

OBITUARY

MOTHER ST. FERGUS

Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house O Lord
Blessed are the dead that die in The Lord

Never were these words more beautifully exemplified than in the life and death of Mother St. Fergus. From her entrance into religion till the moment, when in an effusion of love and joy, she breathed out her pure soul to God, Sister St. Fergus was pre-eminently the chosen one of Christ, happy in the performance of every duty, in spirit joyous, even to exuberance, her very presence prompting the thought: "It is sweet to serve the Lord." Truly, in her were verified the words of Our Lord Himself. "My yoke is sweet and my burden light."

For eighteen years she followed the rule of the Sisters of St. Joseph—which a holy priest has pronounced "the life of a Saint," uniting with prayer and contemplation the labors of her chosen profession. As a musician she possessed remarkable talent and exquisite taste, ranking among the best in the province, as a teacher in vocal and instrumental music. Especially zealous for the perfection and beauty of Church music, Sister St. Fergus took delight in directing the choir, and teaching the children to sing the praises of God. Thus was her religious life passed in Peterborough, North Bay and Almonte—a short life indeed, but a holy life full of merit in the eyes of Him "Who sees the heart and reads the mind of man."

Life is but the preparation for death. Little wonder then, that for Sister St. Fergus death held no terrors. To her it was but the last act in the drama of life, to be carried out, like all the others, with cheerful resignation to the will of God. It was but the threshold between time and eternity, the only entrance to the presence of the "Spouse of Virgins," to whom her heart was consecrated, the crowning joy of a life spent in the service of Him Who has said "and every one who has left father or mother for My name's sake shall receive a hundred fold, and shall possess life everlasting."

Mother St. Fergus had for the past two years lived in St. Joseph's Convent, Almonte, acting in the twofold capacity of superior and of teacher in music. Becoming seriously ill early in January, she was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital, Peterborough, where, after long weeks of suffering, borne with an almost incredible patience and serenity, she calmly and joyously expired, the evening of March 20th. The following morning her remains were taken to Mount St. Joseph, the mother house of the Community.

The funeral ceremonies began in the Chapel of Mount St. Joseph, at 9 a. m. Tuesday, March 23rd. The solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated by Rev. M. McGuire, cousin of the deceased, Rev. P. McGuire acting as deacon, and Rev. P. Galvin, also a relative, as sub-deacon. In the sanctuary were His Lordship Bishop O'Brien, Right Rev. Mgr. Casey, Very Rev. Dean McColl, Rev. F. O'Sullivan, Rev. J. Phelan, Rev. E. Kelly, Rev. J. Hurley, Rev. J. Power, Rev. J. O'Brien, Rev. P. Costello.

Rev. Father McAuley and Rev. A. Coté assisted the convent choir. The solemn Gregorian chant so perfectly rendered, was a fitting tribute to Sister St. Fergus, who in life was remarkable for charity towards the dead, and whose beautiful voice had so often joined in the soulful strains of the Requiem.

After the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, His Lordship, Bishop O'Brien, sang the "Libera me Domine." He then preached a very touching and appropriate sermon in which he described the peace and happiness of the religious life. His Lordship referred to the many virtues of Sister St. Fergus, emphasizing particularly the calm and even cheerful resignation, and above all, the joyousness with which she approached death.

At the close of the sermon, while the choir sang "The Nun at Death," the casket containing the mortal remains of Sister St. Fergus was borne from the altar railing, slowly down the centre aisle, followed by the Sisters bearing lighted tapers, then by the sorrowing relatives, of the deceased. Among these were: Mr. and Mrs. J. Dwyer and family of Lindsay, Mrs. P. Curtin and family of Lindsay, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. O'Brien, and Miss Gertrude O'Brien of Toronto, Mrs. M. Lehane of Peterborough, Mrs. P. J. Hayes of Toronto, Miss Nellie Kennedy of Toronto, Mr. J. C. Sullivan and Miss May Sullivan of Peterborough. The pall-bearers were J. L. O'Brien and V. Lehane of Toronto, D. Curtin and F. Curtin of Lindsay, V. Dwyer and J. Burns of Lindsay.

At 10:30 the funeral cortege, attended by a large number of the Sisters, proceeded slowly to the cemetery. At the grave Rev. Michael McGuire officiated, being assisted by several of the Reverend clergy.

Sister St. Fergus belonged to a family that has given many of its members to religion. Among these are the late Archbishop McEvoy of Toronto, (cousin of deceased), the Rev. M. McGuire of Douro, Sister St. Dominic of St. Joseph's Convent, Toronto, and Mother St. Gertrude, Congregation de Notre Dame, Montreal.

