

John Henry Newman and Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ "nobody should forget"

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During a research visit to Rome in 1958, Blehl happened to be present at the beatification of the foundress of the [Little Sisters of the Poor and Aged](#). He wrote that he "could not help thinking what a wonderful event it would be to be present at Newman's, God willing". Alas, he will not now be present personally, but when that day surely arrives, nobody should forget that it was Vincent Blehl more than anybody who made it possible.—Blehl obituary, 2001 [\[1\]](#)



Thus concludes the obituary of Vincent F Blehl, SJ, written by Mr [Gerard Tracey](#), Archivist of the Birmingham Oratory since 1976, who had worked closely with Fr Blehl for many years on the Newman Cause. John Henry Cardinal Newman (1801-1890) was beatified in England by Pope Benedict in 2010 and canonized by Pope Francis in Rome on 13 October 2019.

The webpage history of "The Cause" mentions Fr Blehl twice: (1) on a list of "further six editors" with Fr Stephen Dessain of Newman's *Letters and Diaries* series, and (2) as Chairman of the Historical Commission that assembled the necessary documentary evidence, and then the Postulator of the Cause who oversaw the composition of the official case presented to Rome in 1989. [\[2\]](#) There is more to be told.

One way to get a quick sense of Vincent Blehl's dedication to the Newman Cause is by examining his scholarly output over a period of fifty years. To this end, the [Appendix](#) lists over sixty of his Newman-related books, articles, presentations and book reviews (and no doubt there are others to be found).

The following essay presents the story of Vincent Blehl's life and efforts on behalf of the canonization of Cardinal Newman—that at least some may remember the man and the scope of his contribution. It relies on two principal sources of information: Gerard Tracey's obituary (which is quoted above), and the article "How I became involved in Newman research" that Fr Blehl himself wrote at the request of a friend in August 2001, just three months before he died. [\[3\]](#)

Blehl Family

Vincent Ferrer Blehl was born on the Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola, 31 July 1921, in Brooklyn, New York. His parents, Louis Francis Blehl and Mary Philomena (Allen) Blehl, [4] had ten children, eight boys and two girls; Vincent was their eighth child. The family lived at 343 Maple Street, Brooklyn, where they are recorded (in census records) as living from 1915 to 1950. His father died in 1960 and his mother in 1962; both were interred in Holy Cross Cemetery in Brooklyn, as were most of their children.

The Blehl home, an end-unit row house, adjoined the campus of Brooklyn's St Francis of Assisi Parish. The parish was founded in 1898 by a young Brooklyn priest born of German immigrant parents, Fr Francis Xavier Ludeke. Msgr Ludeke served as Pastor for over 46 years, including all the years that Vincent lived with his family. The first St Francis of Assisi Parish School, which had opened in 1909, was next door to their home. [5] Vincent Blehl graduated from the school in June 1935, winning the History Medal. Four boys (names not reported) won four-year scholarships that year to the Jesuits' Regis High School. [6]

Blehl's grandfather, Emil Blehl (1856-1950), had immigrated from Baden, Germany, with his family, by 1860. [7] It seems that Fr Blehl honored these German roots: "In 1987, he made his main base Freiburg im Breisgau, where he had been appointed to a visiting Professorship at the university. There he remained, combining work on the cause with teaching and writing ... His surroundings, on the edge of the Black Forest, were a great source of peace and joy to him, and it is reassuring to know that he died in a place he loved so much." Fr Blehl died at age 80 in Freiburg, Baden, Germany, on 14 November 2001. [1]

Life to Age 40: Student and Teacher

1. Regis High School, Manhattan, NY

"Vinnie" Blehl graduated from Regis High School in Manhattan, NY, in June 1939. Regis was founded as a Jesuit high school to provide a free education for Catholic boys, with special consideration given to those who could not otherwise afford such an education. His senior yearbook photo is accompanied by a list of his many High School activities and the comment "We will watch Vin's career with interest; it should be a brilliant one." [8]

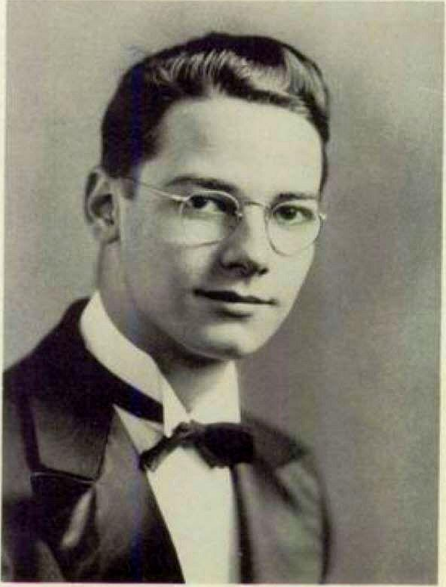
VINCENT F. BLEHL

"Vinnie"

"Away, away to other skies."

Vinnie, who is one of our better debators, will talk for hours on end, on any subject you may mention and with but slight inducement. The strange part of it is that no matter how long he talks or what the subject, he is well informed upon it. Indeed his knowledge of Latin grammar is so comprehensive that a class wit has linked his name with that of the author of our Latin grammar. We will watch Vin's career with interest; it should be a brilliant one.

Sodality 1, 2, 3, 4; Assistant Prefect 2, Prefect 3, Spiritual Council President 3; Guard of Honor 1, 2, 3, 4; Sanctuary Society 4; Debating 1, 2, 3, 4; Quarterly Staff 3, 4; Year Book Staff 3, 4; Owl Staff 3; Le Cercle Claudel 3, 4; Chess Club 1, 2; General Excellence, Next in Merit 1; Castiello Society, President 4.



2. Jesuits, Woodstock College, Woodstock, MD

On 14 August 1939 Blehl entered the Society of Jesus at St Andrew-on-Hudson, Poughkeepsie, NY. [3, p 375] Upon completion of his novitiate and classical studies, he studied at the Jesuit seminary, Woodstock College, MD, earning a Bachelor degree and licentiates in philosophy and theology. [9, 10] It was there that he first encountered Cardinal Newman.

Blehl: "During my third year of philosophy at Woodstock College, ... I became interested in Newman's writings particularly the *Grammar of Assent* and the writings of Dietrich von Hildebrand as these became available in English translation. The latter developed a number of Newman's insights." [3, p 375]

His draft-registration record from February 1942 describes him: height 5' 9", weight 150, eyes and hair brown. [11]

3. University of Scranton, Scranton, PA

Blehl: "From 1946 to 1948 I was an instructor in English Literature at the University of Scranton, Scranton, Pennsylvania." [3, p 375] He also served as moderator of the Arts group, the Political Science group, and the school yearbook [12]. He was moderator of the Scranton debate team that travelled to Buffalo to defeat a Canisius College team in 1947. [13]

4. Fordham University, New York, NY

In June 1948 the Jesuit Provincial announced that "Rev Mr Vincent F Blehl, SJ, head of the department of English, will pursue graduate studies at Fordham University." [14] Blehl: In "1948-49 I pursued work towards the master's degree in English Literature at Fordham University, New York ... In preparation I read everything written in English and French on the *Grammar* and Newman's philosophy, and on his sermons." [3, p 375] Blehl earned an MA degree in English: the subject of his thesis was Cardinal Newman.

