

OUR LADY OF LAKE ST. CLAIR.

Last week we spoke of the pastoral visit of His Lordship the Bishop of London through the County of Kent. It is this week our pleasing duty to record his progress in the adjoining county of Essex on a similar mission. On Monday, the 27th, the Bishop, accompanied by the Rev. Father Flannery, St. Thomas, visited Amherstburg, a flourishing and populous mission in the South Riding of Essex. On Sunday morning he administered the rite of confirmation to one hundred and seventy-five persons. His Lordship spoke in the French and English languages, not only on the preparation required for confirmation, but the various duties of a Christian life. On the 29th the Bishop held the exercises of the visitation in the church of St. Joseph, River Canard. This is an exclusively French Canadian parish, in charge of the Rev. Father Marcelline. Here His Lordship confirmed one hundred and fifty persons. He spoke at length in French, as well as the candidates for confirmation as to the parishioners generally. At St. Anne's, a mission in charge of Father Andreux, His Lordship confirmed one hundred and forty persons. Here also, as at Amherstburg and River Canard, the bishop addressed those present in their own beautiful and expressive tongue.

From St. Anne's His Lordship proceeded to Windsor, where, on the 1st of November, he celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. On the 2nd took place the blessing of the new church of Our Lady of Lake St. Clair, at Walkerville, a busy and flourishing village two miles from Windsor. But before speaking of the ceremony of Sunday last, which marks another epoch in the religious progress of the county of Essex, we will, we doubt not, be permitted by our readers to make some reference to Essex, on account of its interesting religious history, its rapid growth in population, its material wealth and climatic advantages. The religious history of Essex is indeed most interesting. Away back in the twilight of Canadian history, early in the eighteenth century, there was a church or mission station at the place now called Sandwich, but then known as Pointe St. Michel. The parish of the Assumption, Sandwich, has formed part successively of the dioceses of Quebec, Kingston and Toronto, and is the mother parish of the county of Essex. In 1782 a church was erected at Pointe St. Michel by the Rev. M. Hubert, then pastor of the place, but afterwards Bishop of Quebec. The new church was the object of a special and signal mark of favor from Pope Pius VI. This was a plenary indulgence to be granted twice a year, once on the Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi, and again on the feast of the Assumption, the patronal festival of the parish. The original copy of the Papal indulgence conferring this privilege, bearing date February, 6th, 1783, is preserved in the archives of the parish. After the departure of the Rev. M. Hubert the Church of the Assumption was attended by the Rev. M. Fréchet, cure of St. Anne's, Detroit, then by the Rev. M. Dufaux, who was for ten years pastor, dying early in September, 1796. The Rev. M. Edmond Burke, Vicar-General, who resided at Rivière au Raisin, attended the mission till the following Christmas. On that happy day the faithful of the parish of the Assumption were delighted by the arrival in their midst of a zealous and distinguished priest who for twenty-eight years was to exercise his holy ministry among them. This was the Rev. J. B. Marchant, priest of St. Sulpice and director of the College of Montreal.

The population of the parish of the Assumption was in 1790, 801, while that of St. Anne's, Detroit, was 1,469. The year 1801 was rendered memorable by the visit to Detroit of Mr. Denaut, Bishop of Quebec, who confirmed in the church of Assumption no fewer than 500 persons. The largeness of this number is not surprising when we consider that this was the first episcopal visitation since that of Mgr. de Pontbriant in 1755.

At the beginning of this century Western Canada was very thinly peopled. The parish of the Assumption of Detroit was the only one in a territory now forming several dioceses. The settlers were scattered all along the river Detroit, Lake St. Clair and a few on the river now known as the Thames. In 1833 two new stations were established, one at St. Pierre on the Thames and the other at Malden or Amherstburg. The mother church—the Assumption of Sandwich, was the place of residence of the pastor, who for many years had to serve either by himself or through his vicar, whenever he could obtain one, the two new stations. St. Pierre was, however, visited but twice in the year. The first vicar of Rev. Cure Marchant was M. Gatiou of Quebec. He came to Sandwich in 1801 and remained five years. M. Joseph Crevier arrived in 1816, some few months after the visit of Mgr. Plessis. M. Marchant died on the 16th of April, 1825. His memory is justly held in veneration to the present day. He remains repose with those of Father Potier and M. Dufaux under the nave of the church not far from the communion table. He was succeeded by his vicar, M. Crevier. Through the solicitude of the latter a community of nuns came to Sandwich to take charge of the girls' school, and for a time there was question of building a convent, but the project fell to the ground and the religious left the parish.

