

In and Around Toronto

ST. PETER'S NEW CHURCH.

The beginning of work on a new church for St. Peter's parish is now a reality and the parishioners are congratulating themselves and their energetic pastor, Rev. Father Minehan, as it foretells the realization of something which for some time has been felt as a very pressing necessity, that is a much larger edifice and one more in keeping with the growing wants of that part of the city in which the parish is situated; one, too, more befitting the decorum and general environment which we always associate with a temple built as a house for the Most High. Not that the present little building has not been witness to many an exhibition of piety nor that it has not been conducive to the nurture and development of a devout and practical congregation, but the presence of a primitive building, adequate setting for which would have to be looked for through a retrospect of thirty-five years, is altogether incongruous and unsuited to the fine and ever expanding part of Toronto in which St. Peter's is located. This being the case, the excavating for the new building which was begun last week is viewed with infinite pleasure by the people of St. Peter's and the vicinity.

It might be interesting for those who were witnesses to the first beginnings and subsequent developments of the parish, to glance for a moment backwards. It is now thirty-five years since the little building was put up which, for some twenty years or so was to do duty as both school and temple of worship. Here for five days in the week the children and youth of the neighborhood were initiated into the mysteries of the four R's and of their religion, and on Sunday Mass was celebrated, the priest coming from St. Mary's, of which parish it is an offshoot, as it was for a number of years merely a mission chapel of the larger church. In those days two teachers sufficed for the wants of the school. One of those for a number of years was Sister Martha, now of St. Joseph's Academy, whose work is gratefully remembered. During the past decade things have been somewhat changed, a new school-house left the first building altogether free for church purposes, and the growing educational needs of the children of the parish demanded four teachers, the number at present engaged. For a quarter of a century the spiritual wants of the people were ministered to by the priests of St. Mary's, two masses being celebrated on Sunday for several years prior to the time when St. Peter's became a distinct parish with a resident priest. The present pastor, Rev. Father Minehan, is the first parish priest and on Candlemas Day, 1896, he celebrated his first Mass as head of his new charge. Under Father Minehan's care the old church was renovated and in the pride of its new dress it took heart and created its head again, thinking itself the peer of any of its surroundings. This feeling, however, was only temporary, and it soon became evident that something much larger and more in keeping with its environment was altogether necessary. On July 1st of the same year the school-house was begun and in September it was ready for occupation. Since then a parochial presbytery has been built and furnished, and things generally are in readiness for the concentration of the forces of the parish upon the speedy erection of a substantial and handsome church. The site for this is the north-east corner of Bloor and Markham streets. The church will front on Bloor and will stand high on its foundation. The stone dressing will rise to a considerable height from the foundations, giving an elevated and attractive effect. The architecture will be early Gothic, the material brick with stone trimmings. The interior, finished in Georgia pine, will have open timber roofs and wooden ceiling. The length will be 130 feet and the width 65 feet. It will have accommodation for 600. Sacristies will be erected on either side leading to the church and connected by passages behind the main altar. Mr. A. W. Holmes is the architect.

It is hoped that the church will be in readiness for use before next winter, though it is not the intention to build the spire or ornamental front until later. The present cost is estimated at \$27,000, and the cost when completed at \$33,000. It goes without saying that pastor and people co-operating in this as in every other good movement of the parish, present prospects will be amply realized, the vitality and earnestness of the pastor having communicated itself to the people, until now they are behind none and superior to many in their zeal and activity in parish affairs.

HOLY NAME AT ST. MARY'S.

The Quarterly Communion of the members of the Holy Name Society took place at the 8.30 Mass at St. Mary's on Sunday. In the evening a grand representation signalized the regular monthly meeting, five hundred men filling the front pews of the church and listening to the eloquent sermon by Rev. Father Doyle, C.S.S.R., who preached on the necessity of fidelity towards the obligations imposed by membership. The Rev. speaker also complimented the Society on its large numbers and prophesied for it a career of great and unspeakable good.

MISSION AT ST. FRANCIS.

The Mission looked forward to for some weeks past at the Church of St. Francis, began on Sunday morning with every propitious circumstance, and as its beginning so does its second promise to be. The weather was

