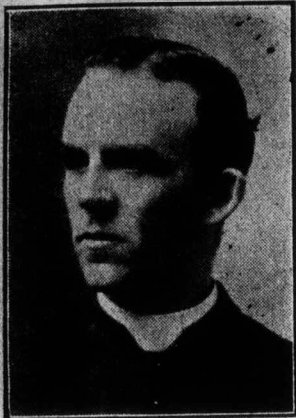


FIRST MASS AND ANNIVERSARY AT ST. GABRIEL'S, AND THEIR LESSONS.



REV. EDWARD POLAN.

It was a gala day Sunday last, for St. Gabriel's parish. The 28th anniversary of the canonical erection of the parish was not only celebrated in a manner well worthy of the occasion, but associated with it was the unique joy for the parishioners of attending the first High Mass of Rev. Edward Polan, a child of the parish, and a newly-ordained member of the Catholic priesthood. In celebrating that Mass Father Polan was assisted by Rev. M. L. Shea, also a child of the district. Rev. Dr. Gerald McShane, who in boyhood days attended the parish school, was deacon, and Rev. Patrick McDonald, as sub-deacon.

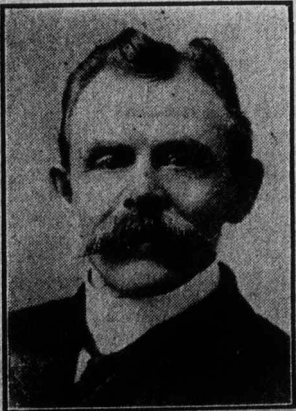
The remarks of Rev. Father O'Meara, the zealous pastor, after having made the announcements of the week, were of a character to inspire sentiments of gratefulness and happiness. While congratulating the parents of the young priest, Father O'Meara pointed out with a legitimate pride that St. Gabriel's parish had now given seven priests to the Church of God.

The names of those who entered the sacerdotal ranks from the congregation of St. Gabriel's are:—

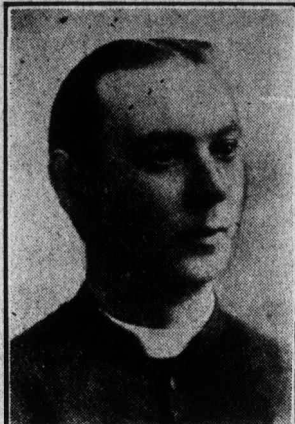
Rev. D. P. McMenamin.
Rev. John E. Donnelly.
Rev. C. J. Hagerty.
Rev. M. L. Shea.
Rev. G. McShane.
Rev. Geo. Daley.
Rev. E. Polan.

This was a theme that called forth the warmest expressions of the pastor's sentiments, and we can readily understand how pleased Father O'Meara must have been, to thus be enabled to express congratulations that affected not only the young priest and his parents and friends, but also the entire parish of St. Gabriel's.

The attendance of the faithful on the occasion was unprecedented in the history of the parish. Besides the parishioners who turned out in a manner which was inspiring to behold, three Courts of the Catholic Order of Foresters—St. Patrick's, Sarsfield and St. Gabriel's assisted, as well as a large number of the parishioners of the other Irish parishes of this city.

MR. PATRICK POLAN,
Father of newly-ordained Priest.

The scene after the Mass as the young priest gave his blessing, to the young and old, of both sexes as they knelt at the communion railing, each in turn, made a deep impression upon all present.

REV. M. L. SHEA,
Preacher of the Day.

THE SERMON.—Rev. M. L. Shea delivered the sermon, and as was to be expected considering that he occupied the pulpit in the parish where he had spent the days of his boyhood, it was an eloquent and touching effort, and one which went to the hearts of the vast congregation.

Father Shea took for his text:—

"I have chosen thee: thou art to be a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedec." (Hebrews, 7, 17.)

He said:—I cannot assign any other cause than that of partiality which induced your beloved pastor to ask me to speak to you on this, the occasion of a double celebration; the 28th anniversary of your parish—the first solemn Mass of a young parishioner, Rev. Father Polan. I certainly wish he had chosen one more competent for the task, but I make no apology to you, for I do not disguise from you that it gives me great pleasure to address you once again.

