

The Catholic Record.

"Christianus mihi nomen est, Catholicus vero Cognomen." — "Christian is my Name, but Catholic my Surname."—St. Pacian, 4th Century.

VOLUME 11

LONDON, ONTARIO, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1888.

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DIocese OF KINGSTON.

DEDICATION OF THE GRAND NEW CHURCH AT BELLEVILLE.

On Sunday, October 7th, the Festival of the Most Holy Rosary, the magnificent new Church of St. Michael, Belleville, was blessed, with all the solemn rites and ceremonies of the Roman Pontifical by His Lordship, the Most Rev. James Vincent Cleary, S. T. D., Bishop of Kingston.

About half past ten and even earlier the good citizens of the City on the Bay began to assemble about their newly erected Church, which, for ages to come, will be a monument of the zeal of the Catholics of Belleville, and of the devotion of their venerable pastor, Right Rev. Monsignor Farrelly, V. G., as it is to day the pride of our illustrious Bishop, who, but little more than a year ago, solemnly laid the corner stone, and has now dedicated the almost completed structure to the sublime worship of the only true God, under the patronage of the glorious Archangel, St. Michael.

The new church is situated a little to the south of the old one. The style is pure Gothic, 140 feet long and 65 feet wide. The centre of the nave rises 75 feet above the floor. The spire, which is placed at the south-east corner, will not be finished at present. It is to be of ornamental stone work to the very cross, which, 200 feet above the street, shall point to heaven. High over the main entrance is a large rose window, with curved stone mullions of most beautiful design, which, receiving the light of the morning sun, sheds a glory throughout the whole interior. Above the altar and on either side are placed similar windows, equally beautiful, though much smaller.

The clerical story is one of solid masonry, and supported on massive granite pillars—gifts of individual members of the congregation. The bases and capitals are of freestone, as yet undressed, but which are to be richly sculptured. The ceiling is to be finished in wood. The arches are graceful; the moulding; the whole interior presenting in its simple neatness and grandeur of conception, all that is to be desired. It is the fulfilment of our idea of what the House of God should be. This is truly a House of Prayer and we are glad to cry out: "It is good for us to be here."

Old St. Michael's, which is at once to be removed, was built in the early days of the settlement of Canada, when churches were few and Catholics scattered, when the pioneer priest of Belleville district, was the only priest in four counties, when the diocese of Kingston included all Ontario. It was long looked upon as one of the finest churches in the country. Many old residents felt sad, indeed, when they beheld the dismantling of its graceful spire, so long the pride of Belleville.

The memory of what the old Church had been to them gave it a new sacredness in their eyes. It was built in the days of the fathers and grandfathers; there they had been baptized; there they had received their First Communion and were confirmed; there they had brought their tales of woe and sin and obtained consolation and pardon; there, too, the *Liberi* had been sung over their dear departed friends. The memory of the past had cast a veil of sadness over their souls, as now for the first time in their lives the good old Catholic people of Belleville passed by its door on the way to Mass.

When they had entered the new St. Michael's, and while waiting for the commencement of the ceremonies, they feasted their eyes on the many beauties that surrounded them, the sorrowful memories of the past became hushed. They felt that Belleville had, at last, a becoming House for the Incarnate God, whose delight it is to dwell with the children of men, and a Church worthy of themselves and their Holy Faith. How lovely are Thy tabernacles, O Lord!

A little before twelve o'clock the procession of altar boys and visiting clergy approached the main entrance. His Lordship the Bishop of Kingston, robed in full Pontifical, assisted by Rev. Father Kelly, Secretary, and the Rev. Father O'Gorman, of Belleville, proceeded to bless the new Church. After reciting the prayer according to the ritual he sprinkled with holy water the outer walls, making the circuit of the building. Returning, the procession entered and proceeded up the nave to the Sanctuary, while the Litanies were being chanted. Afterwards the Bishop sang the special prayers appointed for the Blessing of Churches. He sprinkled the inner walls, and on his return to the altar concluded the ceremony with the beautiful closing prayer, of which the following is a translation:

