

NOTES FROM ST. PATRICK'S.

At High Mass on Christmas Day, Father Callaghan expressed his best wishes as follows:

Midnight Mass was sung by the pastor, having as deacon Father McGinnis, and subdeacon Father P. Haderman.

On Sunday afternoon, the eve of Xmas, the catechism children, under the care of Father McGinnis, had a Santa Claus celebration in St. Patrick's Hall. There was unquestionably a large assemblage of boys and girls present. Rev. M. Callaghan briefly addressed them. He congratulated the Rev. catechist on the work he had done, and the young ladies who had instructed the children. His violin charmingly resounded with the sacred songs of Xmas-tide.

I have often wished you a happy Xmas, privately and publicly. How glad I am to do the same thing once more. Nothing on earth could give me greater pleasure. I wish this day to be happy—may, the happiest of days to all my curates, to all interested in the education of my children, to all responsible for the pledges of their mutual affection, to all the young and old, rich and poor, to all in health or sickness, in prosperity or adversity, to everybody present in this immense gathering. My wish is of the sincerest character. Nothing can compare in sincerity with the affection of a parent. The noblest parent is the priest. This day may not be without a shadow of sadness. It may not be what it used to be in several respects, and it will not always be what it will prove just now. This sadness should not be carried to excess. Rejoice in knowing that this day is the birthday of our Divine Lord. He should be thanked for coming into the world to be our Redeemer and Saviour. He should be adored, in as much as He is the Incarnate Son of God. He should be loved for having always loved us and for the fact that He alone remains unchanged in His beauty and will never disappear. He should be imitated in the virtues He practised. He is the only way to happiness and heaven. His name should be implored. To nobody will He refuse it.

ST. ANN'S PARISH.

A most successful mission lasting four weeks was closed on Christmas eve at St. Ann's Church. The preachers were the Rev. Fathers Borgmann, Coghlan and Mulligan, Redemptorists belonging to Saratoga. A large attendance at both morning services and at the evening sermons showed the esteem in which the able missionaries were held, and the eagerness of the different audiences to hear the word of God and to put it into practice; this was shown by the number of confessions heard during the four weeks, about six thousand. On Sunday afternoon Rev. Father Borgmann blessed all the very young children with the ceremony peculiar to the Redemptorists mission services, so that even they also received the benefits of the passing of Christ. At three o'clock the young men assembled for the final exercise, the boys of the Christian Brothers' school singing hymns in procession around the Church, after which the Papal benediction, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given to the kneeling crowd. The Rev. Fathers left for home on Monday, delighted with the success of their noble efforts. They will very probably return before the spring to labor in other parishes of the city.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME.

There was no Christmas tree at the generous tending, no doubt, in other entertainments taking place which might hinder its success. Donations did not come in as freely as last year, the charity of the generous tending, no doubt, in other directions. The following are acknowledged with many thanks: Mr. F. H. Stoughton, Rockville, Conn., ten dollars; Miss M. A. Ryan, Kingston, Ont., two dollars; Mrs. James Loneragan, Mrs. Kinsella, Ottawa, and Mr. H. Gallagher, one dollar each.

Mrs. M. J. Walsh sent a turkey, a goose and a chicken; Mrs. James McCrory three, and Mrs. Monk two turkeys, all dead, and they all sent oranges and candies to regale the waifs. A number of poorer children were brought in by the boys and all did justice to the good things. They will attend a moving picture entertainment given by the Star today in Windsor Hall, Mr. Little having kindly sent free tickets for that entertainment. The Reverend Director will say Mass next week for the

intentions of the Home's benefactors. May they increase in number and wealth, and may their new year be prosperous.

CHRISTMAS ORDINATIONS.

The twenty-nine young men ordained to the priesthood on Saturday by Archbishop Bruchesi were: Rev. F. Elliott, Rev. F. Labrosse, Rev. F. Dulude, Rev. F. Lavigne, of Montreal; Rev. John A. Sullivan, Rev. F. Decelles and Rev. John Conway, Hartford; Rev. Fred. Hogben, Peoria; Rev. J. Trainer and Rev. F. Dufréme, Sault Ste. Marie; Rev. J. Campeau and Rev. F. Caisse, Burlington; Rev. J. Staley, Kingston; Rev. John Hogan and Rev. F. Luster, Springfield; Rev. J. Neligan and Rev. F. Renaud, Portland; Rev. J. Routier and Rev. J. Gorman, Manchester; Rev. P. Fitzsimmons and Rev. F. Plaisie, Providence. Minor orders were conferred by Bishop Racicot on twenty-seven candidates.

