

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Many readers will appreciate the publication of the Weekly Calendar a week in advance, which we have now arranged to do.

Sunday, January 28.—St. Cyril of Alexandria, became Patriarch of that city in 412. Imprisoned and threatened with banishment because of his activities against Nestorius, the Saint rejoiced to confess Christ by suffering. In time it was recognized that St. Cyril was right and with him the Church triumphed. Forgetting his wrongs, and careless of controversial petty, Cyril then reconciled himself with all who would consent to hold the doctrine of the Incarnation intact. He died in 444.

Monday, January 29.—St. Francis de Sales, was born of noble and pious parents near Annecy, A. D. 1566. After completing his education he was sent by the Duke of Savoy to re-establish the Church in the Chablais. Although at first rejected with insult, and even threatened with death, he finally succeeded and it is asserted that he converted 72,000 Calvinists. He was made Coadjutor Bishop of Geneva and succeeded to the See in 1602. Together with St. Jane Frances de Chantal he founded the Order of the Visitation. He died at Avignon in 1622 after having refused all honours including that of the See of Paris.

Tuesday, January 30.—St. Bathilde, Queen, was an Englishwoman who was carried over to France while quite young and sold as a slave to Erkenwald, Mayor of the Palace under King Clovis II. When she grew up, the King took her for his royal consort. The King gave her his sanction for the protection of the Church and on his death she became regent of the Kingdom. In this capacity she did much to promote the cause of Christianity and filled France with hospitals and religious houses. As soon as her son Clothaire became old enough to govern she retired to a convent at Chelles. She died January 30, 680.

Wednesday, January 31.—St. Marcella, widow, after the death of her husband consecrated the remainder of her days to God and lived in a most abstemious manner. When the Goths under Alaric entered Rome in 410 the Saint was cruelly scourged in an attempt to make her reveal the hiding place of treasures she was believed to possess. Her entreaties, however, prevailed upon the barbarians to spare her spiritual daughter Principia. She died shortly afterwards.

Thursday, February 1.—St. Brigid, Abbess and patroness of Ireland, was born in Ulster in 453. She consecrated her life to God and founded the first convent in Ireland. Later on she established many other religious houses and from the settlement that grew up around one of these institutions the town of Kildare which later became a metropolitan see was formed. She died February 1, 523.

Friday, February 2.—The Purification or Candlemas-Day. On this day the Blessed Virgin complied with the law of Moses which provided that a woman should present herself at the temple to be purified a certain number of days after a child was born. Although the Blessed Virgin did not come under this law since the Saviour was conceived by the Holy Ghost and His mother remained always a spotless virgin, nevertheless she complied with great punctuality. The feast is called Candlemas because the Church blesses the candles to be borne in the procession of the day.

Saturday, February 3.—St. Blaise, Bishop and martyr, devoted the earlier years of his life to the study of philosophy and afterwards became a physician. He became Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia and was seized and hurried off to prison by Agricola, the governor. On his way to prison, a distracted mother whose child was suffering from a disease of the throat implored his aid. At his intercession the child was cured and since that time his aid has often been solicited in cases of a similar disease. After cruel tortures the saint was beheaded in 316.

PRIEST PREMIER OF AUSTRIA

MSGR. SEIPEL ACCLAIMED AS SAVIOR OF NATION FROM FINANCIAL RUIN

By Dr. Frederick Funder

Today the most popular man in Austria is a Catholic priest, Msgr. Seipel, the federal chancellor. Whenever he speaks in public the meetings are overcrowded, he is greeted with boisterous applause and acclamations of triumph, and he constantly receives votes of thanks and expressions of confidence from various organizations of the most widely divergent character. Even that portion of the press which formerly referred to Catholic priests always as "Papists" and as "enemies of progress," now has only expressions of respectful praise for Dr. Seipel.

THE GREAT CHANGE

All of this is in contrast to the situation a short time ago when priests could hardly appear in public without being jeered and insulted, when Catholic institutions such as the Canisium in Innsbruck were raided and pillaged by mobs, when churches were besieged by revolutionary bands and priests were prevented from preaching the Gospel by the riotous noise of drunken demonstrators. For a time it almost seemed as though the overthrow of the ancient throne and dynasty would be followed by the overthrow of the altar in Austria. But now these fears and disturbances are but recollections of the past. And all because of Msgr. Seipel.

Not only is Msgr. Seipel the acknowledged leader of Austria today, but he is also the hope of all judicious and patriotic people here. There are very few instances in recent history where the influence of one man has effected such a complete change in the public life of his country within a few short months as has been the case in Austria since Dr. Seipel came into power. Under his guidance Austria is slowly recovering. Her currency after depreciating steadily for three years and apparently tending toward complete ruin, has now reached a point of rest, prices are going down, and those who live by their labor have been filled with new hope. Msgr. Seipel's program for the reconstruction of Austria is now in operation. Naturally, it will take some time for the sorely afflicted country to recover and the situation is still very difficult for many elements of the population. However, the one fact that the State has been saved from utter ruin and that its finances and administration are being methodically put in order, has had a marked helpful influence. Respect for authority is gaining ground again, the people are now willing to try to save money since the fear has been removed that it would fade away in their very hands because of a further decline in the rate of exchange, confidence in the government and in public institutions is returning.

