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NEWS OF THE WEEK

Canadian

Rev. Oswald McDonald said his first Mass in his native parish, that of St. John Chrysome, Arnprior, on the last Sunday of December. He was afterwards presented with an address and purse by the parishioners.

A late meeting in Montreal for the purpose of organizing the Anti-Alcoholic League were unanimous in the vote of Archbishop Bruchesi for honorary president and Chief Justice Taschereau, president.

Among the young ladies received at Water Street Convent, Ottawa, recently, were Miss Doyle from Brudenell, in religion Sister Francis Xavier; Miss McGuire from Allumette Island, in religion Sister Ethelred, and Miss Gorman from Mattawa, in religion Sister St. Mildred.

The late Mr. Tarpe's will contained the following advice to his sons: "You have a paper. See that it wounds no one's feelings, and blackens no one's reputation. Do not quarrel with the clergy. Remain French and Catholic, and loyal to Queen and empire. Discharge your duties as good citizens."

Among the candidates ordained by Rev. Paul Bruchesi, Archbishop of Montreal, at St. James' Cathedral, Montreal, on Saturday, December 21st, were the following from the Diocese of Pembroke: Messrs. H. D. Brosseau, J. N. George and T. J. Sloan received Minor Orders; Mr. H. E. Letang, sub-deaconship; Revs. V. H. Dooner and J. Harrington, deaconship; and Revs. O. J. Beaudry and O. J. McDonald, holy priesthood.

British and Foreign

The unique distinction of celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of his ordination belongs now to Father Machorzi, in the Diocese of Gnesen-Posen, Prussia. He is one hundred years old.

A feature of the Christmas celebration in Paris was the resumption throughout France of midnight Masses, which last year were abandoned by direction of the higher clergy because the separation law was about to go into effect.

In the chapters of autobiography which she is contributing to a popular magazine, Ellen Terry, the actress, speaks of assisting at Mass for the first time at the Madeleine, in Paris, on Easter Sunday, and fainting from trying to imagine the ecstasy of a believer at the consecration. "If that is true," she exclaims, "if people believe it with their souls, how can their souls stay in their bodies?"

United States

Bishop William G. McCloskey, of Louisville, Ky., has just celebrated his eighty-fourth birthday. On May 24th next he will celebrate his fortieth anniversary as Bishop of Louisville.

On Sunday, Dec. 22, the magnificent new Cathedral of Seattle, Wash., was dedicated. The ceremony was performed by Bishop O'Dea, who, on that day also celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. The building is fireproof and the only wood used is that in the pews.

Xavier Council, Knights of Columbus, New York, has taken the initiative in a movement to establish a scholarship in the college of St. Francis Xavier as a memorial to the late Father Henry Van Rensselaer, S.J., who at the time of his death was chaplain of the New York chapter, Knights of Columbus.

At the dedication of a beautiful church erected by the Belgian Catholics of Chicago recently, there were sermons in three languages—English, Flemish and French—by Bishops Maes, Gabriels and Meerschardt, respectively.

Bishop Conaty, of Los Angeles, has presented \$1,000 to St. Mary's parochial school at Taunton, Mass., as a memorial to his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Conaty, pioneer Catholics of the city. His brother, the Rev. Bernard Conaty, of Worcester, has pledged \$50 a year for five years to the school. In addition, Father Conaty has donated \$5,000, and a

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Celebration at Belleville

St. Michael's church was the scene of a grand and exalted ceremony during the "wee sma' hours" of Christmas morning, when, amid the accompaniment of thrilling, exultant music (rendered by singers whose hearts apparently were in their work), flashing lights, and the deep-toned reverent voice of the beloved "Priest of the Parish," the grand festival of the Nativity was celebrated, while at the same time the magnificent new altar, presented to the congregation by their revered pastor, Father Twomey, was unveiled. There was a large congregation present, every seat in the big church being filled, while many stood throughout the entire service. Not only the Catholic citizens of Belleville and its environs were present, but also a goodly number of friends and well-wishers from other churches. A large screen was hung in front of the altar, which was to be unveiled at the psychological moment. The choir loft was well filled; evidently the musical portion of the service was to be fitting to the occasion. Shortly before midnight, the organ, under the skilled fingers of the clever organist, Mr. Ingram, gave forth its sweet sounds. Just as the bells chimed 12, the screen in front of the altar was lowered. For some minutes the people gazed in reverent and breathless silence on the masterpiece of art and beauty. Then the clergy entered, and the choir in fine form, with a splendid burst of melody, lifted up their voices in Canon's Grand Mass in F. The solemn Midnight Mass had begun. The organ was supplemented by an orchestra, composed of Messrs. Denmark, Weese, O'Rourke and Blaind, and the combination produced some very effective and excellent music. The soloists were Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Truiasch, Misses Frankie Wilson, Katie Bawden and Mabel McIninch, and Mr. H. McIninch. At the offertory the "Cantique Noel" was sung by Mr. J. V. Doyle, and at the Communion Miss Katie Bawden sang the "Adeste Fideles," that beautiful Christmas hymn which Christians the world over, no matter of what denomination, expect to hear, and do hear, on Christmas Day.

