

The Catholic Register.

"Truth is Catholic; proclaim it ever, and God will effect the rest."—BALMEZ.

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TORONTO, THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1895.

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THE WHITE FRIARS.

Laying of the Corner Stone of
St. Patrick's Church, Niagara
Falls.

ADDRESS BY THE PROVINCIAL OF
THE AMERICAN CARMELITES.



REV. PIUS MAYER, O.C.C.

The impressive ceremony of blessing the corner stone of a new Catholic Church was witnessed at Niagara Falls last Sunday by an immense throng which embraced not alone the Catholic population but as well a very large section of the Protestant community who turned out in honor of the occasion. The new St. Patrick's Church will certainly be, as Father O'Malley happily put it, not only an honor to the Catholic body but a credit to the town.

Shortly before three o'clock a procession formed at the C.M.B.A. Hall, Branch 18, C. M. B. A., the local Branch of the A. O. H., a number of members of the Catholic Benevolent Legion from across the river, and a large number of the members of the congregation were in line. At the close of the procession came a carriage, escorted by a body guard from the societies, in which were seated Vicar General McCann, Father Dominick O'Malley, Father Kreidt, and Father Sullivan of Thorold. When the church site was reached every available point was occupied by an eager multitude.

After the office of the church had been recited and the stone fixed in position, Father McCann advanced to the front of the platform and spoke of the pleasure it gave him, a pleasure he felt certain was shared by Father O'Malley, to observe the presence of so large a congregation. The corner stone of the new Church of St. Patrick had been placed and blessed in the faith of Jesus Christ. It was the beginning of an edifice which in the near future would be the scene of great devotion and the most august sacrifice. His only regret was due to the inability of his Grace the Archbishop to be present. The disappointment which was no doubt felt by the people of the Falls had its counterpart in the disappointment of the Archbishop himself, who was obliged to be absent because of the advice of his

physician. His Grace, while happily not in any danger, felt unable to be present, glad as he would have been to do honor to their honored pastor and to testify to the good-will and faithful interest of the people who had assisted in so splendid a work, the outcome of which would ever stand a monument to their zeal and generosity. It was hoped that when the church comes to be dedicated and opened, as it soon must, the Archbishop will himself witness that good feeling which it was to day his own pleasure to observe. He would thank all for their presence and for the energy that had been displayed in carrying out the plans.

THE PROVINCIAL'S SERMON.

Father Pius Mayer, the Provincial of the Carmelite Order in America, next addressed the gathering. It was nineteen years since he first had the pleasure of participating in the ceremonies of the little old church. At that time he could not have anticipated such an occasion as this, when he would be permitted to take part in the laying of a corner stone of so beautiful and costly a temple as the present one. The laying of a corner stone of a church building is an act fraught with deep significance. Such stones are as seed, from which roots are spread to the soil. The Church is a tree whose roots are in the soil of time, but whose branches are in eternity. Our Blessed Lord was the rock in the desert which gave forth healing waters. He was the stone that had been cast aside by the builder, but about this neglected corner stone an edifice had arisen whose superstructure was so vast that its complement is only to be found in Heaven.

He would remind his hearers that when the Church places and blesses the corner stone of a new edifice, however stately may be the new church building, however adequate to the needs of its surrounding territory, there is nothing in the act that means the multiplication of creeds, no dissection of the parts of one organic body. As Christ on earth had one body, one soul, one divinity, so now His Church, His representative upon earth is but one body and one soul, animated by one spirit.

Church buildings are to religion what the body is to the soul. In every act of man, whether of thought, of speech, of energy, of sanctity, of passion, the co-operation of the body is essential. So in spiritual matters we need that part of the Church which is represented by buildings and ceremonies, that there we may the more readily receive inspiration to holiness, and courage to repel temptation. Within this building, when completed and blessed, there will be experienced the most intimate union between man and God. The tree that was in paradise became the tree of death, Golgotha gave us once more a Tree of Life. Wherever there is a Catholic Church, there is that Tree of Life.

Under the guidance of the Holy Ghost the Church has wonderfully grown. Not alone have we held our own and adhered to our own people, but constantly prayer is going up that all without distinction may be brought within the true Fold.

Certain aspects of joy attach to ceremonies of this kind. Nothing that is worth doing can be accom-

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

Celebration of Dean Harris' Sa-
cerdotal Jubilee.

ST. CATHARINES PASTOR HONORED

When a committee of gentlemen stepped forward to the sanctuary of St. Catharines church and handed to the Very Rev. W. L. Harris a well filled purse and a beautiful tablet of solid silver engraved with an address of congratulation, the good will that has existed between the Dean and his fellow townsmen for the past eleven years found appropriate expression. Father Harris' reply to this address was of such a nature as must have further strengthened the sentiments of the people in his favor.

