HOLY NAME SOCIETY AT THE FRONT

CORDIAL CO-OPERATION AND HEARTY ENDORSATION OF CANADIAN OFFICERS

BISHOP'S LETTER OF ABSORBING

London, Ont., Oct. 1st., 1918.

Editor CATHOLIC RECORD: No news can make more pleas ant reading for our Canadian Catholics than the fact that the religious and spiritual welfare of the men in the Canadian Army Overseas is being actively and zealously pro-moted, and the knowledge I obtained of this fact was one of my greatest consolations during my recent visit to the Front. I ask the courtesy of your columns to communicate to your readers one very striking evi dence both of the religious activity of our Canadian Catholic Chaplains and of the sympathy and co operation of the distinguished Command-ing Officers of our splendid Canadian Army. It concerns the establishment and promotion of the Holy Name Society in the Canadian Corps.

The idea originated with the Reverend Andrew MacDonell, O. S. B., Catholic Chaplain in the Twelfth Canadian Infantry Brigade. Father MacDonell placed the matter before the Brigade Commander, General J. H. Macbrien, who gave the project his hearty support. A leaflet was issued setting forth the aims and ob-jects of the Society and in this connection the following "Special Brigade Order" was issued:

SOCIETY OF THE HOLY NAME "Officers, N. C. O's. and men of the

Brigade are invited to study the leaf let with the above title, which will soon be distributed to all ranks.

"The object in calling this matter to the attention of the Brigade is to nphasize the importance of refraining from blasphemy and vile or in-decent language, and to point out that there is a great necessity for the prayers of all that our cause may be victorious. Even the best soldiers gain strength from, and are better for, prayer.

The object is to form a Society which, when formed, will be com posed of thinking men who realize that morale is as vital to the success of an Army as proficiency in arms and plentiful munitions, and further that morale in its best sense, cannot be separated from religion.

"The aim of the Society is to honour the name of Jesus, thereby to invoke the blessing of God on our arms and so obtain victory.

"The members of the Society under-

take on their word of honour—
"(a)—To hold in honour, love, and due reverence the name of God and our Lord Jesus Christ, consequently

profanity, cursing, in idle or vain talk. To avoid all blasphemy. -To restrain their tongue

from foul language, from all inde cency in speech.

'The whole subject will be placed before the Brigade and fully ex-plained by the Chaplains on three consecutive Sundays. After the first Sunday, a copy of the leaflet dealing with the subject will be distributed to the Company Commanders, so that each man in the Brigade will have a copy. When the subject matter has been read and thought over by the men for a week, each Platoon Commander will get the name of every N. C. O. and man who wishes to join the Society.

'The method of becoming a mem-(a)—To sign the promise on last

page of leaflet and hand same to Platoon Commander. Or
"(b)—To inform the Platoon Com-

mander that he is willing to under-take what the Society required, al. though he does not care to sign any

The signatures, as well as names of those joining up but not signing, shall be handed to O. C. Companies who will give them to the Chaplains for enrolment.

A preliminary meeting of Commanding Officers and Senior Officers of the Brigade will be called on a date to be fixed later to consider the aims of the Society and to devise further ways of promoting the same.

'It is hoped that the Society shall have members from every Canadian Unit in France, and as it originated within this Brigade, that all members of the Brigade shall give it their hearty support."

(Sgd.). J. H. MACBRIEN. Brigadier-General, Commanding 12th Canadian Infantry

Brigade From the twelfth Brigade the idea of the Holy Name Society spread throughout the Canadian Forces, and the membership was greatly in-creased by the sympathetic attitude and encouraging words of the officers in high command. The leaflet set.

"This little leafist is timely, helpful and necessary, pointing out our duty in touching and convincing language, supported by well chosen proofs from Holy Writ. I am most anxious that it should be placed in the hands of all ranks of the 1st Canadian Division. We shall all be the better for reading it, and adhesion to the Society of the Holy Name will be a strong prop to support

Divine Power, but irrespective of the religious aspect, profane, obscene, and boastful language is unmanly on amongst our men.

'I am glad to think that it is not "I hope that the pamphlet will have a wide circulation in this Divis-

"A man is all the better soldier for a firm faith and belief in the

ion and be sympathetically considered by all ranks." (Sgd.) G. LIPSETT,
Major General

Commanding 3rd Canadian Division. "The remarks in this leastet are of beautiful religious sentiment, and contain sound advice, which should make all its readers better men.

