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# The True Witness

Vol. LVII., No. 29

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1908

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## Charging For Masses.

1. Why do priests charge for Masses they say for the repose of the souls of the dead?

2. Is the practice of charging a fee for such service sanctioned by the Church?

3. Why are priests permitted to charge a fee of one dollar for each Mass they say for the repose of a soul when no fee is allowed for the remission of sins of the living?

4. Where, on November 2, each year the priest secures from a number of the members of his congregation a list of deceased members of the family and one dollar with each list, are the Masses which he afterwards says for the dead offered only for the repose of the souls of the persons whose names are on his lists?

5. Why are Masses sometimes said for the repose of the soul of some particular person, instead of having each Mass said for the repose of every soul in Purgatory?

6. If a Mass is said for the repose of the soul of John Jones, and his spirit has already gone to heaven or to hell, is the benefit of the Mass lost so far as the souls in Purgatory are concerned?

who furnished them participated in a certain special manner in the Mass and obtained of its fruits in greater abundance. This custom is still maintained in some corners of the earth. But the practically universal custom now good in all countries taking the place of the old custom since the twelfth century is the offering of a certain stipulated sum of money.

This sum in the United States is regulated by Church law at one dollar. A priest must take no less, though he may not accept anything and say the Mass for charity. He may receive more, though he cannot demand it, but from the generosity of the offerers. The regulated stipend, as this offering is called, varies in various countries according to the cost of living and the value of money.

Answer 4.—As regards question 4, the custom is not common to the Church, and is practised in only a very limited number of parishes and each, I believe, varies in method from others. Hence you will have to refer to some priest whom you know to have this custom and find out his method and his reasons for doing so.

Answer 5.—Mass is sometimes said for the repose of the soul of some particular person for just about the same reason that Christmas presents are now being given to some particular persons, and not scattered promiscuously on all. That is, because some friend wishes to have it thus offered and as some friend wishes to bestow a present.

But if Mass is sometimes said for a particular soul, there is a beautiful prayer in every Mass said, whether for the living or for the dead, for the repose of all the souls in Purgatory. It is found in the canon of the Mass, and consequently is unchangeable and must always be said. It is as follows: "To these, O Lord, and to all who rest in Christ, grant, we beseech Thee, a place of refreshment, light and peace. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen."

There is a Mass for the misal called the daily Mass for all souls, and priests say it very often. About one-fourth of all the Masses I or any other priest says are for "the poor souls," for the souls in Purgatory as per intention of the offerers. And often this intention is made so as to include the "most abandoned and who have no one to pray for them." So, just as various individuals who are charitable and have the means, and various societies, provide Christmas presents and Christmas dinners for the poor and the waifs and the abandoned, so Masses are said not only for particular souls in Purgatory, but for all; and as the State officials order prisons and reformatories (and they are good types of Purgatory) provide good things for their wards, so does holy Church and her officials provide for the general alleviation of all her children who are imprisoned and being purified in Purgatory.

Answer 6. The benefit of a Mass said for the repose of the soul of John Jones, whose spirit has already gone to heaven or hell, is no more lost than a check sent to the same John Jones on earth. The check is returned to the sender. If possible, if not, it is sent to the common treasury and used for purposes specially designed by the Government. So if his soul is either saved and gone to heaven, he does not need the benefit; or is gone to hell, it is of no use to him, it goes to the treasury of the Church, and is passed out to those whom it will benefit. God is the superintendent of this treasury, and He knows how to dispense its treasures. The Pope, as His vice-president, sometimes calls on it for indulgences for those who have done a service with the intention of gaining indulgences.

It is true of all Masses that they are offered first to Almighty God, but particularly of Masses said for the departed, which are offered by way of suffrage to God to apply them to this or those souls mentioned, or as He sees fit.

These questions came not through the mission question box, as usually, but by letter, and we are pleased because they give us a chance to bring out interesting things on this subject.—From the Apostolate.

thony's parish, and the event was celebrated with much enthusiasm. In the afternoon the large hall in the basement of the church was taxed to its utmost capacity with the school children of the district, and their little friends.