Rev. Angus Macdonell, pastor of St. Raphael's, Glenora, succeeded M. Crevier in 1831. He held the position of pastor of Sandwich for twelve years. He was, however, absent for three years during which time he was replaced, first by M. Yvelin and afterwards by M. Morin. Fathers Hay and Schneider also served at Sandwich as curates during the pastorate of Father Angus Macdonell. The old church was now threatened with ruin, and the parish stood in the face of a pressing necessity to build a new one. Father Macdonell commenced the erection of a beautiful and spacious edifice, the walls of which were hardly completed when he left the mission to be succeeded by the Jesuits. One of the first acts of Bishop Power's episcopal

administration was to restore to the society of Jesus the field of labor won to Holy Church a century before by the apostolic ardor of Fathers De la Richardie and Potier. The coming of the Jesuits changed the face of things at Sandwich. They had at their head a man who, besides a rare administrative talent, was possessed of ardent zeal, a rare gift of speech, and blessed with the heart of an apostle. This was Father Pierre Point. The Jesuits came to Sandwich in August, 1843. God alone knows all the good they accomplished during the sixteen years of their apostolate. Father Point had for assistants at various times—Fathers Nicholas Point, Choue, Duranquet, Chazelle, Joffre, Menet, Ferard, Grunot, Mainguy, and Conilleau. The new church was now rapidly pushed to completion and dedicated in 1846. Ten years later the diocese of Toronto was divided. Out of its western portion was formed the diocese of London, whose first bishop, Mgr. Pinnoneault, obtained from Rome the removal of the Episcopal See from London to Sandwich and went to reside at the latter place towards the close of the summer of 1859.

The formation of the diocese of London gave a new impetus to religion throughout the western peninsula. At the time of its establishment there were but two parishes in the entire county of Essex. But soon after new missions were formed out of the old parish of the Assumption.

Since the accession of the Right Rev. Dr. Walsh to the See of London, more especially, has religion made rapid and marvellous progress in Essex as elsewhere.

There are now in the county of Essex thirteen flourishing parishes, and the Catholic population has increased from 10,429 in 1861 to 19,101 in 1881, the total population in the former year being 25,211, and in the latter 46,992. The parish of Walkerville, the latest erected in Essex by His Lordship, is composed of parts of Sandwich, Windsor and St. Anne's. On Sunday last they had the gratification of seeing their beautiful new church dedicated by His Lordship the Bishop.

This church, the corner-stone of which was laid on the 18th of May last, is one of the finest in the diocese of London. For some time before undertaking the building of this beautiful structure the Bishop saw the necessity of providing his people in that portion of his diocese with additional church accommodation. He visited the locality several times to ascertain the best site for the building, and after due deliberation decided on Walkerville. He entrusted the project to the care of the Very Rev. Dean Wagner, of Windsor, who, last spring, made the purchase of a beautiful site on the banks of the River Detroit.

On the 18th of May last the foundations were so far laid as to permit the blessing of the corner-stone by the Bishop, a ceremony which attracted a large concourse from all the adjoining country. The work of construction was pushed on with vigor by Dean Wagner, and on Sunday everything was in readiness for the dedication.

The church is constructed of red brick, 90x45 feet, with seating room for 500 persons. A winter chapel and sacristy attached measures 36x24 feet, and can accommodate 150 persons. The entire cost of the structure reaches \$12,000. All but \$2,000 of this large amount has been raised and paid by Father Wagner within the space of a few months.

The interior of the church is very fine. The flooring is of maple and the new black ash. The plastering has been done with a neatness and skill reflecting the highest credit on the designers and workmen. The altar is of marble and really elegant in design and execution, bearing very emphatic testimony to the artistic merits and talent of Mr. O'Brien, whose production it is. The windows are of stained glass, the gift of parishioners and friends. Over the altar stands a magnificent statue of "Our Lady of Lake St. Clair," after whom the church is named. The effect, on the whole, is most pleasing.

