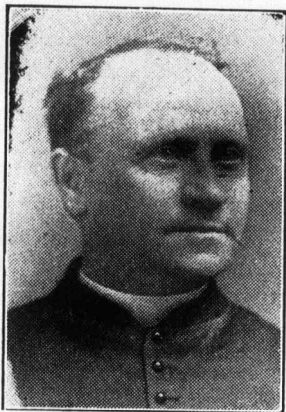


FATHER KIERNAN'S SILVER JUBILEE.

On Sunday and Monday last Rev. J. P. Kiernan, the beloved pastor of the new Irish parish of St. Michael's, celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination. St. Michael's is situated in the north-end of the city, and for some time back, as the Catholic population of Irish origin has increased, it became necessary that they should have a parish of their own. The result was the erection of this large district into the parish of St. Michael's. As yet they have no Church, and the

inspirations of grace. It was the tender love she had for the Blessed Virgin which induced her to embrace the Catholic religion. Her husband was not slow in following her example. Is it not an impossibility to love Christ and not to love His Immaculate Virgin Mother? Nobody can truly love her without loving the Church founded by her Divine Son. The devotion to Mary has been at all times a salient feature of His Church and an unflinching pledge of predestination. Alas!



REV. JOHN P. KIERNAN, P.P.

chapel at their disposal is located in hall over the fire station on St. Denis street. But Father Kiernan's energy and zeal are paving rapidly the way to the desired foundation of a suitable Church. On the occasion of this celebration a great deal of enthusiasm was manifested, and Father Kiernan received substantial evidence of the manner in which his efforts are appreciated and in which he has won his way to the hearts of the people.

The High Mass on Sunday, the first day of the jubilee celebration, was sung by Rev. Father Kiernan himself, assisted by Rev. M. L. Shea, St. Anthony's, as deacon, and Rev. Frank Singleton, of the Montreal Grand Seminary, as sub-deacon. Rev. Father Fahey, assistant to the pastor of St. Michael's, who is well known and highly esteemed in this city, was master of ceremonies. The musical portion of the service was under the able direction of Professor John I. McCaffrey. "Messe Durant" was rendered with fine effect, the soloists being Messrs. Joseph Dillon, William Horne and H. St. Pierre, each of whom performed their parts with much skill. At the Offertory, Mr. W. H. Maiden sang with excellent taste an "O Salutaris."

The sermon, a most touching and eloquently appropriate one, preached by Rev. Father Martin Callaghan, P.P., of St. Patrick's. He spoke in part as follows:—

The Sermon.

Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedech. (Ps. 109—V. 5.)

I am really delighted to occupy the pulpit on this occasion. There is nothing I could like better than to join you in celebrating the Silver Jubilee of your pastor. What you are doing is something to which I consider him entitled and for which I could not give you too much credit. I am intimately acquainted with the family to which he belongs. I do not exaggerate in stating that this family has been an object of predilection on the part of Divine Providence. I distinctly remember the mother of the priest whom you have gathered in such numbers to publicly honor. Most assuredly she must be in heaven. She should be ranked amongst the noblest of her sex. She was scrupulous in attending to all her duties. She won the hearts of all who knew her. She hearkened to

there are husbands who are not at all what they should be. In many cases it is their wives to whom the blame should be imputed. The latter happen to be anything but what it is expected they ought to be. A husband is only too happy to yield to the salutary influences of a good wife. How could he resist them without doing violence to himself?

Not many years ago I baptized under condition a prominent citizen of Montreal. After the ceremony he pointed to his wife saying: Father for the last 15 years have I been watching her. If I am just now what I am it is owing to the saintliness of her life."

I could not but admire the father of your pastor. He may be praised for being a man of practical intelligence and sterling virtue. With a steady step has he always trodden the paths of principle and honor. He was blessed with four children, two of whom God called to himself shortly after their baptism. The two others would reflect lustre upon any family. His only daughter is a sister of St. Ann. During many years has she been edifying her community and bestowing the priceless benefits of a Christian education on all the pupils entrusted to her care. His son is placed at the head of your parish—a parish which he has the signal merit of starting—a parish which is favorably progressing and though of yesterday is promising to hold a rank of distinction amongst the English-speaking parishes of this city and this archdiocese. His parents were instructed and admitted into the fold by the Rev. Father Dowd, whose name will for countless generations live in the grateful memory of all those who are descended from the Irish immigrants and exiles to whom he unsparingly devoted himself.