"I earnestly hope that every Offi-cer, N. C. O, and man in the Division which I have the honor to command will read and take to heart the contents of this leaflet.'

(Sgd.) D. WATSON, Major-General

Commanding 4th Canadian Division. There was indeed but one further endorsation to give the Holy Name Society the highest official approbation in the Canadian Corps. It came with a confession of Christian faith that does equal honor to the Army and to its brilliant and beloved Com mander, Sir Arthur W. Currie, who wrote to the Director of Chaplain Services in the following terms:

'My attention has been drawn to the fact that in one of the Divisions of the Corps, there has been formed the 'Society of the Holy Name,' the members of which pledge themselves to honour the Name of God the Father and of Jesus Christ, His Son and our Saviour.

'I would like to be enrolled as member, I know that on many occasions I shall probably fail, but with God's help, I shall try to keep His Name hallowed and not take it in

'In taking this pledge our attitude should not be merely a negative one. While pledging ourselves to refrain from using blasphemous language, we should endeavour by our words, by our actions and by the thoughts of our hearts to show our faith, our confidence and our trust in the love and power of Him Who gave His only begotten Son to die upon the Cross that whosoever believed in Him should not perish but should have everlasting Life.

May our daily prayer to the Great Ruler of the Universe be 'Thy will be done.

Yours faithfully, (Sgd.) A. W. CURRIE.

When the history of the Great War is written it will contain many pages of fascinating interest and describe many events of supreme importance. But among them none will be more deserving of immortality than the simple, beautiful story of the forma-tion of the Holy Name Society in the (b)—To avoid its improper use in | Canadian Corps in France.

+M. F. FALLON. Bishop of London.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH EXTENSION SOCIETY OF CANADA

RUTHENIAN PROBLEM IN SASKATCHEWAN

Seventy thousand Ruthenians are day within the bounds of the Prov-Saskatchewan. These of Ruthenians are, almost without exception, Catholics. In doctrine,

the lack of priests and the invasion

Faith. Catholic Ruthenians there are at present only four priests. Catholic schools and Catholic school teachers Beatrice Forhan, London; Mrs.

the Saskatchewan Government directs Separate Schools in the Prov-ince. Because of the disorganized condition of the Ruthenian congregations the school law, so favorable to Catholics, cannot be advantageously put into operation.

In the large district surrounding Yorkton—ministered to by two Redemptorist Fathers of the Greek Rite—there are many schools attended by Ruthenian children, but, these children from about 3,000 Ruthenian Catholic families have at present only one. Catholic teacher, in the only one Catholic teacher in the Public Schools.

When we recollect that the two priests, above mentioned, serve—or rather make an abortive attempt to serve-twenty-six missions we can readily understand how impossible it is to give these children Catholic in high command. The leases setting forth the purposes of the Society had a preface which contained the following letters:

"This little leases is timely, help"This little leases is the leases is the leases is the lease is the leases is

will be a strong prop to support
many a many who might otherwise
transgress thoughtlessly or wilfully."
A. C. MacDonell,
Major General, Commanding 1st Canadian Division. or leave school for good. In either

case, religious instruction ceases and the future hope of the Catbolic Church in Saskatchewan is dissi-

What is the remedy? Only one cure,-Catholic Schools and Catholic

Christian Brothers and Sisters have it in their power, if they take up the work to save thousands of souls. The Establishment of schools and teachers demands an initial ex-penditure of money and some self-The will to sacrifice personal likes and comforts is, we know, not wanting in our teaching orders but the sums of money necessary for this work are not within reach.

Can't the Ruthenian Bishop attend to the matter? No! The task, as it stands today, is super-human and

surpasses the power of any one man or charitable association. The Catholic Ruthenian problem, in Saskatchewan alone, is so difficult and complex that it demands for solution the united efforts of the Catholic dioceses of Canada.

If this effort is made the dioceses

of Canada will not, as now, rejoice and glory over a mere handful of converts made each year but will have to their credit thousands of souls saved to God and the Church. The facts given above are on the authority of Bishop Budka, the Redemptorist Fathers and from the

al observation of an officer of the Extension Society Donations may be addressed to:
REV. T. O'DONNELL, President. Catholic Church Extension Society,

67 Bond St., Toronto. Contributions through this office should be addressed : EXTENSION.

CATHOLIO RECORD OFFICE London, Ont. DONATIONS Previously acknowledged \$840 00 J. C., Belleville ...