MIDNIGHT MASS AT CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

At the Immaculate Conception Church, midnight Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Filiatreault, assisted by Fathers Desjardins and Brogan as deacon and subdeacon respectively. The sight presented by the numerous communicants was impressive in the extreme, and the church, ornamented as it was with all that was most beautiful, presented a scene not easily forgotten. The choir, under the leadership of Mr. Joseph Saucier, and Mr. Jos. Hebert at the organ, rendered a choice programme of music suitable to the occasion. In the evening at 7 a solemn Vespers brought to a close a day's proceedings as grand as they are memorable.

IMPRESSIVE SERVICE AT NAZARETH CHAPEL.

Of all the midnight services in the city churches, that which took place at Nazareth Chapel was exceptionally impressive. Innumerable lights and flowers, constituted the decorations, all being so artistically arranged as to give nothing but the most pleasing impression. The singing by the blind choir, which was a special feature, was, as usual, of a very high order. This choir is perfectly balanced, making it a difficult task to specialize; but the programme which had been prepared was done full justice to, and many comments as to its excellence were heard. A large congregation assisted, and it was plainly visible that a deep piety pervaded this little sanctuary, breathing as it always does a spirit of devotion only to be felt where one feels in close communion with God.

CHRISTMAS DINNER AT NOTRE DAME HOSPITAL.

The annual dinner given to the sick of Notre Dame Hospital took place yesterday. His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi presided. The governors of the institution were present, as were also a large number of lady patronesses. The wards were tastefully decorated and the dining halls made a very pretty picture in their holiday attire. There was plenty of good cheer, and the patients had a very pleasant time.

NEW R. C. SCHOOL COMMISSIONER.

At the meeting of the Catholic School Commissioners, held on Tuesday evening there was presented the resignation of Abbe Perrier from the position of commissioner, owing to his appointment as inspector-general of schools under the authority of the Board. His resignation was accepted, and he was replaced by Canon Dauth, vice-rector of Laval University.

DEATH OF AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

On the 20th inst. there passed away at Anderson's Corners, parish of Hinchinbrooke, Mr. John Geraghty, at the age of 84 years. Deceased came to this country from Ireland with his family some twenty-three years ago, of whom six children survive, two sons and one daughter at the homestead, and one son and two daughters in this city. Mr. Geraghty subscribed to the True Witness shortly after his arrival in Canada. To the bereaved relatives the True Witness tenders its sympathy. R.I.P.

ST. BRIDGET'S NIGHT REFUGE.

Report for the week ending Sunday, 24th December, 1905: The following people had a night's lodging and breakfast: Irish, 156; French, 24; English, 12; other nationalities, 9. Total, 200. By calling Main 4856 men can be had to attend funerals and other work.

FIRST MASS OF REV. F. ELLIOTT.

Last Sunday witnessed an imposing ceremony in St. Patrick's Church, viz., the celebration of the first Mass of one of the newly ordained priests, Rev. Father Elliott. At ten o'clock the young priest came to the altar assisted by the Rev. Father Cullinane of St. Mary's as deacon, Rev. Father Christopher, O.P.M., as sub-deacon, and Rev. Father Perrin as assistant priest. The sermon of the occasion, which was preached by the Rev. Father McCrory, of Cote St. Paul, was as follows:

"Thou art a priest forever." (109 Ps. 4.)

Brethren: We are present this morning at a beautiful and touching ceremony. A young man, the sacerdotal unction of his ordination still upon his hands, is in the midst of us, offering up for the first time gifts and sacrifices for sins. In the midst of the people who have seen him grow in wisdom and in grace, surrounded by friends, before the eyes of his father and mother and those who have waited with fond expectation for this great day, he comes, another Christ, to perform for the first time the dreadful functions of the holy priesthood of Jesus Christ.

It seems to me, brethren, that the only object of our thoughts and meditations to-day should be the dignity of the priesthood, and in order that you may understand more fully the wonderful dignity and power of the priesthood, consider, first, that God anointed His Christ a priest, and, secondly, that Christ communicated His priesthood with all its prerogatives to the priests of the New Testament.

