

## NOTES FROM THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF THE CITY.

### THE MEANING OF EASTER.

We can but feebly imagine the joy and wonder which rolled in a flood over the spirits of the disciples, when the news came to them through Mary Magdalen that their Lord and Master whom they had seen scourged, maltreated, crucified and buried in the tomb, had burst the bonds of death, and was again alive,—their hearts again to follow, their again to love and serve! And, later in the day, when the doors being shut, where the disciples were gathered together for fear of the Jews,—Jesus suddenly appeared, standing in the midst of them, what unspeakable emotions must have thrilled the bosoms of those who, but a few hours before, had sorrowed and feared and doubted!

After this He appeared many times to them, comforting them, instructing them, preparing them for that day when He would ascend into Heaven from their sight, and would leave to them,—strengthened and confirmed by the Holy Ghost—Whom He promised to send them—the work of teaching all nations, and thus spreading abroad the knowledge of Him, the faith in Him, the love for Him, so necessary to salvation.

It is little wonder that the Church celebrates Easter with so many expressions of joy and gladness, for she is but preserving the spirit of those first days when the apostles and disciples of the Risen Christ rejoiced that He had overcome death even as He said. Ever as Easter Day comes round, the Catholic Church in all lands manifests to all men her joyous faith in the Resurrection of our Lord. From the very beginning this has been so. Easter has been the greatest feast in the Church. It has been the "queen of feasts," for on it has been commemorated an event of supreme importance to Christianity—an event upon which the very existence of Christian faith depends. For, as St. Paul declares in his first epistle to the Corinthians, dwelling upon the importance to Christians of the belief in the resurrection of the body, "If Christ be not risen again, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." And again he says, "If Christ be not risen again, your faith is vain; for you are yet in your sins. Then they also that are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." But, putting aside at once such a disastrous assumption, the Apostle to the Gentiles immediately declares emphatically: "But now Christ is risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep"; that is, the Resurrection of Christ is the pledge and proof that the burial of our bodies in the earth is not the end of all things for us, but that, at the last moment, in the twinkling of an eye, the dead shall rise again incorruptible.

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concert in St. Mary's Hall for the benefit of the church fund.

The full choir will sing Prof. Jas. Wilson's Mass on Easter Sunday, and in the evening will render several selections, including "Regina Coeli," "Ave Maria," "O Salutaris," and "Tantum Ergo," from the same composer.

ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH.

On Easter Monday night the ladies of the parish will hold a eucharic party in the hall. A large number of prizes have been donated.

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL.

His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi blessed the palms, while Rev. Abbe Perrier, assistant Chancellor, celebrated the Mass. The Passion was sung by Rev. Canon Martin. Rev. Fathers Desrochers and Lessard. In the evening Rev. Abbe Hage, O.P., continued the Lenten instructions. On Holy Thursday morning His Grace officiated at Pontifical High Mass, assisted by the Canons of the Cathedral, the different parish priests of the city, and the curates and Seminarians. His Grace blessed the holy oils, carried the Blessed Sacrament in solemn procession, and at the conclusion of the Mass washed the feet of twelve Seminarians in imitation of our Saviour washing His Apostles' feet.

ST. ANN'S BRASS BAND.

Some three years ago a fine and drum band was started by Rev. Father Fortier, C.S.S.R. It was known as St. Ann's fine and drum band. The members attended practice faithfully and good progress was made. But it was thought much better to start a brass band, and two years ago Rev. Father McPhail, C.S.S.R., was given charge of the project. Accordingly first class instruments were bought, and the fine and drum band was replaced by the present brass band. It is an independent organization, not connected with any society, not even with St. Ann's Young Men, as many persons suppose. It has its own officers, and is the only Irish Catholic brass band in Montreal. Rev. Father McPhail, C.S.S.R., has full charge of it, and takes great interest in the welfare and progress of its members. Every spare moment he has in the evenings the Rev. Father is with his musicians. A few evenings ago a representative of the True Witness visited the armory and found the members of the band faithfully engaged in practice. The practice nights are Monday and Thursday evenings from 7.30 till 10 o'clock.



REV. JOHN MCPHAIL, C.S.S.R.

The band has distinguished itself lately in parades, and the members are to be congratulated on the earnestness which they show in their work. Long may it continue.

The following are the names of the players: Bandmaster and solo cornet, Mr. A. D. Murchison; first cornet, James McMillan, George Gammarsell, Thomas Kearns; second cornet, William O'Brien, William Murchison, George MacPherson; third cornet, Albert Vanneste, Charles Conroy; first clarionets, Robert Dancoy, James Underdown; second clarionet, James Kelly; third clarionet, Thomas Connan, John Boyle; Alto, Herbert Murchison, Daniel Hughes; horn, John Nolan, John Clancy; piccolo, James Shields; euphonium, John O'Brien; baritone, John P. Kearns, Joseph Burton; first trombone, Michael Foley; second trombone, Edward O'Brien; bass trombone, Denis O'Sullivan; Bb bass, Martin Hayes, Thomas Blanchard; side drum, John Benoit, John Moylan.

