

FATHER FRASER'S LETTERS FROM CHINA

We are now giving to our readers some of the Father Fraser's letters which for one reason or another were not published at the time they were received.

Dear Friends,—On Easter Sunday I said Mass for all of you who have contributed to my mission. The church which, you know, is now enlarged was packed to the doors.

Yesterday we had a beautiful celebration—the First Communion of the children. It was preceded by a three days' retreat in which they joined with whole-hearted fervor.

I hope you will not be anxious about me. It is true that China is in the state of civil war but not much fighting is being done and none whatever in Che Kiang, our province.

THE SEASON OF LENT IN MEXICO

BY MRS. FRED. A. HODGSON

Following Carranza's declaration that religious persecution will no longer be tolerated in Mexico, it is to be hoped that the beautiful customs so long practised during the Holy Season of Lent in that old Republic, may be resumed in all of their religious and artistic beauty.

I wonder if there is any other place in the world where the people have so great a capacity for religion and pleasure all the time as they do in Mexico? Being a little short in clothes or many meal times away from a feeling of fullness, does not trouble the native if any form of religious or patriotic festival is to take place.

Devoutly religious the Mexican people are ever truly Catholic, but never so much so as in Lent and especially during Holy Week, which until Easter marks the end of all worldly recreations, for public entertainments are never given and private amusements are entirely suspended.

o'clock Holy Saturday as the officiating priest sings Gloria in Excelsis Deo, is the signal that the time is up. It is a gruesome hour for the children whose parents adhere strictly to the custom; some little ones, however, prefer to pay on the installment plan while a promise of being extra good in future secures remission of all punishment for the fortunate children whose parents have no special liking for deferred punishment.

On the Friday before Good Friday is the festival of Nuestra Señora de los Dolores (Our Lady of Grief), and is in commemoration of our Lady of Dolores. According to the general Catholic Calendar this feast falls on the third Sunday in September, but somehow long ago when Catholicism was new in Mexico, it united itself with the Aztec festival for the festival of Spring, and instead of a day of mourning, became one of the most joyous of the year.

Palm Sunday is observed throughout the Republic with great solemnity; the services in the various churches begin with the singing of the "Te Deum," followed by the blessing of the Palms. Great concourses of people crowd about the main altar while this ceremony takes place; after the blessing of the palms a procession headed by priests bearing palms and accompanied by acolytes swinging censers form at the right of the main altar and are joined there by the multitude with their swaying palms.

Outside the churches, enterprising vendors offer palms for sale which vary in price from a few pennies to fifty or sixty cents apiece; some of the leaves measure as much as four or five feet in length; these are usually left free to open at their will in the process of the procession, while the shorter palms are woven into all manner of shapes usually having roses or other flowers added by way of adornment.

Monday and Tuesday there are no special functions in any of the churches; on Wednesday morning at ten o'clock the last of five ceremonies known as the "Sign" takes place. This ceremony is performed five times in memory of the five wounds of our Saviour. The service, which is full of significance, centres about a very large flag, which has emblazoned upon it a red cross.

On Wednesday, also, from four in the afternoon until seven, is celebrated the ceremony of "Las Tinieblas" symbolizing the obscurity which the Son of Man suffered and the ignominy which he endured during His passion. At the left of the main altar is placed the "cenerario" which contains a triangular frame in which are placed yellow candles about a central white one.

Thursday is a day full of solemn functions. Mass is said in all churches, after which occurs the blessing of the oils. At three o'clock in the afternoon it is the custom to observe the washing of the feet of twelve beggars in commemoration of the washing of the disciples feet, which humble service the Saviour performed the day before His death.

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Imposing in the extreme are the morning ceremonies in all the larger churches throughout the Republic on Good Friday. There is the recitation or chanting of the history of the passion of Christ as recorded in the Book of John. One priest strictly chants the portion which is strictly narrative; another reads the words spoken by Jesus; another or others the words spoken by single individuals, while the whole choir intones the exclamation attributed to the multitude present at the crucifixion.

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Another ceremony known as "El Pasame" and "La Soledad," which means the hour of sorrow of Mary the mother of Jesus, is held in the evening, at which time the "Miserere," "Stabat Mater" and other beautiful hymns are sung to an orchestral accompaniment.

In Interior Mexico the reproduction of several passages of the Passion play on Good Friday stands foremost in the line of special ceremonies; traffic is suspended; people are not permitted to bathe and deadly silence prevails all around; processions representing Christ carrying the cross to Calvary take place; Jews in Jewish attire, Roman soldiers, men wearing garments of the coarsest fibre with wreaths of thorns upon their heads walk barefoot through the corridors of the buildings where the processions are on route.

The remains of the late Thos. Leo Hawkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mich. Hawkins, of Bogart, whose demise occurred at Hotel Dieu, Montreal, on Wednesday, Mar. 26th, were brought to the home of his parents on Thursday last from whence the funeral took place the following day.

The deceased was twenty-five years of age. He began his college days at the Ottawa University in 1913, which he attended for some time. He afterwards attended St. Michael's College, Toronto, and for the past two years was a student of the Seminary of Philosophy, Montreal, at which institution his illness occurred.

