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A Week in Retreat

By BROTHER LOUIS, T.O.S.F.

(The Montreal Tribune) Day by day the promise reads, Daily strength for daily needs, Cast forboding fear away Take the manna of to-day Thou our daily task shall give, Day by day to Thee we live; shall added years fulfil, Not our own, our Father's will."

"Praise be to God and our Father St. Francis," such was the keynote of the annual retreat of St. Patrick's Fraternity held recently at Montreal? At the monthly meeting, Rev. Father Celestin-Joseph, O.F.M., the Director, informed the members that this year of 1925 brought a triple celebration, the seven hundredth anniversary of the death of St. Francis, the golden jubilee of the Sovereign Pontiff, Pius

In the evening, after the recitation of the beads for all the different intentions, including the members' personal requests, a few remarks by the Director, and the singing of the hymn "Come O Holy Ghost," the preacher, Rev. Father Simon-Joseph, will ever remain fresh in the memel, opened the retreat with a sermon vantage of attending the exercises. on the aim and object of St. Francis in founding his three different Orders. Francis, may I apply the words of dec26,2i Office, Renouf Building. The learned and eloquent preacher the poet:took for his text the words of St. Paul to the Corinthians, chapter 4th, verse 16th, wherein he says: "Be ye imitators of me as I am also of Christ." In choice, convincing and eloquent language, the preacher dwelt on the great lifework of St. Francis, who was a faithful imitator of the Divine Master, after turning suddenly from a life of worldly gaiety and frivolity to a life of the greatest poverty and the most rigid self-denial, in order to regenerate the world and bring peace on earth. The world at the time of St. Francis was following the maxim noted by Tacitus, the Roman historian and philosopher, when he said speaking of Pagan Rome, "Some think that the Rule your noble colors! of the Third Order asks too much." said the preacher, "but outside of the recitation of the Daily Office of 12 Our To everyone you can-Father's and 12 Hail Mary's, there is In every way you cannothing more than that which is asked of every good Christian, the observance of the commandments of God and of the Church, monthly Confession and Communion." The other sermons during the week dealt with the spirit of the Rule of the Order,

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f man. Space will not permit ever short summary of these sermons. Suffice to say that his best effort extracts from that great and brilliant many of the members had to work in as an example of what a gentleman should be. The world was cold today because faith and love were time will produce fruit, for many centuries, the 13th, when charity and of "the aim" and "object" of the Third justice shone resplendently.

Coming to the greatest evening of rest. Francis" was to be shown, the and Onwards." preacher reminded those who were to be enrolled under the banner of St. Francis to be true and loyal to the r obligations, in the words of St. Paul to the Galatians, "And whosoever shall follow this rule peace on them

and mercy." Then those who felt the call of grace to lead a more perfect life, to the number of forty-nine (the largest number in the history of St. Patrick's Fraternity), approached the alter rails and were addressed in stirring tones by Father Celestin, who said he was proud that such a large number had come to be received in the T. O. It would be a red lettered day in their lives, when they would think that in the year 1925, the Golden Jubilee of Pope Pius XI. as a tertiary who as a boy of 17 joined the Order and prided and gloried in it as his greatest joy, they too would find that happiness and consolation, peace and mercy promised to those who With the Franciscans would be faithful to the Rule of the

> The sight of the large number who were taking their first step forward to become better Christians was a very inspiring one, one that brought joy and consolation not only to the Rev. Director, but to the other members of the Fraternity present. Truly can the words of the poet be applied to them:

"O Gentle Saviour, I heard Thy loving call, And at Thy Sacred Feet I humbly To crave for holiness and happiness, In mem'ry of good St. Francis' ca-

Give me the grace to ever faithful A true Tertiary and work for Thee."

masterly discourses delivered in course to anyone, whether weak or XI., as a tertiary, and the twentieth clear, concise and convincing lan-strong. I am grateful to him for his anniversary of St. Patrick's Fratern- guage. His description of St. Francis assistance."

> 'The man who braves the world's To lift the lowly, succor the for-Who conquers self-he is the hero

of the Franciscan Monastery, at Sor- ories of those who had the great ad- perous New Year, with the enjoyment To the preacher,—a true son of St.

"You may whisper words of comfort That will hope and faith renew, You may drop a gentle warning, That will keep a whole life true,

Like a heavenly benediction, Falling softly from above, Thrills the sympathetic kindness, Through the words of hope and love

Father Celestin took occasion to thank Father Simon-Joseph for his how the United States Department of beautiful sermons during the retreat, Commerce promotes national effiand he did this with timely words. At the end of the Mass the Direct- port of Mr. Hoover, Secretary of Com-

or gave the Thanksgiving, after Holy merce, describing "one of the most Communion, following which the astonishing transformations in econ-Brothers with lighted tapers in their omic history" brought about by cohands, renewed their profession in operation between the Department the Order. Then turning to the and the industrial leaders of America. that the people lived to corrupt and Brothers he said, "Go now with courto be corrupted." The preacher age, love, peace and happiness, and elimination of waste and improving quoted G. K. Chesterton, the late scatter those blessings among others, the methods of management was be-English convert, in his admiration following in the footsteps of our gun in 1921, Mr. Hoover states, 900 and love for St. Francis. The trouble Holy Father St. Francis, the perfect group conferences have been held in the world with many Catholics is Imitator of Christ. And as the Di- under the auspices of the Departthat they do not live up to their he- vine Master, "Went about doing good." ment, while more than 200 commitlief, hence unrest and unhappiness do you likewise, and stand up for tees are now co-operating with the

> Be true and loyal to your standard! Do all the good you can

rings out the inspiring notes of the in reducing speculation in commoby all the Brothers, and the retreat simplified practice. of 1925 was closed.

It was the most successful retreat ever held in the history of St. Patrick's Fraternity. The writer has attended every retreat since the organization has been established in 1905, and in point of numbers, an average of over 200 every evening, except Friday when fully 250 were present for earnestness, piety, enthusiasm and devotion, 1925 is the banner one. What made it successful?-In the first place, "The Man Behind the Movement," "The Live Wire," the man who works with the zeal of St. Paul, and who has brought sunshine in the lives of many like his father St.

"A little smiling through the tears,
A little faith behind the fears—
A little folding of the hand,
A little yielding of demand,
A little glance to understand,

In the second place, work, co-oper ation, sterling and unswerving constancy on the members' part. In the third place, order and despatch, for everything was over in ONE HOUR, an hour crowded with a great amount of good.

In the fourth place, the congregational singing under Bro. Malone was devotional and soul-inspiring. was on the brotherhood of Man, when In spite of a very busy week, for mind of Cardinal Newman were given the evenings, the attendance and interest in the retreat never lagged: The seed has been sown and in due wanting, not like the best of all the strangers have a better understanding Order and God's grace will do the

the retreat, when the success of Brothers, let us keep the good work "Campaigning for Christ and for St. up. Remember the motto: "Upwards

Let us dwell on these words:

'I know that there are no errors, In the Great Eternal plan. And that all things work together, For the final good of man. onward.

On its grand eternal quest I shall say, as I look backward, —Well, I did my best."



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