5. Woodstock College again

Blehl: "From 1949 to 1953 I studied theology at Woodstock College." [3, p 375] While there he published—perhaps his first Newman publication—a review of the book *Newman's University: Idea and Reality*, by Fergal McGrath, SJ, in the November 1951 issue of *Woodstock Letters*. [15]

Vincent Blehl was ordained at Woodstock on 22 June 1952 [3, p 375] and celebrated his first Mass on 29 June at his home parish, St Francis of Assisi. [16]

6. University of Namur, Belgium

Father Blehl's next assignment was teaching at the University of Namur, a Jesuit university in Belgium, 1953-1954. [10] Departing from Southampton, England, he returned to New York on 31 Aug 1954. [17] Blehl: "On the way back to America I visited the Oratory in Birmingham with a view to a possible topic for a doctoral thesis. Fr Tristram [the Archivist] was in the hospital, but Fr Zeno, a Dutch Franciscan was working there on his [life of Newman](#) and he showed me through the Archives. I was astonished at the number of unpublished letters and thought this might be an area of exploration." [3, p 375]

7. Harvard University, Boston, MA, and back to Europe

In 1955 Fr Blehl was in Boston, MA, [18] studying for a doctoral degree.

Blehl: "... first I had to take course work and preparation for comprehensive examination in English and American Literature ... I passed the comprehensive in February 1957 and was ready to do a thesis. In the meantime Fr Tristram died, and Fr Dessain took over. Around the end of August 1956, I wrote to Fr Dessain expressing my desire to come to the Oratory in March 1957 to do a thesis on the letters. I was surprised to get a

reply from him from Georgetown University in Washington, DC where he was visiting, as Georgetown had acquired all of Newman's letters to Henry Wilberforce and others. They were desirous of editing them. Fr Dessain asked if he could meet me in New York and then go on together to Boston and Yale University. This was arranged and Fr Dessain got excellent advice and help from the editors of various projects of letter editing ... A decision had to be made whether to edit some or all of Newman's letters, and whether this should be done chronologically or by correspondent. As he solicited my opinion, I told him he should publish all chronologically but beginning with the Catholic period. For the reasons set down by Fr Dessain in the preface to Vol. XI, it was decided to publish all letters of Newman but to begin with the Catholic period, which became Vol. XI, ten volumes being reserved for the Anglican period to be edited after the Catholic period was completed." [3, pp 375-376]

In a 1977 article Blehl reported: "I first began to correspond with Fr. Dessain in the autumn of 1955 when he succeeded Henry Tristram, the eminent and distinguished Newman scholar, as archivist at the Oratory, Birmingham, England. I had for some time been interested in editing some of Newman's letters and this began a friendship with Fr. Dessain that lasted until his death" in 1976. [19]

Blehl: "I arrived at the Oratory in March 1957 and was assigned the complicated and difficult period of the Achilli trial and then the founding of the Catholic University in Dublin and began work editing some of the correspondence. Editing the letters involved first making sure one had an accurate transcription of the original text; secondly annotating the letters wherever necessary; thirdly identifying all persons mentioned in the correspondence and supplying dates of birth and death, wherever possible." [3, p 376]

According to Gerard Tracey, who succeeded Fr Dessain as Oratory archivist, "Blehl was the keenest of archival burrowers, delving into the recesses of American libraries and collections, and then a 15-month trip to England and Europe in 1957." [1] That trip included stays in Birmingham and in Rome.

Blehl: "In May-June 1958 I went to Rome to search for Newman letters which I discovered in the Propaganda Archives ... During the time I was in Rome Newman's Cause for Canonization was introduced in Birmingham, and Fr Dessain asked me to get as much information as I could about how the

cause should be run. This I did from Fr. Molinari SJ who had just been appointed Postulator of all Jesuits' Causes. He explained that the cause could not be 'an ordinary process', but what was then called 'an historical process.' ... The ordinary process involves getting testimony from living witnesses to the Servant of God's holiness and reputation for holiness. Where there are no living witnesses, all this must be done by documents. As a result of all this Fr Dessain wanted me to be made Postulator or at least, a member of the Historical Commission which was set up. As I was just beginning my teaching work after taking my Doctorate, my superior suggested I decline." [3, pp 376-377]

In 1958 Archbishop Grimshaw of Birmingham appointed Fr Henry Francis Davis, professor of theology at Oscott College, as vice-postulator to begin the diocesan process. [20] "While Newman's cause had been put firmly on the right [historical] track in 1959, the engine ... refused to move for 20 years. Those who had been involved were either tied to other commitments, and/or were totally baffled as to how the work might be tackled." [1] An immense number of written documents had to be reviewed: viz., Newman's published works, his then-unpublished letters and other papers, and what others had written to or about him.

During this period, Blehl somehow found time to publish two articles in support of the Cause: "The Sanctity of Cardinal Newman" [21] and "The Holiness of John Henry Newman." [22]

Fr Blehl received the doctoral degree from Harvard in 1959 [23] after completing his dissertation:

The letters of John H. Newman: July 1851-June 1852, (edited by) Vincent Ferrer Blehl, 2 volumes, 1959 [24]

8. Canisius College, Buffalo, NY

Rev Dr Blehl, from studies at Harvard University, was appointed professor of English at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY, in June of 1959. [25] His promotion from instructor to assistant professor in the English Department was announced in July 1960. [26]

In addition to teaching, Blehl set about making known what he had learned during his doctoral studies:

In 1960 he published "Newman and the Missing Mitre" based on documents he had uncovered during research in Rome. In 1854 Cardinal Wiseman had told Newman that, to strengthen his position as Rector of the new Catholic University in Dublin, the Pope intended to make him a bishop. The article provides documentary evidence that pressure had been brought to bear against the Pope's intention; namely, previously unpublished letters which Paul Cullen, Archbishop of Dublin, wrote to Rome giving reasons why Newman should not be made a bishop at that time. [27]

He also published "Newman's Delation: Some Hitherto Unpublished Letters." This article concerned the complaint that Bishop Brown of Newport had lodged against Newman for his 1959 article "On Consulting the Faithful in matters of Doctrine." The Bishop believed certain passages to be, if not heretical, at least bordering on heresy. Blehl used original sources to show how the complaint had been handled and why it unfairly had left Newman under a cloud in Rome for several years. [28]

On 30 August 1960 Rev Vincent F Blehl SJ of Canisius College spoke at the 46th National Newman Club Federation convention in Cleveland, OH. His topic: "Newman and the Lay Intellectual." Msgr H Francis Davis of Birmingham, England, vice-postulator of the Newman Cause, gave the keynote address. [29]

Life after 40

1. Fordham University professor

The Rev Vincent F Blehl, SJ, was transferred from Canisius College to professor of English, Fordham University, in June 1962. [30] He was made a full professor in 1967. [31]

The Fordham Ram announced in May 1963 that Fr Blehl had received a "grant from the American Philosophical Society to continue his research in the Newman archives in Birmingham, England." [10] During this period of research, he compiled an anthology of Newman writings, *The Essential Newman*, a series of readings that introduce a reader to "the major writings, acquaint him with their central themes, and provide a sense of the development of Newman's mind and thought." [32] In the Preface, he recalled again experiencing "the superabundant hospitality of the Oratorian Fathers and in particular that of C Stephen Dessain," with whom he had

"worked over a considerable length of time on the definitive edition of Newman's letters."