The ceremony of Sunday morning was quite impressive. It began at 10:30 sharp. The Bishop, vested in full pontificals, was assisted by the Rev. Fathers Coffey, of London, McBrady, of Windsor, and Mungovan, of Sandwich. The Very Rev. Dean Wagner acting as master of ceremonies. Before commencing the ceremonies, the Bishop addressed the large congregation present in the French language. He spoke fluently and vigorously in that tongue, explaining the nature of the rite he was to perform, and complimenting them on the zeal and generosity they had shown in the construction of their beautiful church. He likewise exhorted them to be true to their traditions.

Attended by the clergymen just named, the Bishop then blessed the interior and the exterior of the church. Returning to the sanctuary, he also blessed the statue of Our Lady of Lake St. Clair. High Mass was then celebrated by the Rev. Father Murphy, of Windsor, the Bishop being assisted at the throne by the Rev. Fathers Coffey and Aboulin.

The musical portion of the service was very fine, the Walkerville choir being assisted by some members of the choir of Windsor. At the offertory Mrs. Kilroy sang with finest effect an "Ave Maria," and at the communion the Messrs. Joseph and Clement Janisse, clerk and deputy-choir respectively, of Sandwich, rendered in a most exquisite style an "O Salutaris" which will not soon be forgotten by those present.

The sermon of the day was preached by Rev. Father McBrady, of Sandwich College, in the French language. The rev. gentleman proved himself a thorough master of that beautiful tongue. He explained the purpose of Christ's coming, and His mission on earth. He held that the church had the same mission to fulfill, and that all men were bound to hear and obey the church. He urged them to obedience, fidelity and constancy.

At the conclusion of the service the Very Rev. Dean Wagner informed the congregation that the Bishop had, out of his kind desire to encourage them, made a gift to the church of a magnificent oil painting valued at \$100, to be suspended over the main altar.

The name selected by His Lordship for the new church recalls historical recollections of the most touching interest, especially from the Catholic standpoint. In that precious little volume "Legends of Detroit," we read the story of the baptism of Lake St. Clair.

During the long winter months of 1678-9 there might have been witnessed on the banks of the Niagara River, some five miles above the Falls and near the mouth of what is now known as Cayuga Creek, an undertaking new and unheard of in that locality, and well calculated to excite the wonder and amazement of the savage denizens of the surrounding forests.

It was the building of a ship by the daring band of French explorers under the Sieur de La Salle—the first sailing vessel that ever navigated Lake Erie and the upper lakes, and the pioneer of the vast commerce that now flows these waters.

Through the dreary winter the little band of workmen toiled assiduously, though their food at times was only parched corn, and they had to depend to a great extent on the uncertain supplies of fish and game furnished by the Indians, while spikes, chains, anchors and even cannon had to be carried up the rocky steep from the level of Lake Ontario. The undaunted energy and iron courage of the commander, La Salle, aided by the pious exertions of the Recollet Chaplain, Louis Hennepin, bidding them to labor for the glory of God and the honor of France, made them indifferent to the taunts and jeers of the jealous Indians. Their imaginations were inflamed and their enthusiasm inspired by glorious pictures of the new world to be made in the far West: of the great honors and fortunes all were to acquire; of the new traffic that was to be opened in the hides of the wild caribou that roamed in countless numbers over the plains; of the inexhaustible supply of furs they could draw from the rich mines of Mexico, and of the outlet for all this wealth which was to be found at the mouth of the great Mississippi that La Salle was to open to the ships of France.

The shadows of the summer of 1679 had deepened before the little brigantine of forty-five tons approached completion. The commander had decided to name her the "Griffin," in allusion to the arms of the Comte de Frontenac, whose supporters were "Griffins." An expert wood-carver from Rouen had carved for the ship's prow a wonderful image of the mythical monster, half lion and half eagle, with ears erect, emblematic of strength, swiftness and watchfulness. But among the more pious of the band the name was deemed an evil one, and their superstitious natures conjured up disasters to come. "For," they said, "a vessel constructed for such an enterprise ought to be named after the Blessed Lady, or at least after one of the saints. La Salle laughed at such notions, and tried to impress on the minds of the Frenchmen and Indians that the Griffin was a powerful Manitou, who would protect them from all harm, and guide them safely to their destination.