Your pastor and I were curates during the space of two years in St. Patrick's parish, which I then never dreamed of governing as a Sulpician and still less as a member of the secular clergy. I have always taken a peculiar interest in all that might concern him. He overcame many obstacles in paving his way to the priesthood. I assisted him at his first Mass, which was celebrated in St. Patrick's Church. He then must have felt as did St. John Chrysostom

who exclaimed: "Is it really so that I was made a priest yesterday? Is what happened me a reality? Is what is taking place to-day a dream? And I under the hallucinations of sleep or I am in broad-day light?" Twenty-five years have elapsed since his ordination. How rapidly they have passed, and how meritoriously he has spent them! In scarcely any deleterious way have they told upon his looks or constitution. At this hour he is as fresh in appearance as robust in health and as young in spirit, as he was a quarter of a century ago.

What an exemplary priest he has been since the day of his ordination! He has indeed been a priest according to the Heart of our Divine Lord—a veritable "Soggarth Aroon." Wherever he was stationed he experienced no difficulty in winning for himself the unbounded confidence of all those with whom he had any dealings. In the pulpit, in the confessional, at the bedside of the sick or dying, with the rich and poor, with the young and old, with all the socialities and societies confided to his charge he displayed in no ordinary degree all the qualities and virtues which it is the chief ambition of every clergyman to possess. Nothing did he undertake which was not crowned with unqualified success. The prelates under whom he served applauded all the exertions of his zeal. He is deeply esteemed by all his conferees and cordially welcomed in all clerical circles. You have learned to appreciate him. I shall not request you to treat him as he should be treated. If I did I would insult you.

You come from a race which is proverbial for its idea of the priesthood and for the manner in which it has always emphasized this idea. This dignity is incomparably grand. After God comes the priest. He is the interpreter of His mind, the promulgator of His will and the dispenser of His mysteries. It is He alone who can tell you what you should know and do. It is He alone who can help you in discharging all your obligations. According to St. Ambrose he has "a divine profession." The priest is the ambassador of the Church. He is officially deputed to represent her at the throne of mercy. In her name he honors the Most High in a way he could not be honored by any one else upon earth or in heaven. The greatest honor all men could give him would be the sacrifice of their lives.

What would this sacrifice be if we compared it with the sacrifice offered by the priest? Would it not be in the language of Isaiah as "a little dust," or as "a drop of a bucket?" It would be as almost a mere nothing. "All nations," says this prophet, are before Him as if they had no being at all." The sacrifice of the priest is the sacrifice of the Mass. This sacrifice is nothing less than infinite in point of value. It is identical with the sacrifice of Calvary. It is the sacrifice of the Cross continued and represented, the sacrifice of the Incarnate Son of God. By a single Mass is greater honor given to God than could be given him by all men who by dying would offer Him the homage of their lives—nay than could be given Him by all the angels and saints put together—nay furthermore than could be given Him by the Queen of all the angels and saints. All the honor they could give Him, no matter how agreeable in His eyes could only be limited in its value. They are mere creatures of His Christ is God Himself—the Creator and Lord of the universe visible and invisible.

The priest is obliged every day to recite the breviary. In his recitation of the breviary he does not pray in his private capacity, but as the minister of the Church. She the Bride of Christ prays with his lips. What efficacy in his prayers! What a multitude of graces he obtains! What a number of souls he prevents from yielding to temptation, or remaining with the guilt of sin—he keeps in the friendship of God or leads to the highest grade of perfection! How invaluable the spiritual and temporal favors he is instrumental in procuring! During the Mass which he is celebrating it is Christ Himself—the only begotten and dearly beloved Son of God the Father who prays. How can his prayer be refused? Of what avail must it not be for the living and the dead?

