

CALENDAR FOR NEXT WEEK.

JANUARY, 1900.

- 21. —Third Sunday after Epiphany. The Flight into Egypt.
- 22. Monday—Saints Vincent and Anastasius, Martyrs.
- 23. Tuesday.—Espousals of the Blessed Virgin.
- 24. Wednesday—St. Timothy, Bishop, Martyr.
- 25. Thursday.—Conversion of St. Paul.
- 26. Friday.—St. Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr.
- 27. Saturday—St. John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor.

BRIEFLETS.

The Catholic population in Rat Portage and Norman is 1,500.

The Oblate Fathers of St. Mary's, Winnipeg, are now in their new and well appointed residence.

Rev. Father Sinnett, so popular in this country, has been appointed Catholic chaplain to the second contingent. He was born at Ridgetown, Ontario, and is 43 years old. His priestly functions were exercised especially at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., St. Boniface College, Portage la Prairie, Regina and recently in Montreal in St. Antony's parish.

His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface said Mass last Sunday, the feast of the Holy Name, in the chapel of St. Boniface College, and was afterwards presented with two addresses (one in French, the other in English) and a charming piece of original poetry. Mgr Langevin replied with more than his usual felicity and earnestness, enjoining on the young men to organize for the defence of the Church.

DEATH OF A DISTINGUISHED OBLATE.

The Very Rev. Father Joseph Antoine, first assistant to the General Superior of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, died on the 11th inst. The fact was learned by cablegram and there are no details. The venerable and dearly loved Father Antoine was 74 years old, 50 of which he had spent in the Congregation of the Oblates. Had he lived till next May he would have celebrated his golden jubilee of priesthood and religious life. Few foreign religious had so

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thoroughly identified themselves with Canada as the worthy deceased, who, during the twenty years he spent in Montreal as Provincial of his Order, made many lifelong friends both among the clergy and the first Catholic families of the pivotal province.

Yesterday morning the local clergy assembled in the Cathedral at 8.15 to recite the office of the dead. At 9 o'clock His Grace Archbishop Langevin, O. M. I., began the Pontifical Mass of Requiem before a very large and sympathetic congregation: The Assistant Priest was Rev. Father Beaudin, O. M. I.; Deacon and sub-deacon of honor, Rev. Father Guillet, O. M. I., and Rev. Father Gravel; officiating Deacon and subdeacon, Rev. Fathers Dorais and O'Dwyer, O. M. I.; master of ceremonies, Rev. Dr. Beliveau. Were present in the chancel Very Rev. Father Dugas, V. G., Rev. Father Hudon, S. J., Rev. Fathers Enck and Albert Kulawy, O. M. I., Rev. Fathers Cherrier, Messier, Sweder, Rousseau and Rev. Dr. Trudel. The absolution was given by His Grace.

THE PARTITION OF AFRICA.

It is necessary to bear in mind the great distances in Africa to fully appreciate the situation in the southern part of the continent. You recall in a general way that the Cape of Good Hope is the southern point, but you may not know that it requires a railroad ride of 1,040 miles almost due north in order to reach Pretoria, the capital of the Transvaal, or, more officially speaking, of the South African Republic. In this ride you pass through the Orange Free State, which is acting with the South African Republic in its politics and wars. If you should draw a line on the southern boundary of Pennsylvania, then to the lakes, and then take in all the country to the St. Lawrence and to the northern limits of Maine, and then down the Atlantic coast to the point of beginning, you would get an area not quite equal to that of Oom Paul's country, and his neighbor, the Orange Free State. This gives you some idea of the magnificent stretches of territory even upon the lower end of the African continent.

If you were to take the United States, from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the northern to the southern boundary lines, and increase the area threefold on the continent of Africa, you would still have enough land for the Republic of France, the entire German empire, all of Austria-Hungary, the kingdom of Italy, all that is left of Spain, and, of course, a few odd corners in which the British Islands could be stored without difficulty. This may give some idea of the enormous extent of that wonderful country. Within the memory of this generation it was practically unknown to the world. Now we find it so full of riches, and possibilities that the great nations of Europe are each year sacrificing thousands of lives that they may extend their boundary lines. Five thousand miles is the length of this great continent, and at its widest part it is 4,600 miles. It is the only one of the continents which lies equally to the north and south of the equator, and it is one which has yielded more romances of discovery, more horrible tales of wanton murder, more surprises in wealth-getting and politics than any other part of the earth in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

At present Africa is in the process of division, although most of the grabbing has already been done. Great Britain controls fourteen countries aggregating about 2,600,000 square miles, on which are populations numbering between 40,

000,000 and 50,000,000 of people, the vast majority of whom, of course, are blacks. In addition to this, Egypt might be named, because while Egypt and Egyptian Soudan are nominally under Turkey, they are really controlled by Great Britain, for Great Britain supplies the Khedive with a financial adviser without whose concurrence no financial decision whatever can be taken. France comes next with eight countries which have an area of over 1,200,000 square miles, with populations of nearly 20,000,000. Germany is next with four countries and over 900,000 square miles, with populations exceeding 10,000,000. Then follows Portugal with four countries with an area of 735,000 square miles, populations 4,500,000; then Italy, two countries, 278,000 square miles, 850,000 population; Spain, 243,000 square miles, 136,000 population; Turkey's possessions in Africa, if Egypt be included, would be 798,000 square miles, 8,000,000 population. Then in addition to this there is the Congo Independent State, under the sovereignty of the king of the Belgians, with 900,000 square miles and 30,000,000 population.

So we have here about two-thirds of the entire continent under the ownership of the European nations, but valueless as much of the 4,000,000 square miles may be—such, for instance, as the Sahara Desert—it is quite certain that it will be claimed and finally secured by some of these powers.

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