

SARNIA EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

The Clergy, Religious, and the laity of the diocese of London are given the opportunity again of uniting in a day of public adoration and reparation to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in their annual Eucharistic Congress which will be held on September 24th, the feast of Our Lady of Mercy, at Sarnia, Ontario. This year's Congress will be in particular an act of reparation for the outrage perpetrated in the robbery of the tabernacle in St. Joseph's Church in that city. Right Reverend Monignor J. T. Aylward and Reverend Fathers Thomas McCarthy and Leo Power will be pleased to see and especially the laity living in the parishes neighboring Sarnia at the 14th Diocesan Eucharistic Congress. Early that morning Holy Communion will be given in Our Lady of Mercy Church and in St. Joseph's Church. At 10.15 His Lordship the Bishop of London will sing Pontifical Mass on the grounds of the Church of Our Lady of Mercy. All are invited to join in the procession of the Blessed Sacrament which will follow the Mass, and then the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in Our Lady of Mercy Church for the day for the adoration of the faithful. During the afternoon the Priests of the diocese will hold a Conference, and the city children in a body with their teachers, the Sisters of St. Joseph, will make a special visit to the Blessed Sacrament at 4 o'clock. Congress day closes with the Holy Hour at 7.30 P. M. at which His Lordship Right Reverend Bishop Fallon will preach. The faithful prevented from attending may join in spirit by visiting the Blessed Sacrament in their home parish church on the 24th and going to Holy Communion on the Sunday before or the Sunday after. The following is the history of an Eucharistic Congress in Brittany.

Rennes, July 25.—(N. C. W. C.)—The National Eucharistic Congress which has just opened here drew large crowds which, each day, besieged the Cathedral and nine other churches, splendidly decorated for the event.

The capital of Brittany was hung with flags. Sumptuous repositories had been prepared on the principal public squares. One of them was arranged in the form of a giant monstrance, more than eight meters high, made of flowers.

Cardinals Dubois, Maurin and Charost, the latter Archbishop of Rennes, assisted at the principal ceremonies together with twenty-five Archbishops and Bishops, including Mgr. Pichon, Archbishop of Haiti, and the Bishops of Morocco, Congo and Senegambia. Thirty other prelates and mitred abbots were also present. The number of priests was close to three thousand.

Especially remarkable was the "Day of the Children." Special trains came from all parts of Brittany bringing twelve thousand little boys and girls, dressed as altar boys, angels and pages. After receiving Communion in the various churches of the city they passed through the city in a charming procession.

On the last day of the Congress a splendid procession traversed the main thoroughfares of Rennes. Following the priests and all the Bishops came Cardinal Maurin bearing the Blessed Sacrament. The dais was followed by the notables of the country headed by all the senators and all the deputies of the Department. More than sixty thousand persons took part in this manifestation.

CZECH BISHOPS ISSUE LETTER OF EXPLANATION

By V. Myslivec (Prague Correspondent, N. C. W. C.) Prague, Aug. 31.—A joint Pastoral Letter explaining the reasons for and justifying the recall of the Papal Nuncio from Prague, condemning anti-Catholic agitators and calling upon the faithful to organize counter demonstrations has just been issued by the Catholic Hierarchy in Czecho-Slovakia. The Bishops' letter, explaining the necessity for the Nuncio's recall, refers to the words recently spoken by the Pope to Czecho-Slovakian pilgrims in Rome when His Holiness mentioned the divine rights that are God's. On the other hand, the Czecho-Slovakian Hierarchy declares the Prague Government has refused to recognize the principle of separation of Church and State but has held out for a supremacy of the State.

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After warning the Catholics of Czecho-Slovakia not to be led astray by appeals to traditions of Protestantism, atheism, and Humanism, the Pastoral expresses confidence that the Catholics of the nation will gain the respect of the entire world by their determined defense of their Faith.

PARCEL POST CARRIED UP TO 15 POUNDS

The Honourable Charles Murphy, Postmaster General announces that the postal service will now accept parcels weighing up to 15 pounds for transmission through the mails. There are a good many articles of general use slightly over the present limit of weight which it will now be possible to forward by mail, and this will be in the interest of the public and prove a real convenience which will be appreciated both by business men and the public generally. It will have particular value in cases where it is desired to forward such heavier articles to parts of the country to which the post office is practically the only means of conveyance. The limits of size for parcels accepted for transmission by post will remain as at present.

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THE CATACOMBS SHOW APOSTOLIC ORIGIN

BISHOP SCHREMB'S REWARDED BY GIFT FROM POPE

By Mgr. Enrico Pucel (Rome Correspondent, N. C. W. C.)