The evening's programme consisted of orchestral numbers, recitations, songs, choruses, exercises in physical culture and two dramas, entitled respectively, The Secretary and Roderick Dhu. Fully five hundred of the parents were in attendance.

The entertainment was carried out in a manner indicative of earnest purpose and the efforts of an organization such as this deserves the greatest encouragement.

A short statement of parish affairs will prove interesting. The following are the figures as taken from a statement of the parish for the year 1907 just ended: Births, 212, of which boys 108, girls 104. Marriages during the year, 61, 10 of which were mixed marriages. The ordinary revenue of the church for the year amounted to the handsome sum of \$11,544.25.

**ST. JOSEPH'S HOME.**  
The Christmas gifts to the Home were not so numerous this year, owing to the removal from the old quarters on Wellington street. However, the good matron is not complaining, as the St. Gabriel's Juvenile Temperance Society have tickets printed for an entertainment to be given by them early next month for this most charitable cause. The gifts during the last two months were: a turkey, two bags of oranges and a bag of candies from Mrs. Bumbray; seven lbs. of flour, five lbs. of sugar, two dozen oranges, one dozen bananas and one pound raisins from a friend; a box of oranges from Mr. Callahan, of the Fruit Exchange; two turkeys from Mr. James McCrory, a turkey and candies from Miss Curran, a box of candies from Mr. Gordon, a Christmas cake from Mrs. J. Gallagher, a selection of plants from Mrs. Piroteau, a bag of sugar from Mr. P. A. Milloy. Mr. R. Bickerdike, the Home's first friend, sent ten dollars to buy candies; the candies were furnished as above, and the ten dollars are in the bank. Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Quinn, Mrs. Duggan, Quebec; Mr. McCarthy, Henryville, and Mr. Hughes added each five dollars to the homestead fund. Mr. Jackson contributed four dollars, Mr. A. Woods two dollars and Mrs. Shanahan, Mrs. J. Gallagher, Mrs. Cunningham and Mrs. Craig, one dollar each. May God reward all for their kindness. A letter received last week from Quebec has the following very interesting news: "Some three months ago you gave me a small box of your salve. It worked charmingly on a man here who had become a severe sufferer from piles. It seemed that nothing could relieve him but an operation. I thought of your salve and how you recommended it. I gave it to the party to use or not use, just as he pleased. He used it, and was perfectly cured on the third application of the salve. Now, there is another man here who has been the victim of what seems to be an incurable form of eczema. May I ask you to come to the aid of this poor man? When I gave the salve in the first case, I confess that I believed it would do no good. May I not do good in the second case? I hope so, if you will be so good as to send some of it." Of course the salve was sent, the same as it will be sent to any sufferer who will send his address to No. 26 Overdale avenue, Montreal.

**ST. GABRIEL.**  
The monthly meeting of the Young Men's Society took place on Sunday, the 13th inst. This being the first meeting of the year, one of the orders of the day was the election of officers, which resulted as follows: President, Dr. B. A. Conroy; vice-president, Mr. Charles Thompson; Rec. Sec., Mr. J. Marnell. Some fifteen or eighteen presented themselves for admission into the society. It is expected during the season that there will be a number of social events, eueches, snow-shoe tramps and literary nights.

The new convent which was opened in the parish in September last, is achieving success even beyond the expectations of its warmest friends and most earnest supporters. Built with a view of coping with the demands of the district, for at least the present generation, it seems probable that it will be taxed to almost its entire capacity. A portion of the new building was laid out with the intention of accommodating boarders. Already there are quite a few names upon the roll, not only from the city but also from California and North and South Dakota. Under whose able direction the house has been placed, we wish that success which is the just reward of their untiring zeal.

**ST. MICHAEL'S.**  
The members of St. Michael's parish held a eueche on Wednesday evening of last week, in their new school hall, the object in view being to obtain funds for the maintenance of the parish school, which has proved such a boon. The entertainment was in the hands of the promoters of the Sacred Heart League, and nothing was left undone to make the event all that could be expected. The attendance was large and the enthusiasm which prevailed throughout the entire evening justified the brightest expectations of the promoters of the good work. Numerous valuable prizes were donated.