ST. GABRIEL'S PARISH.

At the early Masses large numbers of the faithful approached the holy table.

ST. MARY'S PARISH.

Rev. Father O'Bryen, S.J., closed the ladies' retreat on Sunday afternoon. In the evening, the men's retreat opened, and will continue all week. The closing exercises will be held on Easter Sunday night.

On Easter Monday night the Young Men's Society will hold a

## CLOSING OF THE RETREAT AT ST. PATRICK'S.

Sunday evening witnessed a scene which for impressiveness has rarely been equalled in St. Patrick's Church. It was the closing of the men's retreat. Every seat in the vast edifice was filled. Immediately after the recitation of the beads, Rev. Father Cullen preached the final sermon.

He took for his text the saying of the prophet: "I have said as I have begun." He said this night was an epoch in the lives of many present. It would be a memorable night for many—for some it would be the last retreat and for others the happy night when they returned to their God never to forsake Him.

He explained the duties and obligations they had contracted by their good resolutions, laying great stress on the avoidance of the proximate occasions of sin. He compared life to a warfare. The Saviour on one side and Lucifer on the other fighting for souls. The Saviour's banner is the cross. His motto, sufferings. He offers and gives peace, joy and contentment. Lucifer gives his followers the bitter dregs of disappointment in this life and misery in the next.

Be awake, he concluded, never sleep on the watch. Some days, maybe, fatigue will overtake you, your legs may stagger beneath the burden of your woe, your eyes grow dim, you may find the yoke of the Lord not sweet and His burden not light, you may grow languid and dreary, but look at your model, your leader, stand shoulder to shoulder with Him, and your courage will not fail you nor will His help and grace be withheld from you. Fight like good soldiers, perseveringly and energetically, under the banner and in the footsteps of your Divine Model, till you reach the summit of your Calvary of sufferings, trials and combats, and, like Him, you will taste, after the agonies of sorrow and sacrifice, the joys of the Resurrection, eternal salvation.

At the end of the sermon the entire congregation renewed their baptismal vows aloud, each holding a lighted taper. It was a most edifying sight.

Rev. Father Martin Callaghan then paid a glowing tribute to the zealous and devoted sons of St. Alphonsus, who had faithfully followed the rule of their saintly founder in giving the retreat. The pastor also praised the congregation for their attendance at all the religious exercises, which showed that they had done much for the salvation of their souls.

Solemn Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament followed, imparted by Rev. M. Callaghan, assisted by Rev. Fathers Killoran and Polan, as deacon and sub-deacon. The sanctuary and high altar were tastefully decorated with flowers and lights. The music was of the highest order. During the Benediction the congregation held lighted tapers in their hands. The Papal Benediction was imparted by Rev. Father Cullen.

On last Friday evening His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi gave Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, assisted by Rev. Fathers P. Heffernan and J. Killoran, as deacon and sub-deacon. The sermon was preached by Rev. Father Cullen on devotion to the Blessed Virgin, followed by a procession around the church.

It is estimated that over 1500 men followed the exercises of the retreat.

Rev. Father Crosby left for Saratoga, and Rev. Father Cullen for Utica.

ST. MICHAEL'S MISSION.

The mission that has been most ably and eloquently conducted by two Redemptorist Fathers, Reverend Fathers S. L. Connolly and G. Mylett, of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., was brought to a close on Tuesday evening in St. Michael's parish, upper St. Denis street. For ten days the congregation of St. Michael's had lived with one another in responding to the influence of God's grace, abundantly distributed among them, through the instructive and earnest discourses of the missionaries. The exercises at five o'clock in the morning gathered in the most and cooed edifice that portion of the congregation of St. Michael's that had to attend their daily employment and business at too early an hour to allow of their being present at the half past eight o'clock service. The remarkably large attendance at this early hour evidenced the deep faith of these courageous people, who had to come at considerable inconvenience

from their scattered homes, and then go to their various occupations. Great was their sacrifice, great was their merit likewise; the benefit of the mission cannot have been lost to them. The evening exercises united the attendants of the two morning services and taxed the church to its fullest capacity, and all persevered to the end, and thus stirred others to accompany them.