The cause of death was pleurisy pneumonia resulting from an attack of the flu. The Rev. Father Gagon, of the Seminary, and Rev. Father McDonagh, of Merrickville, were present at the obsequies.

The sympathy of the community goes out to the parents and brothers and sisters in their hour of mourning. May his soul rest in peace.

OBITUARY

SISTER GENEVIEVE

The funeral of the late Sister Genevieve took place Wednesday morning, April 2nd, from the Mother House of the Grey Nuns, Water St., Ottawa. A Solemn Mass at Requiem was chanted at 7 o'clock in the convent Chapel, after which the remains were conveyed to Notre Dame cemetery.

The esteem in which the deceased was held by her many friends in the Capital was evident from the number who came to take a last loving look on the face of one who had been so loyal a friend to each. Gazing on that face, beautiful even in death, and breathing a fervent prayer for the repose of her soul each recalled the debt of gratitude she owed dear Sister Genevieve, whose words had so often inspired high ideals and noble sentiments; whose kindly interest in all that concerned any of them had helped so often to smooth the rough ways of life, and made its pleasant pathways radiant with new light and beauty.

Sister Genevieve was an ardent lover of the true, the beautiful, and the good, in life as well as in literature; gifted with literary ability of a high order she was ever ready, notwithstanding her delicate state of health these late years, to give freely of her best to advance education and especially the higher literary studies among our Catholic women.

Although American-born and American bred she was too broad minded to be national; and her whole souled loyalty to her native land did not lessen a whit the love and admiration she bore her Ottawa friends among whom her name has long been a household word.

Christian friendships last beyond the tomb, yes, even throughout eternity; and so in the blessed hope we are comforted. Meanwhile Sister Genevieve's name is in benediction in our homes and in our hearts. May she rest in peace.

A FORMER PUPIL.

REV. SISTER MARY, GOOD SHEPHERD Ottawa Journal

Rev. Sister Mary of the Good Shepherd, nee Bridget Conway, died of pneumonia at the City Hospital, Ogdensburg, N. Y., on February 10, after a short illness.

The Reverend Sister was born in Ottawa, of an old and highly respected family and was, at the time of her death, sixty eight years of age, forty-six of which she had spent as member of the Grey Nuns' Community, thus making a long, honorable, meritorious career devoted to the work of teaching and to the sacrifice of a religious life.

She had been stationed successively at Buffalo, Lowell, Haverhill, Ogdensburg, where her zeal and devotedness will be remembered with gratitude.

She is survived by one sister, Mrs. Catherine Coulter, and by four nephews and a niece, namely, the Hon. Charles, Messrs. John, Henry and Edward, and Miss Minnie Murphy. Judge Lachford, of Toronto is likewise a cousin of the deceased.

Sister Mary Good Shepherd was buried in Notre Dame Cemetery, Ottawa, from the Mother House of the Order, Water St.

THOMAS L. HAWKINS

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NEW BOOK

A new novel has just been brought out by the great French writer Rene Bazin entitled, "The Barrier." This is a charming tale, artistic and sincere, and vital with the breath of modern life. The heroine represents a lovely type of Catholic young womanhood. It has a character to meet trials bravely, to face the blank dearth of renunciation with the hope in the heart and a holy confidence, never disappointed, of ultimate peace and happiness.

DIED

MANLEY.—At London, Canada, on the 2nd April, Sarah, dearly beloved wife of Captain Alfred Manley. May her soul rest in peace.

STAFFORD.—At the residence of her son, M. J. Stafford, Quyon, Que., Mrs. Michael Stafford. May her soul rest in peace.

McNAMARA.—At Hawtrey, Wednesday, March 26, 1919, John B. McNamara. Interment at Catholic Cemetery, La Salette, Ont. May his soul rest in peace.

LOUGHLIN.—At Belmont, Lot 16, P. E. I., on January 23rd, 1919, George Antony, aged one year and nine months, son of Peter Loughlin.

LOUGHLIN.—At Belmont, Lot 16, P. E. I., on January 25th, 1919, Mary Catherine, beloved wife of Peter Loughlin. May her soul rest in peace.

FITZGERALD.—At her late residence, 222 Turner St., Ottawa, on Tuesday morning, Dec. 10, 1918, Philomene Gauthier, relict of the late Patrick Fitzgerald, aged eighty-one years. May her soul rest in peace.

MOLLOY.—At St. Shotts, Nfld., March 20, 1919, Mrs. Molloy, beloved wife of Patrick W. Molloy, daughter of Mr. Frank and Catherine Gibbons, St. Vincent, aged thirty years. May her soul rest in peace.

McDONALD.—At Arranville, Ont., on Thursday, March 20, 1919, Donald Hugh McDonald, aged seventy-six years. Interment at St. Finnan's Cemetery, Alexandria, Ont. May his soul rest in peace.

TEACHER WANTED FOR CATHOLIC Separate school, No. 3, March, holding 2nd class Certificate; duties to begin April 25th. Apply to Mr. Ambrose Carroll, Sec. Treas., R. R. No. 2, Dunrobin, Ont. 211-4

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