SOCIALIST MISCALCULATION

When Msgr. Seipel was placed at the head of the Austrian Government, opinion was practically unanimous that the government was fast approaching utter collapse. For this reason even the Socialists were anxious to have the Catholic prelate assume the responsibilities of office. Having been driven from control of the government in the elections of December, 1927, the Socialists acted upon the theory that the quickest way for them to regain the upper hand in Austria would be to have a prominent Catholic leader in control when the anticipated break-up came. A Catholic prelate was to dig the grave of Austria, according to their plans, and after the smash came, all the elements of anti-clericalism were to be aroused to prepare the way for the final Socialist conquest of the constitution, public institutions and the schools. Even among Catholics there were many who were fearful that the situation was hopeless and they were not desirous of having a Catholic priest as chancellor when the State suffered the collapse that was then believed to be inevitable.

But at this moment of greatest despair, Msgr. Seipel, undismayed and determined, began his work for the salvation of Austria. He managed to overcome the antagonisms among the European powers and to unite them at a session of the League of Nations in Geneva for joint action in behalf of Austria. At home, he succeeded in arousing the willingness and enthusiasm of the people to sustain them in these sacrifices and efforts which, together with the aid from the other nations, are now bringing about the reconstruction of Austria and are expected to restore the economic equilibrium of the nation within the next two years.

Without going into details of the political situation, it is sufficient to point out that even the Chancellor's most radical Socialist opponents have finally been forced by a sense of public opinion to support his work and to submit to his leadership.

MAGNITUDE OF THE TASK

In order to appreciate the magnitude and difficulty of his task it is necessary to recall the situation that existed when he took over the reins of government. At that time the formerly honest and efficient administration of governmental affairs had become corrupt and disorganized; there was no recognized authority, the government and Parliament being ruled by the mobs in the street; the State treasury was empty and each month the public debt was mounting higher and higher. Only a man of strong moral force and one who was absolutely above the suspicion of selfish personal interests, could succeed under such circumstances and then only if he were able to command the implicit confidence of the people.

To arouse the people Msgr. Seipel addressed forty-three large public meetings in seven weeks. Some of the meetings were so large that he was forced to speak two or three times from different places in order that all might hear. Many meetings were held in the open, even during the winter, because the crowds were so vast that no hall could be found to accommodate them. Frequent attempts were made by the Socialists to break up these meetings by force, but they were unsuccessful. Msgr. Seipel calmly continued his addresses, never using offensive reference to his opponents and delivering his thoughts in simple language comprehensible to the humblest man on the street. He was busy from early morning until late at night. On one occasion dur-

ing the most critical period, Parliament was held in session all night and he remained in the chamber continuously from early afternoon. Leaving the session of Parliament he celebrated Mass in the early morning and by half past eight was back at his official duties. That afternoon he delivered one of his most brilliant addresses in the House which resulted in success for his efforts. Even without accepting his arguments, his opponents bowed before the high sense of duty and the intellectual brilliancy of this man who was trying with all his might and with no regard for his own health and welfare, to save his country.

The Catholic cause in Austria will have gained a great victory when a statesman who, in the time of his country's greatest distress drew his strength from his Catholic faith, achieves the salvation of the nation for the good of its people and for the peace of Europe. His program of reconstruction is already so far advanced that only the most extraordinary calamities can prevent its success.

OBITUARY

MRS. JOHN FORBES

From The Michigan Catholic, Jan. 4

The funeral of Mrs. John Forbes, sixty-seven years old, and a lifelong member of St. Vincent's church, Detroit, took place from that church, with Solemn High Mass at 10 o'clock. Rev. Walter Hardy acted as celebrant. Rev. Don Martin, deacon; Rev. T. W. Hussey, sub-deacon, and Rev. Joseph Filion, of Gaines, master of ceremonies.

Present in the sanctuary were Fathers Esper, Sharp, Brokaw, Otting, S. J., Hoerst, S. J., Dorsey, Doherty and Hardy. Rev. D. Martin delivered the sermon. One hundred Sisters of the I. H. M. attended the services.

Mrs. Forbes was the wife of John Forbes and mother of Charles, Alexander, Frederick, Anna, Marie and Sister Agnes Regina, I. H. M., and Joseph. She leaves three sisters, Mrs. James Brady, Ingersoll, Ont.; Miss Catherine Shea, London, Ont.; and Mrs. John Smith, Edmonton, Alberta.

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Otting, S. J., Hoerst, S. J., Dorsey, Doherty and Hardy. Rev. D. Martin delivered the sermon. One hundred Sisters of the I. H. M. attended the services.

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DIED

Webb.—At Harbor au Bouche, Nova Scotia, on January 4th, 1928, Catherine Webb, aged eighty-five years. May her soul rest in peace.

Conlon.—At his late residence, 44 Church Street, St. Catharines, Ont., on January 15, 1928, Mr. Thomas Conlon, aged seventy-eight years. May his soul rest in peace.

Flynn.—Accidentally killed at Charlottetown, P. E. I., on Dec. 6th, 1927, John Flynn, aged thirty-five years. May his soul rest in peace.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of our dear husband and father the late Robert C. Simano, (diver) whose death occurred suddenly in the Memorial Hospital, Niagara Falls, N. Y., Jan. 19, 1921.

—Wife and Daughters.

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