A separate mission was given to the children and to the adults. The mission for the children from ten years of age up, numbering one hundred and fifty, was one of the noticeable features of the occasion. It was all the more impressive as the Reverend pastor and his people see so little of the children—so dispersed are they in the Protestant and other schools of the city. This will not be long so, justice to the English-speaking minority will be granted. On Monday evening the children, before the consecration of the people of the parish to the ever Blessed Virgin, marched in procession around the church, the boys in white blouses and the girls with white veils, singing hymns and carols—repeating with Rev. Father Connolly the form of consecration, and then sang at the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. No more enrapturing scene was ever witnessed in any church in the city. All left the church that evening strengthened in their faith and refreshed in their piety.

Rev. Father Connolly closed the exercises of this grand mission Tuesday evening, with a most forcible exposition of the necessity of prayer, of frequentation of the sacraments, and of the removal of the proximate occasions of sin, to ensure perseverance in the holy resolutions taken during the mission. Before taking leave of the congregation, he congratulated the people on obtaining a parish, and thanked the Rev. Father Kiernan for his kindness during their stay among them. He paid a high tribute of praise to the choir for their efficiency, and acknowledged the very great assistance given him during the children's mission by the Reverend Sisters and Miss McElligott, who presided at the organ.

Before the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, sung by Rev. Father Peladeau, Chaplain to the Carmelite Sisterhood, assisted by the Rev. Fathers Connolly and Callahan, Rev. Father Kiernan complimented the congregation upon the success of the mission, and attributed it to the cheerfulness, earnestness and unanimity which both men and women showed throughout, in the work of spiritual revival. As Father Connolly had applauded their warmheartedness, so could he, in turn, in all sincerity, applaud him for his wealth of friendliness, sympathy and devotedness, which he had extended to all during the course of the mission. The mission cross, which was to be placed in the church, would keep his memory alive that of his amiable companion, Rev. Father Mylett, fresh and green in their minds, and prayed with his congregation that God would bless them in their work, as he had prayed that God would bless them in theirs.

The many friends of Rev. Father Kiernan, who admire his fruitful zeal in organizing St. Michael's parish, both materially and spiritually, and his more recent efforts towards furnishing its children with suitable school facilities, will be rejoiced at the success his mission has had under the direction of the Rev. Fathers Connolly and Mylett.

They are slaves who will not choose Hatred, scoffing, and abuse. Rather than in silence shrink From the truth they needs must think. They are slaves, who dare not be In the right with two or three.

—James Russell Lowell.

I've noticed it often among my own people around Snowfield, that the strong, skilful men are often the gentlest to the women and children; and it's pretty to see 'em carrying the little babies as if they were no heavier than birds. And the babies always seem to like the strong arm best.—George Emot—Adam Bede.

THE HARD HEARTED INCUBATOR.

A well known professor has a bright little boy, who one day appeared in his father's study clasping a forlorn little chicken. "Willie," said the father, "take that chicken back to its mother."

"Ain't dot any fader," said the Willie.

"Well, then, take it back to its fader," said the professor, determined to maintain parental authority.

"Ain't dot any fader," said the child. "Ain't dot anything but an old lapp!"

## GENERAL ITEMS OF INTEREST AROUND THE CITY.

EASTER HOLIDAYS.

The Catholic schools closed on Wednesday evening for the Easter holidays, and will re-open on Easter Tuesday.

AT THE FRANCISCAN CHURCH.

Next Sunday afternoon the English speaking members of the Third Order of St. Francis will hold their monthly meeting at the Franciscan Church, Dorchester street.

EUCHERE AND SOCIAL.

On Friday evening, April 28th, the ladies of St. Patrick's Parish will hold a eucharic and social at Drummond Hall. The proceeds will be devoted to the school fund.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT THE JAIL.

On Monday morning, the annual retreat for the Catholic prisoners opened at the city jail, conducted by Rev. Abbe Calise. Three hundred persons took part. The exercises closed on Wednesday morning with a solemn High Mass at which the prisoners received Holy Communion, thus making their Easter duty.

FAREWELL DISCOURSE.

On Thursday, April 27, at 8 o'clock, Abbe Vignot, who has been preaching the Lenten course of sermons at the Church of Notre Dame, will give his farewell lecture at the Monument National. There is a rare treat in store for any who may avail themselves of this event. The speaker will take as his subject "The Mission of the French tongue in Canada." Mr. Joseph Saucier will sing. Tickets are for sale at the Messrs. Granger, Notre Dame street.

St. Gabriel's Juvenile T.A. & B. Society.

St. Gabriel's Total Abstinence and Benefit Society held its regular monthly meeting Sunday afternoon. Ten new members were initiated, thus making the total number 251. The Society will hold a concert in June, the proceeds to be devoted to the fund for the building of the stone steps. The President, Mr. John Collins, strongly urged the members to work earnestly and make the affair a success. Mr. E. J. Colfer spoke on the necessity of good attendance at the meetings, and of each member taking an interest in furthering the work of the Society.

Capt. Loye Elected Honorary Life Member P. A. A. A.

