

Mr. J. Godfrey Raupert in an interesting speech, in which he referred to the place of the Church in the religious life of the world to-day. He advised the young men to gain some influence with the press, for it was a mighty power in the land. The secretary of the club (Mr. J. McGowan), in reply, said that the membership of the club was still increasing, and that all branches were in a flourishing condition. The toast of 'Federated Societies' was given by Mr. E. J. Fitzgibbon, who, after referring to the good results of federation, urged his hearers to avail themselves of the splendid opportunities for advancement that were within the reach of all. The Rev. Father Kimbell in reply delivered a forcible address, in which he spoke of the great results of combination. He would like to see the press made more use of in making known what was being done in the Catholic world. The toast of the 'Catholic Magazine' was proposed by Mr. S. J. Moran, who paid a tribute to the work effected by the magazine in the scheme of federation, and also to the energy and abilities of the editor. Mr. McKeown in reply announced that efforts were being made to issue the magazine next year as a monthly. The toast of the ladies was given by Mr. C. Gamble, and acknowledged by Mr. P. J. McGovern. Musical items were contributed by Messrs. Leiby, McGovern, Gamble, and Foote, and the Rev. Father Goggin. Mr. Moran gave two very pleasing recitations. The singing of "Auld lang syne" brought the proceedings to a close. The several accompaniments were supplied by the Rev. Father Kimbell.

### Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

December 12.

It is announced that the Irish delegates will visit Wanganui during the second week in January.

Members of St. Mary's Catholic Club are reminded that their quarterly Communion will take place on Sunday, December 30.

Mr. Chas. Lafferty, president of the Christchurch Catholic Club, was in Wanganui last week. He was shown over the club rooms, and was pleased with the progress the young club has made. The cribbage tournament was concluded on Wednesday, the winner being Mr. P. B. Lomax, who has thus won both the billiard and cribbage tournaments.

On Sunday morning there was a large attendance at St. Mary's Church, when 35 children made their First Communion, his Lordship Bishop Lenihan being celebrant of the Mass. After the Mass the communicants adjourned to the convent for breakfast, which was provided by the Sisters. At Vespers the Bishop preached an impressive sermon to a large congregation. His Lordship made feeling reference to the late Dean Kirk, whom he eulogised for his many good works, and saintly life. He congratulated the pupils of the convent on their singing of the hymns during the evening. After the sermon the children renewed their baptismal vows.

On December 10, a most interesting function took place, when Sir Joseph Ward unveiled the monument erected in Cook's Gardens in memory of the fallen troopers in the Boer War. After the ceremony of unveiling Sir Joseph Ward was waited upon by a deputation from the Wanganui Chamber of Commerce, who desired that the work in connection with the Parapara road, which would open up the interior down to Wanganui, should be let in large contracts, or the money should be handed over to a local body for expenditure. Another deputation from the Wanganui Harbor Board waited on the Premier representing the necessity for further shed accommodation. He promised to lay the matter favorably before his colleagues, and he assured the deputations of his sincere sympathy in their requests.

### DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

At St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday evening the Rev. Father O'Dwyer, S.J., preached an impressive sermon.

The children of the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage were taken out to Mosgiel on Tuesday in a couple of drags, and were entertained at Holy Cross College by his Lordship the Bishop.

The ceremony of Profession and Reception took place at the Convent of Mercy, South Dunedin, on Wednesday, December 12, when Sister M. Chanel Murphy, Hokitika, was professed, and Sister Genevieve McTavish, Winton, was received. The ceremony was performed by his Lordship the Bishop, assisted by Rev. Father Howard and Rev. Father Claffey, S.J.

The bazaar in aid of the Dominican Convent, Milton, was very successful from every point of view, the total amount received being over £200. Before its close the Very Rev. Father O'Neill, on behalf of the Dominican Nuns, thanked all those who had in various ways assisted towards the success of the bazaar, specially mentioning Messrs. Coombe Bros. for the free use of hall, the Milton Brass Band, and those who had come from Dunedin to assist. He also expressed gratification at the valuable support rendered by members of other denominations. The following is a list of stallholders and their assistants:—England.—Mrs. W. Kirby (in charge), Mrs. Dunn, Misses Reed, Coleman, and Fahey. Ireland.—Mrs. Laffey (in charge), Mrs. J. Curran, Mrs. Corrigan, Misses M'William and Maloney. Scotland.—Mrs. Moroney (in charge), Mrs. Keogh, Misses Scanlan, M'Leod, Ward, and Angus. Refreshment Stall.—Miss Staunton (in charge), Misses O'Neill, Troy, Grealish, Callanan, O'Keefe, Walsh, and Mrs. Groves. The shooting gallery was run by Messrs. M. Kretz, W. Kirby, H. Dickson, and R. Lockhart, and the fish pond was in charge of Mr. M. Curran, assisted by Miss Katie Curran and Miss Wilson.

### DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 17.

Close holiday is being observed to-day (Monday) in honor of the fifty-sixth anniversary of the foundation of Canterbury. The greatest attraction will, of course, be the Exhibition, in the grounds of which the Fijian firewalkers from the Island of Benga, who arrived during the week, will give their first performance, and the only one yet given outside their own island territory.

On last Sunday week the devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration was commenced at the eleven o'clock Mass in St. Mary's Church, Manchester street, and concluded on the following Tuesday morning. On the Sunday evening the sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Tymons (Waimate), and on Monday evening by the Rev. Father Cooney (Lyttelton).

The mission of the Redemptorist Fathers in the Cathedral is being very largely attended throughout. On last Wednesday evening, in the presence of a great congregation, the Very Rev. Father Clune preached a splendid discourse on temperance. At the half-past nine o'clock Mass on Sunday last the Rev. Father Lowham made an impassioned appeal to any neglectful ones to respond to the exceptional time of grace during this, the last week. In the evening the Cathedral was again crowded, when the same gifted preacher delivered an impressive discourse on the general judgment. He also announced a special Mass at eight o'clock next Sunday, when every man in the parish is expected to approach the Holy Table. Those associated with the H.A.C.B. Society, the Catholic Club, and St. Vincent de Paul Society, are to attend in their distinctive regalia.

### DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

December 14.

Rev. Father O'Connor, who made a short visit to Auckland, returned last Saturday by the 'Sierra' to Sydney en route to Bolivia, South America.

St. Benedict's new convent is to be blessed and opened next Sunday afternoon by his Lordship the Bishop. The building is a handsome one, and the Sisters of St. Joseph and the priests and people of St. Benedict's parish are to be heartily congratulated on this last addition to their parochial property.

At the time of writing no information is to hand when Mr. Devlin will arrive in Auckland, in consequence of which nothing has been done. Efforts without avail have been made to obtain the desired information. That he will be in Auckland well after the holidays is welcome news. Within the next few days the question should be set at rest, when all will set to work in order to bring Auckland into line with the South in its desire to help on the cause of Ireland.

The 'Auckland Star' in an editorial article last night dealing with the crisis in France said: 'We may fairly describe it as a conflict between a national democracy and a foreign theocracy.' Again he says: 'But we fail to see in the antichristian laws any sign of that "persecution for righteousness" sake, etc.' Of course he doesn't. But still the editor cannot refrain from saying: 'Nor is it possible to withhold admiration and sympathy for the courage that inspires these devoted sons of the Church and the sacrifices they are prepared to make in her cause.'