At last all was ready for the launch—the crew were assembled and the notes of the "St. Denis" floated on the air. A bottle of brandy was broken over the bows of the vessel, and liberal quantities distributed among the Indians. A salute was fired from the seven guns, ranged along the decks, and amidst the enthusiastic shouts of "vive le Roi!" the vessel glided from her ways, and floated on the waters of the Niagara River. The indignation of the Indians who were watching, and who had never dreamed it possible to launch her, knew no bounds. At last she was beyond their power to destroy by fire, which they had several times attempted. La Salle, with a number of his men, had returned to the shore and noticed the chagrin of the savages, pointed to the flag with a Griffin emblazoned thereon, proudly waving from the masthead, and tauntingly exclaimed: "Now you can see the eagle flying above the ship," alluding to the black-gown Jesuits whom he deemed his enemies and what was worse, entirely too friendly with the Iroquois.

On this the noted prophet Metiomek could no longer contain himself, and exclaimed: "Great Chief, you are too proud. You have shown contempt for the Great Spirit who rules all things, and you have set up an evil spirit on His throne. You seek the tribes of the west to trade with them and to destroy them with your cursed fire-water. You sneer at the 'black-gowns' Ontario sent us, who have taught us to worship the Great Spirit and till the ground. But Metiomek, the prophet of his race, bids you beware; darkness, like a cloud, is ready to envelop you—the Christian Indian's curse rests on you and on your great ones. She will sink beneath this deep waters and your blood shall stain the hands of those in whom you trusted!"

As Metiomek gave utterance to this prophecy in deep and impressive tones, amidst the most solemn silence, Fathers Hennepin and Zenoib looked serious, and the sailors ominously whispered to each other their apprehensions, but La Salle, with his usual exuberance of spirit, carelessly laughed away the rebellious mutterings which fluttered like a light cloud over the assembly.

On August 7, 1679, the great square sails of the brigantine were set, and La Salle, mounting the lofty stern, gave orders to take a course of west by south, and sailed away on the unknown waters. Despite the prophecy, the voyage was most prosperous, and favorable winds carried them twenty leagues the first night. On the 8th they made forty-five leagues and passed a point which they named St. Francis (now Long Point). On the 9th they passed Point au Pelee; and on the 10th, the feast of St. Lawrence, they saw the Trois Seurs (Three Sisters' Islands), standing like the three Parcs, guarding the terrestrial paradise of Lake Detroit.

As they sailed by Grosse Isle and the adjacent island, their spirits were wonderfully exhilarated. "We found," says Father Hennepin in his journal, "the country on both sides of this beautiful strait, adorned with fine open plains. Any number of stags, deer, bear (by no means fierce), and very good and fat poultry (hides in abundance, and all kinds of game. The vessel's guys were loaded and decked with the

wild animals our French and Indian hunters shot at a dressed. The islands on both shores of the strait are covered with primeval forests, fruit trees, like walnuts, chestnuts, plums and apple trees, wild vines loaded with grapes, of which latter some were gathered, and a quantity of wine was made. The vast herds of deer surprised us all, and it appears to be the place of all others where the deer love to congregate." And so the pioneer ship sailed up "Le Detroit," or the strait now called the Detroit River and passed the site of the present great city. They noticed on shore the spot where ten years before Dollier and Gallinee (who had visited these regions in a birch bark canoe) had broken in pieces the painted stone idol, worshipped as a Manitou by the Indians. They saw on the border of the forests the Indian village of "Touchea Grande," and, to impress the fleeing savages, gave them a grand salute from the guns—but the boat glided too rapidly for them to hear the imprecations hurled after them by the Indians, and the winds kindly swept them away from the European ears. "May the Manitou whom we worship," they shouted, "and Wis Kin, devour the evil pale face who comes among us with his white winged bird vomiting forth fire, smoke and thunder; and may the Manitou whom the black-gowns cast in the lake many moons ago so trouble our waters, that their canoe shall find no rest thereon and be drawn down to the home of the evil spirit at the bottom of the lake." Inconsistencies of the malevolent evoked by the savage foes, the Griffin passed Belle Isle into a circular-shaped lake at the head of the river.