The sermon, by the Rev. Father Twomey, was, perhaps, one of the best of his many most eloquent addresses to his parishioners, the salient feature of which was the message of peace and good will from heaven to man. The Rev. gentleman in concluding his sermon, stated that this Christmas Day was the 25th anniversary of his ordination, and in reviewing the work of a quarter of a century he commented most favorably on the pleasant relations which had always existed between himself and his various congregations, with special kindly references to the people of St. Michael's. As a thank offering for many mercies received from Almighty God, Father Twomey presented the new high altar to the church. The proceedings were over about 1.45 a.m., and the occasion was, by general consent, the most inspiring and noteworthy in the history of St. Michael's.

THE ALTAR.

The new altar, which is the work of Bavarian artists, is a grand specimen of the wood carver's art, and

must command the admiration of all who see it. It is graced by no less than six statues, beautifully carved in wood. It is ornate in design, grand in conception, magnificent in workmanship, and stands a fitting monument to the generosity of the donor, Rev. Father Twomey.

The Altar is the centre of devotion in the Catholic church, as well as the culmination of the material building. Hence no pains are spared to make it attractive to the faithful, and Rev. Father Twomey deserves special congratulation in this connection. The High Altar of St. Michael's is a beautiful specimen of Gothic architecture, built in golden oak, and the natural color of the wood is preserved. All the efforts of the architect, the sculptor and the painter are brought into play in order to make it devotional to the beholder, as well as suitable to its setting in the beautiful temple of which it is the chief ornament. It was built in the house of Mayer in Munich, and the result shows that Father Twomey made no mistake in confiding its construction to this establishment of world-wide reputation. The Altar is admirably proportioned by the architect, affording sufficient space for the artistic requirements of the sculptor and the painter and its general effect is most pleasing to the eye. Below and in front of the Altar-table, there is a very satisfying color effect, in the background of the different panels, which are studded in rich damask design, and the pleasing Gothic lines are brought out to advantage by being heavily gilded. The Table of the Altar is spacious, and gives the celebrant ample room for the functions in connection with the celebration of the Divine Mysteries.

The Altar-stone is imbedded in concrete, and rests on solid masonry, built up from the basement of the church. This masonry serves a double purpose—supporting the Altar, which is forty feet high and weighs four tons, and giving it also the character of a fixed or permanent Altar. The Tabernacle is one of the most magnificent specimens of the gilder's art that we have ever seen; everywhere richly engraved with grapes and wheat, which are symbolical of the Holy Sacrifice, and having its massive doors beautifully ornamented with the letters Alpha and Omega in polished gold. Under canopies to the right and left are two adoring angels draped in white, and immediately over the Tabernacle is a beautiful Baldachin supported by eight golden columns, which, with a finely engraved and highly ornamented background, give a most artistic finish to this most important part of the Altar. Farther to the left of the Tabernacle and above the steps holding the candle-sticks there is inserted a Relief, representing the Sacrifice of Abraham. He is holding the knife in his hand, which is raised to strike his own son, Isaac, in obedience to God's decree, when the angel appears, commanding him to withhold. An urn containing the smoking fire of sacrifice, a ram in the briars, and an excellent landscape surround and give a lovely effect to this scene. Similarly situated to the right is a Relief of the Sacrifice of Melchisedec. The High Priest is represented in the act of receiving the bread and wine from a youth, who is reverently kneeling before him, and is surrounded by a group of worshippers, who have come to witness the sacrifice. These two