It is 28 years this month since your parish was canonically erected. The ceremony of its erection was of the simplest nature, but created no little stir among the scattered residences of the nascent village. The Church, or rather the little village chapel as it was then called, was a dependency of St. Henry, it having been built by the Rev. Father Lapierre in the years of 1869 and 1870, or the foundation was laid in November, 1869, and the chapel blessed and formally inaugurated on the first of May, 1870. Five years later the Rev. Father Salmon, then acting as curate to the above named pastor, and administering priest to the village folk, was translated as pastor to guide its destinies. The first care of the young, zealous and progressive priest was to provide for the education of the children, and soon a school-room was opened in the vestry-room of the old chapel. Later he built the large school house on Centre street, which has since fallen into the hands of the Christian Brothers; and the number of children having increased, so as to fill up every available portion of it, he was forced to turn his attention to a suitable school for the young girls. After many attempts to provide for them, he was successful in inducing the Rev. Sisters of the Congregation of the Holy Cross to build, as they afterwards did, on the present site.

The advent of the Sisters, these noble-minded and noble-hearted women, whose hands and hearts are tempered and sweetened by divine love, was the occasion of great rejoicing, for all felt that by entrusting the young girls to their zealous care that their religious and moral training would be secure. The Church has ever prided in her Sisterhood, and by confiding to her, a large part of her apostolate, she lifts up womanhood to the highest possible levels. From this epoch the little village parish began to flourish. The population grew steadily, and the ever-increasing number of French-Canadian families brought about a change. The chapel having become too small for the accommodation of all, a division was made, a parish formed and ere long a chapel was built on Island street, which has since been replaced by the present

monumental edifice which redounds to their great zeal for the glory of God. The next important move was the extension of the old village limits to Conde street, thus taking in a portion of St. Ann's parish and substituting somewhat for the number of French families. The annexation of the village to the city soon followed. With these changes which occurred in '83, '84, '85, there came a change in the administration of St. Gabriel's. Rev. Father Salmon having been transferred to St. Mary's, the parish fell into the hands of the Rev. Father McCarthy, who after three brief years of labor and sacrifice, fell a victim to sickness and died at his country home in the first days of January, 1890. Father McCarthy was a devoted priest; a kind, zealous and protecting pastor, and whose saintly life and charitable deeds are remembered by many to this present day.

Meanwhile the parish was administered by your present pastor, who was then the assistant priest, and the Archbishop being quick to recognize his executive ability promoted him to the pastorate on the 27th January of the same year. Shortly after assuming charge, Father O'Meara threw all his splendid energies into the work of improving the parish, placing it on an excellent financial footing and making it in many respects a leading parish. One of his first cares was to provide a new Church, (the old having become dilapidated and unfit for further use), a Church which would meet the requirements of the congregation, and one in which the name of the Lord might be hallowed and the Victim of Salvation offered for the living and the dead for not only a day or years, but for generations to come. It was said at the time that he erred in building so large and expensive a Church, but I will not admit that he erred.

He was not wrong in planning largely, nobly, grandly, nor in relying on his people. The times were propitious, sentiment strong, and thanks to his great heroic energy and untiring zeal you have this magnificent temple which can vie with the best in grandeur. The adjoining presbytery, an ideal priest's house, is also the crowning work of his hands to this date, and coupled with it, is the splendid school in the rear of the Church which he was instrumental in having built by the Catholic School Commissioners.

Father O'Meara richly deserves the high and honored place he holds in your hearts to-day.

