

SPECIAL PRAYERS

Recommended to Catholics for the Solemnity of the Feast of Pentecost.

UNITY OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLD.

Translated for the Register

Leo XIII., Pope.—To all the faithful of Christ who shall be made cognizant of the contents of this letter, Health and Apostolic Benediction

With a desire worthy of the tender solicitude of a mother, the Church has never ceased to implore the Almighty that the universal Christian people might be united together in the bonds of religious faith and practical devotion. We, likewise, who represent on earth the person of the Divine Pastor of souls, have endeavored to follow that example. We have been unremitting in our efforts to foster a like purpose amongst Catholic nations and we now recommend a similar resolution to those Christian nations whom the Church so long and ardently calls to the true centre of Christian unity. The source from which we have attained so many happy auguries and from which we still await renewed assistance is not hard to discern, for it is from Him who is justly invoked under the title of "Father of Mercies" and whose especial prerogative it is to illuminate our minds and graciously lead our wills unto salvation. Nor can even Catholics be blind to the grandeur and dignity of our undertakings, for on their success depends the greater glory of God, the honor of the Christian name and the eternal salvation of many souls. And if they sincerely and religiously consider the beneficent results that must inevitably accrue from our efforts they will experience an increased revival of divine love in their hearts which, with God's grace, will prompt them to shrink from no obstacle and strain every nerve on behalf of their Christian brethren. And then it will come to pass, a thing devoutly to be wished, that they will readily unite with us not only in the firm and unwavering hope of a satisfactory issue but also in that means which devout and humble supplication obtains from the throne of mercy. For the exercise of this duty of Christian piety there is no time more appropriate than that in which the Apostles of old after the Ascension of our Lord into Heaven "remained together and were persevering with one mind at prayer with Mary the Mother of Jesus" (Acts IV. 14) awaiting the promised help from on High and the treasures of all the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

From that august cenacle of the Paraclete the church conceived by Christ and brought forth in His saving blood, wafted as it were by the breath of God, went forward on her glorious mission of leading the nations of the earth to the unity of faith and the newness of Christian life.

Within a short period the most admirable and bountiful results followed where we behold that immutable union of hearts that can never be too strongly recommended for our imitation and example. "And the multitude of believers had but one heart and soul." (Acts iv. 32) For that reason we have deemed it well both by exhortation and request to excite the devotion of the Catholic people, that following the example of the Virgin Mother and the holy Apostles they may also, during the nine days preceding the feast of Pentecost, pray God with unanimity of purpose and fervent devotion, repeating the self same prayer: "Send forth thy spirit and they shall be created and thou shalt renew the face of the earth."

Truly great and salutary are the blessings which we hope to obtain from Him, who is the Spirit of Truth; who has revealed the hidden mysteries of the God head in the sacred scriptures; who strengthens the Church by His over-abiding presence, and from whom as from the living fountain of holiness the souls that are regenerated unto the adoption of the sons of God are wonderfully multiplied and perfected in the supernatural gifts of eternal life.

For it is from the manifold graces of the Holy Spirit and from His perpetual bounty that divine light and love, health and strength, solace and rest, all good Christian purpose and proficiency in Christian operation are derived. In fine the Holy Spirit so acts by his power in the Church that as Christ is the head of that mystic body so the Holy Ghost may be appropriately called its heart for "the heart has a certain secret influence in the body; and therefore the Holy Ghost is compared to the heart because he animates and unites the church in an enviable manner." (St. Thomas) And since above all the Holy Ghost is that divine charity to whom all the works of love are attributed, it is greatly to be hoped that through Him the spirit of error shall be expelled, the spirit of wickedness restrained, and there shall be effected a closer union and more lasting harmony that will be worthy of the children of the Catholic Church, who, in accordance with the admonition of the Apostle, "should do nothing through strife," but "being of one mind, having the same charity, and being of one accord," will thus fill up the measure of our joy and become not merely in name but in very deed a strong and flourishing community. From such a manifestation of Christ a harmony amongst Catholics; from the earnest devotion of prayer to the Holy Ghost, we are confident that the reconciliation which we have endeavored to effect with our separated brethren may be realized, so that "the mind may be in them which was in Christ Jesus" (Phil. ii. 5), and being at last partakers with us of Faith and Hope they may in time be joined with us in the much-desired bonds of perfect charity. Besides the blessings which the faithful who respond to our earnest exhortations shall receive from God in return for their active piety and fraternal charity it further pleases us to bestow the reward of Holy Indulgences from the treasure of the Church.