Rev. Father Kiernan, while looking with gratitude and pleasure upon all the good work already done, hopes to again meet his many friends and well-wishers, both in the parish and elsewhere, during the last week in February, with this motto always in the foreground: "Do better the next time." "Nothing too good for our guests."

**FRANCISCAN MONASTERY.**  
On last Sunday, the Feast of the Holy Name was celebrated in the various churches of the city. At the Franciscan Monastery, the monthly gathering of the English-speaking men's fraternity presented a most edifying spectacle. At the appointed hour, quite a large number was present, and after the recitation of the office, Rev. Father Ethelbert, O.F.M., having made the usual announcements, preached a powerful and eloquent sermon wherein he referred to the feast of the day and also to the immense love and veneration of the Seraphic Father, St. Francis, for the sacred Name. Then followed the admission of several members into the different degrees of the Order; and all was brought to a close by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament; thus adding another link to the bright chain of consolations so keenly felt by those who have the happiness of enjoying the blessings of a membership in the Third Order.

**CATHOLIC TOTAL ABSTINENCE UNION.**  
As will be noticed elsewhere in our issue, the above society will hold a grand illustrated Lecture in St. Ann's Hall on February 11 next. The above lecture has for its object the furtherance of the Temperance cause and the providing of funds wherewith to maintain the Union. There will also be a programme of vocal and instrumental music in keeping with the occasion.

When all other corn preparations fail, try Holloway's Corn Cure. No pain whatever, and no inconvenience in using it.

**ST. BRIDGET'S NIGHT REFUGE.**  
Report for week ending Sunday, 19th January, 1908: Irish, 169; French, 42; English, 29; other nationalities, 28.—Total, 268.

**CARD OF THANKS.**  
The young ladies of St. Ann's parish beg to thank the many friends who donated prizes and refreshments for their eueche in aid of the library.

**CORRECTION.**  
In the list of prizes and prize donors appearing in our columns last week Mr. Ryan's donation was a handsome bottle of perfume, Golf Queen, won by Mr. Duffy, and Miss Guineau should have been Miss Guineau.

**Catholic Total Abstinence Union.**  
The meetings of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union are being largely and enthusiastically attended, and many questions relative to temperance discussed. The principal one now under consideration are: The early closing by-law, Sunday liquor selling, grocers retailing liquor by the glass. The result of the deliberations on the above questions will be reported at a later date.

The members of the Council are now busily engaged making preparations for the grand illustrated lecture and musical entertainment to be given by them on Feb. 11, 1908, in St. Ann's Hall, for the purpose of securing funds to extensively carry on their work in the cause of temperance.

**Feast of the Apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes.**  
By a recent decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, the feast of the Apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes, which falls on the 11th of February, is extended to the whole Church. Hitherto the celebration of this feast has been restricted to particular dioceses and religious communities. The extension of the privilege is due to the Holy Father's personal devotion to Our Lady conceived without sin, whose intercession he constantly invokes for the peace and prosperity of the Church. This year is the golden jubilee of the apparition at Lourdes, the truth of which has been confirmed by some of the most extraordinary miracles on record in modern times.

A Requisite for the Rancher.—On the cattle ranges of the West where men and stock are far from doctors and apothecaries, Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil is kept on hand by the innkeepers and cattlemen. It is a ready made medicine, and a horse and cattle medicine, and a rancher will find matters greatly simplified by using this Oil.

## Bustling Business

If you haven't attended our sale, don't delay. We have special bargains in men's furnishing every day this month.

20% discount is taken off every sale, but we are giving 25% and 30% on some lines.

On sale now—Natural all wool underwear, regularly sold for 90c. Sale price 66c.

Clergymen—Roman Collars in all sizes.

**BRENNAN'S**  
2 Stores: 251 St. Catherine St. West  
7 " " " East

## Remember Our New Address.

The True Witness has removed to its new premises, 316 Lagachetiere Street West, where we are equipped for all kinds of Job work, from a visiting card to a poster.

GIVE US A CALL.