Looking back in fancy to these days of long ago, and seeing a vista luxuriant with deeds of love and duty, made straight in every line, I cannot but say with St. Peter, in his text: "You are a chosen people, a kingly priesthood." Yes, as members of the mystical priesthood of Christ you have born the green foliage of Christian faith and have brought forth the fruit of good works. You have given with royal bounty and with priestly sacrifice out of the very slenderest means to build and foster the institutions of religion and education. You have esteemed and honored those who were placed over you, particularly your present pastor, who must account for your souls. You have co-operated with him heart and hand; heart, by giving him your confidence and reverencing his sacred character; hand, by materially assisting him in whatever he undertakes for religion and education; and as deputies of God you have been faithful and true to your vocation. You have taught your children to love virtue by showing its beauty to them in your own lives. You have developed in them the love of God which they have brought from heaven. You have taught them to love the Blessed Mother of God, the saints, their religion. You have finally brought up your children in piety and holiness, and your work does not end with your lives.

Your children growing up models of piety edify one another and to-day many of them as men and women are valuable and prosperous members of society; as nuns and priest, as students, seminarians and teachers reflect credit upon you, are heaping honor upon the Church and are attracting many souls to God.

Thirteen years ago to-day, following in the footsteps of the priests of this parish who preceded me, I ascended the altar of the old Church for the first time. Since, then, both time and chance have wrought full many a change in the hearts and homes of the parishioners. There were many present then who are absent to-day, there are many here to-day who were strangers then. And if we turn our glance upon Mount Royal, we shall find that there are many mounds in "God's acre" at Cote des Neiges that were not there then. Among others there is one covered with the season's silvery pall and it marks the resting place of a good and virtuous woman, a devoted and saintly mother whose powerful influence and example had the effect of moulding the souls of her children and making them true members of the Church. One of whom we can truly say the world is better for her having lived in it. I refer to the kind, conscientious and pious mother of the young celebrant at the altar, who departed this life seven years ago, and who is to-day enjoying her reward in the Kingdom of that other Christ whom her Son is representing to-day.

Beloved brethren, after all these years have sped their way and we stand at the door way of a bright year another young parishioner in the person of the Rev. Father Polan, ascends the altar for the first time. (Rev. Father Polan is a son of Mr. Patrick Polan, an old resident and a most worthy parishioner.)

In his youth he dedicated himself to serve God, like another Samuel in the sanctuary. A boy of fourteen he entered the Montreal College to pursue the course which leads up to the altar. Years followed of studious retirement and preparation for his life's work, until yesterday when the voice of the Archbishop was heard in the solemn words of the Pontifical "Dost thou know him to be worthy?" to which his director answered: "As far as human frailty can know, I know and testify that he is worthy." Then and not till then the sacred hands of the Bishop raised, and the holy oil of consecration poured upon his head. Then he was clad in the garments of the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Have you ever reflected on what that means, brethren? Have you ever thought of the sacrifice which the young Levite must make as he approaches the sanctuary. One of the most powerful feelings of the human heart, is that which creates in the young man a desire to perpetuate his name. At the entrance to the sanctuary he must forego this pleasure of a home, and the consolations and support of both loved and loving ones. This happiness he must renounce forever. I tell you, it is a miracle of the heroism of self-renunciation; a miracle which is not a miracle only because it is so common, so ordinary an occurrence in the Church of the Living God, that we wonder not at it, even as we wonder not at the miracles of the divine wisdom, power and love which the creation presents to our everyday vision. But it is a miracle, it is a heroism of which all are not capable but, "to whom it is given of the Father." This life is a God-like life, says St. Chrysostom. This profession is an angelic one.

And why, you may ask, is the priest called on to make this renunciation? That he may bring to the service of the sanctuary an undivided heart—that being a "priest forever according to the order of Melchisedec," he may be without father, without mother, without genealogy; without the usual ties which bind a man to this world, so he may give himself wholly to the service of his people. For the married man thinks of the things of this world and of his family, and is divided, and the unmarried thinks of the things of God, how he may best serve the Lord; and "every priest is taken from amongst men and is appointed for men that he may offer gifts and sacrifices in the things that are of the Lord."

Oh, dignity of the priest! How sublime! How beautiful! St. Justin, one of the early writers, says of the priest: "In them we find the likeness of earth, but they partake of the sanctity of Heaven." St. Jurett says they come from sacred hands, and are the link between man and heaven.