Blehl's doctoral dissertation had not been published, but it formed the basis for [Volume 14](#) and [Volume 15](#) of *Letters and Diaries of John Henry Newman*, edited by Charles Stephen Dessain and Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ, and published in 1963 and 1964, respectively. As further volumes were published, Blehl wrote reviews: Volumes 25 and 26 (1974); Volumes 29 and 30 (1977); Volume 31 (1977); Volume 1 (1979); Volumes 2 and 3 (1980); and Volume 5 (1982).

1964—Anniversary of Newman's *Apologia*. The same May 1963 *Ram* article [[10](#)] announced the creation of a Center on Newman Studies as part of the English department program of Victorian studies at Fordham, to be led by Fr Blehl and Dr Francis X Connolly. The Center was inaugurated in October 1963 with a symposium to commemorate the centenary of the publication of Newman's *Apologia*. The proceedings of the symposium were published in 1964 as [Newman's Apologia: A Classic Reconsidered](#). The book includes Blehl's paper, "Early Criticism of the *Apologia*." [[33](#)]

Another book published by Fr Behl in 1964 was [Cardinal Newman's Best Plain Sermons](#) (published in England as *Realizations: Newman's Selection of His Parochial and Plain Sermons*). It consists of the selection of Newman's Anglican sermons that Newman himself thought were some of his best, along with a Foreword by Muriel Spark and an Introduction by Fr Blehl. [[34](#)]

Blehl: "During these years I was involved in teaching and research in the field of English Literature. I specialized in Victorian Literature and the Modern British Novel. Also I was exploring the relation between Theology and Literature, which was just opening up as a field of research ... In my graduate seminars I examined various works of literature, mostly novels, in relation to Theology." [[3](#), pp 377-378] He included Newman's works in his graduate school teaching.

One of Professor Blehl's former students at Fordham, John Ryle Kezel, PhD, spoke at Fordham in 2019 at a celebration of Newman's canonization: "Fordham made me a Newmanist!" Kezel, born Catholic and grandson of an Episcopalian convert to the Church, "had always heard of Newman and respected his memory ... But it was only when I came to Fordham's Graduate School and took a year-long class on Victorian Literature that—like so many of us here today—I fell in love with Newman: the man, the priest,

the thinker, and the saint. I owe this blossoming devotion to all-things Newman to my professor, the late Vincent Ferrer Blehl of the Society of Jesus. Vinnie ... brought Newman alive to his students so that you felt you were reading the words of a contemporary friend rather than the works of a master of English prose. None of us was surprised when Vinnie Blehl became chairman of the Historical Committee set up to examine Newman's life, virtues, and reputation for sanctity ... I am very proud to stand here today as one of Fr Vincent Ferrer Blehl's students and friends." [35]

In April 1975, in response to Pope Paul's wish that Newman be honored during the Holy Year, the Catholic community known as [The Spiritual Family "The Work"](#) (*Familia Spiritualis Opus*, FSO) organized the Cardinal Newman Academic Symposium in Rome. Blehl: "At the Newman conference held in Rome in 1975 I delivered a paper 'The Patristic Humanism of John Henry Newman' which was subsequently published in *Thought*, and in *Newman Studien*, Vol. 10." [3, p 378; 36] The [International Centre of Newman Friends](#) was created in Rome by FSO in 1975, following the conference.

In 1978 Fr Blehl published a detailed scientific bibliography of all the various editions of Newman's works: [John Henry Newman: A Bibliographical Catalogue of His Writings](#). Blehl: "Over the years I had been visiting various libraries to find data on the various editions Newman published of his works during his lifetime. It turned out to be a difficult and at times a complicated work which required many hours of research. I decided to concentrate on finishing this work and getting a publisher for it ... Its value is that one can trace in a few minutes any article or work of Newman's through its various publications and changes of title." [3, p 378; 37]

Toward the end of his tenure at Fordham, Fr Blehl heard of plans to publish some yet-unpublished sermons of Newman the Anglican, and, "with a sabbatical near at hand, he volunteered his services as an editor of one of the volumes. This necessitated a return to Europe in 1978-79 so that he could lay the foundations of the volume." [1] The book, "though completed in 1980 awaited the appearance of the first volume edited by Dom Murray." [3, p 378] It finally appeared in 1993 as *John Henry Newman Sermons 1824-1843, Volume II*. [38]

1979—Anniversary of Newman's Cardinalate. Fr Blehl participated in a symposium held at the Pontifical Urban University in Rome from 9 to 12

October 1979, on the occasion of the centenary of John Henry Newman's elevation to the cardinalate by Pope Leo XIII. [39]

Blehl: "More could not be published during the seventies, as I was elected Chairman of the English Department which comprised 34 professors and 6-7 teaching fellows. It was a full-time job, which I enjoyed but which left no time for research or publication." [3, p 378] (His 1970s publications are listed [here](#) in the Appendix.)

In 1978 Fr Blehl delivered a paper, "The Role of Education in the Formation of Conscience and the Illative Sense," at the Tenth International Newman Conference held in Freiburg, Germany. The proceedings were published with the editorial assistance of a Theology professor at Freiburg University, Fr Günter Biemer, [40] who was to become a close friend. [41]

2. The Cause, full-time

Blehl: "On the occasion of the Centenary of Newman's elevation to the Cardinalate in 1979, Pope John Paul II sent a message to Archbishop Dwyer of Birmingham in which he expressed a personal interest in the progress of Newman's Cause ... the Archbishop ... set up a new Historical Commission composed of James Derek Holmes, Gerard Tracey, and myself. Since neither of the others could work full-time, I realized that the Cause could not be put through in any reasonable time unless I worked full-time. This my superiors agreed to, and I took up residence at the Oratory in September 1980. It meant relinquishing my position as a professor at Fordham University." [3, p 379]