The summer sun was setting and flooding the waters with its golden hues—the soft sound of the vesper bell died away in sweet cadences. The little band of hardy explorers fell on their knees, giving thanks to Heaven for their prosperous voyage. On the lofty stern of the vessel was Robert Cavalier de la Salle, future explorer of the Mississippi; by his side Henri de Tonty, his captain of brigade; near by, his partners in the enterprise, the Sieur de Boironnet and the Sieur d'Autray, and also the notary Jacques La Mettrie and Jean Michel the surgeon. Sixteen French voyageurs and a small number of Indians comprised the crew. As they rose from their devotions Father Louis Hennepin addressed them a short discourse, and concluded by saying: "This is the feast of St. Claire, let us commemorate it by bestowing her name on this beautiful sheet of water. I hereby solemnly baptize it Lac Sainte Claire, by which it will be henceforth known." In many a bumper of christened lake in the Detroit River region, the Griffin's journey to Lake Michigan, where La Salle felt in order to pursue his discoveries, his vain effort to find the mouth of the great river he had explored while on his second expedition from France, and the closing of his adventurous career by the murderous hands of his men are events which have illustrated many a glorious page of our history. The attempt of the vessel to return loaded with a precious cargo of furs is mentioned, but uncertainty throws its melancholy shadow over its subsequent fate and that of its daring crew. But Indian tradition sees the angry Manitou of the water surround the ill-fated ship and drift her into unknown realms and bright moonlight nights they hear a full chorus of many voices chanting the evening hymn, and frequently the image of a phantom ship is seen in the clouds.

To convey some idea of the material wealth and varied productions of the County of Essex we will cite from the Ontario agricultural report (1881) which that week supplied us with such valuable information concerning the County of Kent:

In this county settlement was commenced as early as 1700, principally by French Canadians, which nationality is still strongly represented in certain localities, particularly in East and West Sandwich. Six townships are reported as still under process of settlement—the remainder are settled.

The general character of the soil is good. It consists, for the most part, of black loam, with clay subsoil—in one or two townships sandy loam predominates, with clay, sand and, in some cases, a gravelly subsoil. The depth of soil varies from four inches to three feet, but generally it is from twelve to eighteen inches. There is a good deal of marshy land in the Township of Anderton and Malden, which is set down as unfit for cultivation, but which may be rendered cultivable by a proper system of drainage. There is no stony or hilly land in the county—all is rolling, with the exception of the bottom lands, which are reported to be in the proportion of 26 per cent. The cultivation of the soil is undergoing steady improvement. About 81 per cent. of the cultivable land is reported first class for agricultural purposes; about 12 per cent. second-class, and the remainder third-class.

Except in the Townships of North Colchester and East Sandwich, the county is well watered by springs, rivers and creeks. Water can be obtained by digging at a depth of four to one hundred feet. In some townships wells are dug to hold the surface water. In Rochester Township artesian wells are bored through blue clay to a depth of one hundred feet.

The price of farms varies according to the quality of the land, the improvements made thereon, and the character of the farm houses and outbuildings. First-class farms fetch from \$30 to \$65 per acre, partially improved farms, from \$20 to \$30 per acre; bush lands, \$15 to \$30 per acre, according to the quality of the timber thereon.

About 44 per cent. of the cultivable land is clear of stumps. There are no pine stumps anywhere in Essex. The fences appear to be exceptionally good, particularly the road fences, which are made of split rails and are commonly used. Board fences are being introduced on the highways.

About 41 per cent. of the farm houses are of brick, stone, or first-class frame—the remainder are of log or inferior frame. About 39 per cent. of the outbuildings are reported first class; the remainder are inferior.

Very little under-draining has been

done except in the Township of Gosfield. No report has been received as to the proportion in which tiles are used. In Gosfield 1,000 acres have been under-drained. But the Ontario Drainage Act, for the reclamation of wet lands, has done wonders for Essex. Under this Act thousands of acres have been brought into cultivation, and are to-day yielding a profitable return from land that was till recently, all but worthless.

Nearly all the farmers use improved labour-saving machines. The exceptions may be found on farms not sufficiently cleared of stumps to render the employment of machines desirable.

The soil in Essex seems to have retained a good deal of its primitive richness, and little necessity has yet been experienced for the introduction of artificial manures. In some instances, however, plaster and salt have been used, mostly for corn and clover.

The whole of the uncleared lands in Essex are reported suitable for cultivation when cleared. In West Sandwich some of the uncleared land would have to be drained before being brought under tillage.

The chief products of Essex are corn, wheat, oats, fruit (apples, peaches, pears and grapes), tobacco, sugar cane, sorghum, beef, pork, cheese and butter. The soil is equally adapted to stock raising, grain growing, or dairying.