"Reliefs," carved in wood, are triumphs of the sculptor's craft, and of the genius of the artist who painted them in most harmonious colors. They are also eminently appropriate, inasmuch as they are typical of the Great Sacrifice of the New Law, which is offered on the Altar of the Catholic Church. As the Church is dedicated to St. Michael, the Archangel naturally occupies a prominent position on the Altar. In the central niche, with the spear in his hands, and a look of triumph on his expressive and strikingly beautiful face, stands the Archangel on the prostrate form of the now utterly defeated Lucifer. The statue is magnificently colored in a dress of a purple ruby color and adorned with two great golden wings. It is seven and a half feet high, and is as fine a piece of sculpture as was ever carved from a block of wood. It is admirable in its natural pose, the beauty of the rich drapery which falls so gracefully around it, and especially in the lifelike and devotional expression of the beautiful face. This statue and the two Relievs are the work of the distinguished Munich sculptor Remeke. In the two niches, on either side of the Archangel, are the statues of Sts. Peter and Paul, and these figures, with the adoring angels are modelled after the originals of the late Professor Knabe, of Munich. All over the Altar gold and color effect are blended in fine harmony with the natural oak, and bring out to great advantage the beautiful lines of the Gothic design. The Altar is undoubtedly as beautiful a specimen of ecclesiastical architecture as could be seen anywhere, and a great credit to St. Michael's, as well as to the Rev. Father Twomey, who has generously donated it, as his personal gift to the church, in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of his elevation to the priesthood.

THE UNVEILING.

The Altar was unveiled by Messrs. Hurley, Dolan and Quinlan immediately before the celebration of the Midnight Mass, and formally presented to the church and congregation in an address of rare eloquence, delivered by Father Twomey after the service was finished. He first preached on the Glorious Festival and its message of peace to men of good-will, and then briefly referred to the celebration of his silver jubilee. Speaking about himself was neither an attractive nor inspiring theme for him and his words would, therefore, be brief. Just a quarter of a century ago to-night he ascended the Holy Altar of Sacrifice for the first time. God had been merciful and good during all these years and had constantly blessed him with that sustaining grace without which it would be impossible to fulfil the duties of the sacred ministry. The Almighty had also extended the years of his priesthood beyond the number allotted to the great majority of His servants. The life of a priest was taxing, laborious and strenuous, and, on this account, it was given only to the favored few, to celebrate their silver jubilee. In fact, in this diocese, at the present time there were barely a dozen men who had passed over the line that divides the first from the second quarter of a century of priestly ministry. Blessings in disguise had come to him in the luxury of the constant hard work of the past 25 years, an even in trials which, after all, are only the inevitable threads of the warp and woof of life. Beyond everything was favored in the uniform loyalty and devotion of the people with whom his lot had been cast. Nowhere had he experienced that genuine kindness to a greater extent than here in Belleville. The open-hearted generosity with which they responded to his every appeal made his work most agreeable, and caused the smoking ruins of three years ago to give place to the present splendid temple in which they worshipped. He was keenly sensitive to all this, for he had aspired to nothing higher than the cheerful co-operation of the people in his undertakings, and their affectionate good-will in the intercourse of daily life. Therefore, in thanks-giving to God for his many graces and mercies and in grateful acknowledgment of the devotion of the people, he presented the new Altar to the church as his personal gift on the occasion of his silver jubilee.

IN CONCLUSION

Father Twomey also referred very feelingly to the expressed desire of the congregation to mark the jubilee by the presentation of a money testimonial. He was grateful for the kindly offer made some few weeks ago by Messrs. Hurley, Dolan, Quinlan and Butler, on behalf of the parish and the Catholic societies. The many sacrifices, involved in their cheerful response to his frequent appeals for the church made it impossible for him to accept their gift at all. But, although he had to decline the kindly offer, he was profoundly grateful for the generous spirit that prompted it, and he wished a peaceful, joyful Christmas to his flock.

To Our Contributors

Will contributors of matter to our columns in every case be kind enough to enclose their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as guarantee of the genuine character of the matter forwarded. This is a subject to which our attention is drawn by the many items reaching us with no signature, except that of "A Reader," "A Subscriber," etc., etc. The private name and address are requested in every instance.

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Good Catholic homes are wanted for two young men, aged fourteen and seventeen. Also homes for two healthy, well-disposed children, a girl, aged eleven, and a boy, aged five. These children are brother and sister, and it is desired that they both be placed in the same home if this can be obtained.

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