Therefore, to all those who for nine consecutive days before the Feast of Pentecost shall devoutly recite either publicly or privately some special prayers to the Holy Ghost, we grant, on each of these days, an indulgence, of seven years and seven quarantines; also a plenary indulgence on any one of these days, or on the Feast of Pentecost, or on any day within the following octave, provided that having duly confessed and communicated they pray to God, according to the intentions above specified. We further grant to those who wish to repeat the same conditions of prayer, during the octave following Pentecost, the same indulgences. Those indulgences may be applied to the suffering souls in Purgatory, and by our authority we hereby ordain and decree that they shall be available each year for the future, those conditions being observed which are required by law and custom.

Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, under the Fisherman's seal, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, on the fifth day of May, in the eighteenth year of our Pontificate.

C. CARDINAL DE RIGGIERO.

Customer—"Why do you call this electric cake?" Baker's Boy "I suppose because it has currents in it."

There has always been, and there always will be the brave advancing minority, the world's hope, the invincible few—not a remnant, meaning something left over, but a leadership, keeping in the van of thought, bearing and daring for what they believe to be the truth and right.—John Learned.

HOUSE OF PROVIDENCE.

Corner-Stone of the New Wing Laid by Archbishop Walsh.

ANNUAL PICNIC A GREAT SUCCESS.

One of the most interesting of the many attractive features of the annual Queen's Birthday picnic on the grounds of the House of Providence, on Power street, was the laying of the corner-stone of the new wing, which completes the building according to the original design. There was an unusually large gathering of the friends of the institution to witness the ceremony and enjoy the varied entertainment provided. Shortly after 1 o'clock the clergy assembled in the main hall, and, forming in procession, escorted his Grace Archbishop Walsh to the new structure, at the south end of the main building, where the corner-stone swung from a derrick, awaiting his blessing. The ceremonial was brief but impressive. Among those who assisted the Archbishop were Vicar-General McCann, Rev. Father Hand of St. Paul's, Dr. Treacy, Father Ryan and Father Rhoeder of St. Michael's Cathedral, Fathers Teesy, Murray Chalandard and Martin of St. Michael's College; Father Cruise of St. Mary's, Father O'Malley of St. Catharines, Father Jeffcott of Oshawa, and Father Walsh of Our Lady of Lourdes.

At half-past four his Grace, accompanied by Vicar-General McCann and Father Teesy, and preceded by the other clergy, proceeded to the platform which had been erected beside the stone, and was covered with a canopy. During the progress the "Miserere" was chanted. Before performing the ceremony of sprinkling and blessing the stone, his Grace delivered a brief address remarkable for its force and simplicity. Referring to the building of the new addition, he said that its purpose was twofold. In the first place, to transfer the aged men to warm and comfortable quarters, from those crowded ones which they now occupied, and to make their lot as happy as possible; and in the second place, to afford more accommodation to other deserving poor. As the city grew, so the need of more accommodation for the unfortunate grew also, and it was the usage of the Catholic Church to make provision to keep pace with such wants. In so doing the Church was following in the footsteps of Christ, who said "This command give I unto you, that ye love one another, even as I have loved you." The love of Christ for mankind was a practical love, and was manifested in his acts of charity and healing and His desire for their greater happiness. When asked if He were the Messiah, He did not appeal to His greater miracles, but bade the questioners go and tell what they had seen, how the lepers were cleansed and the sick healed. The charity of Christ was pre-eminently a tender charity, of which so many instances are given in the Scriptures. So with the Church, she tended the poor and needy as her Master would wish them tended. "In that house," said his Grace, "the Sisters are working quietly, devoting themselves to the care and attendance of the poor and the afflicted." The charity of the Church is constant, not confined to a few spasmodic efforts. It is always working with but little outward show, and the results endure. Those who erected that institution are all dead, but the evidence of their work will last for ever. Continuing, his Grace said that the institution had deserved well of the citizens, and he was proud to say that their representatives in the City Council had dealt generously by it. In this he felt convinced that they reflected the feel-

