

CHRISTIAN MOTHERHOOD.

General Intention for February, Recommended and Blessed by His Holiness Pius X.

The fourth commandment given to us by God Himself is a formal order to honor our father and our mother. To these two creatures, as the authors of our physical being and the representatives near us of divine authority, is prescribed a homage second only to that which we owe to the Creator. The reason is because parenthood is a holy thing. In all ages, even during the centuries of paganism, a halo of love and respect surrounded the names and persons of father and mother. Not to love the authors of one's days was, amongst the ancients, a sign of unutterable degradation. But pagan love was a sentiment rarely hallowed by supernatural motives. The advent of the Redeemer and the influence of His doctrines, which permitted us to add to the name of father and mother the epithet of Christian, and to practice all that this word stood for, modified the relations of parent and child, and raised what was a purely natural affection to a higher plane.

If children must needs love their parents, as they are all taught to do, parents on their side have corresponding obligations towards their children. In the Intention for the present month we are asked to remind Christian mothers of a few of their privileges and responsibilities. The age in which we live, or rather its social strenuousness, has blunted in many a mother's mind the perception both of her dignity and of the obligations attached to it.

And yet the vocation to motherhood is the vocation of the greater number. In the eyes of the Church it is a sublime calling, a holy state, one that supposes the exercise of noble and lofty virtues, and to which are added great responsibilities. If all the so-called Christian mothers recognized the apostolic nature of their vocation, we should soon see a transformation of the family spirit throughout the world. Worldliness and its maxims would be banished from the home; God and His amiable laws would rule therein; and coming generations would feel the strengthening effects.

What are the teachings of nature and the Gospel on the mission of motherhood? And what are the means placed in the hands of mothers to carry out their mission?

A recent writer tells us that if the heart of man is a masterpiece of the power and goodness of God, the heart of woman is something greater. And among the hearts of women, a mother's heart holds the highest place, because the love of which it is the organ and the symbol, is the purest, most elevating and most powerful of human loves. The Creator has poured into the hearts of mothers inexhaustible treasures of tenderness, of patience and goodness, of sweetness and strength, of devotedness and heroism. Nothing can stay the flow of the love which is the source of all these virtues; nothing can diminish its intensity. A true mother lives on this love; her every breath is a sigh of love like Antigone of old, she was born to love.

When God wished to give us an idea of His love for us, that is, when He wished to make the sinner understand what an ocean of tenderness and mercy is His love, He could do nothing better than compare Himself to a mother. "As one whom a mother caresses, so will I comfort thee." (Is. lxvi.) "I will have mercy on thee more than a mother." (Eccl. iv.) "Can a woman forget her child? and if she should forget, yet will I not forget you." (xlix.)

Now, then, in some way comparable to the love of God for man, is the kind of love that fills a mother's heart. It is the power that moves every fibre of her being. This is so true that when she loses the object of her love nothing can console her. For her there is on earth no further joy, or interest, or peace, or hope. If she overcomes her sorrow, or hides it, the effort is only momentary; she does not wish to pain those around her. If a smile rests on her lips, or a ray of sunshine lights up her brow, it is only an effect of her tenderness to those who are left to her. But the wound is still open and will remain open until death. A true mother, even while bending her head to the will of God, and willingly accepting sacrifices, dies in the hope of seeing the child that was snatched from her.

However, there are other and loftier points of view than a Christian mother, worthy of the name, keeps in sight. She is not satisfied with the love lavished on her through merely natural motives: her religious training and conviction have elevated it

to a higher plane. As a follower of Christ, she sees other horizons whither she can direct her heart and mind. The knowledge that her child has an immortal soul, created to the likeness of God, redeemed by His blood, and destined to eternal happiness with Him, gives a different aspect to her vocation. The examples Christ gave, while on earth, appeal to her heart and console her: for while they eloquently tell her that her motherhood is a holy thing, they also tell her that the objects of her love are the objects of His love as well. Mothers brought their little children to our Divine Lord while He walked through Palestine, "that He might touch them." And when the disciples rebuked the mothers for troubling the Master, Jesus was much displeased and said to them: "Suffer little children to come unto Me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven," and embracing and laying hands on them, He blessed them.

