda told Sr. Aline that about this time "Fr Bickersteth conducted the Annual Retreat [for the Sisters] which had a profound effect on both him and the Retreatants. Soon after he was appointed Chaplain and *with some difficulty* [emphasis mine] the proposed new Rule was adopted."<sup>28</sup> Sr Aline wrote "when I came in 1919 this [c.1906 'Internal Rule'] had been prized by the Sisters ordained before 1913. But Sr Hilda (#74) and Sr Elsie(#68) who influenced the aspirants after 1919 rather laughed at it.... We studied the 1917 Rule drawn up by Fr C Bickersteth, CR."