Blehl: "The final product of six years of research on the part of the Historical Commission was 6,483 pages submitted to the Diocesan Tribunal in May 1986. The Diocesan investigation was formally closed at a ceremony in St. Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham in June 1986, and the material sent to the Congregation of Causes in Rome. At that time I was appointed Postulator of the Cause and entrusted with the task of drawing up for the Congregation the case for Newman's sanctity according to the procedural method set down by it ... the most difficult part of that work was to select from the mass of material what seemed essential and not to give so much that a reader would get lost in details and not see the picture of Newman's holiness as it emerges from the major events and decisions of his life." [3, pp 380-381]

Fr Blehl recalled in 2001: "During all this time I was provided with room and board at the Birmingham Oratory. On matters pertaining to the Cause I continue to work in close co-operation with Fr Gregory Winterton, who has done so much to promote it. I take this opportunity once again of expressing my appreciation of their kindness ..." [41]

Blehl: "When the *Positio super Virtutibus*, as the case for Newman's holiness was called, was drawn up, through the kindness of Father Peter Gumpel, SJ, the Relator of Newman's Cause, an audience with the Holy Father was arranged, and I and my devoted colleague and assistant, Mrs Susanne Wahl, presented the two volumes of the *Positio* to him. The Holy Father was pleased and replied with words of praise for Newman." [3, p 381; 42]

Fr Blehl reported in a 1989 article in *America* magazine: "I was asked how I would feel if the decision was negative ... I said that no matter what happens, nothing can wipe out the experience of living six years in very close contact with Newman; in fact, I have done hardly anything else but that. The effect, of course, has been profound, and it was an experience that could never be erased or duplicated. Nor would I wish it to be." [43]

After studying John Henry Newman for many years, Fr Blehl had been struck by three lesser-known aspects of Newman's life:

- (1) Newman's generosity to the poor: "The commission discovered that Newman was particularly reticent about his gifts of material help to the poor. There is hardly any mention of it in his letters and diaries, but it was remembered in Birmingham by the recipients of his charity and testified to by Father Neville." [43]
- (2) Newman's dedication to the Oratorian life: "He kept the accounts of the Oratory school, wrote letters to parents of the pupils about their children's performance, directed Latin plays, even dusted the books in the library. He was at the service of the parishioners, most of them poor, hearing confessions daily, preaching and directing the various missions to the jail, the workhouse, and the orphanage ... As one old Oratorian remembered him, Newman carried the art of being ordinary to perfection." [44]
- (3) Newman's life of charity and humility (example cited by Blehl in 1958): "... a Mr Goodrick, Cardinal Newman and the Cardinal's brother had been walking in the garden at Rednal, a villa house belonging to the Oratory, when Newman noticed that Mr Goodrick's shoes and trousers were being

dirtied by the wet grass at the edges of the walk. 'This won't do,' said the Cardinal, 'let us go in.' Standing on the balcony, looking out at the pleasant countryside, Mr Goodrick was startled by something very busy about his legs. He looked down and there was the aged Cardinal wiping his shoes and trousers. 'Whatever are you doing, Cardinal Newman?' asked Mr Goodrick. 'Well,' was the reply, 'I wish you to go home no worse than you came.' [21]

The *Positio* "was presented in December 1989 to the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. This synthesis, by which the expert Consultors of the Holy See could judge the completeness and worthiness of the Cause, was examined and approved by various commissions of theologians and cardinals with unusual speed and unanimous endorsement." [2]

In January 1991 Pope John Paul II declared that John Henry Newman had exercised all of the Christian virtues in an heroic degree, and was henceforth to be known as "Venerable". [2] The decision was positive: the next requirement—a miracle.

3. Freiburg, Baden, Germany, 1987 and after

In 1987 Fr Blehl made Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany, his main base when he was appointed as a visiting professor at the University of Freiburg. He continued promoting the Newman cause—by speaking and writing—until his death.

In June 1987 an international conference with the theme "Newman and the Church Today: A Second Spring" took place at the University of Notre Dame. One purpose was to promote the cause of Newman's canonization, and to that end, Rev Vincent Blehl, SJ, was invited as a keynote speaker. He traveled from West Germany to update the conference attendees on the rigorous, intricate process of investigation that had been completed by the Historical Commission and on prospects for the Cause. [45]

In September 1987 an international congress was organized by the Deutsche Newman-Gesellschaft (German Newman Society) in Freiburg. It focused on the spirituality and thought of John Henry Newman. Fr Blehl presented a paper entitled "Newman's Personal Endeavour as a Catholic to Follow the 'Light' and the 'Call'," which was published in 1988 in the proceedings edited by Günter Biemer and Heinrich Fries. [46]

1990—Anniversary of Newman's Death. In 1990 in Birmingham a Newman Centenary Year was celebrated, beginning on Newman's birthday, 21 February. Fr Blehl gave the homily at the evening mass at the Oratory church in Edgbaston. He acknowledged the presence of the Lord Mayor and other distinguished dignitaries and spoke of Newman's life in Birmingham and his wider spiritual influence. [47]

In April 1990 an academic symposium entitled "John Henry Newman—Lover of Truth," was organized by the International Centre of Newman Friends in Rome to commemorate the centenary. Pope John Paul II and Cardinal Ratzinger contributed, as did Fr Blehl. He was introduced by Fr Paul Chavasse of the Birmingham Oratory, who, after Blehl's death, became the next Postulator of Newman's Cause. [48]

In 1991 Fr Blehl wrote a short biography of John Henry Newman that was distributed as a booklet through the International Centre of Newman Friends (and later translated into German and republished as *John Henry Newman: eine Kurzbiographie* in 1997). [49]

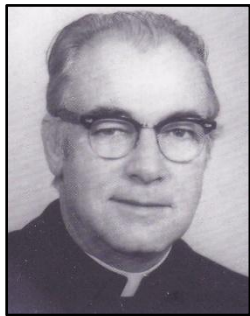
Blehl: "In 1992 I published *The White Stone: The Spiritual Theology of John Henry Newman* ... Although certain aspects of Newman's spiritual theology had been explored, this was the first full and comprehensive study of it." [3, p 383; 50] He began the book with the Newman quotation from which he had taken the title: "But those who give themselves up to their Lord and Saviour, those who surrender themselves soul and body, those who honestly say, 'I am Thine, new-make me, do with me what Thou wilt,' who say so not once or twice merely, or in a transport, but calmly and habitually; these are they who gain the Lord's secret gift, even the 'white stone, and in the stone a new name written which no man knoweth, saving he that receiveth it.'" [Rev. ii: 17] [51]

1995—Anniversary of Newman's Conversion. Newman was a Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, from 1822 until 1845, when he resigned to enter the Catholic Church. An Oxford International Newman Conference was held at Oriel College in August 1995 to mark the 150th anniversary of the event. Vincent Blehl was one of four guest speakers. [52]