Here we have what must have been, nineteen hundred years ago, the climax of the Jewish mothers' happiness, the spectacle of the amiable Saviour blessing their children. There was a double reason for this happiness, the blessing itself, which was a great grace for the little ones, and, secondly, the implicit approval the Master gave to the intensity of the love which brought mothers to His feet.

Our Lord no longer treads this earth, but His spirit still remains. His desire is to bless little children; and His Church, ever faithful to the traditions He left her, makes every effort to draw children to her, and asks the co-operation of mothers. This is their real mission—to continue the work begun by Christ, to co-operate with the Church in the training of their children, to take human souls, in their weakness and ignorance, and form them in the way of truth and virtue, to dispose them for all that is good and beautiful and eternal.

What are the means that Christian mothers have at their disposal to help them to carry out their mission? There is, first of all, their power of loving which we have just been discussing, and the influence of their love.

Say to mothers what a holy charge is theirs—with what a kingly power might rule the fountains of the newborn mind.

Nothing can resist a mother's love. We may close our eyes to the light, refuse to accept truth, turn our back on virtue: but there is one thing we cannot do—brave a mother's tenderness and tears. Men dead to all sense of honor, pitiless in their impiety, and intense in the fury of their hatred of everything noble and good, have been known to become little children again under the eloquence of a mother's tears.

The second means is prayer. Prayer is help in our misery, hope in our sorrow, strength in our weakness. But a mother's prayers have an efficacy that those of another have not. Is it because her tears so often accompany them? Is it not rather because a mother's prayers spring from the heart, because she feels what she asks? To prove this, it is not necessary to take the spectacle of a mother, for instance, at the bedside of a dying child, when every movement is interpreted, when every sign of coming dissolution, no matter how slow, is watched amid her tears. Her look is one of intense earnestness, because she is peering for a ray of hope. Her face is drawn and ghastly, because her heart is breaking. Her lips are, meanwhile, uttering prayers to God to spare her child, and yet it may be that God does not heed her, for God knows best. This praying to God for purely temporal favors in behalf of those they love is not the highest mission of Christian motherhood. Let us rather take the example of the wayward son, lost to all sentiments of virtue and steeped in vice and sin, who has for many years, like Augustine perhaps, brought sorrow to a desolate home. It is then that a mother's mission should be active. It is then, and we cannot too strongly insist upon it, that God listens to a mother's prayers as He listened to those of St. Monica. "If I prefer Truth above all," wrote the great Augustine, "if I love only it, if I am ready to die for it, I owe it to my mother. God could not resist her prayers." If Thou hast not forsaken me, it is because my mother wept night and day, and would have shed her heart's blood for me. What! repel a mother in the most sacred emotions of her heart? This could never be, O God! Thou didst heed the prayers of my mother and didst vouchsafe to listen to her, according to the degree of Thy imitable love.

The third means—a powerful one in the hands of a Christian mother—is the beauty of her home life and the fragrance of her personal virtues. The goodness and the patience which should never falter, the motherly tenderness and the self-sacrifice which may find so many forms of expression in the family circle, are capable of moving the heart of a wayward child. Her personal virtues are love of home and retirement, not seeking elsewhere for either joy or consolation: love of labor and order of economy, so that the temporal well-being of those dependent on her may not be endangered; love of the simple life, so that all that refers to the government of her home may reflect that simplicity which is the virtue akin to greatness. In a mother's hands these personal virtues are a powerful form of apostleship. Queen in her own right, her kingdom is her home, where she rules with regal sway and where she has full scope to exercise her authority.

Love, therefore, prayer, example, are the means that God has placed at the disposal of the mother, and which if rightly applied, are potent enough to transform the world. Let us implore the Sacred Heart of our Lord and her who was the model mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, to give to all those honored with the dignity of motherhood an increase of the virtues so needful for them to carry on their sublime mission among men.—E. J. Devine, S.J., in Messenger of the Sacred Heart.

At the last meeting of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a surprise was in store for their chaplain, Rev. W. E. Cavanagh. After the usual routine business was disposed of, the President, J. L. O'Neill, announced that the division had learned with regret that their worthy chaplain was about to depart from their midst. He said that it was unnecessary to state that during the Reverend Brother's incumbency of office he had endeared himself to every member of the Order, on account of his sterling character and the great interest he had displayed in its welfare and progress.