Captain Loye, who was one of the founders of the Police Amateur Athletic Association, and has twice been its president, has been elected an honorary life member, being the first member of the association upon whom that honor has been conferred. Captain Loye has always proved himself to be an efficient officer, and we are glad to see that, though his time is greatly occupied, when he has leisure he takes a lively interest in athletics. We hope yet to see Capt. Loye's name in the list of promotions very worthily bestowed in his case.

THE NIGHT SCHOOL PRIZES.

The distribution of prizes to the successful scholars attending the different Catholic night schools throughout the city took place on last Friday evening at Montcalm Hall, corner of St. Hubert and Demottigny streets. Among those present were: Hon. Rodolphe Roy, Provincial Secretary; Superintendent Bergeron; Director General Lacroix, Rev. Father Perrier, representing the Catholic School Board; Rev. Father Chamy, the Assyrian pastor; Principals Ahern, Sarafeld School; Leitch, Edward Murphy School; Desaulniers, Belmont School; Dore, Champlain School; Perreault, Montcalm School; and Primeau, Olier School.

The proceedings opened with a selection by the orchestra, followed by a pretty chorus. Hon. Rodolphe Roy, who was delegated specially by Hon. Lomer Gouin, Premier of Quebec, spoke at length on education. He said that the Premier of the Province had promised that education would be a very important item of his programme. The speaker was particularly well pleased to see that the educational status of the Province of Quebec was not secondary in the speeches of the Canadian members who showed their superiority over members from the much-vaunted Province of Ontario. He hoped that the rising generation would prove

their worth also when an opportunity presented itself.

Rev. Abbe Perrier, Vice-Chancellor of the Archdiocese, spoke in French and English on the great benefits to be derived from the night schools, and strongly urged all to attend.

Superintendent J. H. Bergeron read his report, showing that classes opened on October 3 and ended February 28.

The course of studies comprised reading, French and English, translation, composition, arithmetic, penmanship and bookkeeping.

The number of pupils registered was 1179, with an average attendance of 688, or 62 per cent. Eight schools were opened from October 3 with 33 classes.

In January the increase in the Italian school necessitated the opening of two new classes, raising the number of classes in the city to 35.

In the beginning of February three classes were closed because they failed to show the required average of 18—two classes were closed in the Olier school and one in the Montcalm school.

The remaining 32 classes maintained their average of eighteen till the close of the session.

Resolutions of Condolence.

Resolved, That Division No. 1, Buckingham, Ancient Order of Hibernians, in regular session assembled, wish to express its heartfelt sympathy with Bro. James P. Kennedy, in the time of his deep affliction owing to the death of his beloved wife.

It is further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the bereaved family, the True Witness and National Hibernian.

JAMES T. FARNAND, Secretary.

J. LEWIS O'NEILL, President.

Resolved, That Division No. 1, Buckingham, Ancient Order of Hibernians, in regular session assembled, wish to express its heartfelt sympathy with Bro. Dan J. Gorman in the time of his deep affliction owing to the death of his beloved sister.

It is further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the bereaved family, the True Witness and National Hibernian.

JAMES T. FARNAND, Secretary.

J. LEWIS O'NEILL, President.

WEAK, TIRED PEOPLE

Need New Blood in Spring to Bring Health and Strength.

Spring blood is bad blood. It is clogged with impurities that make themselves felt in many ways, such as pimples and eruptions, poor digestion, occasional headaches, twinges of rheumatism, a lazy feeling in the morning, and a strong desire to avoid exertion. Sometimes the nerves are unstrung, you feel dull and depressed, and your strength is slipping away. You can only be put right by enriching the blood and driving out the impurities. Purgatives won't do this—they only make you weaker. What you need is a tonic, and the best tonic that medical science has yet discovered is Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. These pills actually make new, rich, red blood, brace the nerves and bring health and energy to weak, despondent and easily tired men and women. Mrs. Chas. Blackburn, Aylesford Station, N.S., says: "For the past ten years Dr. Williams' Pink Pills is the only medicine I have taken when I found I needed medicine. Last spring I was feeling poorly, was weak, easily tired and depressed. I got three boxes of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and they made me feel like a new person. They are the best medicine I know of when the blood is out of condition."

If you need a medicine this spring—and there are few people who do not—take a few boxes of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and you will find an improved appetite and new health and strength such as no other medicine can give you. There is no disease of the blood these pills will not cure, simply because they make this new, rich blood that drives disease from the system. The genuine Pink Pills have the full name, "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People," on the wrapper around each box. Sold by all medicine dealers or by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 by writing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Stand close to all, but lean on none. And if the crowd desert you. Stand just as fearlessly alone. As if a throng begirt you. And learn what long the wise have known. Self-right alone can hurt you.