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VOL. XI, No. 50

TORONTO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1903

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St. Mary's Church, Berlin

Formal Opening and Blessing on Sunday
Last—First Mass Celebrated by the
Apostolic Delegate—Three Ontario
Bishops Present.

Berlin, Dec. 14.—(Special) — The solemn blessing and opening of the magnificent new Catholic church, called St. Mary's Church, Berlin, was signaled yesterday by ceremonies imposing in the religious sense and expressive in a remarkable way of the growth of the Catholic people in Western Ontario. As a building erected to the honor and for the worship of God, Berlin's new church stands as a milestone of progress in this part of Canada. Twenty years ago no one would dream of a Catholic church of such size raising its tall steeple in this section of the province. The occasion was also rendered memorable by the presence of the representative of the Supreme Pontiff, Mgr. Sbarretti, who was accompanied by Bishop O'Connor of Peterboro and the two Bishops of Western Ontario. The Metropolitan of the province, Archbishop O'Connor, was unable to be present.

The interest created among the Catholic people of this city and district was proportionate to the importance of the day.

The weather conditions were anything but favorable, it being exceedingly stormy, but this handicap did not deter hundreds of people attending the ceremonies of the morning and the evening services.

Shortly after nine o'clock the members of the St. Boniface, Catholic Order of Foresters and C.M.B.A. formed a guard of honor, leading from the rectory to the church, and while the bells pealed forth in the wintry air, the procession of priests and their attendants marched to the church, and the Rt. Rev. Thos. Dowling, Bishop of Hamilton, solemnly blessed the structure, first on the exterior of the church. Then unhooking the church, the procession entered and the ceremony was concluded. After the priests returned, the crowds who were waiting outside, entered and by ten o'clock fully fifteen hundred people were comfortably seated in the large and commodious church.

The celebration of the first Mass then began. His Excellency, Monsignor Sbarretti, the Papal Delegate, was the celebrant, assisted by Rev. A. Weiler, Berlin, as archdeacon, Rev. Father Mahoney, rector of the cathedral at Hamilton, dean. Rev. Father Forester of New Germany and Rev. A. Zinger of Berlin, were deacons of honor. Rev. J. Schweitzer, Berlin, was the master of ceremonies. Rt. Rev. Father Dowling was attended by Rev. Father Kreidt, O.C.S., of the Carmelite Mission, Niagara Falls, and Rev. D. Pennessy, Superior for the College at St. Mary's, Ky. Rt. Rev. Richard A. O'Connor, Bishop of Peterboro, was attended by Revs. Wm. Klopfer and J. Fehrenbach, and Rt. Rev. Fergus Patrick McEvay, Bishop of London, by Rev. Father Urban of Toronto, and Rev. Theo. Spetz, D.D., of Berlin.

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St. Mary's Church, Berlin, Ont.
—A.W. HOLMES, ARCHITECT—
1903.

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There should be under the new law, and if God poured down blessings in the old dispensation He will most certainly pour down blessings in new dispensation. God has promised that where two or three are gathered in His name, He will be in the midst and if He is in the midst of two or three, He will also be in the midst of His people who gather in His house in public prayer. Prayer gives a peace to the soul which the world cannot give, nor man take away. Christ is in the church, veiled in the tabernacle, and can be taken to the home or the hospital, to the bedside of the dying penitent. His Lordship enumerated the various functions of the Church on earth, beginning with the consecration of the child by baptism, the confirmation, the entry into priesthood, matrimony, burial of the dead, and the preaching of the Word of God. No man has a right to minimize the Word of God, and no person has the right to preach it who does not accept it as a whole. A church in which God is truly worshipped makes the Christian think of his home in heaven. People do not think enough of heaven; they think more of death and hell. Why not of heaven? It will be our everlasting home. It has been purchased for us at a great price, and Christ founded the Church to lead His people to Heaven. Christ's church is imperishable and infallible and we should love it. In conclusion Bishop McEvay congratulated the congregation upon its loyalty to the Church, the clergy and His Excellency, and also on the completion of the magnificent church which should be the pride of the entire town.

BISHOP DOWLING SPEAKS.

At the conclusion of the sermon Bishop Dowling spoke a few words in German in which he thanked the congregation for their co-operation and generosity in erecting their new church. He then turned to His Excellency the Papal Delegate, and tendered him a welcome in behalf of the parish and the diocese, and expressed his gratitude for the honor conferred upon them in coming to Berlin to assist in the blessing of St. Mary's Church. He assured His Excellency of the sincere loyalty of the people in this parish, and he was pleased to testify to the zeal and fidelity of the clergy of the parish—Fathers of the Congregation of the

Resurrection. He then introduced the representatives of the congregation who presented an address to His Excellency, and in conclusion asked as a special request that he would pronounce the Apostolic benediction.