I. The greatest of all dignities is the dignity of the priesthood. If there was a greater dignity than that of the priesthood, the Eternal Father would have conferred it upon His only Son. The priesthood had its source in heaven. Long before the birth of Christ, the prophet David sang the praises of the Priest who was to come. He described the mysterious act whereby God made the first Priest. No more noble conversation is recounted in the pages of Holy Writ. The Eternal Son thus addressed the Eternal Father: "Sacrifice and oblation Thou didst not desire; burnt offering and sin offering Thou didst not require; then said I: Behold I come. In the head of the book it is written of me that I should do Thy will, O my God. A body Thou hast fitted to me.

Brethren, behold the second divine person of the ever adorable Trinity abasing Himself before His Father and taking the heroic resolution of offering Himself a victim for the redemption of man. He asks a body, that is, He wishes to become incarnate, so as to be able to suffer and to die, even unto the death of the Cross. Oh, Father, He seems to say, I, God as I am, will empty myself, to use the inspired expression of St. Paul, I will be a saviour to fallen humanity, I will purify it, I will regenerate it, I will lead it back to Heaven, after having made it worthy to enter in. Did the Eternal Father accept this offering of an Eternal Victim? Yes, my brethren, and He was well pleased, and to show His good pleasure He conferred upon His Son a gift without repentance, and to show the dignity of that gift He swore, and that first oath proceeding from the mouth of God confirmed Christ and His priests forever in the God-given dignity of the priesthood. "Thou art my Son, to-day have I begotten Thee. Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedech." The Lord hath sworn and He will not repent: Thou art a Priest forever according to the order of Melchisedech.

Christ, my brethren, was therefore to be a priest. He offered Himself up as victim, and His Father could find no more worthy priest than the same Christ who was to be both the divine Victim and the divine Priest.

And as I gaze upon this altar this morning, where for the first time another Christ offers up the divine Victim of Calvary, it seems that above the noisy echoes of centuries of sin and human pride I hear the sweet strains of David's harp and the voice of the Prophet singing of the sacrifice to come. But, no, 'tis rather the faint cry of the Babe of Bethlehem, wrapped in His swaddling clothes, lying upon the straw-covered manger, in the cold stable whilst He seems to say to His mother Mary, "A body Thou hast fitted to me. Behold, I come. Behold, I come."

II. I have already said that Christ communicated the dignity and power of His priesthood to others chosen by Him. These were the Apostles

and their lawful successors. You all know the history of their calling. In the law of grace, the Apostles were expressly called to the service of God by their Divine Master. It came to pass in those days that He went out into a mountain to pray, and He passed the whole night in prayer to God. And when day was come, He called unto Him His disciples, and He chose twelve of them (whom also He named Apostles.) In His last discourse He solemnly reminds them of their special election, of their mission, and of the fruits which they were expected to bring forth. "Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and have appointed you, that ye should go and should bring forth fruit, and your fruit should remain."