. O'Brien, St. John's, Nfld...

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GOLDEN WEDDING

5 00

On Saturday, Sept. 28th, a very happy event took place in Owen Sound, when Mr. and Mrs. Michael Forhan celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage.

During his lifetime spent in Owen

Sound Mr. Forban has been one of the town's most useful and energetic citizens, serving for some years in the town council, and as a trustee of the Separate School Board. Later as a representative of the S. S. Board he served on the Collegiate Board for twenty years. For twelve years he was a member of the Hospital board director in the Children's Aid Society since its inception, also a director in the Owen Sound Buila-ing and Savings Society since its in-

corporation. With the late Rev. F. X. Granottier Mr. Forhan was closely associated in the many Catholic interests of the parish. Mrs. Forhan has always taken a deep interest in all church work, being President of the Altar Society and of the League of the Sacred Heart until ill health deprived her of the strength to conduct the

Solemn High Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's Church at nine o'clock Rev. F. Roach, celebrated with Rav. Frs. Sharpe and McNulty as deacon and sub-deacon. Miss Mary Scully ably presided at the organ, and the solos were beautifully rendered by Mrs. J. E. Doyle, Misses Viola McLarty, Lynett and Mr. R. Keenan. ception, Catholics. In doctrine, they hold and believe what we hold and believe and differ from us of the Salutaris at the conclusion of Mass

Latin rite only in ceremonial. In a word, the Ruthenians are our brethren in Christ and are members of the ren in Christ a

officiating clergy, Mrs. Isabel Julien, Mr. Leon Julien, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. of moneyed enemies of the Catholic Doyle and daughter Isabel, the im-Faith. mediate members of the family and To minister to Seventy Thousand the house party which included Rev. are a minus quantity.

The Educational Department of Amyot and daughters Iema and Government | Margaret, Windsor; and Mr. and Mrs.

P. H. Forhan, Hepworth.
In the afternoon an informal reception was held which gave many old friends an opportunity of congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Forhan and wish. ing them many more years of happi-

THE TABLET FUND

Toronto, Oct. 1st, 1918 Editor CATHOLIC RECORD: I thank you for giving space to the Appeal for the Tablet Fund for the Relief of the Belgians. So far I have received because of this appeal: Previously acknowledged... \$1,588 49 Women's Institute, Clay-

E. A. Dwyer, Dwyer Hill... 1 00 In memory of John and Joseph Mahoney, Douro. A Friend, Ottawa..... 2 00 Miss E. J. Rankins, Ottawa 1 00 Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Breen, 1 00 Renfrew .. N. C., Mount Carmel... 10 00 Miss F. Podleski, London... 8 00 Women's Institute, Clay-

5 00 ton... If you would be good enough to acknowledge publicly these amounts in the columns of the RECORD I would be very grateful.

Respectfully yours, W. E. BLAKE, 93 Pembroke St.

Toronto.

MACKELL.-March 6th, 1917, John Mackell in his eighty third year, at his late residence, 217 Waverley Street, Ottawa, Ont. May he rest in

> MACKELL.—September 7th, 1948, Mrs. Ellen Mackell, widow of the late John Mackell, in her seventyeighth year, at her late residence 217 Waverley Street, Ottawa, Ont. May she rest in peace.

Collisson.-On Sept. 11, 1918, at his late residence Biddulph Tp., Jos. R. Collisson aged fifty nine years. May his soul rest in peace.

KING OF BELGIUM CONFERS MEDAL ON SISTER OF CHARITY

The Belgian minister to Great Britain, Baron Moncheur, who was formerly minister at Washington, D. C., has transmitted the following communication to the Superior, Rev. Mother Lambertine of the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy, which has branch houses in Willimantic. Baltic and Taftville, Conn.

Legation de Belgique. Madam—I have the pleasure to nform you that the King of the Relgians has been graciously pleased to confer upon you the "Medaillede la Reine Elisabeth," in recognition of the kind help and valuable assistance you have personally given to the Belgian refugees and the Belgian soldiers during the War.

The insignia of this medal will be

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forwarded to you in due course

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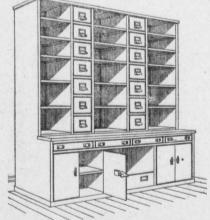
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