O, priest of God! They that consider the beauties of thy office; they that consider the sublimity of thy power—they are more sublime than all but God Himself.

Ye that think of worldly power consider the power of the priest. As far as the soul is above the body, as far as the heavens are above the earth, so far is the divine character of the Catholic priest above that of other men. Moses, directed by God, struck the waters of the Red Sea,

and they opened a way for the escape of the children of Israel from the captivity of Egypt and their entrance into the promised land. The priest speaks the word and the waters of baptism relieve the soul from the thralldom of Satan and admit it to the heirship of the Kingdom of God. Elias spoke and the heavens closed and not a drop of rain fell for three years; he spoke again and the rain fell. The Catholic priest speaks and either closes the portals of heaven to the unrepentant sinner, or brings down the mercy and grace of God to reconcile the sinner with his Heavenly Father, and console and strengthen him in the battle for his eternal salvation. Such is the spiritual character of the priest—of the one who ascends the altar to-day for the first time.

To-morrow he will go forth into the wilderness of spiritual destitution that he may gather into the fold the sheep in danger of perishing. Yes, in obedience to the command laid upon him, he goes out, poor in the things of this world, but rich in the confidence which hope in God always inspires. Day by day he will stand at the altar to offer to the Eternal Father the victim of propitiation for the sins of the people. Every day he will be busy seeking after the children to catechize them; in visiting the sick that he may console them in their afflictions, and administer to them the Holy Sacraments in time of need.

His career begins to-day. When Christ began His wonderful career, the Scribes and Pharisees, the powerful classes of Judea, missed no possible opportunities of watching Him. His greatest miracles were witnessed by many of them, and the first converts came from their ranks. The more they sought to discover the secret of His powers, the more were they convinced that this wonderful Being came from God.

But alas! his miracles irritated and maddened them. They soon hated Christ because He would not be a party to their foulness, would not sanction their iniquities and threatened to remove them from their seats they so unworthily filled. They were mere worldlings, who sought a Messiah that would minister to their passions and secure their private interests. The world is full of Scribes and Pharisees at this moment, and a good number of them can be found among Catholics. Let them not be deceived, however, for the denunciation of Christ apply to them and the punishment of the Pharisees hangs over them. Their house shall finally be left to them desolate.

But you, brethren, let us beseech you with St. Paul, to know them who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord Jesus Christ, that you esteem them more abundantly in charity for their work's sake.

Love and respect them chiefly upon account of their character and labor, as being the instrumental cause of our spiritual life; for by them we are made Christians and received into the Church; by them we are delivered from our sins, and reinstated into the grace and favor of Almighty God; by them we receive his blessings and are nourished and fed, not only with the spiritual food of God's word, but also with the heavenly food of Christ's most precious body and blood in the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist; and by them we offer to God the dreadful sacrifice; in fine, by them the sacraments are administered and the heavens are opened. We ought, therefore, to hold them in reverence "as the ministers of Christ and the dispensers of the mysteries of God." (St. Paul).

And brethren, I speak not this for their honor, but for your advantage; to the end that you may never be so unfortunate as to fall under the heavy displeasure of God, by your disobedience and irreverent behavior to His ministers, and that you may obtain his blessing, like obedient and dutiful children whom He will at the last day reward with the fruition of his glory in the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.

The musical programme was under the direction of Mr. J. J. Shea, one of the leading young Irish Catholic musicians of Montreal. Miss Byrne presided at the organ with her usual ability.

SYMINGTON'S

MINERALS

COFFEE ESSENCE

makes delicious coffee in a moment. No trouble, no waste. In small and large bottles from all grocers.

GUARANTEED PURE.

A Reminiscence of an Ordination.

(By Miss M. L. Hart.)



MISS M. L. HART,

Toronto correspondent of the True Witness.