FAREWELL ADDRESS.

The brothers of the Division had prepared a souvenir and an address in memory of the occasion, which though lacking in its meed of praise, was animated by the sincerity of staunch friendship.

At this juncture the Recording Secretary, Mr. J. H. Farnand, arose and read an address which recounted the history of the Rev. Chaplain's connection with the Order, his devotion to its welfare and progress, and his staunch adherence to the furtherance of the national spirit; and above all his relentless opposition to the liquor traffic, with gratifying results, as a more temperate district than his own parish could not be found, the result of the total abstinence pledge.

The address closed with an expression of sincere sorrow at his departure, but tempered with the fact that he was going to a larger and more metropolitan sphere where his priestly talents would have a larger field for work.

The Vice-President, Mr. H. F. McGurn, then presented a splendid seal leather travelling bag with a complete set of toilet articles.

The reverend gentleman, though taken by surprise, expressed his hearty thanks for such a splendid gift and reception. He stated that he recognized in the presentation the feeling for him more in his priestly capacity, for after all devotion to the clergy, after their country, was the predominating trait of the Celt.

He would still retain his office as Chaplain for some time, as his proximity to Ottawa made the journey to Buckingham quite easy. He closed his remarks with words of advice on the many dangers to be met with in a secular career and hoped that the Division would continue to flourish and prosper.

After many felicitous remarks, the meeting adjourned with the rendering of that grand old anthem, "God Save Ireland."

ST. BRIDGET'S NIGHT REFUGEE.

Report for week ending 18th January, 1906.

The following people had a night's lodging and breakfast: Irish, 144; French, 49; English, 5; other nationalities, 9. Total, 207.

SHE KNEW.

A little Topeka girl came home from church the other day, and was asked what the minister's text was: "I know it all right," she asserted. "Well, repeat it," her questioner demanded. "Don't be afraid, and I will send you a bed quilt," was the astonishing answer. Investigation proved that the central thought of the sermon had been, "Fear not and I will send you a comforter."

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

CONFERENCE AT LAVAL UNIVERSITY.

Last Wednesday evening Abbe Perrier gave a most interesting conference at Laval University on "The rights and duties of fathers of families on the subject of instruction." A large audience greeted the speaker.

LENTE PREACHER AT NOTRE DAME.

It was officially announced on Sunday that the lente preacher at Notre Dame Church would be the Rev. Father Plessis, the noted Dominican. A few years ago Father Plessis preached to immense congregations in Notre Dame, who still remember with pleasure his magnificent discourses.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

At the regular meeting of Loyola Court No. 1461, Catholic Order of Foresters, held in Baby's Hall, corner of Fulford and St. James streets, Mr. Henry B. McCallum installed the following officers for the ensuing year: Rev. Thomas Heffernan, Spiritual Director; S. J. O'Neill, C.R.; W. P. Geraghty, V.C.R.; C. H. Burke, Rec. Sec.; C. A. Fairfield, Fin. Sec.; F. White, Treasurer; W. Donohue, J. Kennedy, N. J. Furlong, trustees; Dr. W. H. Donnelly, Court Physician; A. E. Burns, S.C.; J. J. McGrath, J. C.; J. Madigan, I.S.; J. P. Rice, O.S.

CHOIRMASTER OF NOTRE DAME RESIGNS.

Mr. MacMahon directed for the last time on Sunday last the choir of Notre Dame. Owing to pressure of other duties it is impossible for the gentleman to fulfil his duties as leader. In order to meet the views of His Holiness, plain chant will be almost exclusively adopted. This would necessitate extra choir practices, which Mr. MacMahon, owing to his many and important duties, could not possibly attend. Mr. MacMahon, who is a noted musician, has been choirmaster of Notre Dame for many years, and the news of his resignation has caused widespread regret. The name of Abbe Dupont, of Toulouse, is mentioned as his successor.

ANNUAL MEETING OF CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

The sixth annual meeting of the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Consumption and Other Forms of Tuberculosis will be held in the Railway Committee room of the House of Commons on the 28th of March next. The Hon. Senator Edwards will preside in the afternoon.

