

RELIGIOUS NEWS ITEMS.

In Massachusetts it only costs \$80 to shoot at a priest.

The total number of priests in the United States is now 10,866, and three-fourths of them were born in this country.

Right Rev. Bishop Phelan, of Pittsburg, has issued an order forbidding his clergy to attend baseball and football games and theatres.

The venerable Jesuit, Father Joseph Stevenson, S.J., well known for his historical researches, has just passed away. He was born in 1806.

Sister Frances Liguori died at St. Joseph's Academy, Emmittsburg, Md., on February 22, 1895, in the 72nd year of her age. She was Miss Ann Vincent Everett, daughter of Oliver Everett, Dorchester, Mass.

A Jesuit of great ability and learning died some days ago at Cairo in the person of Father Bambine, S.J. He was a convert and belonged to a distinguished Russian family. Before his conversion he passed several years at the Court of the Czar.

The Bulletin, of the Diocese of Rheims, states that the cause of the Blessed La Salle, founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, has been advanced a stage, the Sacred Congregation of Rites having officially recognized other miracles effected through his intercession.

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan recently assembled in Sydney, New South Wales, elected Mother Mary Gertrude Byrne, of the Magdalen Home, Tempe, Mother-General in succession to Rev. Mother Mary Magdalene Adamson, who has retired after holding the office for some twenty years.

The Court of Appeal of Strasburg has confirmed the judgment passed by the correctional tribunal on the Protestant Pastor Muller, for that he had publicly attacked the dogma of the Infallibility of the Pope. M. Muller claimed that he only attacked the Principles of the Catholic Faith: but the Tribunal held that he was guilty of a direct insult to a faith recognized by the State. This decision will afford a needed check to the encroachments of German Protestantism in Catholic Alsace-Lorraine, and Pastor Muller will now have to undergo the imprisonment to which he was sent once.

A notable decision, illustrating the manner in which the courts of this country recognize the rights and prerogatives of Catholic bishops, was rendered the other day by a district judge out in Omaha, who declared that a Catholic congregation had no authority to install in the pulpit of its church a priest who lacked the recognition and approval of the ordinary of the diocese. This decision, which was what was to be expected in the case, makes it plain that American law recognizes that the bishops of the Catholic church have the right to nominate as pastors of churches the priests whom they wish to intrust with those duties, and that Catholic congregations cannot legally contest such appointments.

NOVENA AT ST. PATRICK'S.

The magnificent Novena of St. Patrick, or nine days' exercises in his honor, was brought to a close last Sunday evening in St. Patrick's church by Rev. James Callaghan, who illustrated the three theological virtues, faith, hope and charity, by the shamrock of Ireland. He showed at some length the importance of a knowledge of these three luminaries of the Christian life, faith as its foundation, hope as its aspirations and charity as its crowning point in life and glory in eternity. Faith, he said, could not be purchased by gold nor by any other natural wealth. It was a purely merciful gift on the part of God, and the receiver of that heavenly boon grew humbler in his own estimation as he thought the more of the Giver. Of the three none equalled charity in grandeur and sublimity. Charity, or the love of God above everything, and the love of neighbor for God, was the noblest and highest standpoint of the Christian life, and it could not exist without faith and hope, the first of which was the root, the second the stem and the third the branches, leaves, flower and fruit. He made a practical application of the three to the Irish nation at large, and demonstrated from historical

evidence how the Irish maintained their faith at any cost, because they had learned to appreciate its value. People appreciated anything that cost them much. Their hope for 700 years was purely Christian, for it was not their lot to share in the fortunes of His work, and their greatest consolation in the midst of their sufferings was to know if a man abandoned them, God did not, but stood by them with all the love of which He was capable. The rev. gentleman concluded by remarking that the great source and condition of Ireland's spiritual and temporal happiness depended upon a cordial mutual understanding, an absence of jealous-mindedness, a kind word, a helping hand, praise without blame and an overlooking of many imperfections which found their place in the heart of every nation.

MOUNT ST. LOUIS INSTITUTE.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY ENTHUSIASTICALLY CELEBRATED.

On Thursday afternoon last the large hall of the Mount St. Louis Institute was crowded to the doors by an audience of most enthusiastic citizens to attend the students' celebration, in advance, of Ireland's national festival. As usual, the pupils did credit to themselves, to their parents and to the institution. The entertainment consisted of a dramatic representation, interspersed with most classic music from the college band and orchestra, recitations, songs and fancy marching.

The drama, in five acts, is an historical production of great interest and was presented with splendid evidence of histrionic talent on the part of the pupils. The Rev. Father Quinlivan presided, and was surrounded by several of the clergy and members of the Christian Brothers, conspicuous amongst the latter being good Brother Arnold, the true-hearted, warm-souled Irishman.

The cast of characters for the drama was as follows:—

EDWARD THE CONFESSOR.

CHARACTERS.