As I write it flashes upon me that this the 21st Dec., and with the date comes a scene of the same day eight years ago. The picture began in the dim darkness of the early December day; as I entered the Cathedral of St. James at Montreal, its walls of gold and white were yet hidden in the shadows of the still lingering night; a light or two near the altar, a verger opening the doors were the only signs of brightness and life. Presently the shadows began to disperse, the dome was lightened though the aisles were still in shade and then in the distance was heard the faint but ever-increasing sound of the music of a chant, and out from the shadows came a long procession of ecclesiastics, cassocked and surpliced, the last rows wearing the stole over one shoulder only and carrying on their arms the chasuble in which later they would be vested; on into the side chapels moved the youthful procession, the chant now rising into full and glorious melody.

The most solemn note of the picture was at the ordination of the candidates for the priesthood, seventeen in number, were the youthful Levites and as they formed a crescent and with one simultaneous movement prostrated themselves before the High Altar, the very air seemed heavy with the solemnity of the sacrifice, the sacrifice of each young heart, and of each pure and enthusiastic soul offering itself to the service of God's Altar. The Litany was intoned, the prayers were said, the grand ceremony continued, and another solemn moment approached; from stalls and chapels, from behind the altar and from the dim recesses of the sanctuary came priests and abbots, regulars and seculars, some were brown-garbed and bearded others white-cassocked and cowed, and some again wore the black-robe and crucifix of the missionary; all in turn advanced and laid their hands on the head of the newly-ordained, then left them raised until a perfect forest of hands testified to the coming of the Holy Ghost and the imparting of the sacerdotal graces to the newly ordained.

All this was eight years ago, eight years of change; death has claimed some of that white-robed group, the larger number, however remain, and to them must come the memory of that happy day, serving as a vivifying fire to re-lighten even embers that may have been quenched by tears of sadness or smothered by the cares and turmoils that enter so largely into the daily life of the priest.

KILLING TIME.

People who make it a business to kill time are allowing time to kill them.

C.M.B.A. NOTES.

Remember the big progressive euchar party and social of Branch No. 232, Grand Council of Canada, which will be held in the Windsor Hall, Friday, January the 22nd, 1904.

Secure your tickets without delay, as they are limited to 200, and may be had from members of the committee.

(From Catholic T

The Right Rev. Dr. Bishop of Liverpool the Liverpool Diocese which was read in diocese on Sunday referred to the death of Vaughan and His Holiness and the elevation of Father to the Chair says: There is one ticular that has been minds of men, especially the Church, and titude the Holy Father with respect to the Temporal Power. T amongst them who world to believe the question is dead, w the Pope should give call the dream of and yield to accomp they are resentful if loyal address to the pathise with the He in the intolerable po deprived of his domi

Hence they have little incident that to their opinion the Holy Father will ab to the Temporal Pow will at least come to usurpers of the P and, as happens in o also in this, the view lies find sympathetic certain section of Ca beginning to claim to have what they ca on the question o Power. It is well, d brethren and child should be warned in so important a que listen, not to the op but to the voice of th in the first place, ther to be no little confus even amongst Cathol ter, so that it is neca real point at issue understood. It is n whether, admitting th Holy See to the Te and even to the whol Papal States, it mig prudent for the Hol out relinquishing his tolerate for the time privation or curtain rights. There are a c of matters in which th Church and those of clash. There are o they do not naturally which the State may s fully interfere with th Church.

Such, for instance, at the Church to educate to foster vocations to tical or the religious s less worldly goods. W by one title her just Church may at times dent, as the lesser o tolerate the invasion Through the malice o men, rather than be ex ther from the warfare ers of Evil, the Church to consent to enter the one hand tied. As to injustice is to be tole sacrificing rights and best be settled by the Church, who, from his you, has the knowled grace to be able to de most conduces to the ets of souls. Again, t not so much whether the Italian usurpation half a century, the rig forfeited by which t Pontiff as Trustee of the Church, has held for e patrimony of St. Peter, has been voiced by the Copate addressing Pope 1862, when they said: dare to attack a Sovere cent, founded on so gre ity, and under the stres a necessity? What othe be compared to it, i simply the human right the security of princes of peoples rest? What venerable and so sacred archy or republic of pa centuries can boast of r ust, so ancient, and Hence, Holy Father, you and struggling, certainly but also for right and f

The claim made for th the Temporal Power is