In the evening a public lecture will be delivered in the Lecture Hall of the Normal School, by Dr. Arthur B. Richer, of Montreal, which will be illustrated with stereopticon plates showing the stages of consumption and some of the appliances now in use to check and cure the disease. The chair will be taken in the evening by His Excellency Earl Grey.

C.M.B.A. SOCIAL AND EUCHE.

Branch No. 232, C.M.B.A., Grand Council of Canada, will hold under its auspices a big progressive euche party and social in the King's Hall on Friday evening, February 23rd, and the entertainment promises to be one of the most notable of the season. The committee in charge are sparing no efforts, and the arrangements necessary to such a large undertaking have been completed. Refreshments will be served by one of the best caterers in the city, and every detail of that department will be carefully attended to.

Twelve very handsome prizes will be given for the lucky winners, and as this branch has quite a reputation for its euche prizes, the competition is bound to be very keen.

Blasi's orchestra has been engaged to furnish the music for the occasion. The Social Committee held a meeting last evening and from the reports presented the coming social promises to be the most successful ever held by this popular organization.

The tickets are being eagerly sought after, and anyone who has not as yet procured their tickets should do so at once, as they are strictly limited to avoid overcrowding. They may be had from members of the committee only, so those intending to be present on February 23rd should secure them without delay.

R. C. SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS TO RAISE LOAN OF \$250,000.

The Board of Catholic School Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday evening, when it was resolved to petition the Legislature for

power to effect a loan of \$250,000 to erect five new school houses and make repairs to other buildings. The intention is to erect two new schools in the parish to be formed from portions of the parishes of St. James and the Sacred Heart and one in each of the parishes of St. Helen, St. Gabriel and St. Joseph.

Mr. S. D. Vallieres moved a resolution to have all the teachers bound, under penalty of dismissal, to devote themselves exclusively to teaching in the schools under the control of this board.

Mr. Plohe remarked that the small salaries paid the teachers did not justify such a prohibition, and he proposed in amendment that the conditions be limited to the working hours fixed by the rules and regulations of the board. The resolution as amended was passed.

OBITUARY.

DEATH OF BROTHER JOSEPH RAPHAEL.

After a week of intense suffering borne with Christian resignation Brother Joseph Raphael passed away last Saturday at the home of the Marist Brothers. All that medical aid could do was done, but without avail, and the regretted brother passed away surrounded by his family and devoted confreres. The service took place on Tuesday, after which the body was removed to Ilerville to be interred in the community burying ground.

Rev. Matthew O'Keefe, pastor of the Roman Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tewson, Md., died on Sunday last of pneumonia, contracted while responding to calls to attend the sick. He was 78 years old. Father O'Keefe was the last surviving brigade chaplain of the Confederate Army, having been chaplain of Mahone's brigade of the army of Northern Virginia and a close personal friend of General Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis. Father O'Keefe made himself famous throughout the south by his work during the outbreak of yellow fever at Norfolk and Portsmouth in 1855, and in 1869 won the red ribbon of the Legion of Honor by his attendance upon the officers and crew of a fever-stricken French frigate that put in at Hampton Roads. He is said to have died practically penniless, having devoted his large fortune to church work.

JOHN KILFEATHER.

A well known resident of Point St. Charles, died on Saturday at the Royal Victoria Hospital in the person of Mr. John Kilfeather. For many years he has been identified with temperance and other organizations. Mr. Kilfeather leaves a widow and five children to mourn their loss. R.T.P.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE.

Montreal, Jan. 29, 1906.

H. W. Daly, Esq.

Dear Sir,—We beg to convey to you herewith the following resolutions, unanimously adopted at our last monthly meeting:

Whereas, it has been the Divine will of Almighty God to call from the midst of an affectionate family your beloved and esteemed brother, Joseph;

Be it therefore resolved, That the officers and members of St. Gabriel's Young Men's Society extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy to Mr. Daly and family in their sad bereavement.

Be it further resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to our esteemed fellow member, and that they be inscribed upon the minutes of this Society.

Yours respectfully,
(Sgd) W. E. HENNESSEY,
President.
JOSEPH T. MCCARTHY,
Secretary.

ILLNESS OF HON. R. LEMIEUX.

The Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, Solicitor-General, who was announced as one of the speakers at the meeting in favor of Mr. Doran at the Monument National last Tuesday evening, was unavoidably prevented from doing so through illness. He has been ordered to take absolute rest, so was unable to take any active part in the municipal campaign.

FAILURE.

"Oh, George, I don't think that new safety razor of yours amounts to anything at all."

"Why not, dear?"

"Because I tried to use it to-day, and I couldn't do anything with it."

"What were you trying to do with it?"

"I was only trying to sharpen a pencil, and it wouldn't cut a bit."

—Milwaukee Sentinel.

MAYORALTY CONTEST.

The returns from the different wards show that a little over 50 per cent. of the qualified voters cast their ballots for the mayoralty. It can be seen by a glance at the following table how the vote went:

VOTING BY WARDS.

	Ekers.	Doran.
Centre Ward	305	110
East Ward	306	104
Duvernay	621	439
Hochelaga	469	578
Lafontaine	794	451
Papineau	943	623
St. Andrew's	502	307
St. Ann's	800	1358
St. Cunegonde	846	743*
St. Denis	1062	1050
St. Gabriel	479	672
St. George's	762	356
St. Henri	2152	2000
St. James	927	498
St. Jean Baptiste	1187	745
St. Joseph's	797	797
St. Lawrence	1110	702
St. Louis	1474	734
St. Mary's	384	366
West Ward	262	106

Total 16,182 12,739
Majority for Ekers, 3443.

Twenty new figures will grace the council chamber when the new board of aldermen will meet for the inaugural session, while some familiars will be missing. In all six aldermen were defeated. These were St. Denis, Centre; Paquin, St. Denis; Walsh, St. Ann's; Wilson, Hochelaga; Bastien, St. James; Lemay, St. Louis.

It is probable that of the aldermanic results there were only two real surprises, the defeat of Mr. Walsh in St. Ann's, and the victory of Dr. Gadbois in St. Louis.

Ald. Walsh had been looked upon as a particularly strong man in St. Ann's, while Mr. O'Connell's athletic connection as president of the S.A.A. A. helped him.

Four candidates lost their deposits. These are: Foley, St. Joseph's; McLachlan, St. George's; Stewart, St. Joseph; Dandurand, Centre. Mr. Dandurand does not appear to be under a fortunate star in civic elections, as this is the second occasion upon which such a fate has befallen him. When previously with the late James Cochrane, he ran as a mayoralty candidate against Mr. Laporte, he lost his deposit.

Five members of the last Council were returned yesterday, Ald. N. Lapointe, who represented St. Joseph's formerly, elected in St. Cunegonde; Ald. Levy, elected in East Ward; Ald. Stearns in St. George; Ald. De Serres, Centre; Ald. Proulx, St. Jean Baptiste.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY IN THE VATICAN.

The greatest interest has been aroused in art circles in Rome by the unexpected discovery of an artistic treasure within the walls of the Vatican Palace. While some workmen were making repairs in one of the rooms the other day, they found that a partition wall and ceiling concealed four hundred beautiful pictures, which seem to belong to the age of Julius II. No sooner did this find come to light than another followed. It was remarked that one end of the floor of the room was not composed of the same material as the remainder. On closer scrutiny an artistic floor, beautifully inlaid, was found hidden away under the one on which the men stood. The floor, which is splendidly preserved, is at present in the hands of the art workmen of the Vatican palace.

Few of the many who go to view the picture galleries of the Vatican think that one of the most interesting rooms which they enter shared, for nobody knows how long, a fate similar to that of this find. Perhaps some of the most beautiful frescoes in the Papal collection are in the Chapel of St. Lawrence. They were executed by Nicholas V. by Fra Angelico in 1447. At some remote period the chapel was walled up, and soon it passed into oblivion. Bottari, however, who had read of its existence in Vasari, instituted a search for it in the eighteenth century which in the end proved successful. Entering through a window which overlooks the roof of the Sistine chapel, the explorer's enthusiasm was rewarded by beholding the frescoes as fresh and beautiful as the day on which they came from the brush of the famous Dominican.—Standard and Times.

Sickness, ill-will, loss of fortune, separations, loss of friendships, contempt, failures, humiliations—God sends them all, and when they have accomplished their work, they will pass away, and my soul, if it has been at peace, will remain more pure and holy.