The dignity of the priest may be estimated from a two-fold power which he has in his possession. What a power he has over the real and mystical Body of Our Redeemer! At the consecration he says over the bread which he has just blessed: "This is My Body." No sooner has he said it than it has ceased to be bread and has become the Body of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The only thing left is what may be perceived by the senses. Was it not a great wonder to see the orb of day halt in its course when Josue said: "Move not, O sun, toward Gabaon." It is a much greater wonder to know upon the authority of our faith that during the Mass, the Creator of the

sun and of all things is docile to the voice of His creature. At the bidding of the priest. He descends in person upon the altar, and remains hidden under the sacramental species. He is altogether at his disposal. He lets Himself be locked in the tabernacle, exposed in the ostensorium, carried in procession or given in communion. He may be consecrated at all times and in all places.

The Church cannot dispense with the priest. She is the mystical Body of Christ. You became the members of this body on the day you were baptized—on the day you were made Christians and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven. The power of baptizing is not the only power enjoyed by the priest. He can anoint. If you are dangerously ill he can, by the application of the Sacred Oil restore your health or prepare you for eternity by supplying you with all the special graces you may require. You may sin this way or that way. It is immaterial. He can pardon you. No other created being can do it. He can shut the gates of hell and open the portals of heaven. By pardoning you he brings you from death to life. He is the divine agent of reconciliation. When he is absolving you God is doing it. What Christ said to the Apostles He intended for all priests: "Whose sins ye shall forgive they are forgiven them." The pardon they grant is ratified and registered in the Celestial Court. "Whoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed also in heaven." If Christ were seated in the confessional the absolutions given to His penitents would not have any greater efficacy than if given by the humblest of priests.

The sacerdotal dignity is a divine institution. It has the best of titles to the universal respect which is paid it. It has always been recognized as the greatest dignity that could be conferred by Almighty God. We are told by St. Gregory Nazianzen that it is venerated by the Angels. St. Francis of Assisi viewed it in his proper light and through humility declined to accept it. He used to say: "If I saw an angel and a priest I would genuflect first to the priest, and afterwards to the angel." After having ordained an ecclesiastic, St. Francis of Sales noticed him stopping at the door of the Church. He asked him why he stopped. "I am, said he, in the habit of seeing my Guardian Angel." Previous to my ordination he preceded me and walked on my right. Since I am ordained he insists on my preceding him and upon staying on my left. Peter de Blois tells us that kings bent their knees to the priest, kissed his hand and with bowed head received his benediction. Baronius relates that when the Empress Eusebia sent for Leontius, the Bishop of Tripoli, he said he would go to her palace if she consented to two things: First, she should on his arrival come down from her throne and bowing her head, ask him to bless her. Secondly, she should not sit on her throne till she had obtained his permission.

You are most sensible of the dignity with which the priest is invested. You feel that in honoring him it is Christ whom you are honoring. You condemn all who rashly judge, slander or oppose him. Sooner or later they are severely punished. You abhor the thought of saddening, embittering or shortening his days.

Shield his reputation and contribute all that you can towards the maintenance and development of his prestige.

A special sacrament was instituted by Christ to raise a man to the priesthood. It is the Sacrament of Holy Orders. There is no such a thing for the soldier, the physician, lawyer or nun of any description. To be a priest a vocation is necessary. "Neither," says St. Paul, "doth any man take the honor to himself, but he that is called by God as Aaron was." Should you notice in your sons any marked disposition towards the ecclesiastical state foster it. Avoid all that might deter them from following it and delay not in making whatever sacrifices may be deemed proper.