Edward.....H. Fitzgibbon
Alfred, brother of Edward.....E. Cummings
Godwin, Count of Kent.....W. Gulliver
Leofric, Count of Leicestershire.....F. Tansley
Stward, Count of Northumberland.....C. Wilson
Oswin, son of Stward.....F. Hart
Sweyn, confidential friend of Godwin.....W. Peacock

Redwald, servant of Godwin.....P. Downes
Oswald, general of the army.....J. Broderick
Cearwulf, } Assassins.....H. Hayes
Synewulf, } Soldiers, etc.....R. Valade

The plot is laid at Winchester in the royal castle.

The following programme was most admirably carried out:

Overture.....Marche militaire.....J. Vanpoucke
M.S.L. Band.

ACT I—The Infernal Plot.

Overture.....Martha.....D. Muller
M.S.L. Orchestra

ACT II—The Mysterious Arrival

Violin Solo.....The Cruskeen Lawn.....J. Hone
J. Shea.
Declamation.....Le Petit Mendiant.....F. —
A. Robitaille
Song.....Sancta Maria.....J. Faure
A. Lanctot.

ACT III—The Assassination

Medley..Irish Reminiscences arranged
by.....J. Vanpoucke
M.S.L. Band

ACT IV—The Death of the Princes.

The Light Brigade.....3rd Division
Declamation.....La Souris.....L'abbé Gingras
F. Dubreuil.

ACT V—Divine Justice

Fancy Marching.....2nd Division
Finale.....M.S.L. Band.

A presentation to the pupils of M.S.L., by the English-speaking ladies of Montreal.

The presentation consisted in a magnificent set of bugles and drums, given by the ladies, to the pupils. Rev. Bro. Arnold received, from one lady, a splendid harp of flowers, a most unique and choice gift, which the recipient most highly appreciated. The presentation was acknowledged by one of the pupils in a brilliant address. Never before was a more enjoyable and successful entertainment given in Mount St. Louis, and the institution, which is one of the foremost of our city, deserves every encouragement for the manner in which its pupils are trained, and for the vast amount of blessings it procures for the rising generation. Space forbids any special mention of excellence, but we must say that the physical drill exercises were surpassingly good, and the musical portions of the programme were exceedingly well rendered. The whole ended with "God Save Ireland" and "St. Patrick's Day."

THE PUPILS OF BOURGET COLLEGE (RIGAUD)

CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF IRELAND'S PATRON SAINT.

The members of St. Patrick's Academy of Bourget College gave as usual a splendid dramatic, literary and musical entertainment in honor of Ireland's Patron Saint.

The college band, which is a most excellently trained body of musicians, discoursed Irish airs. Mr. Henry Durocher's address on "The Irish People" was a grand and eloquent tribute to the race. Mr. Lawrence Roach read an able essay on St. Patrick, and Mr. Octave Perron's declamation was most heartily appreciated. Then came a stirring drama in two acts, entitled "Emeralda." The following is the list of characters:—

Lawyer Thompson.....Royal Winters
Doctor Thompson.....Allen Fortin
James Thompson, his son.....William Reilly
Frederick Thompson, his son.....Charles Durocher
Brown, his steward.....James Lynch
Professor Hill.....William McEwan
John, a servant.....James Hamilton
William, a servant.....Charles McIntyre

This first part of the programme was followed by an essay on St. Joseph, by Mr. Louis Lauson, and a clever recitation by Mr. Joseph Burns. The college choir did itself great credit, while the orchestra rivalled the band in the excellence of its rendition.

A comedy, in one act, entitled "The Thief of Time," was a most side-splitting production. All the characters were admirably taken. The cast was as follows:

Mike McGinnis, an employer.....John Ramsay
John Crod, a farmer.....Philip Robillard
Peter Snider, a deaf man.....Barney Hebert
Ralph } schoolboys.....Frank Benard
Charles }Harvey Mason
Joseph }Arthur Boyer

Mr. James Reilly's declamation was loudly applauded, and the playing of "God Save Ireland" brought a most splendid entertainment to a close.

MGR. SATOLLI ON THE POPE.

HE REVIEWS THE SEVENTEEN YEARS OF LEO'S REIGN.

Last Sunday's New York World contains the following statement professedly made for it:

The Pontificate of Pope Leo must now be numbered among the longest in the history of the Church and has been marked each year by some luminous act of profound wisdom and untiring solicitude for the good, not only of Catholicity, but of mankind at large.

No one in modern times has understood better than Pope Leo the needs of society in all branches of knowledge and fields of action.

It would seem as if, from the time when he succeeded Pope Pius, he had formed a grand plan, in which he took cognizance of all the needs of humanity and determined on the provisions he would make for those needs during the whole course of his Pontificate.

We can best distinguish this design of the Pope in three particular directions.

Firstly, in the Holy Father's ardent zeal for the development of studies.

Secondly, in the continued interest which it has shown in social science.

