

HIS GRACE AT ST. AUGUSTINE'S, BRANDON.

Confirmation—Discourse in which the future execution of a Papal decree is announced—Honoring the new Redemptorist Saint—Visit to St. Michael's school.

The following able and interesting report, from the Brandon Sun, of the 19th inst., was unavoidably held over from last week, but will repay perusal, especially that portion of His Grace's sermon in which he announces that the Pope's decree excluding women from church choirs shall be observed as soon as possible.

His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface was present at the services at St. Augustine's Church on Sunday, and the church was crowded morning and evening.

The Archbishop's visit to Brandon was to confer the sacrament of confirmation and to officiate at the special service held on Sunday in honor of the canonization of St. Gerard, a Redemptorist brother, who was placed on the church's list of Saints by Pope Pius X at Rome, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 5th last.

The new saint having been a member of the Redemptorist order, his canonization was of special significance to Brandon, which is under the care of the Redemptorists.

The ceremony at Rome was conducted with great pomp by His Holiness the Pope, attended by the foremost church dignitaries from many lands. It was one of the most important occasions since the new pope has taken his place as head of the church. Throughout the world, wherever the Redemptorists are working for the salvation of souls, the great event has been celebrated with fitting ceremonies.

St. Augustine's Church was most appropriately adorned for Sunday's ceremony. Quiet decorations were arranged and the picture of Gerard Majella, who performed such great work for God as to be placed by the church in its list of Saints, was given a place of honor.

His Grace, the Archbishop, was present at High Mass. He was met at the priests' house by the congregation and escorted to the church. After mass, upon a class of about twenty boys and girls and four adults His Grace conferred the sacrament of confirmation, by which the children of the church are made good and perfect Christians.

The Archbishop also preached the sermon, which was a clear and instructive discourse. To the children in particular he directed a few words of advice on their duty to God and the church, imploring them to be always faithful in their religious duties. He also addressed himself to Catholics generally, urging obedience to the church and its teachings, which would result in making them always faithful to God, a credit to the grand old Church, and good citizens of their beloved Canada. A man who is true to his God must be true to his country. It pained him to sometimes hear this country reviled by those who had left their native land with its oppression and come here to be heartily welcomed and enjoy the grand freedom and prosperity which is shared by all. He touched upon the mention sometimes made that the troubles and unhappiness of France, Spain, and other countries were the result of their being Catholic. This was most unfair and unjust, for to all who cared to see it was apparent that the condition of these countries was entirely due to their having lost the faith and drifted to materialism.

The order of Pope Pius X to have Catholic church choirs made up of male voices, he wished all to know, would be observed as quickly as possible, as are all decrees of the Head of the Church. That the church owes much to the ladies for its splendid music is fully appreciated, and for the present female voices cannot be dispensed with, but efforts would be made to encourage the boys and young men to give such time to music and singing as would be required to make it possible to carry out the expressed wish of the Holy Father.

In the evening there was the usual Sunday service followed by solemn benediction by His Grace, the Archbishop, who also officiated at the ceremony to mark the canonization of St. Gerard. The ceremony was very simple but most impressive. The archbishop addressed the congregation and in eloquent language pointed to the great work accomplished by the saintly Gerard during his lifetime.

His life was given to charity and to relieving distress. His life was one which all might strive to emulate and the result of the effort would be great spiritual and temporal benefits.

During the afternoon the Archbishop visited St. Michael's school, where he was warmly welcomed by the pupils, to whom he addressed a few words of advice and encouragement, urging the little ones to be diligent in their studies and obedient to their superiors.

BLESSEDNESS OF THE POOR.

Thousands of poor people, the world over, will have little or no money to buy any comfort or luxury for themselves, at Christmas, or to make presents. Some of these, many, I hope, will be, after all happier than the rich and the frenzied financiers who are "wallowing in wealth." John D. Rockefeller's physical extremities are well known. The lurid Lawson, who may be piling up millions in his spectacular love for the fleeced lambs of Wall street, must be in a nervous condition by no means Christian or peaceful, while hating and tormenting the Standard Oil and other devouring systems. The bankers bamboozled by Mrs Chadwick are in Beecher's "cave of gloom." The one woman of prominence, who speaks a charitable word for the Cleveland sister who has become a national notoriety, Mrs. Hetty Green, is, in money matters, a miser and not happy. She saved the expense of a doctor's visit by letting him know, as he drove to the door, that her father was dead and did not need him further. Her husband was under her thumb and, it is said, after hunting in vain for a coupon clipping, found it accidentally on his boot heel, trodden upon unknowingly. She has a crippled daughter and a commonplace son, with blighted political ambition in Texas. She aspires, it is said, to make him the richest young man in the country, by her parsimonious stinting; but she must, if that statement be correct, despair of equaling the younger Standard Oil crown-prince. Yet, in Mrs. Chadwick's case, and in other female cases, she says, her heart is touched humanly. She shrewdly surmises that a certain group of bankers and lawyers possess the Chadwick spoil, and she bases her conviction on an extensive, personal experience with such gentry. The old lady's evidence may have some of the keen scent of the pointer dog. I once asked a man who had travelled in Ireland who were the happiest people he saw and he replied emphatically: "The poor ragged Catholics who knelt at the church porch with adoring, ecstatic faith as the Holy Mass was celebrated within. They were content with their bitter lot, never murmured and were certain that the reward of Lazarus would be their own eventually." So, happiness, at Christmas and at all times, is interior peace, the peace that passes all understanding. Even Andrew Carnegie has it not. When the Chadwick woman proposed to keep him from some of his own declaration of "the disgrace of dying rich," by the comparatively slight depletion of his fortune, he squeals like a stuck pig, is racked with lumbago and flies as far Southward as the Union extends, to Florida, where, this day, as the fields of Ohio are in a cerement of snow, the palm trees are nodding and the tomatoes are ripening in the open air. Old Father Joseph Heidenkamp declared that the wise ones, in their own conceit, and the rich ones, in their arrogance, would, in the day of judgment, envy the faithful beggars at the portal of the Irish chapel.—James R. Randall in Catholic Columbian.

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AN APOSTLE OF PEACE.

At Notre Dame University, on Thursday, Dec. 8, the celebration of the golden jubilee of the Immaculate Conception was presided over by Archbishop Agius, delegate apostolic to the Philippines. In addressing the students after Pontifical High Mass the archbishop, who is on his way to see Secretary Taft in Washington, declared that his mission to the archipelago was "to restore peace, to assist the Filipinos in their legitimate aspirations and encourage them to be loyal to the present government."

"When I came from the Holy Father," the delegate said, "I asked him, 'What am I to do?' He answered: 'Go and continue what you have been doing in Rome for the last ten years. Devote yourself to the good of souls. Help them to be loyal to the present government. Go not as a politician, but as an apostle.'"

The same anxiety to emphasize the peaceful character of his mission appeared in the portion of his grace's address in which he exhorted the students of Notre Dame to bear their part in the work to be done in the islands.

"Some of you must come out," he said, "as lawyers, and they will be necessary there; some as engineers, and many, I hope, as teachers. Some of you come out in the army, but to these I say do not bring any arms or ammunition with you. We want no more gunpowder in the Philippines; we want peace. Come as friends. The delegation will be always open to you and you will be welcomed as friends, but not as fighters. The program that I bring with me from Rome is peace."



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