delightful, just the season for the work to be done, and the pretty church had just received extra embellishments in the way of ornamentation to the Sanctuary and a number of new stained glass windows. When the Redemptorist Fathers Klauder and Caughlin entered and knelt at the beginning of the High Mass to invoke the blessing of God upon their labors, they were confronted by an altar exquisitely adorned with the fairest of flowers and behind them knelt a large congregation, who, if it may be judged by appearances, were imbued with all the qualities which go far towards the making up of the receptive condition necessary for the proper "making of a mission." The beautiful devotion of the Forty Hours, and the glorious Alleluias of the Easter morn, were still in the air, all seeming to proclaim that now indeed is the acceptable time. The opening sermon preached by Rev. Father Klauder, was taken from the Gospel of the day, the text, "Peace Be to You," affording scope for a most appropriate initiatory address. The Rev. speaker showed that there are two kinds of peace, the peace of victory and the peace of subjection, the first being that which comes from a triumphant conquest over sin and the second, when sin has so conquered that conscience is no longer heard and the victim remains passive and inert under the vile dominion of the conqueror. The peace of victory was the happiness desired by the missionary for all those who listened to him. It was announced that the special week's mission for the women would begin at the evening service, and the men were requested to make an actual beginning to their part in the work of the time by doing all possible to make it easy for the women to get out to the different services. Compliance with this seems to have been the rule, for at seven o'clock in the evening over eight hundred women had gathered in the church when the directors for the week were announced by Father Klauder and the sermon preached by Father Caughlin. The speaker told the story of Martha and Mary, telling in simple words how when poor Martha beset with her many household labors, appealed to our Divine Lord in order that she might get help from her sister Mary, who sat at the feet of the Master eagerly drinking in His words, she was met with the response, "Martha, Martha, thou art busy about many things, but Mary has chosen the better part, which shall not be taken from her. The 'better part' was the one thing necessary, and the one thing necessary is the salvation of the immortal soul. Applying this to those present, the Rev. speaker said that this was what they as missionaries had come to do, to help the people of St. Francis to save their immortal souls. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed. The Masses during the week are at 5 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. and evening exercises at 7.30. The Masses are followed by a short discourse and every evening a sermon is delivered. A class is in progress preparing adults for the Sacrament of Confirmation which will be given by the Archbishop on the first Sunday of May. Any eligible for this class are invited by the Pastor to attend. The men's Mission begins on Sunday next.

DEATH OF MR. P. BOLAND.

The support was excellent and the fine chorus with florid orchestra in which the added harp and trumpets rendered additional brilliancy, made the event a memorable one. Musical Toronto will long remember Albani as laden with flowers, her sweet face all wreathed in smiles, with perhaps a suspicion of tears, she bade it a last farewell. The funeral, which was largely attended, took place on Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock from his late residence to Holy Family Church, where Requiem High Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Coyle, and from there to St. Michael's Cemetery, where all that was mortal of a kind old friend was consigned to the tomb. R.I.P. M.J.

QUARTERLY MEETING OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.

The Quarterly meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be held at 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoon at the Hall, Shuter street. It is expected that all interested will be in attendance.

Mr. J. D. O'Donoghue

Mr. D. J. O'Donoghue, who is seriously ill in Fernie, B.C., is slightly improved. His son, Mr. J. G. O'Donoghue, barrister, is now with him, and further good news is now reasonably expected.

FORTY HOURS AT ST. PETER'S.

When the Forty Hours opened at St. Peter's on Sunday morning after the High Mass, the church was crowded, but despite this fact, so admirable were the arrangements, a beautiful procession of the Blessed Sacrament made its way down the aisle, strewn with flowers and incense in the path of the Divine Guest, carried in the hands of the Pastor, Rev. Father Minehan.

ALBANI'S FAREWELL.

In the beautiful music of the Redemption Albani bade farewell to Toronto. A large audience greeted Canada's first singer, and applause was spontaneous and appreciative. Though in the midst of a trying and fatiguing tour Albani sang as she alone can sing, and in the solo where the word is given to the Apostles to go forth and preach the glad tidings of the Kingdom of Heaven, the grand voice soared in a devotional ecstasy of command, until it seemed as though it were indeed a celestial messenger delivering the word to all parts of the earth. So great was the applause that a repetition was demanded.

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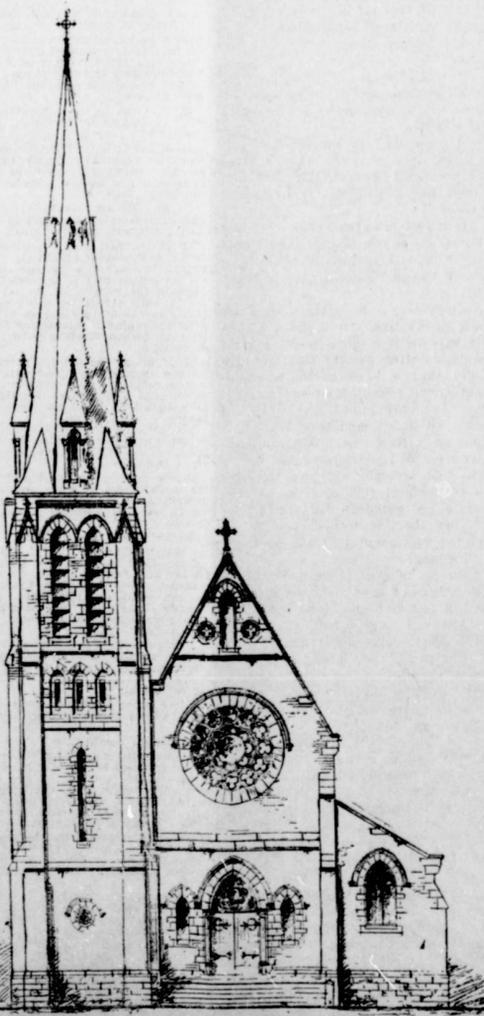
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