Nearly two-thirds of the county is still under bush, but there are indications of rapid depletion. No less than twenty-five mills are at work cutting whitewood (tulip), oak, ash, elm, hickory, bass, sycamore, and other woods, for exportation as lumber to the United States, where it is used for various manufacturing purposes. This industry, it is said, brings into the county every year over half a million of dollars, and gives employment to large numbers of workmen during the winter—in fact, to the extent of leaving none unemployed. Charcoal burning is also a newly developed industry, which must help to diminish the area of uncleared land. There are thirty charcoal kilns in the county, consuming 600 cords of wood weekly. The charcoal is shipped to the United States and used for iron smelting.

The female descendants of the early French settlers in this county are experts in the braiding of straw hats and in the knitting of woollen socks. These two industries are estimated to produce about \$95,000 annually—the city of Detroit having, it is stated, paid the French Canadian women of Essex \$30,000 last year for straw braids alone. The braid is also exported to the East and even to South America and Mexico, where it is made up into fashionable shapes and commands a ready sale. A manufactory has been in operation at Walkerville, for the last two years, for the production of glucose (sugar). Glucose is the basis of being of lager beer and in the manufacture of confectionery. Combined with syrup of sorghum, it will probably be extensively used in the production of molasses, a common grade of which is already made by Essex farmers exclusively from the sorghum. The cultivation of sorghum has already been so successfully prosecuted that one farmer is reported to be growing five or six acres, which yield him six barrels, or about 300 gallons per acre. This is sold at about 50 cents per gallon. The Early Amber sugar-cane is also being introduced, and hopes are entertained that sugar making will, hereafter, be carried on on a large scale.—A not unimportant industry, and one likely to have increased development, is that of the fishery on the river and lakes bordering three sides of the county. The fish hatchery at Sandwich will probably be the means of maintaining the supply of fish, and, perhaps, of increasing it. It is estimated that the whitefish and herring caught in these waters have an annual value of \$60,000.—Bee-keeping, on the best known scientific principles, is beginning to attract attention as an industry. Though, as yet, carried on in a small way, the experiment is pronounced to be entirely successful.

Essex, per excellence, a fruit growing county. The Catawba grape grows to perfection in the Pelee Islands in Lake Erie, on the south coast of Essex. Pear trees, known to be at least a hundred years old, bear abundantly—from ten to fifteen bushels being taken from a single tree. Fall and winter apples are also on abundant and certain crops. Peaches, plums, and all the smaller fruits, grow without culture, and pay well when attended to.

The population of Essex, according to the census of 1871, was 32,697. The market facilities of Essex are reported to be generally good. Amherstburg, Windsor, Chatham and Detroit are within easy distance. The Canada Southern and Great Western Railways traverse the county, besides which there are several shipping ports on Lakes Erie and St. Clair.

It will thus be seen that the county of Essex, while one of the most populous, is likewise one of the very wealthiest in the province. From the materials as well as from the religious standpoint it has before it a future of happiest promise.

BAZAAR.

We have very great pleasure this week to make announcement of the intention and purpose of the Catholic ladies of London to hold during Christmas week a Bazaar in aid of the cathedral fund. The preliminary steps have been already taken to inaugurate the good work, His Lordship the Bishop lending his patronage and encouragement to the undertaking. Many prices of great value have been already donated by friends and many more have been promised. A lively and thorough canvass of the city has been commenced and everywhere, we may say, the ladies have received a generous encouragement from the citizens of London. We cannot refrain making special mention of the cordiality with which so many of our Protestant fellow-citizens have extended their aid to this Bazaar. Their large-heartedness does them credit and reflects honor upon this community. We hope that our friends throughout Western Ontario and elsewhere will, when invited as they soon will be to co-operate in the enlargement of the Cathedral fund, gladly do so, that they may be able to lay just claim

to the satisfaction and distinction of having contributed to the erection and completion of the cathedral church of London.

Redemptorist Mission.