THE CONGREGATION'S WELCOME

The delegation of twenty members of the congregation then entered the sanctuary. Messrs. G. C. H. Lang, Sheriff Motz, T. Tracey, H. Krug, W. J. Motz, H. A. Deitrich, J. Winterhalt, M. Kiefer, J. Huck, G. Engburst, M. Reidel, J. Querin, P. Ringle, Jos. Winterhalt, Jr., C. Dillon, and others. Mr. Geo. C. H. Lang then read the following address: To His Most Reverend and Illustrious Excellency, Monsignor Donatus Sbarretti, D.D., Archbishop and Papal Delegate.

May it please your Excellency: The blessing of our church makes this day an auspicious one for us, the members of the parish of "Our Lady of Sorrows," but its importance has been greatly enhanced by the presence among us, of the Rock of Peter, Pius X., in the person of our most respected guest, His Excellency Mgr. Sbarretti, the Papal Delegate, as well as by the presence of our beloved Chief pastor, the Rt. Rev. Thos. Joseph Dowling, Bishop of Hamilton, and his esteemed associates in the vineyard of the Lord, the Rt. Rev. Fergus Patrick McEvay, Bishop of London, and the Rt. Rev. Richard O'Connor, Bishop of Peterboro.

The parish of Berlin, the German centre of Catholicity in Canada, does this day greet Your Excellency as the direct and immediate representative of the Holy Father. It has ever been its pride to be loyal to the Church and to foster in its bosom an institution from which has gone forth the greater part of our diocesan clergy.

The noble structure that has today been given over to the service of God, and unexcelled and model parochial school, are standing proofs of the growth of Catholicity in our midst; they are but a slight manifestation of the continual progress of our Holy Church in the land of the Maple Leaf.

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In the manifold cares and worries of the exalted and responsible position which your Excellency holds, it is most doubtless a solace to you, as you are to lay before the chair of Peter, the condition of affairs, so prosperous, so full of life, and development, of the Catholic Church of Canada.

With your Excellency's benign condescension we, the members of the parish of "Our Lady of Sorrows," ask as a signal favor, the Apostolic Benediction.

In conclusion, may God in his wisdom and prudence spare you many years to guide the ship of Peter, in this our dear Canada, and to assist us, and those placed over us, to faithfully and perseveringly tread the path of virtue and salvation, and may in the ripeness of years, yours be the glory of Heaven.

In behalf of the parishioners of St. Mary's,
GEO. C. H. LANG,
Berlin, Ont., Dec. 13, the year of salvation, 1903.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY.

The Papal delegate in reply said he was pleased at being able to attend the blessing of St. Mary's Church, Berlin, and assured the people that they had just reason for their pride and satisfaction in having erected so magnificent a church, dedicated to the Most High. He was also pleased in hearing from Bishop Dowling

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of their faith and generosity and also their evidence of loyalty shown him as the humble representative of the Pope. He referred to the joy of living in a land where there is religious freedom and compared the happy lot of Canadian Catholics with the lands of persecution in former days. He concluded his address by administering the Apostolic Benediction.

In the evening a large congregation attended Vespers, and an excellent sermon in German was preached by Rev. Father Kreidt, of Niagara Falls, Bishop Dowling also made a few brief remarks.

In the afternoon the twenty-fifth anniversary of the ordination of Rev. William Klopfer to the priesthood was celebrated, and in the evening a German service was held, the sermon being preached by Rev. Father Kreidt of Niagara Falls.

The first sod of the church was formed in the spring of 1899, and the cornerstone was laid on Sunday, Sept. 30th, 1900. It is built of red pressed brick and its dimensions are 196 by 64. The tower, which will be built in a year or two, will be over 200 feet high. It is constructed in the shape of a cross. The walls and ceilings are of pure white and the woodwork in light colors. The seats and wainscoting are finished in old oak. The altars and confessionals are handsome and the stained glass windows magnificent. The edifice is illuminated by over 850 incandescent bulbs. It cost over \$85,000, and the entire sum has been raised to pay for the magnificent edifice, which is a credit to the congregation and a pride to Berlin. Architecturally the new church is beautiful to look upon and most comfortably appointed. It reflects credit upon the eminent Toronto architect under whose charge the work progressed so satisfactory, Mr. Arthur W. Holmes, who attended the opening to-day.