**The True Witness,**  
316 LAGAUCHETIERE ST. W.  
BELL TEL. MAIN 5072.

## Concerning the Papal States.

In the course of the present crisis in France, Catholics have noted more than once the readiness with which the French Government enters into any course of action which will enable it to play before the world the role of ignoring the right of the Papacy to anything like diplomatic treatment, on the ground, presumably, that the Church is but a spiritual power which through aggression and intrigue, won for itself early in its history the possessions which were wrested from it nearly forty years ago. An article published in the Etudes Franciscaines (Paris), treating of the beginnings of the temporal power of the Popes, throws an interesting light on the nature of a sovereignty which had never been contested for at least ten centuries, and which is virtually acknowledged at the present day by every State in the world with the exception of France. The article is from the pen of Father d'Alencon, a Franciscan. The reverend author proposes to do away with the myth that the Pontifical States were the fruits of usurpation on the part of successive Popes. It is, says Father d'Alencon, beyond question that a time was when the Papal States did not exist. Nay, more, it is also certain that the Pope was at first one of the subjects of the Roman Empire, subsequently of the royal Goths of Ravenna and ultimately of the emperors of Constantinople. History demonstrates very clearly that the territory of the sovereign pontiffs came to them gradually and in the course of the simple evolution of events.

my. There being no longer a Duke of Rome, the Bishop of the Eternal City succeeded naturally to the exercise of supreme power. At the opening of the 8th century there were besides the Sovereign Pontiff, some twenty-five cardinals who formed the papal council and the whole personal following of the Pope naturally gravitated to the Lateran when the Government of the States was formed along the curial, ecclesiastical and administrative lines which prevail to a great extent to our own days. Of these functions, some became laicised in the course of time, others remaining peculiar to ecclesiastics.

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With the growth of the ecclesiastical body and the diffusion of great wealth, princely estates were being daily added to the papal territories, some of them belonging to the religious orders, others to the prelates of the Church, but all coming by degrees under the rule of the Pope. The latter was no longer the functionary of a foreign power and no sovereign entered his domains without first paying him homage. When international law came to decide the customs and usages to be observed between nations, ambassadors were appointed from all civilized countries to the papal court, which in its own turn appointed nuncios to the courts of the various sovereigns. The date of the founding of the temporal power of the Popes may be placed at 800. That its political influence was enormous, some seventy-five years later, is evident from the fact that at the death of Louis the Second of France, of the two competitors (Carloman and Charles the Bald) for the crown, Pope John VIII. accepted Charles the Bald to govern the country of the Franks. No one requires to be told what the papal influence amounted to in the reign of Henry II of England, what role it played in Europe during the 13th century, how it fought the Lutheran schism of the 16th century, what its influence meant in wars of the succession, how its action in the Catholic courts of Europe helped to bring about the fall of Napoleonism. A cursory study of lay history demonstrates clearly the power which the Popes have ever exercised on the history of the human race; while a study of the periodical literature of the past twenty-five years shows what part the sovereign Pontiffs still plays in the councils of men. Without the Popes, says Father d'Alencon, Rome might long ago have undergone the fate of Carthage or Babylon. It is an added glory to the Papacy that it saved for all time ancient Rome.—N. Y. Freeman's Journal.

These two desirable qualifications, pleasant to the taste and at the same time effectual, are to be found in Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator. Children like it.

## Parish News of the Week.

**ST. ANN'S PARISH.**  
The number of men who come to the Holy Family meetings on the second and fourth Thursdays is increasing, but it will be a long time before the church is filled twice a week, as it is in Limerick.

A grand anniversary service was held last Tuesday at 8 o'clock for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Kane.

Rev. Father Rioux went east on a visit to his brother, parish priest, of Bic.

Three old landmarks have disappeared during the past week: Mr.

Patrick Moran, of Colborne street, Mr. Moses Donovan, of St. Etienne street, and Mr. McEvoy, father of Dr. McEvoy, Wellington street, have joined the great majority. May their souls rest in peace.

There were in this parish during the year 1907 one hundred and ninety-seven baptisms, forty-four marriages and eleven conversions from heresy.

**ST. ANTHONY'S.**  
Last Friday was the anniversary of the establishment of the Juvenile T. A. & B. Society in St.