2001—Bicentennial of Newman's Birth. Blehl: "From 1996 to 1999 I was engaged in research for my forthcoming book, *John Henry Newman: Pilgrim Journey (1801-1845)*. It is an exploration of Newman's quest for holiness and Truth and the effect of one upon the other. Though it covers years which

in the main are known, it does so in a fresh way by using sources hitherto not fully exploited, such as Newman's letters, journals, verses, prayers, as well as Newman's correspondents' letters and the writings of many of his contemporaries." [3, p 383] The book was published in 2001 to coincide with the bicentennial. In the Acknowledgments Fr Blehl wrote: "In researching and writing this book I have profited from regular discussion with two close friends and colleagues: Gerard Tracey, Archivist and present editor of the *Letters and Diaries*, and Günter Biemer, the distinguished German Newman scholar and Director of the Internationale Deutsche Newman Gesellschaft." [41] The book, with a photo of Fr Blehl on the dust jacket (shown below), appeared just a few days before his death. [1]

Death of Rev Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ



"The man who, like no other, devoted every ounce of his energy to preparing for the beatification of Cardinal Newman, has died. Within a few weeks, his strength was spent, and he surrendered his life to God in the same quiet, unassuming manner in which he had lived it ... Since the Freiburg Newman Congresses of 1978 and 1987, Fr Blehl had discovered his love for this city and region. He readily accepted the invitation to hold seminars on Newman's life, teaching, and preaching at the Faculty of Theology for several years as a visiting professor. Now the spiritual wisdom that he expressed about Newman in his later work, *The White Stone* (1993), also shone from his own person ... On the night of November 14, 2001, Freiburg became the place where Vincent Blehl heard the final call summoning him "Ex umbris et imaginibus in Veritatem" (Out of shadows and phantasms into the Truth). I shall miss the monthly conversations with Vincent Ferrer Blehl—a scholar of Newman who was profound in both intellect and spirit ... May perpetual light shine upon him."—Obituary, Fr Günter Biemer. [53] Fr Blehl was interred in Freiburg, Germany.

Postscript

On 15 August 2001, about the time that Fr Blehl was writing the history of his efforts for the Newman Cause, [3] Jack Sullivan, in Marshfield, MA, was healed of a crippling spinal disorder after praying to Cardinal Newman. This event led to Cardinal Newman's beatification in England by Pope Benedict XVI on 19 September 2010. [54, 2]

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and able moderator")
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- 14 "Faculty Changes Listed at Prep and University," *The Times-Tribune*,
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- 15 Book review: *Newman's University: Idea and Reality*, Fergal McGrath, SJ,
Longmans, Green and Co., 1951; "Newman's Achievement in Ireland,"
Vincent Blehl, SJ, *The Woodstock Letters*, Volume LXXX, no. 4, Nov
1951, pp 413-415 [LINK](#)
- 16 "4 From Borough Among 41 to be Ordained Sunday," *Brooklyn Eagle*, 17
Jun 1952, p 4
- 17 New York, Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists ..., 1820-1957,
Ancestry.com

- 18 Boston, Massachusetts, List of Boston Residents, 1909-1972.
Ancestry.com (Vincent F Blehl, clergyman, was listed in the 1955-1959 directories)
- 19 "John Henry Newman: Some Texts and Commentaries," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, *Thought*, Volume 52, no. 1, 1977, pp 95-96 [LINK](#)
- 20 "Cardinal Newman Inquiry Opens," (RNS) *The Catholic Advocate*, Volume 7, Number 27, 4 July 1958, p 2 [LINK](#)
- 21 "The Sanctity of Cardinal Newman," Vincent Blehl, *America*, 14 Jun 1958, Volume 99, Issue 11, pp 328-330 [LINK](#)
- 22 "The Holiness of John Henry Newman," Vincent Blehl, *The Month*, Volume 19, Issue 6, 1958, pp 325-334 [LINK](#)
- 23 *The Boston Globe*, Boston, 11 Jun 11 1959, p 14 (Vincent F Blehl on list of those awarded Doctor of Philosophy)
- 24 *The letters of John H Newman: July 1851-June 1852*, edited by Vincent Ferrer Blehl, 2 volumes, 1959 (Harvard Library Catalog, HOLLIS number: [990037608160203941](#))
- 25 "Appointed to Canisius College," *Buffalo Courier Express*, Buffalo, 19 Jun 1959, p 30
- 26 "Canisius Makes Six Promotions," *The Buffalo News*, 18 Jul 1960, p 17
- 27 "Newman and the Missing Mitre," *Thought*, Volume 35, Issue 1, 1960, pp 111-123 [LINK](#)
- 28 "Newman's Delation: Some Hitherto Unpublished Letters," The Rev Vincent F Blehl, SJ, *The Dublin Review*, Winter 1960-1961, Volume 234, pp 296-305 (this issue begins with an article by Dessain on "Cardinal Newman's Papers") [LINK](#)
- 29 "1,000 Likely At Newman Convention," *The Plain Dealer*, Cleveland, 30 Aug 1960, p 14
- 30 *Buffalo Courier Express*, 22 Jun 1962, p 13
- 31 "1967 Faculty Promotions Made," *The Fordham Ram*, 21 Apr 1967, p 1
- 32 *The Essential Newman*, Vincent Ferrer Blehl, editor, New American Library, New York, 1963 [LINK](#)
- 33 *Newman's Apologia: A Classic Reconsidered*, Vincent Ferrer Blehl and Francis X. Connolly, editors, Harcourt Brace & World, 1964 (includes Blehl's article, "Early Criticism of the *Apologia*," pp 47-63) [LINK](#)
- 34 *Cardinal Newman's Best Plain Sermons*, Vincent Ferrer Blehl, editor, Herder and Herder, New York, 1964 (published in London as *Realizations. Newman's Selection of His Parochial and Plain Sermons*) [LINK](#)

