

## Northwest Review

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SATURDAY, OCT. 29, 1904.

### Calendar for Next Week.

#### OCTOBER.

30—Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost.

31—Monday—Vigil. Fast Day.

#### NOVEMBER

1—Tuesday—Fast of All Saints.

2—Wednesday—All Souls' Day.

3—Thursday—Of the Octave.

4—Friday—St. Charles Borromeo, Cardinal Archbishop.

5—Saturday—Of the Octave.

### QUENCH NOT THE SMOKING FLAX

A zealous missionary in the West writes us a letter the gist of which may be instructive to many of our readers. He says he would like to know how to treat one of the leaders in his new and struggling mission. This man is apparently very zealous for Catholic interests. Whenever anything is to be bought for the church he takes all the trouble on himself and shows great executive ability. But the good priest has discovered lately that whenever his officious friend buys anything for the church he always pockets a commission thereon. Real zeal for religion does not seem to enter into his make-up. He has not received the sacraments for many years past. Although married to a Protestant he has had his children baptized by the Catholic priest, but this is all; he has never even found time in the long Sunday rest to teach them the sign of the Cross, and has not made any attempt to win over his wife. He aims at being popular with his Protestant neighbors. In a word if he strives to run the Catholic church in his little sphere it is because he wants to "boss the show." He even occasionally attempts to snub the missionary. Under these circumstances the latter would like to know whether he should put his foot down firmly or overlook the fellow's absurd pretensions for the sake of the material work he does.

We unhesitatingly reply: Do not quench the smoking flax. Of course when this busybody waxes insolent, put him quietly in his place; but do not quarrel with him, do not even remind him of his private rake-off. Bless your soul, the woods are full of such men. We knew one who acquired a great reputation for unselfish generosity in Catholic matters by large donations always carefully advertized, and yet it was found out later on that whenever he gave ten dollars he got back at least forty by wire-pulling with ecclesiastical authorities. God makes use of such men; why should not the Church? They are the tares in the wheat; the winnowing is put off till the judgment day. Sometimes the tares become good wheat by conversion. Often they die tares. Some begin as wheat and end as tares; so did Tertullian: he is to this day one of the great witnesses to Catholic tradition, and yet we have reason to fear that he is eternally lost. In more recent times Father Addis helped the Catholic cause for all time by his Catholic Dictionary and afterwards left the Church. St. George Mivart was, for thirty years, a beacon light of Catholicism; his works in its defence will never die; but he made shipwreck of the faith in the end. Perseverance is a grace we cannot merit, but which we can infallibly obtain by constant prayer. Our friend the missionary should try to get his Catholic "boss" to pray. But meanwhile he should use him for all he is worth.

The St. Boniface car situation has not improved. One at least of the two cars running on that line is old, cold (there being no stove yet in spite of the chilly weather), and bumps along on wheels that are nearly square.

### BLESSING OF A NEW CHURCH AT STARBUCK

Going east on the train to the thriving village of Starbuck on the Souris section of the C.P.R., the first building to catch the eye of the traveller sitting on the north side of the train is the graceful frame church of St. Paul on the western edge of Starbuck. The facade and steeple surmounted by a fine cross face the track, and present a pleasing appearance, which a closer view only strengthens, the interior of the edifice being lightsome and neat. The plans were drawn up for Rev. Father Perrault, the pastor, by his bosom friend, Rev. Father Claude, C.R.I.C. The building, which is all complete, measures 50 by 28 feet, 27 feet high inside, and cost \$1450, of which \$550 remain to be paid. To help defray the cost a bazaar was held in the church before it was blessed or used for worship, on the 18th, 19th and 20th inst. Mrs. Blake was president and Mrs. Dauphinais vice-president of the bazaar. Mrs. Deslauriers presided at the banquet. In the contest between two popular young ladies, Miss Eleonore Dauphinais and Miss Lilly Desautels, the latter secured the largest number of votes, the total realized by the contest being \$329. The net proceeds of the bazaar were \$550, about half of which was contributed by non-Catholics.

On Saturday morning Father Perrault, who had come in to make final arrangements, left by the nine o'clock train with the Very Rev. Vicar General for Fannystelle, eight miles from Starbuck. Owing to the fact that an important message was not delivered in time, Father Drummond, who had been invited to preach at the blessing of the new Starbuck church next day, could not take that train, and as he thought it was the only means of reaching his destination, he wired that he would not go. Fortunately Mr. Dechaine, a prominent Catholic and the leading general merchant of Starbuck, wired back suggesting a freight train. Father Drummond found one that started at 6.45 in the evening and thus happily reached Starbuck at 8.30. As Father Perrault resides at Fannystelle and has not even the use of a room at Starbuck, Father Drummond spent the night in a very comfortable temperance hotel kept by a Norwegian family, where he was glad to meet two Catholic young ladies, Miss Connell and Miss Valade, who are teaching in and near Starbuck.

On Sunday morning, Oct. 24, Father Perrault drove to Starbuck, arriving at 9 o'clock in time to say Mass, as Father Drummond did also, before the solemn blessing of the church. This began at 10.30, the Vicar General, who had driven over with Father Claude officiating. After the sprinkling with holy water outside and inside the building and the singing of the liturgical hymns and prayers, the Very Rev. F. A. Dugas sang the High Mass, with Father Claude as deacon and Father Perrault as sub-deacon. Father Drummond preached, first in French, which about half the congregation understands and then in English, from Gen. 28, 17 "This is none other but the house of God and the gate of heaven." The church was crowded.

After the morning function Dr. and Mrs. Bouthillier, who live next to the church, entertained the four priests and Mr. Dechaine, who has done so much for the church, to a generous and tasty dinner. The doctor is very popular and has a large practice. The afternoon service, which consisted of a hymn, a sermon, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, began at 3.15. This time again the church was thronged, many of those present being Protestants who had come from quite a distance to hear the preacher. Father Drummond, using a Protestant Bible for his references, proved the reasonableness of the Catholic doctrine of the Blessed Eucharist chiefly from the sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel, but also from many philosophical and scientific sources, insisting especially upon the necessity of a literal interpretation of Our Lord's words.

After Benediction the clergy drove to Fannystelle, where they enjoyed Father Perrault's genial hospitality. Next morning Father Claude left for his home at St. Claude and the Vicar General and Father Drummond returned to St. Boniface, highly edified with the religious zeal of the good people of Starbuck.

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