

may deem most convenient for the people, but not during the hour in which the children are taught. In this instruction they are to make use of the Catechism of the Council of Trent; and they are to divide the matter in such a way as within the space of four or five years to treat of the Apostles' Creed, the Sacraments, the Decalogue, the Lord's Prayer, and the Precepts of the Church.

This, Venerable Brethren, We do prescribe and command by virtue of Apostolic Authority. It now rests with you to put it into

Prompt and Complete Execution

in your dioceses, and by all the force at your command, and to see to it that these prescriptions of Ours be not neglected, or what comes to the same thing, carried out superficially. And that this may be avoided, you must not cease to recommend and to require that your parish priests do not impart this instruction carelessly, but that they diligently prepare themselves for it; let them not speak words of human wisdom, but with simplicity of heart and in the sincerity of God (II. Cor. i. 12), imitating the example of Jesus Christ who though 'he revealed mysteries hidden from the beginning of the world' (Matth. xiii. 35) yet spoke always 'to the multitudes in parables, and without parables did not speak to them' (Ibid 34). The same thing was done also by the Apostles taught by Our Lord, of whom the Pontiff Gregory the Great said: 'They took supreme care to preach to the ignorant things easy and intelligible, not sublime and arduous' (Moral. II. xviii. chap. 26). In matters of religion the majority of men in our times must be considered as ignorant.

We would not, however, have it supposed that this studied simplicity of preaching does not require labor and meditation; on the contrary, it requires it more than any other kind. It is much easier to find a preacher capable of delivering an eloquent and elaborate discourse than a catechist able to impart instruction in a manner entirely worthy of praise. It must, therefore, be carefully borne in mind that whatever facility of ideas and language a man may have inherited from nature, he will never be able to teach the Catechism to the young and the adult without preparing himself thoughtfully for the task. It is a mistake for a man to suppose that, owing to the rudeness and ignorance of the people, he may perform this office in a careless manner. On the contrary, the more uncultured the hearers,

The Greater is the Necessity

for study and diligence to bring home to their minds those most sublime truths, so far beyond the natural understanding of the multitude, which must yet be known by all the learned and the unlettered alike, in order that they may attain eternal salvation.

And now, Venerable Brethren, be it permitted Us to close this letter by addressing to you these words of Moses: 'If any man be on the Lord's side, let him join with me' (Ex. xxxii. 26). We pray and conjure you to reflect on the ruin of souls which is wrought by this one cause, ignorance of divine things. Doubtless you have established many useful and praiseworthy undertakings in your respective dioceses for the benefit of the flock entrusted to you, but before all else, and with all the diligence, all the zeal, all the assiduity that is possible for you, see to it that the knowledge of Christian doctrine thoroughly penetrate and pervade the minds of all: 'Let every one,' these are the words of the Apostle St. Peter, 'as he has received grace, minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God' (1 Peter iv. 10).

Through the intercession of the most Blessed Immaculate Virgin, may your diligence and your energy be rendered fruitful by the Apostolic Blessing which, in token of Our affection and as an earnest of Divine favors, We impart to you and to the clergy and the people entrusted to each one of you.

Given at Rome, at St. Peter's on the 15th day of April, MDCCCXV., in the second year of Our Pontificate.

PIUS X., POPE.

'The publication of an advertisement in a Catholic paper shows that the advertiser not only desires the patronage of Catholics, but pays them the compliment of seeking it through the medium of their own religious journal.' So says an esteemed and wide-awake American contemporary. A word to the wise is sufficient.

For Bronchial Coughs take
Woods' Great Peppermint Cure. 1s 6d.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

A Solemn Requiem Mass, Coram Episcopo (writes an esteemed Wellington correspondent), was celebrated in St. Joseph's Church at 9 o'clock on Wednesday, June 7, for the repose of the soul of the late Very Rev. Father Antony Martin, Superior-General of the Marist Fathers. His Grace the Archbishop was present in the sanctuary. Very Rev. Father Keogh, S.M., Rector of St. Patrick's College, was celebrant, Rev. Fathers Hills and Graham being deacon and subdeacon respectively, and Rev. Father Venning master of ceremonies. The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, the Very Rev. Fathers Lewis, V.G., McDermott, C.S.S.R., Lane, and Rev. Fathers O'Shea (Danevirke), T. O'Shea, O'Reilly, Tymons, O'Dwyer, were in the sanctuary, and Rev. Fathers Holley, Ainsworth, Delach, Bartley, and Kimbell were in the choir. His Grace the Archbishop pronounced the absolution. There was a large congregation present, including the college pupils.

Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

June 4.

The local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society met on Tuesday last, three members being initiated and five candidates proposed. Everything is ready for the annual social on Wednesday next, and judging by the sale of tickets there will be an unusually large attendance. The energetic secretary, Mr. Albert Rickard, is on the sick list at the time of writing, but I trust he will be sufficiently recovered to take charge that night.

On Saturday last the Wellington Comedy Club paid their first visit to Palmerston, when the Irish play, 'The Emerald Isle,' was staged in the Zealandia Hall with signal success. Several of the Club displayed undoubted talent, and those who had the pleasure of listening to them were very pleased, and had the weather been favorable a much larger audience would have been present. The company, assisted by five of our best local amateurs, Mrs. J. Russell, and Misses Lily White and Clifford, rendered a splendid programme of sacred items after Vespers on Sunday, the proceeds being in aid of St. Patrick's Choir.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

June 12.

The choir of St. Mary's Church, Manchester street, intend giving a concert on June 29 at Lyttelton in aid of the fund for erecting a Catholic hall there under the auspices of the local Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

His Lordship the Bishop, accompanied by the Rev. Father Cooney, visited on Saturday last H.M.S. 'Challenger,' the latest addition to the Australasian Squadron, now in Lyttelton Harbor. Among the ship's company of this warship are sixty Catholics, mostly of Irish nationality.

On Sunday last (Pentecost Sunday) there was Pontifical High Mass in the Cathedral. His Lordship the Bishop was celebrant, the Very Rev. Vicar-General assistant priest, Rev. Father Mahoney deacon, and Rev. Father O'Connell subdeacon. There were Pontifical Vespers at which the Bishop officiated and preached on the subject of the day's festival.

At the termination of the ceremonies in the Cathedral on Sunday evening, his Lordship the Bishop referred to the attitude of the hierarchy of New Zealand in regard to recent events in which they had been much criticised. Anything of the so-called 'unsectarian' or 'undenominational' order undertaken to advance the virtues, especially the cardinal virtues, was not calculated to do any lasting good. The greatest good possible in such connections was accomplished by our visiting missionaries, and our own priests in the confessional, and by our Bishops and priests by word and example. Spasmodic efforts on the part of anyone were of no avail. The great virtue of temperance could be obtained only by frequentation of the Sacraments, prayer, and self-sacrifice.

After the usual practice last week the members of St. Mary's choir adjourned to the presbytery, Manchester street, and presented the conductor, Mr. W. H. Corrigan with a silver-mounted baton, an easy chair, and a 'pelican' pen for music copying purposes. In asking Mr. Corrigan's acceptance of the gifts on the choir's be-