The kindest sympathy is extended to the venerable and devoted mother of Sister St. Fergus, Mrs. E. Corkery

of Lindsay, whom illness prevented from being with her beloved daughter during her last moments.

MRS. TIMOTHY WALSH

On Monday, March 1st, there was laid to rest beside several members of her family in the Catholic Cemetery of Pickering one of the finest types of Irish faith that district, so rich in vocations, has ever known. Born beneath the shadow of the Mourne Mountains in Co. Down, Ireland, some seventy-six years ago, Ellen Clancy, in her early youth left the scenes of her childhood, and became the wife of Timothy Walsh, of Pickering. Pious, worldly success and an excellent family blessed the newly wed couple. A daughter died some years ago, a member of the Order of Our Lady of Charity in Toronto, a son, Robert, with whom she lived for years and in whose presbytery in Adajala she died, has labored very successfully for years in more than one parish in the Archdiocese of Toronto. Another son is a successful lawyer in New York, whilst her husband, now deceased, brought about the removal of the family from Pickering, have been laid to rest.

The celebrant of her funeral High Mass was Rev. L. Minahan, of St. Vincent de Paul, Toronto, who was her pastor in St. Peter's for many years. Father Kelly, Richmond Hill, officiated as deacon, and Father Coleman, of Schomberg, was sub-deacon, whilst Father O'Connor, of Albion, a near relative, preached.

The large funeral procession to Tottenham was a fitting tribute to son and mother. The funeral arrangements were made by Father Castex, who, with Father Wilson, of Toronto, Gers, rendered very welcome aid to her son, Father Robert Walsh, who was quite ill at the time. R. I. P.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH EXTENSION SOCIETY OF CANADA

THE NEED OF A CATHOLIC SPIRIT

That the Church is really Catholic is a truth realized by comparatively few of its members. They know that the Church is Catholic, but they do not realize that it is Catholic. How many Catholics, after all, daily perform some action based on the Catholicity of the Church? How many realize for example when they hear Mass that they are exemplifying the doctrine of the Communion of Saints? Yet, we know that the Church is world-wide in its government. The Pope as head of the whole Church brings this home to us. But that our Catholicity involves wide co-operation and activity looking beyond the parochial or diocesan limits—this is what Catholics do not grasp, or if they do, they do not hold on to it long enough to produce effects. This lack of practical understanding is a source of great weakness to the cause of Christ.

It has been well said that, "individualism and localism are obstacles in the way of any great movement." The Extension Society is an effective means of bringing the practical import of the meaning of Catholicity home to our minds. With this object in view, today, we ask you to read the following letters from missionary bishops of Canada,—

Bishop's House, Calgary, Alta. The Very Reverend T. O'Donnell, Pres. C. C. Extension Society, Very Reverend and Dear Father,— It is time, and long past time, for me to send you a line or two, in expression of my high appreciation of the great work you are accomplishing for Christ's Kingdom, and also of my gratitude for the aid you so generously extend to the new and struggling diocese of Calgary.

You send us Mass offerings in abundance, which are a great help to our missionary priests laboring for the Faithful scattered over the vast prairie. And you send us also a yearly offering towards the support of our really greatest work, the recruiting of our clergy. In that you perform an apostolic deed which will bring you greater merit than all else that you accomplish in your exalted task.

I am most grateful to God for the many and excellent laborers He has sent into this new portion of His vineyard. After Him, and after the devoted workers for this sacred cause in Calgary itself, my thanks for this are due to you and your associate governors in the Extension Society. We have here a young clergy in whom I have every reason to take pride and satisfaction. Their unflinching good will and devoted labors, amid many difficulties and often hardships, uncomplainingly borne, are a precious comfort to me and an ever increasing benefit to the gradually growing prairie population. In them and in our truly generous and devoted people, I repose the fullest confidence; and I feel that God, the giver of all, will continue to make of them instruments for the raising up of this new diocese from its present humble beginning, to be an ornament in His earthly crown and a fruitful agency for the peopling of His heavenly kingdom.

To those outside our diocese, whose apostolic charity has aided in the work so far accomplished, I wish to extend in my own name, and that of my clergy and faithful people, the expression of our deepest gratitude.

EXTENSION, CATHOLIC RECORD OFFICE, London, Ont.

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Among those deserving of special mention in this connection, I may recall the coming to Calgary last autumn of a select band of the Sisters of St. Joseph, an acquisition of incalculable value to the diocese, due to the apostolic generosity of our good brother of Peterboro.