Back of the arrival in America recently of the body of St. Christina, presented by the Pope to Bishop Schrembs, there is an interesting series of events illustrating the growth of interest in and devotion to the cult of the Catacombs. Bishop Schrembs had more than once told the Sovereign Pontiff of his desire to promote, in America, the cult and devotion to the Roman Catacombs and the sacred memories contained in them. This idea corresponded perfectly with that of the Pope, who considers the Roman Catacombs one of the most precious gems of the Holy Church. The Pope mentions them and exalts them on every occasion. One of his favorite subjects in his discourses to pilgrims during this Holy Year is the Catacombs.

BASILICAS ROOTS IN CATACOMBE The Pope often expresses the thought that the great Basilicas,

today unfolding the beauty of art to the sun, have their roots in the dark and silent Catacombs sunk in the earth, and that in the Catacombs is found the most efficacious proof of the Apostolicity of the Church, because in them it is shown that the Roman Church has spoken with the Apostles and one can almost follow their steps, one by one, in those dark mazes.

Also the Holy Father has promoted the adaptation of the Catacombs in their principal centers for the use of the pilgrims. This has been done by the contributions of Catholics of various nations and pilgrims are continually going there to pray, to hear Mass, to celebrate the most touching and expressive functions at the tombs of the martyrs, thus giving great satisfaction to His Holiness.

THE "HOUSE OF THE CATACOMBS"

To complete this more intense daily cult of the Catacombs, and to greatly further the scientific study of them, the Holy Father also favored the erection of a "Casa delle Catacombe" (House of the Catacombs) which is destined to receive all the scientific material (photographs, printed matter, drawings, etc.) referring to the Catacombs and which has come to light from the time of the great discoverer of the Catacombs, Giovanni Battista De Rossi.

The Pope's idea met with a prompt and generous response and that is between the Catacombs of St. Sebastian, of Protestato, of St. Callisto and of Domitilla. When the edifice is completed, it is destined to also take into custody all the sacred vestments, etc. that the Pope this year for the Cult of the Catacombs and which are all made in artistic designs corresponding to the style of the first centuries of the Church. The custody of the building will be entrusted to the religious community of the Sisters of the Poor of St. Catherine of Siena, and the pilgrims who go to the sacred ceremonies in the Catacombs may find rest and refreshment there after having assisted at the Holy Mysteries. As the "House of the Catacombs" is in the open country where religious institutions for social assistance have been lacking for a long time, the Sisters will also open a nursery for children and devote themselves to the care of the sick.

AID FROM BISHOP SCHREMB'S

Toward the realization of this magnificent undertaking worthy of the Sovereign Pontiff, Bishop Schrembs has given very valuable help. In fact, he has obtained from a rich and pious gentleman of his diocese, a Mr. Byrider—recently created by His Holiness Knight of the Order of Pius IX.—a very generous gift that was sent to the Holy Father at the end of last year. His Holiness was very grateful for this help which renders possible the realization of one of his dearest projects and to show his pleasure made Bishop Schrembs the gift of the body of Saint Christina to be placed in his Cathedral.

IRISH HISTORY CHAIR AT MARQUETTE

Milwaukee, Wis.—The State convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and its Ladies Auxiliary at Janesville, Wis., voted \$2,000 toward the establishment of a chair of Irish history and of studies in international relations at Marquette University.

It is estimated that for the complete establishment of the endowment, \$75,000 will be needed and the Wisconsin Hibernians expect to raise this through appeal to the United Irish Societies in America and to wealthy Americans of Irish descent. A committee will be appointed to carry on this work as soon as the matter has been broached officially at Marquette.

"The purpose of the endowment," according to the Hibernians' announcement, "is to serve as an offset to the work of the various agencies of British origin and association that are constantly endeavoring to influence, for the interests of Britain, American students and the American public. Many Americans regard these agencies as a serious menace to true Americanism."

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DIED

SCOTT.—At Tralee, September 1st, 1925, Mrs. Michael Scott, R. I. P. PITT.—At his home, London, Ont., on August 24, 1925, Sylvester Pitt, aged sixty-two years. May his soul rest in peace.

SULLIVAN.—At Detroit, Mich., on Monday, August 17, 1925, Thomas B. Sullivan, son of the late John Sullivan, of Seaford, Ont. May his soul rest in peace.

FOWLER.—At Brigus, Nfld., on August 19th, 1925, fortified by the rites of Holy Church, Nicholas Fowler, in the eighty-second year of his age, leaving a widow, four sons and one daughter to mourn their sad loss. R. I. P.

DELANEY.—At Cupid's, C. Bay, Nfld., on August 20th, 1925, Patrick Delaney, aged sixty-eight years, leaving one daughter, Sister Mary Josephine, of Mount Saint Mary's, Pulaski Heights, Little Rock. "Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on his soul."

There is no more solid foundation for hope than contrition and the memory of our sins; not in bitterness, for where there is bitterness there is pride; but with true sorrow and humility, recognizing how of ourselves we can do no good, and that whatever small good there may be in us, it is all the work of God's grace and mercy.

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