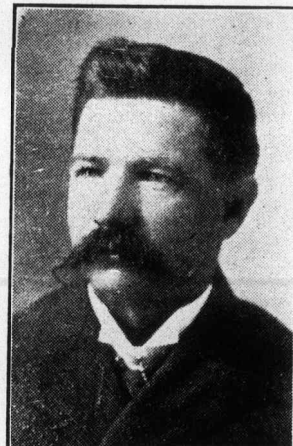
Our Archbishop may justly pride in the young men whom he has appointed to the English-speaking parishes under his jurisdiction. They have exceptional talent and virtue to recommend them. May their number increase! Never will it be in disproportion with the wants that are felt on all sides. It is not long since the Rev. John Kiernan has been given you as Pastor. May the yoke which he is carrying be sweet and the burden of his responsibilities light! May he be spared for many years to continue and perfect the works he has begun! May he be privileged to see his Golden Jubilee

in your midst! He has the key of your hearts. He is indeed worthy of having it. Well may he rely on your sympathy and co-operation. Most important is the mission which he has been given by being assigned to the parish of St. Michael's. With God's assistance he will fulfil it. How ardently he longs for your happiness and for the salvation of your souls! What is not his anxiety to see your children educated as best they can, and to see God worshipped in a temple which will serve as a monument of your faith, piety and generosity.

In concluding let us with all the earnestness and fervor of which we are capable address him the words penned by the royal psalmist: "May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee. May He send thee help from the sanctuary and defend thee out of Zion. May He be mindful of all thy sacrifices. May He give thee according to thy own heart and confirm all thy counsels." Amen.

The evening service was of unusual solemnity, and a pleasant feature thereof was the fact that Rev. Father Therrien, chaplain of Mount St. Louis College, presided at the organ, while the service was sung by Rev. Father Charpentier, chaplain of the Reformatory, of the Brothers of Charity; both of whom were classmates of Father Kiernan at the Grand Seminary.

Necessarily the biography of a priest has certain limitations, for,



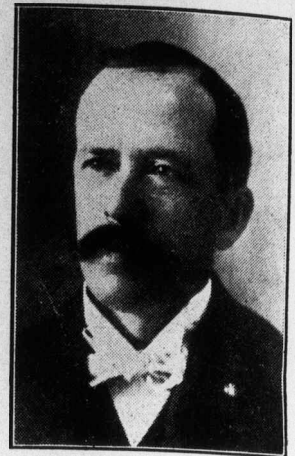
MR. JOHN KEEGAN.

as a rule, his life is so bound up in the performance of his sacred duties, that it is only upon occasions such as this that it comes out in detail before the world. As the first day of the celebration was consecrated to religious ceremonies, we see that it is principally as a priest and that sacred character that he desires to commemorate the most important event in his life. The second day, as all things human come secondary to those of a spiritual character, the amusements, garden-party and other entertainments were for the purpose of allowing the parishioners to participate in the joyfulness of the occasion, to prevent their address, and to give expression to their sentiments of love and respect for the one whom God had, in His wisdom, placed over their young parish.

Father Kiernan is a native of the city of Montreal, where, in 1854, he first saw the light. Shortly before his birth his father, mother, two brothers and one sister, who were Protestants, had been received into the Church by the late lamented Father Dowd. Of these only one survives in the person of his sister, who, like himself, gave her life to religion and carries on the duties of her noble vocation in the community of St. Anne at Lachine. Her name in religion is Sister Mary Mechtilda. Father Kiernan received his elementary education in the old St. Lawrence School, where he was a pupil until 1867, the year that he entered the Montreal College to make his classical course. This course he completed in that institution, and passed from there directly to the Grand Seminary to take up theological studies. After a brilliant and successful course in "the science of sciences," he was ordained priest, twenty-five years ago, on the 24th August, 1878. At the time of his ordination he was the only Irish priest at the Bishop's disposal to fill vacancies, and we can readily understand how much his services were in requisition.

His first charge was the Irish mission of the East and of the city, the only one in that section, then located on Dorchester street and known as St. Bridget's. In 1880 he replaced Rev. Father Leclair at St. Patrick's, when the latter had gone to Rome. After three years in the old parish again was he sent on a re-

placing mission, and for one year occupied the position held by Father Whittaker at St. Ann's. Thence he returned to East End of the city, and during 1884 he labored in St. Mary's parish, until the death of Father Simon Loneragan. Thence to another new mission, that of St.