These Sisters, along with the pioneer community here, the Faithful Companions of Jesus, with whom they labor in bonds of heartiest cooperation and warmest sisterly affection, constitute in large measure our educational hope for the future. For many reasons, and this without a thought of disparagement towards our good lay teachers, we must look to the teaching Religious for the maintenance of our Catholic schools. Might I suggest to you that, following close—if so close—upon the importance of your work for the recruiting of the clergy, should come the work of aiding in the recruiting of Religious, especially as teachers. I think that, side by side with your column soliciting funds for the education of priests, you should have lists of offerings towards the support of novitiates; yes, and weekly appeals in your missionary recommendations for the fostering of religious vocations in our Catholic homes.

The vitality of our people's faith has already been demonstrated, and your efforts are daily aiding in the development of its fruit. Let us unitedly and persistently bend every effort towards making our Catholic life, in compensation for too much sterility in the past, increasingly prolific, not only in the providing of financial support, but in the providing of God's work, but, above all, in providing, from the choicest treasures our people possess—their sons and daughters—workers, who, consecrated to His service, will do the labors which the Catholic religion alone can inspire, and without which its saving mission cannot be accomplished.

Congratulating you upon the increasing success of the beneficent society which you direct, and of the well-conducted, instructive and sprightly newspaper which presents its appeal to the nation-wide public. I beg to remain, with sentiments of deepest gratitude, Your friend and co-worker in Christ, J. T. McNALLY, Bishop of Calgary, Winnipeg, Man., March 9th, 1920.

Ruthenian Greek-Catholic, Bishop's Chancery, 511 Dominion Street. Very Reverend, Thomas O'Donnell, President, Extension Society Toronto. Dear Father O'Donnell,—Enclosed are two receipts for the sum of \$2,500 sent by cheque to me, and of \$507.24 paid to the St. Augustine's Seminary for the tuition of the Ruthenian theologians sent there by the Church Extension Society. Accept my warmest thanks for this help.

In the darkest hours of my difficult position in Canada it is always the Church Extension Society which encouraged me to stand and fight. God knows how hard it has been for me to stand and to keep things going. I know that without the assistance of the Catholics, the Rt. Rev. Bishops and Church Extension Society I could not be where I am today. Five years fighting back the enemy and the concentrated and renewed attacks, I was sometimes near to the breaking point, but Divine Providence always sends help at the right time by your watchful co-operation. May Our Lord reward all my generous benefactors.

The Catholicity of my faithful people is attacked by organized enemies. The organized Catholics can do their duty and stand for their rights and their cause. The first church who needs, in the first place, in God we trust. Thanking you for giving me new strength, I remain, Sincerely yours, NICHOLAS BUDKA, Bishop.

Donations may be addressed to: Rev. T. O'DONNELL, President, Catholic Church Extension Society 67 Bond St., Toronto. Contributions through this office should be addressed: EXTENSION, CATHOLIC RECORD OFFICE, London, Ont.

Table with columns for DONATIONS, MASS INTENTIONS, and FATHER FRASER'S CHINA MISSION FUND. Includes names like A Friend, Geo. Murray, Wilton Grove, etc.

Almonte, Ontario. Dear Friends—I came to Canada to seek vocations for the Chinese Missions which are greatly in need of priests. In my parish alone there are three cities and a thousand villages to be evangelized and only two priests. Since I arrived in Canada a number of youths have expressed their desire to study for the Chinese mission but there are no funds to educate them. I appeal to you, clearly to assist in founding burses for the education of these and others who desire to become missionaries in China. Five thousand dollars will found a bursar. The interest on this amount will support a student when he is ordained and goes off to the mission another will be taken in and so on forever. All imbued with the Catholic spirit of propagating the Faith to the ends of the earth will, I am sure, contribute generously to this fund.

Gratefully yours in Jesus and Mary J. M. FRASER. I propose the following burses for subscription.

Table listing SACRED HEART BURSAR, QUEEN OF APOSTLES BURSAR, ST. ANTHONY'S BURSAR, etc., with names and amounts.

Table listing BLESSED SACRAMENT BURSAR, ST. FRANCIS XAVIER BURSAR, HOLY NAME OF JESUS BURSAR, etc., with names and amounts.

Table listing LITTLE FLOWER BURSAR, SACRED HEART LEAGUE BURSAR, etc., with names and amounts.

DIRT FURLONG.—At Killaloe, Ontario, on February 11, 1920, Mrs. James M. Furlong, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fitzgerald, aged twenty-seven years. May her soul rest in peace.

McDOUGALL.—On Friday, March 19th, on the homestead, 16.9 Lancaster, Dalhousie Mills, Glengarry Co., Ont., Helen McDougall, widow of the late Donald McDougall, aged eighty-four years and eleven months. May her soul rest in peace.

Anticipate the wants of others without waiting till you are asked. True charity teaches us how they may stand in need. He who possesses the whole world without possessing God, has nothing; he who possesses God alone, without possessing any worldly goods, has all.—St. Alphonsus Liguori.

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