And thirdly, in its untiring efforts to bring peace into the Christian countries by the spread of civilization, the teaching of religion and the promotion of concord between Church and State.

With regard to studies, Pope Leo has already reared a monument of imperishable fame by the successive acts of his Pontificate.

Early in his reign he turned his attention to the encouragement of the study of classical literature; of philosophy and the natural sciences; of theology and the various branches of sacred sciences, such as Biblical knowledge and ecclesiastical sciences, especially of Roman law and comparative civil law.

To accomplish this aim he founded new chairs and new institutions in Rome for these various departments of literary and encyclopaedic language, and called to his assistance some of the most eminent and learned professors.

With regard to sociology, it is another of the Holy Father's glories that at this latter end of the nineteenth century his Encyclicals are regarded as so many admirable parts of a grand doctrinal system, comprehensive and universal, embracing all the social sciences, beginning with the fundamental theorems of natural law and going on to the consideration of the political constitution of the States and of every economic question.

The whole world knows how well the Pope's Encyclicals have carried out his

plan, and how, for this reason, they have their own peculiar character by which they are distinguished from the Pontifical utterances of other Popes, even those of his immediate predecessor, Pius the Ninth.

Turning again to his policy of pacification, the ecclesiastical history of his Pontificate, the civil history of Europe, the universal history of the human race, will in the future have to give up pages of the highest praise to Leo XIII.

Germany, Belgium, France and Spain profess their boundless gratitude for the peace-giving interventions of Leo XII. in many grave and critical emergencies, and for acts which have been of the greatest moment to those nations.

Asia, too, and Africa, will be found joining in the chorus, and lauding Leo, who has so often and so resolutely labored to reawaken those old and fossilized portions of the earth to a new life of Christian civilization.

Nor will America, throughout its length and breadth, withhold its tribute of loyal and generous veneration, esteem and gratitude to Pope Leo for those acts of his Pontificate which have at various times been promulgated, and by which he has shown his confidence and hope in the grand future of this mighty nation.

During the seventeen years of his Pontifical rule nothing has been more remarkable or plain than the incessant growth of his benignant moral influence.

To-day the Holy Father's words are listened to with deference by every court, by every government, by every people.

On every question touching universal human interests his counsel is sought eagerly, and welcomed gratefully.

Despite, then, all the adverse trend of mundane circumstances, despite loss of the external symbols of its authority, the Papacy has gained in power and splendor since the accession of the present glorious Pontiff. As Macaulay says in one of his most noble essays:

"The Papacy remains, not in decay, not a mere antique, but full of life and youthful vigor."
Fr. Archp. SATOLLI, Deleg. Apost.
Washington, March 2, 1895.

TO THOSE WHO MOURN THEIR LOVED AND LOST.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

There exists at la Chapelle Montligeon (France) an archconfraternity, the Oeuvre Expiatoire, established with the approbation of Mgr. Tregaro, Bishop of the diocese, in which over 2,000 Masses are offered up every week for the forsaken souls in purgatory; 112,000 Masses were celebrated in 1894. The associates enrolled on the registers of the archconfraternity share in the suffrages of all these Masses, and provide for themselves the efficacious and powerful protection of the holy souls by subscribing one cent yearly, or one dollar in perpetuity. The Oeuvre Expiatoire has received the approbation of His Holiness Leo XIII. and over 500 Cardinals and Bishops.

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MGR. FABRE'S PASTORAL VISITS.

Following is the schedule of Mgr. Fabre's proposed pastoral visits:—Dorval, June 3; Lachine, June 4; Caughnawaga, June 5; St. Laurent, June 9; Ile Bizard, June 10; Ste. Genevieve, June 11; St. Anne de Bout de l'Île, June 12; Pointe Claire, June 13; St. Martin, June 17; St. Dorothee, June 18; Ste-Rose, June 19; St. Vincent de Paul, June 20; Ste. Monique, June 24; St. Janvier, June 25; St. Jerome, June 26; St. Sauveur, June 27; Ste. Adele, June 28; Ste. Lucie, June 29; Ste. Marguerite, June 30; St. Hypolite, July 1; Ste. Sophie, July 2; Ste. Anne des Plaines, July 3; Terrebonne, July 4; St. Francois de Sales, July 5; St. Scholastique, July 8; St. Canute and St. Colomban, July 9; St. Hermas, July 10; Lachine, July 11; St. Andre, July 12; St. Augustin, July 19; St. Benoit, July 20; St. Placide, July 21; St. Joseph, July 22; St. Eustache, July 23; Oka, August 1.

Japan has accepted the credentials of China's peace envoy, Viceroy Li Hung Chang, and he started from Peking last Tuesday on his mission after an interview with the Dowager-Empress, in which she warmly approved his course. The Japanese have abandoned Wei-Hai-Wei after destroying the Chinese fortifications.

Both houses of the Oklahoma legislature have passed a divorce bill which is unequalled for its liberality.