- 35 "Priests, Prophets and Kings: Ecclesiology in Newman and Tolkien," John Ryle Kezel, *Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Quarterly*, Volume 42, nos. 2-3, Summer-Fall 2019, pp 131-132 [LINK](#)
- 36 "The Patristic Humanism of John Henry Newman," Vincent F Blehl, *Thought*, Volume 50, 1975, pp 266-274 [LINK](#)
- 37 *John Henry Newman: A Bibliographical Catalogue of His Writings*, Vincent Ferrer Blehl, University of Virginia Press, 1978 [LINK](#)
- 38 *John Henry Newman Sermons 1824-1843, Volume II: Sermons on Biblical History, Sin and Justification, the Christian Way of Life, and Biblical Theology*, Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ, editor, Clarendon Press, 1993
- 39 "The Spiritual Roots of Newman's Theology," Vincent F Blehl, *The Way*, Volume 20, no. 3, Jul 1980, p 217-227 [LINK](#)
- 40 "The Role of Education in the Formation of Conscience and the Illative Sense," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ, *Internationale Cardinal-Newman-Studien*, Volume XI, 1980, pp 143-149
- 41 *Pilgrim Journey: John Henry Newman, 1801-1845*, Vincent Ferrer Blehl, Burns & Oates, 2001, Acknowledgments
- 42 *Cause of Canonisation of the Servant of God John Henry Cardinal Newman (1801-1890); Positio Super Virtutibus*, 2 volumes, Vincent F Blehl, editor, 1989
- 43 "Prelude to the Making of a Saint," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, *America*, Volume 160, 11 Mar 1989 [LINK](#)
- 44 *Making Saints: How the Catholic Church Determines Who Becomes a Saint, Who Doesn't, and Why*, Kenneth L Woodward, Simon and Schuster, 1990 [LINK](#)
- 45 *Programma: Newsletter for Graduates of the Program of Liberal Studies*, University of Notre Dame, Volume XI, no. 1, Jan 1987, p 11 [LINK](#)
- 46 "Newman's Personal Endeavour as a Catholic to Follow the 'Light' and the 'Call'," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, *Internationale Cardinal-Newman-Studien*, Volume 12, 1988, pp 27-34 (Proceedings of Sep 1987 Newman conference in Freiburg im Breisgau, West Germany; edited by Günter Biemer and Heinrich Fries) [LINK](#)
- 47 "Newman and Birmingham," homily of Fr Vincent Blehl S J, in [Benedict XVI and Cardinal Newman](#), edited by Peter Jennings, Family Publications, Oxford, 2005, pp 113-115 *
- 48 "John Henry Newman (1801-1890): A Hundred Years Later," Vincent F Blehl, SJ, delivered at a 1990 symposium in Rome and published in *John Henry Newman: Lover of Truth. Academic Symposium and Celebration of*

- the first Centenary of the Death of John Henry Newman*, Urbaniana University Press, Rome, 1991, pp 117-123 [LINK](#)
- 49 *John Henry Newman, 1801-1890: A Short Biography*, Vincent Ferrer Blehl, 1991 (a pamphlet compiled as a summary of his work for the cause (the *Positio*) and distributed as a booklet through the International Centre of Newman Friends; translated into German and republished as *John Henry Newman: eine Kurzbiographie*, International German Newman Society, Johannes-Verlag, Leutesdorf 1997, 52pp)
- 50 *The White Stone: The Spiritual Theology of John Henry Newman*, Vincent Ferrer Blehl, St Bede's Publications, 1993
- 51 [Parochial and Plain Sermons, Volume 8](#), Sermon 5. Curiosity a Temptation to Sin, pp 74-75
- 52 "Notes and Comments," *The Catholic Historical Review*, Volume 81, no. 3, 1995, p 477 [CITATION](#)
- 53 "Obituary of Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ (July 31, 1921, in New York City — November 14, 2001, in Freiburg im Breisgau)," Fr Günter Biemer, *Sorgfalt des Denkens, Wege des Glaubens im Spiegel von Bildung und Wissenschaft: Ein Gespräch mit John Henry Newman. Internationale Cardinal-Newman-Studien*, Volume XIX, edited by Roman A Siebenrock and Wilhelm Tolksdorff, pp 385-387 (original in German)
- 54 "Miracle approved for Newman beatification," ICN: Independent Catholic News, 21 Jun 2009 [LINK](#)

* Free login required

Appendix: Publications of Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ

On Newman

Fr Blehl said of his work with the Historical Commission from 1980 to 1986: "... nothing can wipe out the experience of living six years in very close contact with Newman; in fact, I have done hardly anything else but that." [\[43\]](#) One could say the same of his entire fifty years as a scholar, viz.:

1950s

1. Book review: *Newman's University: Idea and Reality*, Fergal McGrath, SJ, Longmans, Green and Co., 1951; "Newman's Achievement in Ireland," Vincent Blehl, SJ, *The Woodstock Letters*, Volume LXXX, No. 4, Nov 1951, pp 413-415 [LINK](#)

2. Book review: *The Seven Deadly Sins*, Morton W Bloomfield, Michigan State College Press, 1952; review by Vincent F Blehl, *Thought: Fordham University Quarterly*, Volume 28, Issue 2, Summer 1953, p 320 [LINK](#)
3. "The Holiness of John Henry Newman," Vincent Blehl, *The Month*, Volume 19, Issue 6, Jun 1958, pp 325-334 [LINK](#)
4. "The Sanctity of Cardinal Newman," Vincent Blehl, *America*, Volume 99, no. 11, 14 Jun 1958, pp 328-330 [LINK](#)
5. *The letters of John H Newman: July 1851-June 1852*, (edited by) Vincent Ferrer Blehl, 2 volumes, 1959, PhD dissertation, Harvard Library Catalog, HOLLIS number: [990037608160203941](#)

1960s

6. "Newman and the Missing Mitre," *Thought*, Volume 35, no. 1, 1960, pp 111-123 [LINK](#)
7. "The Church as Mother," Vincent F Blehl, SJ, *American Ecclesiastical Review*, Volume 143, Jul-Dec 1960, pp 191-199 (also published as "La Iglesia Como Madre" in *Selecciones de Teología*, Volume 1, no. 4, 1962, pp 39-40 [LINK](#)
8. "Newman's Delation: Some Hitherto Unpublished Letters," The Rev Vincent F Blehl, SJ, *The Dublin Review*, Volume 234, Winter 1960-1961, pp 296-305 [LINK](#)
9. Book review: *Newman the Theologian*, J H Walgrave, OP; "Development of Doctrine," Vincent F Blehl, SJ, *The Dublin Review*, Volume 235, Spring 1961, pp 77-80 [LINK](#)
10. "John Henry Newman on Latin Prose Style: A Critical Edition of His 'Hints on Latin Composition,'" Vincent Ferrer Blehl, *Classical Folio XV*, 1961, pp 1-12 (reprinted in *Newman Studies Journal*, Volume 19, Issue 1, Summer 2022, pp 37-48)
11. "The Council: A Lesson From the Past," Vincent F Blehl, *America*, Volume 107, no. 30, 27 Oct 1962, pp 950-952, and 1 Dec 1962, p 1162
12. "Newman on Trial," Vincent F Blehl, *The Month*, Volume 27, 1962, pp 69-80
13. "The Letters of John Henry Newman," Vincent F Blehl, *The Month*, Volume 27, 1962, pp 175-178
14. Book review: *Philosophical Readings in Cardinal Newman*, James Collins, editor; review by Vincent F Blehl, SJ, *Theological Studies*, Volume 23, Issue 3, Sep 1962, pp 495-497 [LINK](#)