The Pope and Joan of Arc

The Rome correspondent of the London "Daily Chronicle" says the Pope summoned Mgr. Panici, Secretary of the Congregation of Rites, to his presence and opened a conversation in these words: "I have finally decided upon beatifying Joan of Arc on January 6 next. I wish to give this pledge of my affection for France on that date because it is the birthday anniversary of the heroic Maid of Orleans, and the French bishops of my intention. On the morning of that day, the beatification will be solemnly published in the Sistine Chapel, and afterwards I shall go down to St. Peter's to receive a monster pilgrimage of French Catholics." Dwelling upon this forthcoming event again to-day, Pius X., his face beaming with delight, told some visitors that he had cherished a special affection for Jeanne D'Arc from his early childhood days.

Mr. Bryan Sees the Pope

Rome, Dec. 14.—William Jennings Bryan, accompanied by his son, was received in private audience by the Pope to-day. Mr. Bryan was presented by Mgr. Kennedy, rector of the American College. His Holiness spoke with great interest of the Catholics in the United States. After the audience Mr. Bryan expressed himself as highly pleased with the Pope's kindly face and bearing.

Death of P. J. Griffin

On the 9th inst. Mr. Patrick J. Griffin, General Manager of the Griffin Curled Hair Company, breathed his last at his home in this city, 196 St. Claren's Ave. He had been sick for over two and one-half years, and spent much of his time at the various southern health resorts. Mr. Griffin was born on St. Claren's Ave. 44 years ago and lived in Brockton nearly ever since. He, with his brother Peter, engaged in the steam curled hair business in 1885. Three years ago last September their plant was destroyed by fire, and over its ashes was erected the large brick factory of to-day. The brothers severed partnership some time ago, and since then Mr. Griffin has traded under the name of the Griffin Curled Hair Company. His father and mother were among the earliest settlers in the Brockton District, and his mother still lives in that locality. Mr. Griffin leaves a widow and three young children. Also three brothers besides Peter—Thomas, of Denver, and John and Michael of Toronto. He was a member of St. Helen's Church, to which place the funeral was held on Friday last, and from thence to Mount Hope Cemetery.

Death of Fr. McGurty

Third Victim of Ottawa University Fire

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—Death claimed a third victim from the Ottawa University fire at 5 o'clock this afternoon, when Rev. Father McGurty passed away. The reverend gentleman's injuries consisted of severe burns about the face, chest and hands. He also inhaled a quantity of smoke, and as he had weak lungs serious doubts have all along been entertained as to his recovery. The deceased clergyman was only 25 years of age. He was born in Lowell, Mass., and spent his novitiate at Tewksbury, Mass., after which he came to Ottawa. For the past four years he had been assistant at St. Joseph's Church. The dead priest had a sister in Lawrence and a brother in Philadelphia. The funeral will be held on Thursday, when Rev. Father Emery, rector of the university, will preach the sermon.

The rector of Ottawa University stated to-night that the classes will be resumed on January 7th in the new science hall. Dormitory accommodation will also be provided.

PERSONAL.

President J. J. Murphy of the St. Vincent de Paul is indisposed from cold. President Doyle of St. Mary's Conference is also on the sick list.

Mr. C. H. Hurst has opened offices 104-105 in Mail and Empire Building in partnership with Mr. Thos. Wilkins, the firm name being Hurst & Wilkins. Messrs. Hurst & Wilkins are stock brokers and deal in stocks and bonds, grain, cotton, and coffee. They are also correspondents of the reliable firm of Porterfield & Company, Chicago, who have been in the business since 1832.

Mayor Kelly, of Uxbridge, was a visitor to Toronto last week. Mr. Kelly is concluding his second term in the chief magistracy of his native town and intends to pass the honor on to other hands for 1904. He is president of the Ontario Harness Makers' Association and is known in public affairs outside his own country.

DEATHS

GRIFFIN—At his late residence, 196 St. Helen's ave., Toronto, Patrick J. Griffin, of the Griffin Curled Hair Co., on Dec. 9, in his 44th year.

MURPHY—On Sunday, Dec. 13th, at his residence, 269 Niagara street, Michael Murphy.

MACDONELL—At his residence, 123 Huron street, Toronto, on Monday morning, 14th Dec., 1903, Alexander Macdonell of Osgoode Hall, Toronto, in the 84th year of his age.

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