

The Gratitude Of Literary Catholics

Third up, the scholarly journal: *The Chesterton Review*, with its spring/summer 2004 issue, is celebrating its 30th anniversary, by publishing some heretofore unknown writings of Chesterton on St. Thomas Aquinas, as well as some very Chestertonian observations, musings, and book reviews by Chesterton's modern disciples.

A word must be said about the gratitude every literary Catholic owes Fr. Ian Boyd, CSB, the founder of *The Chesterton Review*, for the high standards and perseverance, amidst many obstacles, he has maintained over those 30 years, in extending knowledge of Chesterton, as well as Belloc, Evelyn Waugh, Ronald Knox, Fr. Vincent McNabb, OP, and many others in Chesterton's circle to a new generation. At the same time, he has worked tirelessly on both sides of the Atlantic in political, economic, religious, and social circles to advance the distributist vision in modern culture.

What a great thing it has been to watch this Canadian priest buck the trends for the past three decades. While EU politicians and bureaucrats stomp their socialist boots on small producers of beer, wine, bread, sausage, and cheese in the service of giant agribusiness, and the major media campaign endlessly against religion, Fr. Boyd has arranged important conferences across Eastern Europe where serious Catholic academics, economists, and politicians can explain the enduring relevance of Chesterton's and Belloc's social principles. These principles also happen to be those of every Holy Father from Leo XIII to John Paul II.

Fr. Boyd is up against the likes of billionaires George Soros — but who is the happier warrior?

One of the treats in the current issue is Stratford Caldecott's review of a new biography of England's Prince Charles, *Radical Prince: The Practical Vision of the Prince of Wales*, by David Lorimer.

Contrary to his public image as a playboy, HRH Charles is actually "England's leading distributist," and fits squarely in a tradition that runs from William Cobbett to Belloc. In a very quiet way, Prince Charles is using his resources and talent to promote the English tradition in farming and crafts, art, architecture, and education. At one point, Lorimer quotes Charles as saying:

"As I have grown older I have gradually come to realize that my entire life so far has been motivated by a desire to heal — to heal the dismembered landscape and the poisoned soil; the cruelly shattered townscape, where harmony has been displaced by cacophony; to heal the divisions between intuitive and rational thought, between mind, body, and soul, so that the temple of our humanity can once again be lit by a sacred flame; to level the monstrous barrier erected between Tradition and Modernity, and above all, to heal the mortally wounded soul that, alone, can give warning of the folly of playing God and of believing that knowledge on its own is a substitute for wisdom."