The capacious church was handsomely decorated for the occasion. Flowers, foliage plants and trailing vines added grace to the scene. Every seat in the church was taken long before eleven, the hour set for the anniversary mass to begin. Father Harris sang Mass, assisted by Father Sullivan, Thorold, Deacon; Father Gibney, Alliston, Subdeacon; Father Trayney, Port Colborne, Master of Ceremonies. In the sanctuary were Vicar General McCann, Vicar General Keogh, Father Pius Mayer, American Provincial of the Carmelites, Very Rev. V. Marjon, Provincial of the Basilians, Dean Fgan, Rev. Dr. Flannery, Rev. Fathers Wynn, C.S.S.R.; Kreidt, and O'Malley, O.C.C.; O'Donohue and Guinane, C.S.B.; Casey, Killeen, Hand, Allaine, F. Ryan, J. Walsh, Jeffcott, A. O'Malley, Coty, Smyth, Lafontaine, Laboureau, McEntee, Burke, Reddin, Lynch, Minehan, Whitney, Carberry, Lamarche, Crinnon, McGrath of Newfoundland, Gallagher and others.

After Mass Very Rev. J. J. McCann, V.G. ascended the pulpit and spoke from the text "What shall I render to the Lord for all He hath rendered to me?" (Psalms) Quid retribuam Domino.

The royal prophet in uttering this sentiment must have contemplated the great mercies of God and the favors bestowed upon himself. He must have realized how he had been selected from among his brethren and placed above his fellows. Beholding that he was esteemed among the people, and knowing his own imperfections, he cried out seeking how he might render meet service to the Lord for His mercies.

Such might well be the sentiment in the heart of the Dean of St. Catharines. The celebration of this anniversary might naturally recall to his mind the years of his youth, when by the mysterious voice from on high he was called to take Christ for his portion and his inheritance; might recall the later time when bowing prostrate before the Episcopal consecrator, he vowed all the strength of his youth, all the glory of his manhood, all the fervor of his declining years to the service of Jesus Christ, receiving the holy oils upon his brow, and rising a consecrated priest of God. To-day he has the gratification to have the approving message of the Archbishop, who, present at least in spirit, beholds

this his priest respected and held in honor by his brother priests, and revered by so splendid a congregation.

"What return?" he may ask; and the answer is in those other words of the psalmist, "I will take the chalice of the Lord and invoke His name." This he has done, and we with him have joined in adoring and praising the great eternal King.

What a spirit of unity is here evinced, a unity in all things spiritual, governmental and sacramental. We hold the same belief, we acknowledge the same authority, we partake of the same Holy sacraments. To those of these sacraments we desired to refer to-day in a more especial manner, because they are sacraments which leave an indelible impress upon the soul. They are as it were the three jewels of the priest, the diamond of Baptism, the ruby of Confirmation, and the emerald, with its seven fold depths of light, of Holy Orders, through all eternity, these will continue to irradiate the soul. Baptism constitutes the son of God and the heir to the kingdom of Heaven, Confirmation makes us soldiers in the good cause. These two are common to all of us, but Holy Orders are peculiar to the priesthood and therein distinctive. It is as a luminous star shining between two others.

By Baptism we are brought into alliance with the Holy Trinity; we become children of the Great Father, disciples of Jesus Christ and temples of the Holy Ghost. These are great dignities, to be a child of God is more than to occupy a throne upon earth, the robe of baptismal innocence is more beautiful than the adornments of kings.

By confirmation we are made soldiers of Christ and in an especial manner are bound to strive for the honor of Christ. Our duties as soldiers are to believe firmly, to fight for and to adhere to those beliefs. Jesus Christ charged His disciples to deny Him not, to take up the cross and follow in His way, and to hold the Faith He had taught under all trials. To fight against the world, the flesh and the devil is to make the good fight. The history of the world presents to us the spectacle of very many mighty men who have struggled manfully against great odds, whose valor has achieved wondrous results for the world, for self, for vanity, yet who in the final hour of trial went down before the dread blow, without offering one particle of resistance. These were not the soldiers of Christ. Rather is that he who like St. Paul, at the close of a long and arduous life, is able to say, "I have fought the good fight, and I have kept the Faith."

The priesthood makes him who receives its functions a representative of Jesus Christ and a mediator with Him for fallen humanity. Every Catholic priest is, by the fact of his consecration, a great high priest "according to the Order of Melchisedech." He is ordained that he may offer the august sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the same which He instituted at His last supper, and which He accomplished in His passion and death. By reason of this sublime office entrusted to him, the preacher is at once teacher, judge and physician. Christ, who is a prophet and who came to teach mankind, could send others to carry on His

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