



VOL. XL., NO. 26.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1890.

PRICE, 5 CENTS.

MASS CEREMONIES

A Familiar and Beautiful Explanation.

RELATING OUR LORD'S LIFE.

The Mass is a Book Full of Meaning for All Christians.

The following beautiful discourse was prepared for the New Jersey Catholic Journal by a Trenton Priest :

THE DESIRE FOR TRUTH. Dear Friends:—God having created man's intellect for truth, man is ever seeking it. No matter how poor or uneducated he may be, his first and last object is truth.

God commanded His prophet to write on tables of stone what he had seen so that "He may run who reads it." Holy Mother Church in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has written the whole life of our Blessed Lord that we may try to follow in His footsteps.

After this follows the "Confiteor." He says "Through my fault," because from that time God placed all our sins on the shoulders of His beloved Son. Hence he prays with head and shoulders inclined to Jesus who takes upon himself, as Christ did before him, the sins of his people.

He then goes to the middle of the altar, namely, the stage of this world, and kisses the altar, that is, he salutes the Queen of Heaven. There he prays a short time, as though awaiting the reply of the Virgin, and having, as it were, obtained it, he goes to the corner of the altar to read the Introit. During the Introit we are reminded of Christ's entering the womb of Mary.

in prayer." He elevates his hand like Moses (Exod. 16), as signifying the efficacy of prayer. The Eucharist is read to commemorate the preaching of St. John. Christ is yet silent, and hidden from the world's gaze.

The priest goes from the Epistle side to the middle of the altar, and then to the left hand side to step or read along the Gospel. This denotes the return of Christ from the desert into Galilee to begin His preaching.

The Gospel is sung or read aloud, because at this stage of His life Christ publicly preached. It is said on the left-hand side of the altar, for Christ came to call the sinners and not the just to repentance.

The "Credo" is then said. It signifies the faith brought forth by the Gospel embraced and taught by the Apostles. The priest begins it, because Christ began to preach, and the choir and people continue it, as the preachers of the Gospel.

The Offertory is then said, because Christ foretold His passion to His disciples—"Behold, let us go up to Jerusalem." In the meantime the choir sings the Offertory, because the Jews in the meantime "took counsel with one another how they could kill Jesus and put Him to death."

Having made due preparations for the Consecration, he afterwards makes many crosses in remembrance of Christ's Passion. He then consecrates the bread and wine. He genuflects before the Blessed Sacrament to recall to mind the prayer on Mount Olivet. Then follows the Elevation of the Host. We are then reminded of the hasty condemnation of Christ to be nailed to and elevated on the cross.

Candles are then lighted that we may not forget that darkness covered the earth at our Saviour's death. The priest makes five crosses over the chalice to designate the five wounds of Jesus. He strikes his breast, and in a loud voice, he says, "To us sinners," in imitation of the Centurion and the Jews who cried out, "This is truly the Son of God."

FROM THE "PATER NOSTER" TO THE END OF THE MASS.

The "Pater Noster"—"Our Father," is sung or read in a loud voice and signifies the petition of Joseph who boldly asked Pilate for the body. The prayer that follows, "Libera"—"Deliver us from evil"—and the signing of himself with the pater reminds us of Christ being taken down from the cross.

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THE "OFFERTORY." The Offertory is then said, because Christ foretold His passion to His disciples—"Behold, let us go up to Jerusalem."

How beautiful are the ceremonies of the Catholic Church! How significant! How full of meaning! Everything we see in the Church is an eloquent sermon. The altar reminds us of Calvary. Its table of the table used by our Lord at the Last Supper.

How mysteriously beautiful is the Catholic Church. She is beautiful. She is great, because divine. Many are prejudiced against her, because she claims divine assistance.

THE "ELEVATION." Having made due preparations for the Consecration, he afterwards makes many crosses in remembrance of Christ's Passion. He then consecrates the bread and wine. He genuflects before the Blessed Sacrament to recall to mind the prayer on Mount Olivet.

A SERMON ON MARRIAGE.

Interesting Review by the Rev. Father Clarke.

Want of Purity in the Young Caused the Decay of Ancient Civilization—Work Accomplished by Christianity.

The Rev. Robert Francis Clarke, of the Church of St. John of Jerusalem in London, England, containing his course of sermons dealing with the evolution of civilized society under the influence of Christianity, came upon the burning question of marriage, round which explicitly or implicitly the battle between faith and infidelity rages with perhaps more violence than any other of the cardinal doctrines of Christianity.

The law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, so that the history of the Church did not begin with the birth of our Lord, but went back to the beginning of human time—through the ages an increasing purpose ran, and the first beginnings of the special doctrines of Christianity were to be discerned not only two, but three, or even four, thousand years ago.

In this book they had laid down the foundation of the dignity of womanhood, and the purity of society and of family life. The writer of Proverbs opened his book with these chapters and closed it with one dealing entirely with the dignity of woman.

Rev. Benedict Sestini, S.J., one of the most learned astronomers and savants in this country, died Friday morning, Jan. 27, at the novitiate in Frederick, Md., from a stroke of paralysis. He was a native of Florence, Italy, where he was educated at the Brothers of Pius school, and became a member of the Jesuit Society.

either for good or for evil. This view of woman's virtue, which first proceeded from the mouth of Pericles, passed into a proverb in Greece. That being so, there naturally followed a disinclination for marriage, men asking themselves why they should be content to tie themselves to those inferior, ignorant and soulless creatures, whom they had made soulless, ignorant and inferior by their treatment of them, who knew nothing of any of those things for which men cared.