which was most eloquent and appropriate. He took his text from II Chronicles, VII: "He was thankful to God to-day that he had enabled them to erect this beautiful edifice for the service of God. Since the commencement of the work no accident has befallen any of the workmen, and for this we should give thanks to Almighty God. It was faith that moved the people to erect such a handsome edifice, which, when completed in its interior, would reflect much credit on them. They were indebted to their Protestant friends for the assistance, financially, which they had rendered. It was charity towards God that had prompted them in this action, brotherhood being the true charity of Christianity, charity that binds brother to brother and to God. He was delighted to find that those who were separated from them by creed had lent them a helping hand, and every one of the congregation should remember that as Catholics they should be friendly with their Protestant neighbors, and render them all assistance and regard them as friends. Be kind to each other, cultivate the spirit of brotherly love. To-day we have performed a sacred rite. Whilst those who differ from us in creed do not understand the ceremony which we have just performed, they need not regard it as folly. The Jews regarded the Christian religion as a folly, but the Apostles refuted this impression. St. Paul preached Christ Jesus and him crucified, and as in those days there were scoffers so there are to-day. It is only the intelligent man that will follow the right path. The petitions which we have delivered to God will not return void. He has said 'I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.' These prayers, in asking the blessing of Heaven, are essential in the church. The angels will guard this edifice, and when his demons dare not molest it. The angel of peace will ever be around and about it. This church is wedded to God, and the prayers offered will always be heard. All who believe in a deity must believe in prayer. There are different characters of prayer, one of which is prayer of adoration. This is the prayer of God's infinite perfection, and the blessings which we receive from Him. We are nothing of ourselves. All goodness comes from God. We must thank Him for all the powers that we possess. He preserves us, and in Him we have our being. There is also the prayer of thanksgiving and the prayer of propitiation. All have sinned; none can say they have not sinned the Almighty, for if any man say he has not sinned the truth is not in him. We are all beholders to the mercies of God. Paul sinned against and perished the earlier church, but was converted. We have all sinned against God, but the prayer of propitiation is offered and God will not despise it. The prayer of petition is also essential. We have all our necessities, both spiritual and temporal. All have troubles and these can only be alleviated by petition to the Almighty. We are in the hands of God and dependent on Him for everything. This prayer of petition was inaugurated by the Lord's prayer. As we need daily bread to sustain our bodies, so we need to pray daily that our spiritual wants may be supplied. For the purpose of prayer the church has been erected and we will pray for God for all the blessings which He has vouchsafed to us. This house of prayer will ever be open for those who wish to enter to offer their petitions to God. The mercy seat is established and will ever remain. The same Jesus Christ who was crucified and rose from the dead is in this sacred building and is ever attentive to those who offer petitions. All may come in at any time to offer their petitions, whether a priest is present or absent, as the High Priest can always be found within its walls. He has said 'I am with you always and my spirit will ever abide with you.' As on the paternal day He sent His spirit to His disciples, so to-day He will send His spirit to those who seek a k in faith. Here the child will be made a Christian, and established in the faith. The heart of God was breathed on the twelve disciples when Christ rose from the dead, and is being breathed to-day on mankind to loose the bonds of sin and restore the dead spirit to a living spirit. There is, however, no forgiveness for sin where sinners and heartless sorrow is not expressed for the sins committed. Christ offered Himself as a living sacrifice for the sins of the world. All true religion must have sacrifice, and there is no religion without some sacrifice. Sacrifices were established in the early days of penitence, when Abel offered his to God, and it was accepted. This is a temple of sacrifice, and a house where God has His abode in. The Catholic Church is the only Church that heard the voice of Jesus Christ, that saw Him perform His miracles and saw Him crucified. I pray that the blessings of God may descend upon this Church, and that the angel of God may ever be with you. Let all Catholics who are true Catholics be with their lives and by living peacefully with all men.

At 7:30 this magnificent edifice was once more crowded. If the church looked beautiful by daylight the brilliancy of the gas jets added another and a new kind of beauty, increasing its appearance of vastness and bringing into relief the mouldings of the arches and the various ornaments of the interior. Grand Vespers were followed by solemn benediction, when the altar, beautifully adorned with flowers, to which the many and various colored lights gave a brilliant lustre. The singing was most excellent, the lofty nave giving resonance to the music, especially to the voice. The rendering of *Gnada Ave Maria* by Miss Walsh was very fine. The choir deserves great credit.

The collection, which was taken up in aid of the building fund, amounted to \$800.20. Besides the clergy already mentioned as taking part in the ceremony, there were present: Rev. M. Mackey, Marysville; Rev. J. Brennan,

presented to the Right Reverend Monsignor Farrelly, V. G., the termination of his administration of the Diocese of Kingston. BY HIS BROTHER PRIESTS, &c.

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