He gave to them His own mission, and His holy spirit. "As the Father hath sent me so I also send you. Receive ye the Holy Ghost, whose sins you shall forgive they are forgiven them, whose sins you shall retain they are retained. All power is given to me in heaven and in earth. Going therefore, teach ye all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world." The Father, says St. John Chrysostom, gave all power to the Son; and I see that all power is given by the Son to His priests. St. Bernard exclaims: "How great is the dignity, how great is the prerogative of your order. God has preferred you to kings and emperors, He has preferred you to the angels and archangels, to the thrones and dominations. He committed the consecration of His body and blood not to the angels but to men, to priests alone." Is it any wonder, therefore, that many doctors and saints of the Church, notwithstanding their extraordinary abilities, and their love, predilection for an evangelical life and apostolic labors, hesitated to enter the ranks of the priesthood from a profound sense of the holiness it required and the duties it imposed. We read of a St. Ambrose fleeing and hiding himself. We see a St. Augustine avoiding episcopal cities, lest he should fall under the eye of a bishop who might be desirous of promoting him to sacred orders. And the humble St. Francis of Assisi, penetrated with the spirit of reverence for the sacerdotal character, would not aspire to the priesthood, but lived content with deacon's orders. We read in the Apocalypse that St. John saw an angel, and the angel appeared so glorious that St. John fell down before his feet, to honor him. But the angel seeing a priest at his feet said: "See thou do it not. I am thy fellow servant." If such were the sentiments of the saints and angels, how great should be our esteem for those whom God has chosen to be His Ministers. Honor is he worthy of whom the king hath a mind to honor. Your first duty, my brethren, is to honor the priests. Your second duty as Catholics is to make use of the ministry of the priests. St. Paul tells us: "For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in the things that appertain to God." The priest is for men, for the poor as for the rich, for the ignorant as for the learned. He alone has power over the mystical body of Christ which is the Church. He alone has power over the real body of Christ. He alone utters the awful words of consecration "This is my body. This is the chalice of My blood of the new and eternal testament, the mystery of faith which shall be shed for many unto the remission of sins." Oh, my brethren, the priest is not a man; the priest is not an angel. He is more than a man, he is more than an angel. He is Christ Himself. He not only represents Christ, but he personates Him and becomes identified with Him in his ministerial functions, as far as two personalities can be considered identical. There exists between Jesus Christ and His priesthood not only a succession and continuity, but an identity of ministry. "I baptize thee," he says, and the soul is freed from the fetters of original sin. I absolve thee, he says to the penitent on earth, and Christ ratifies the sentence in heaven. Through these canals of grace, the Sacraments, he communicates the life of Christ the Head to the members which are the faithful on earth. Oh, St. Augustine had reason to say "O, the venerable dignity of priests."

For you, dear confreres, let me repeat to you the words of Christ which the Archbishop said to you yesterday at ordination: "I will not now call you servants, for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth. But I have called you friends, because all things whatsoever I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you."

Friend of Christ, ambassador of Christ, proceed now with the Holy Sacrifice, and when you shall pause at the commemoration for the living pray as only a priest can pray, for your father, for your mother, for your brothers and sisters. They have waited long for this day, and God has blessed their holy wish. Pray for your reverend pastor, who has helped you by his kind fatherly counsels, and by his holy example. May we all, priests and people, be remembered in this, your first Mass, for the first fruits are in a special manner to the Lord. We will pray for you, that God may spare you, that He may give you many years of life and usefulness in His vineyard. Amen.

After Mass, the newly ordained priest gave his blessing to all those who presented themselves to receive it.

WICKED ABOMINATIONS

Among the many startling discoveries made by good practical Catholics during the past few years may be recorded that of Catholic young men and women who find it impossible to get themselves properly mated. They must seek their "affinity," so it would appear, among non-Catholic professional aristocrats and amateur clerks—that is, the Catholic young woman must seek, while the Catholic young man, an honest fellow, may go "whistle the popular airs" or play solitaire. The Catholic young woman who comes in contact with non-Catholic men of any social worth and business influence soon begins to feel that she is "educated." She dresses so as to affect a fine impression. She speaks slowly, pronounces her words carefully, and gives every possible attention to the construction of her sentences. She is refined and possessing a few of the popular accomplishments she will not allow herself to be condemned to a social purgatory. She gets acquainted and forces her social tastes upon her friends.

She seeks invitations and accepts them, goes to public places of amusement—such as dance halls—and naturally mingles promiscuously with the worst classes of society. She attends the theatres and enjoys the "burlesque performances" which are usually the vehicles used to advertise the low antics of immoral women whose flash lithographs and posters decorate the walls of our cities. She criticizes her companions of quieter habits and says that it is almost an unpardonable crime for a girl not to attend these places, where, according to her, a vast amount of experimental knowledge can be gathered.

She knows, all the while, that the Church has warned her against these public places of amusement and the semi-decent representations, but in spite of the solemn warning, presuming to be a more competent judge of morality than the pastors of the Church, she continues to indulge in these forbidden amusements without the least scruple, alleging, of course, that they are kept up and encouraged by the more fashionable folk who enjoy them.

How, then, can she dream of marrying the Catholic young man who seeks his pleasure in the athletic sports—riding, swimming, rowing, lacrosse, hockey and football—who smokes his pipe and whose only evening novel is his newspaper? She will have society, and must marry a man whose social position will entitle her to some distinction.

Experience teaches that it is generally on the occasions of these social outings that intimacies are formed which so often result in marriage that are an abomination—marriages in which there can be no perfect union of hearts, no satisfactory or complete sympathy, and consequently not that peace and contentment which such unions ought to bring.