This unwillingness to marry grew to such a pitch that the law was invoked to remedy it, Augustus, granting certain privileges to the father of three children, and by imposing certain disabilities on the unmarried, trying to compel men into matrimony. There they had a train of causes and effects. First, youthful vice and the consequent degradation of marriage. Now the Christian religion laid the greatest stress on the virtue of purity, thus keeping pure and uncontaminated the very source and fountain of life, a care original duty on the part of a religion, carelessness as to which could not be compensated for by diligence in any other.

Our Lord made marriage free by showing that there were other kinds of life than the married and that marriage was not the only natural life for the children of any human existence. He himself, as St. Cyprian said, lived a virgin. So did His beloved disciple John, and St. Paul and St. Peter and all the Apostles.

When, however, the two sexes became equal and women had property in their own right, divorce increased, and were granted for the slightest causes. Cicero, for example, divorced his wife because she wanted a dowry with another woman, while another Roman put his away without assigning any reason, and when asked why he had done so, replied: "My wife is new, and it looks well, but no one knows where it plucks me but myself; and so it is of my wife, and my putting her away needs no justification."

Don't tell the faults or one sayings of your child in his presence.

CATHOLIC CULLINGS.

Interesting Items Gleaned from all Quarters of the Globe.

A "Life of Cardinal Taschereau" by Canon Maccaressell, is announced from one Rev. J. O'Connor, S. J., has been elected one of the councillors to Archbishop James of New Orleans.

Archbishop Corrigan of New York asked for Rome last Saturday, accompanied by his secretary, Rev. Charles E. McDonnell, D. D. The creation of a suitable building for their own use is under consideration by the C. T. A. Society of St. Peter and Paul's South Boston.

The new Church of the Holy Cross, Barreton, N.J., will be dedicated on Sunday, Feb. 16. The new church will replace the old church of St. Plus.

Rev. Thomas W. Hayes, S. J., late vice-president and treasurer of Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass., conducted a mission at Conewago, Md., last week.

St. Patrick's parish, Elizabethport, N. J., has acquired a valuable tract of land adjoining the church. The property cost \$5000. A home for aged women will be erected on it.

Rev. S. Lalumiere, so long in charge of the Jesuit church in Milwaukee, has been transferred to Cincinnati. On his departure he was presented with an address from his parishioners.

The annual report of St. Bernard's parish, Brookville, Ct., Rev. J. J. Purdon, pastor, shows the parish to be in a flourishing condition. Over \$2100 was paid on the new property acquired on Park street.

Rev. John P. Sullivan, who went from Hudson to Marlboro, in N. Y., state, to assist Rev. P. A. McKenna, was well remembered by the Catholics of the former place. They presented him with a purse of several hundred dollars.

The veneration of Most Rev. Dr. MacRaidmond, coadjutor-bishop of Killarney, took place in the cathedral, Ennis, county Clare, on Sunday, Jan. 12; and that of the Most Rev. D. Egan, bishop of Waterford, at the Cathedral, Waterford, on the 19th.

Rev. J. A. Stephens of the Catholic Indian Bureau, while in St. Paul, said it was true that Sister Catherine (nee Drexel) would build a convent in Torredale, a few miles from Philadelphia. Torredale is the country residence of the Drexel family.

Latest mail advices from England state that the Vatican has recently appointed the Right Rev. Dr. Wilkinson bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, and the Very Rev. Canon Gordon, D. D., V. G., coadjutor bishop of Leeds, with the right of succession.

Amongst the national pilgrimages to the Vatican in the coming year will be a joint pilgrimage of the various races of the Balkan peninsula. Servants, Romanians, Montenegrins, Roumelites, Bulgars and Greeks will be presented among the pilgrims.

The Pope celebrated Christmas in Rome by causing to be distributed 300,000 francs in charities to poor families, widows and orphans of former servants of the Vatican. A further sum was given by him of 14,000 francs for distribution in the parishes of Rome by priests and Sisters of Charity.

Mr. W. N. B. Vance, ex-governor, editor of the Anglican Church Review, and organizing secretary of the English Church Union (the principal Ritualistic organization) in England, has been received into the Catholic church, and received confirmation at the hands of his eminence the cardinal archbishop of Westminster.

The Catholic schools in Belgium, at the examinations just held throughout the country, which were conducted by government officials, beat the public schools and the semi-public schools (both of which latter are kept up by the state funds) in all branches. The general average was far higher than that attained by pupils in the national schools.

Ordinations were held at St. Joseph's Seminary, Troy, N. Y., on the feast of the Epiphany. Rev. James E. Goggin of the archdiocese of New York was raised to the episcopate to the sub-deaconate, Rev. Thomas Crowley of the diocese of St. Augustine, Fla., was elevated. The ordaining prelate was Right Rev. Francis McTierny, bishop of Albany.

The corner stone of the new cathedral at Charleston, S. C., was laid on Sunday, Jan. 15, with imposing ceremonies. Cardinal Gibbons officiating. Speaking of this event, the News and Courier of that city says: "The day and the occasion were well matched. 'Sweet day, so calm, so bright, the bridal of the earth and sky'; an auspicious omen, let us hope, of the benediction of heaven upon the work of men's hands in the building of a magnificent temple to the Most High, wherein shall dwell right righteousness."