15. Book review: *The Argument from Conscience to the Existence of God According to J H Newman*, Adrian J Boekraad and Henry Tristram, 1961; review by Vincent F Blehl, SJ, *Theological Studies*, Volume 23, Issue 4, Dec 1962, pp 693-694 [LINK](#)
16. Book review: *Newman at St Mary's: A Selection of the Parochial and Plain Sermons*, edited by Lawrence F. Barmann, SJ, Newman Press, 1962; review by Vincent F Blehl, SJ, *Thought*, Volume 38, no. 2, 1963, pp 290-291 [LINK](#)
17. *The Essential Newman*, Vincent Ferrer Blehl, editor, New American Library, New York, 1963 [LINK](#) *
18. *Letters and Diaries of John Henry Newman*, Volume 14, Papal aggression, Jul 1850 to Dec 1851, Charles Stephen Dessain and Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ, editors, 1963 [LINK](#) *
19. *Letters and Diaries of John Henry Newman*, Volume 15, The Achilli trial, Jan 1852 to Dec 1853, Charles Stephen Dessain and Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ, editors, 1964 [LINK](#) *
20. *Newman's Apologia: A Classic Reconsidered*, Vincent Ferrer Blehl and Francis X. Connolly, editors, Harcourt Brace & World, 1964 (includes Blehl's article, "Early Criticism of the *Apologia*," pp 47-63) [LINK](#) *
21. *Cardinal Newman's Best Plain Sermons*, Vincent Ferrer Blehl, editor, Herder and Herder, New York, 1964 (published in London as *Realizations. Newman's Selection of His Parochial and Plain Sermons*) [LINK](#)
22. "The 'Apologia': Reactions 1864-65," Vincent F Blehl, *The Month*, Volume 31, May 1964, pp 267-277

1970s

23. "Newman, the Fathers, and Education," Vincent F Blehl, *Thought*, Volume 45, Issue 2, 1970, pp 196-212 [LINK](#)
24. Book review: *Hebrew and Hellene in Victorian England: Newman, Arnold, and Pater*, David J DeLaura. University of Texas Press, 1969; review by Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ, *Thought*, Volume 45, Issue 3, 1970, pp 457-458 [LINK](#)
25. Book Review: *Newman: The Contemplation of Mind*, Thomas Vargish; review by Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ, *Theological Studies*, Volume 32, Issue 3, Sep 1971, pp 551-554 [LINK](#)
26. "Newman, the Bishops und the Rambler," Vincent F Blehl, *Downside Review*, Volume 90, Issue 298, 1972, pp 20-40 [LINK](#)

27. Book review: *Letters and Diaries of John Henry Newman*, Volume 25, 1973, and Volume 26, 1974: edited by Charles Stephen Dessain and Thomas Gornal, SJ; review by Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ, *Thought*, Volume 49, Issue 4, 1974, pp 462-463 [LINK](#)
28. "The Patristic Humanism of John Henry Newman," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, *Thought*, Volume 50, Issue 3, 1975, pp 266-274 [LINK](#)
29. "John Henry Newman: Some texts and commentaries," *Thought*, Volume 52, Issue 1, 1977, pp 95-102 (review of *Letters and Diaries* Volume 29 and Volume 30 and other recent publications) [LINK](#)
30. Book review: *Letters and Diaries of John Henry Newman*, Volume 31, edited by Charles Stephen Dessain and Thomas Gornal, SJ; review by Vincent Ferrer Blehl, *America*, Volume 137, no. 9, 1 Oct 1977, p 184
31. *John Henry Newman: A Bibliographical Catalogue of His Writings*, Vincent Ferrer Blehl, University of Virginia Press, 1978 [LINK](#) *
32. Book review: *Letters and Diaries of John Henry Newman*, Vol. I: Ealing, Trinity, Oriel. February 1801 to December 1826, edited by Ian Ker and Thomas Gornall, SJ; review by Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ, *Thought*, Volume 54, Issue 1, 1979, pp 104-105 [LINK](#)
33. "John Henry Newman: 100 Years a Cardinal," Vincent F Blehl, *America*, Volume 140, no. 21, 2 Jun 1979, p 446
34. "Newman's Idea of a University: Idea and Reality," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ, in *John Henry Newman, Theologian and Cardinal: Symposium 9-12 October 1979*, *Studia Urbaniana*, Volume 10, Rome, 1981, pp 17-32
35. Book review: *Newman and Gladstone: Centennial Essays*, Edited by James D Bastable; review by Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ, *Theological Studies*, Volume 40, Issue 4, Dec 1979, pp 757-760 [LINK](#)

1980s

36. Book Review: *Letters and Diaries of John Henry Newman 2: Tutor of Oriel, January 1827 to December 1831; 3: New Bearings, January 1832 to June 1833*, Edited by Ian Ker and Thomas Gornall, SJ; review by Vincent F Blehl, *Theological Studies*, Volume 41, Issue 2, May 1980, pp 418-420 [LINK](#)
37. "The Role of Education in the Formation of Conscience and the Illative Sense," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ, *Internationale Cardinal-Newman-Studien*, Volume XI, 1980, pp 143-149
38. "John Henry Newman: An Unforgotten Giant?" Vincent F Blehl, *America*, Volume 142, no. 23, 14 June 1980, p 502

39. "The Spiritual Roots of Newman's Theology," Vincent F Blehl, *The Way*, Volume 20, no. 3, Jul 1980, p 217-227 [LINK](#) (also published in *John Henry Newman Theologian and Cardinal* (Symposium 9-12 October 1979) *Studia Urbaniana*, Volume 10, Urbaniana University Press, 1981, pp 17-32 [CITATION](#))
40. "Cardinal Newman's Future," Vincent F Blehl, *America*, Volume 145, no. 3, 1 Aug 1981, p 54
41. Book Review: *Letters and Diaries of John Henry Newman 5: Liberalism in Oxford, January 1835 to December 1836*, edited by Thomas Gornall, SJ; review by Vincent F Blehl, *Theological Studies*, Volume 43, Issue 2, Jun 1982, pp 336-337 [LINK](#)
42. "Divine Call and Human Response: John Henry Newman on Prayer," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, *The Way*, Volume 22, no. 4, Oct 1982, pp 297-306 [LINK](#)
43. "John Henry Newman on the Development of Doctrine," V F Blehl, *Eutes Docentes (Commentaria Urbaniana)*, Bd. 36, 1983, pp 267-282
44. "John Henry Newman on Freedom and Authority in the Church," Vincent F Blehl, *The Priest*, Volume 39, no. 3, Mar 1983
45. "The Oxford Movement 150 Years Later," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, *America*, Volume 149, no. 1, 25 Jun 1983, p 4
46. "Newman's Personal Endeavour as a Catholic to Follow the 'Light' and the 'Call'," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ, in *Internationale Cardinal-Newman-Studien*, Volume 12, 1988, pp 27-34 (proceedings of the International Newman-Conference at Freiburg in 1987) [LINK](#)
47. Cause of Canonisation of the Servant of God John Henry Cardinal Newman (1801-1890); *Positio Super Virtutibus*, 2 volumes, Vincent F Blehl, editor, 1989
48. "Prelude to the Making of a Saint," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, *America*, Volume 160, 11 Mar 1989 [LINK](#)