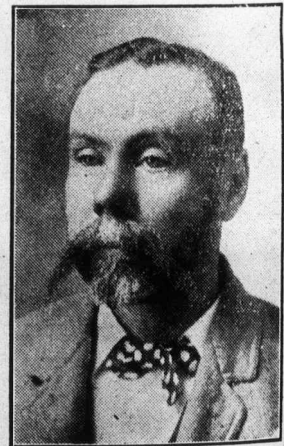
MR. T. GORMAN.

Anthony's, in the West End, where he was stationed until 1887.

In this latter year Bishop Sweeney, of St. John, N.B., asked Bishop Fabre, of Montreal, to send him some Irish priests. Still the only one at the Bishop's disposal was Father Kiernan, and again he responded to the call of duty.

He there took charge of the parish of St. Mary's, opposite Fredericton, where he remained for nine years. In this large and scattered parish he made such a host of friends that his departure was deeply regretted amongst the people. He there had seven stations, or outside missions, scattered over an area of eighty miles. It was in the midst of this pioneer work that he was called away to another mission. He was appointed to the parish of Sheenboro, in the diocese of Pembroke, to replace the late Father Shalloo. For six years he labored in that new district, away up in the north-west of the County of Pontiac; and at the end of his term there he left an improved Church, schools, and a flourishing parish. He was then recalled to Montreal, and placed in charge of the female prison as chaplain. As he once humorously remarked, himself, he came out of prison to take charge of the new parish of St. Michael's in the North End of the city.

It will be thus seen that he has served in every Irish parish in this city. He has commenced several times at the foot of the ladder and worked up, doing all kinds of organization as he proceeded, and just as he had completed or fairly started his operations in one parish, he was summoned to begin again with another one. When leaving Sheenboro he carried with him a letter of the



MR. JOHN DILLON.

deepest appreciation from the Bishop of Pembroke. But Father Kiernan's best recommendations is in the completed works he has left behind him every place.

In his new parish he has already secured land, fronting on St. Denis street, at a cost of \$15,000 for a new Church. Plans for the edifice and tenders for its construction have been received. It will accommodate five hundred people and will cost about \$15,000. He hopes to begin the operations of construction early next May.

A man of exceptional energy he has most enthusiastic hopes for the future. One of the conditions on which Father Kiernan consented to this celebration of his silver jubilee was that the entire proceeds of the entertainment should go to the building fund of the new Church. It is clear that his heart is set upon this life work. He has labored, in

has built, he has others in all parts all ends of the count that he is organizi laboring for his own tually he feels an terest in his work.

The Reception Co- necton with the la celebration was co- lows:—Messrs. John thy Gorman and Jo churchwardens; Mess Geo, Thomas Flood han, Edward Cox bin, members of the churchwardens; Mess Kenzie, Stephen T Foley, trustees; an ver, W. Horan, E. enthusiastic choir-m I. McCaffrey, repres

The various com- who presided over t well appointed erect immense tents erect upon which the new erected, were as fol-

S.A.A.A. VOTING most popular playe lacrosse team: Mrs. Mrs. E. Barry, assi Shane, Miss De La Jefferson.

ICE CREAM.—Mrs. Mrs. Flood, assisted Miss Maude McEl Laughlin, Messrs. E De La Cuiver.

CANDY.—Mrs. M sisted by Miss T. F

CIGARS AND G Mrs. W. Horan and sisted by Miss Ho Greeves.

FISH POND.—Mr assisted by Miss Cahil, Miss Birrell, St. Pierre.

FRUIT TABLE.— Mrs. Cox, assisted thy.

FLOWERS.—Miss ed by Miss Wilkins and Miss McElligott

CHARACTER G Mahoney.

CAKE CONTEST, weight.—Miss Peart, McCashin and Miss

BEAN GUESS.—M Mrs. Delaney.

Mr. W. H. Griffin of three large tents function. It was a

Space will not per- duce the beautiful parishioners to Fat which he made an outlining the future

St. Ann's Young with their usual go presentation of th which aroused much

One of the many t received by Father artistic missal sand the Nuns of Ste. An

The beautiful floral were used in decora at High Mass on Su ated by Miss Gorman and Mrs. Durnynck.

Since writing the concerning the "Gar learn that by requ it was continued on Thursday evenings. evening a grand pro