Protestants are good fellows, and we know many excellent, upright men, amongst them—men who are unprejudiced and honorable in their dealings with Catholics and who make

the kindest of husbands and best of fathers, but notwithstanding all these the Church forbids marriage with them on account of the danger to the faith of the Catholic party. In mixed marriages deep religion and true piety are impossible, while the children of these religiously divided families, almost inevitably grow up in indifference, and sooner or later fall away from the faith altogether.

The number of Catholics bound at this writing in mixed marriages and who live in bitter conflict for the exercise of their religion, and for that of their children, could they with all the facts be known, would assuredly deter any thoughtful Catholic from contracting a mixed marriage. It has become painfully evident to them but too late that the promises made during courtship have been vain, for what appeared a happiness became a misfortune. Hence the abomination. Catholic young women should in their contact with the world make themselves companions, not by peculiar dress, not by singular actions, or words, but by their virtuous conduct. They should never allow themselves to become giggling nonentities, or a mixture of artificialities. They should not despise the Catholic young man who smokes his pipe, reads his newspaper and stays at home in the evenings, for there are worse things than these in the scale of evils. They should remember that sincerity, love, piety and earnestness are the best foundations of a worthy wifehood.

M. L. S.

REQUIEM SERVICE.

A requiem service will be chanted in St. James Cathedral on Friday, January 5th, at 7 a.m., for the repose of the souls of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Kane. May their souls rest in peace.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY SYSTEM NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS.

Quebec.....\$ 4.50 Toronto.....\$10.00
Sherbrooke.....3.35 Hamilton.....10.95
Ottawa.....3.50 London.....12.95
Detroit.....15.00 Port Huron.....14.85

And all other points in Canada, also Massena Springs, N.Y., Rouens Pt., N.Y., Island Pond, Vt., and intermediate stations and return at

SINGLE FIRST CLASS FARE

Going Dec. 30, 31, 1905, and Jan. 1, 1906.
Return Limit, Jan. 2, 1906.
First-Class Fare and One-Third.
Going Dec. 29, 30, 31, 1905, and Jan. 1, 1906.
Return Limit, Jan. 3, 1906.
For tickets and full information apply to

CITY TICKET OFFICES

187 St. James Street, Telephone Main 460 & 461, or Bonaventure Station.

CANADIAN PACIFIC

NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS.

Detroit.....\$15.00 Niagara.....\$ 9.00
Toronto.....10.00 Hamilton.....10.95
Ottawa.....3.50 London.....12.95
Quebec.....4.50 Peterboro.....8.15
Sherbrooke.....3.35 St. John, N.B. 14.50
And all points in Canada, Port William and East.

AT ONE WAY FIRST-CLASS FARE

Good going Dec. 30th, 31st, 1905; Jan. 1st, 1906; good to return until Jan. 2nd, 1906.
One Way First-Class Fare and One-Third.
Dec. 29, 30, 31st, 1905; and Jan. 1st, good to return until Jan. 3rd, 1906.
Special fares to points in Maritime Provinces.

CHANCE IN TIME

MONTREAL, WINNIPEG AND VANCOUVER
Commencing Saturday, December 30th, train for Winnipeg and Vancouver will leave Windsor Station at 2:40 a.m. Train at present leaving at 9:40 p.m. for Winnipeg and Vancouver will be cancelled.

TICKET OFFICE: 129 St. James Street
Next Post Office.

NOTICE

IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Cure and the Fabrique of the Parish of St. Michael the Archangel, of Montreal, will apply to the Legislature of the Province of Quebec at its next session for certain amendments to the school law of the Province of Quebec in the interests of the cause of education in said parish.

JOHN P. KIERNAN, Priest.
JOHN DILLON.
CORNELIUS MCGEE.

VERY SUITABLE FOR NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

Special Value this Week in Sample Slippers.

We offer some lines of LADIES' VELVET and PET JULIET SLIPPERS, trimmed with fur, hand-turned soles, Black, Navy Blue, Light Blue, Red Spotted, Gray and Wine color.

The Prices are \$1.15 and \$1.50
Regular Prices were from \$1.50 to \$2.50

Would advise an early selection, as these low prices will clear them off in a short time.

RONAYNE BROS.,
485 Notre Dame St. West - Chaboillez Square.