1990s

49. "Newman and Birmingham," homily of Fr Vincent Blehl S J, in [Benedict XVI and Cardinal Newman](#), edited by Peter Jennings, Family Publications, Oxford, 2005, pp 113-115 (perhaps the only published Blehl homily) *
50. "The Importance of the 'Real' for the Interpretation of Newman's Spirituality and Holiness," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, *Louvain Studies*, Volume 15, Issue 2-3, Summer-Fall 1990, pp 226-232 (special double issue on John Henry Cardinal Newman) [INDEX](#)

51. "Newman and Our Lady: The 1990 Assumptiontide Lecture," Vincent Ferrer Blehl SJ, Walsingham Parish Church of S Mary and All Saints, 15 Apr 1990, pp 15-22 [CITATION](#) (A.3.v)
52. "The Gentle Light That Led a Genius to the True Faith," V Blehl, *The Universe: Centenary Supplement*, 1990 [CITATION](#)
53. "The Cause of John Henry Newman," V F Blehl, The Australian Catholic Record, Centenary of Cardinal Newman, Volume LXVII, No.3, 1990, pp 283-287 [CITATION](#)
54. "John Henry Newman (1801-1890): A Hundred Years Later," Vincent F. Blehl, SJ, delivered at a Rome symposium in 1990 and published in *John Henry Newman: Lover of Truth. Academic Symposium and Celebration of the first Centenary of the Death of John Henry Newman*, Urbaniana University Press, Rome, 1991, pp 117-123 [LINK](#)
55. *John Henry Newman, 1801-1890: A Short Biography*, Vincent Ferrer Blehl, 1991, 24pp (pamphlet compiled as a summary of his work for the cause (The *Positio*) and distributed as a booklet through the International Centre of Newman Friends; translated into German and republished as *John Henry Newman: eine Kurzbiografie*, International German Newman Society, Johannes-Verlag, Leutesdorf 1997, 52pp) [CITATION](#)
56. "Controversial Biographies of John Henry Newman," Vincent F Blehl, *The Allen Review*, Volume 8, Michaelmas, 1992 (published in Italian in *John Henry Newman: L'idea di ragione*, edited by Onorato Grassi, Jaca Book spa, 1992, pp 35-43)
57. "En el tiempo de Dios [In God's Time]," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ, The Oratory, Birmingham, *Salmanticensis*, Volume 40, Issue 1, 1993, pp 77-83 (Journal of the Pontifical University of Salamanca; delivered on the occasion of an institute for Newman Studies being founded at the University of Salamanca) [LINK](#)
58. *John Henry Newman Sermons 1824-1843, Volume II: Sermons on biblical history, sin and justification, the Christian way of life, and biblical theology*, Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ, editor, Clarendon Press, 1993
59. *The White Stone: The Spiritual Theology of John Henry Newman*, Vincent Ferrer Blehl, St. Bede's Publications, 1993
60. "The Intellectual and Spiritual Influence of J H Newman," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ, Postulator, Newman Cause, *Downside Review*, Volume 111, Issue 385, 1993, pp 251-258 [LINK](#)

61. *A Newman Prayer Book*, edited by V F Blehl SJ, The Newman Secretariat, Birmingham 1993, 34pp [CITATION](#)
62. "Where Does Cardinal Newman's Cause Stand?" Vincent Ferrer Blehl, *America*, Volume 169, no. 8, 25 Sep 1993, p 15
63. "Newman and the Church of England," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, pp 41-48, in *By Whose Authority?* V. Alan McClelland, editor, Downside Abbey, 1996 (this essay was contributed to a symposium in 1993 or 1994 at the International Institute for the Advancement of Newman Research at Freiburg University in Germany) [LINK](#)
64. "Newman's Conversion of 1845: a Fresh Approach," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, pp 123-135, in *By Whose Authority?* V. Alan McClelland, editor, Downside Abbey, 1996 (this essay was contributed to a symposium in 1993 or 1994 at the International Institute for the Advancement of Newman Research at Freiburg University in Germany) [LINK](#)
65. "The Eirenics of John Henry Newman," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, *Recusant History*, Volume 23, Issue 2, Oct 1996, pp 219-227
66. "John Henry Newman and Orestes A Brownson as Educational Philosophers," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, *Recusant History*, Volume 23, Issue 3, May 1997, pp 408-417
67. "John Henry Newman's Conversion of 1845: A New Approach," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, SJ, *Internationale Cardinal-Newman-Studien*, Volume XVI, 1998, pp 31-41 [CITATION](#)

2000s

68. *Pilgrim Journey: John Henry Newman, 1801-1845*, Vincent Ferrer Blehl, Burns & Oates, 2001
69. "How I became Involved in Newman Research," Vincent F Blehl, *Internationale Cardinal-Newman-Studien*, Volume XIX, 2006, pp 375-384 (written August 2001) [CITATION](#)

On Other Subjects

1. "Liberalism in Current Criticism," Vincent F Blehl, *America*, Volume 86, no. 22, 1 Mar 1952, p 588 (mentions the effect of first principles on disputes, per Newman)
2. Book review: *Musical Influence on American Poetry*, Charmentz S. Lenhart, University of Georgia Press, 1956; review by Vincent F Blehl, SJ, *Thought*, Volume 32, no. 2, 1957, pp 294-295

3. Book review: *The Vision of Tragedy*, Richard Sewall, Yale University Press, 1959; review by Vincent F Blehl, SJ, *Thought*, Volume. 35, no. 2, 1960, pp 290-291
4. "Look Back at Anger," Vincent F Blehl, *America*, Volume 103, no. 3, 16 Apr 1960, p 64
5. "Freedom and Commitment in James's 'Portrait of a Lady,'" Vincent F. Blehl SJ, *The Personalist*, Volume 42, Issue 3, Jul 1961, pp 368-381
6. Book review: *The Bow in the Clouds: Man's Covenant with God*, Daniel Berrigan, SJ, Coward-McCann, Inc., 1961; review by Vincent F Blehl, SJ, *Thought*, Volume 38, no. 2, 1963, pp 288-289
7. "Literature and Religious Belief," Vincent Ferrer Blehl, *Comparative Literature Studies*, Volume 2, No. 4, 1965, pp 303-314 (later published in *Mansions of the Spirit*, George Andrew Panichas, editor, Hawthorne Books, 1967, pp 105-120. Blehl quotes Newman's, *Grammar of Assent*.)
[LINK](#)
8. Book review: *The Vision Obscured: Perceptions of Some Twentieth-Century Catholic Novelists*, edited by Melvin J. Friedman, Fordham University Press, 1970; review by Vincent F Blehl, SJ, *Thought*, Volume 46, no. 4, 1971, pp 612-619
9. *The Medieval Translator: The Theory and Practice of Translation in the Middle Ages*, edited by Roger Ellis with Vincent Ferrer Blehl, D.S. Brewer, 1989

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This paper first appeared on the stjhnewman.guide website.