On Sunday, the 26th of October, the Rev. Fathers Miller and Kautz, of the congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, opened a renewal mission in St. Alphonsus' Church, Windsor. The renewal mission was attended with the same alacrity as the first. Rev. Father Zinnen for five days conducted the exercises of the renewal of the French mission. The attendance in this case was also most gratifying. The number of communions reached the large number of 1,000. The mission was, on the evening of the 2nd, brought to a close by the Rev. Father Miller in a powerful discourse. The church was crowded to repletion. Just before the sermon Father Miller blessed the mission cross erected near the sanctuary, as a memorial of its grace. The rev. gentleman then preached on the lessons of the cross. For fully an hour he discoursed on the solemn teachings of the instrument of human redemption. He said that this cross pointed both upward and downward—upward to incite us to direct our thoughts on high, and to lead us to direct our actions to the attainment of God and Heaven. Holy Church, day after day, in her own sublime language, invited us to raise our hearts on high, to keep them above the allurements and defilements of the world. If in the past we have not heeded that invitation we should do so now. The occasion was propitious—it was most promising. They had just discarded sin, they had freed themselves from the enslavement of Satan. Now, indeed, it was that they should look upward, with hope and resolve and courage. Now it was that they should be resolved to live in the love and filial fear of God, firmly purposing to take no retrograde step, never to become guilty of the folly of any downward movement. The cross pointed also to the right and the left. On the last day all men would be judged by an infallible Judge. The just would then take their places on the right, the wicked on the left. Which side should the Christian choose—the right or the left? Ah! he had no doubt as to the choice they would make. He knew they were now earnest in the service of God, and that never more would they consent to separate themselves from His service. Their desire was to be on the right, where they would hear the glad-some invitation addressed to the blessed to enter into the joys of the Lord forever. Their desire was to be faithful, that the Just Judge might welcome them among his elect.

Father Miller spoke of another lesson of the cross. With faltering words, and accents broken by sorrow, and well nigh hushed by death, Christ had from the cross given us Mary for our Mother. In that divine Mother we had an all-powerful mediator. Our good resolutions we should place at her feet. She was a true, tender and loving Mother—ever ready to extend us her protection when we sought it with confidence. To Mary, then, we should have recourse, that our resolutions may be blessed and our purposes strengthened—that our lives may be marked by fidelity and constancy in the service of God, and our deaths be those of the just who die in the Lord. The rev. gentleman then imparted the papal benediction, which was followed by benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament.

The splendid marble altar of St. Alphonsus' Church was one blaze of light, and looked resplendent in its gorgeous ornamentation. This altar, we may say, is a veritable chef d'œuvre of artistic skill and finished workmanship. It is kept in keeping with the fine Church, which is the just pride of the Catholics of Windsor, the consolation of Dean Wagner, and the joy of the entire diocese of London.

Father Wagner has labored with such a singleness of purpose, such a devotion to religion, as to win the ready and affectionate co-operation of his people. Hence his success in all his works. This season he had the gratification of witnessing the completion of the spire of St. Alphonsus', which may be seen far and wide, casting the beautiful shadow of its golden cross over the whole town of Windsor, and for miles up and down the river Detroit. The cost of completing this exquisite monument of architectural skill was \$2,000. It is, we believe, purpose within a few months to decorate the interior of the edifice in a manner according with its fine proportions and external beauty. If Father Wagner have at heart, as all know he has, the promotion of religion by the employment of those aids which the fine arts can supply, he loses no opportunity of providing his people with the advantages of those more powerful incentives to Christian life, spiritual retreats and the earnest preaching of the Word of God. The mission just closed in Windsor is one of many testimonials to this thoughtful and solicitous so well worthy a zealous pastor. The memory of the Redemptorist mission will long remain green in the hearts of the Catholics of Windsor. It was for them a season of benediction, peace, and holy joy. They will never forget the zealous and unremitting labors of the good fathers. By their instrumentality peace has been restored to many a soul—peace that will, we cannot doubt, prove abiding. They bring with them many hearty prayers for success in their arduous labors.

On Sunday, the 2nd, the Rev. Father Kautz opened the renewal mission in Malden. On Monday, the 3rd, he was joined by Father Miller. The mission will close on Friday next.

CONVERSION.

On Saturday, the 1st of November, Mr. John Williams, of Windsor, was received into the bosom of Holy Church in the convent chapel of that town. He had the happiness of receiving the holy rite of baptism from His Lordship the Bishop of London, who, on the same day, likewise administered confirmation to the young convert. Mr. Williams on the morning of Sunday, Nov. 2nd, had the happiness of the first, of partaking of the Eucharistic banquet. We wish him many long years of peace and happiness in the unity of the faith.