ings of their constituents, who might at times be warped from their better judgment by party politics, but were nevertheless ready to do justice by their fellow-citizens, no matter what their creed.

Referring to the work of the institution, he said he was quite a young man when Bishop Charbonnell in 1856 founded the House of Providence. Since that time no less than 28,170 persons have found shelter therein, and this vast army of poor people does not include those who daily come for breakfast or dinner, and the number of these is large, for no hungry one is ever refused a meal at its hospitable doors. During the 36 years of its existence the house has accommodated an average of 730 persons annually, and there are at the present time over 100 in the building. Of these 150 are Protestants, and the proportion of Protestants receiving aid from the institution since its foundation has been about one fourth of the total number of inmates annually.

After the ceremony of laying the corner stone the clergy were entertained at lunch by the sisters in charge. Mother Louisa, the Superior, has 28 sisters assisting her in the work of the institution. The new wing, now in course of erection, and which will be finished in September, is expected to cost about \$35,000, bringing the total sum expended on the building into the neighborhood of \$150,000.

The afternoon programme included a high wire performance by James E. Hardy, costume dancing, Ferris wheel and swings, driven by electricity, and athletic games. The winners in the games were:

Putting the 16 pound shot—1, D. French, 42 feet 9 inches; W. Nichol, 37 feet 8 inches; 3, M. O'Donnell, 37 feet 6 inches.

Throwing the hammer—1, Nichol, 118 feet 5 inches; 2, A. T. Hernon, 100 feet; 3, A. Babcock, 82 feet 2 inches.

Throwing the 56-pound weight, high—1, French; 2, Hernon; 3, Nichol.

Throwing the 56 pound weight, long—1, Nichol, 33 feet 8 inches; 2, Hernon, 27 feet 2 1/2 inches; 3, Babcock, 26 feet 9 inches.

Tossing the caber—1, French; 2, Nichol; 3, Hernon.

100 yard foot race—1, French; 2, Babcock; 3, Nichol.

French and Nichol tied for the gold medal, which was afterwards won on a toss by French. Nichol takes the silver medal.

Mr. J. W. Mogan, Chairman of the Games Committee, superintended the several events, assisted by Mr. R. A. Ryan, Secretary, and Jas. McDonald, Referee. As master of ceremonies generally Mr. Angus McDonald was the busiest man on the grounds, and Mr. James Ryan, the Secretary, was a close second.

In the evening the grounds and the several booths were artistically illuminated, and to the music of the I.C. B.A. Band a choice programme of songs, dances and athletic exercises was carried through.

"What did the ancient Greeks do when it rained?" asked Johnny.

The professor took off his spectacles, polished them with his handkerchief, and replied, calmly, "They got wet, I suppose."—Tit-Bits.

The Truth Ought to be Known.

Rev. T. Dunlop, Alliston, Ont.: "Our R.D.C. has done all it claims to do. Two members of my family have been wonderfully helped, though, so far, they have used but one package. This is the first testimonial I have given to any remedy, but the truth ought to be known."

Old men and women, young men and maidens should test our wonderful remedies. They prevent indigestion and cure Dyspepsia. Samples free to any address. K. I. C. Co., Ltd., New Glasgow, N. S., and 127 State street, Boston, Mass.