

The St. Vincent de Paul Society recently formed here is making splendid progress, and the members are showing great enthusiasm.

The bazaar which was to have been held at St. Patrick's College during the holidays in aid of the newly-formed parish at Day's Bay has been postponed till next Easter, when it will be held in the Skating Rink.

In connection with the recent changes in the organisation of the Defence Department it is pleasing to observe that Colonel Robert J. Collins has been appointed finance member of the Defence Council, and Mr. James O'Sullivan Director of Stores. The latter gentleman has been Defence Storekeeper since the death of Captain Anderson some few years ago, and had a particularly busy and trying time in connection with the despatch of the contingents to South Africa. The abilities as an organiser he then displayed have won him his present recognition. Both gentlemen are to be congratulated on the promotion so deservedly conferred.

Boxing Day was rather a windy one for picnics, yet it is estimated that over 2000 adults and 1500 children attended the outing in the Koro-koro Gardens, Petone. The spot chosen was well suited for the purpose, and the arrangements, carried out by an energetic committee, left nothing to be desired. Special care was taken to give the little ones an enjoyable time, and a special sports' programme was provided for them. The wrestling and tug-of-war events occasioned considerable interest. In the latter event only two teams competed, one from Te Aro parish and one from Newtown. The contest was very exciting, the first pull going in favor of Te Aro. The second pull was a keen fight, and one of the best yet witnessed. It ended as did the third in favor of Newtown. The challenge cup will thus be held for the coming year by Newtown. The committee are to be commended for the manner in which the picnic arrangements were conducted. The secretarial duties were as usual discharged by Mr. John Hyland.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

We understand that Mr. Donovan, Mr. Devlin's colleague, will address a meeting at Milton on January 8 and in Lawrence on the following day.

The annual retreat of the clergy of the diocese will begin on Monday, February 4. It will be conducted by the Very Rev. Father O'Farrell, C.S.S.R. The diocesan synod will be held at its close, on Friday, February 8.

Rev. Father O'Dwyer, S.J., is conducting a retreat at the Convent of Mercy, South Dunedin. At its close he proceeds to Timaru, where he takes charge of the ladies' retreat at the Sacred Heart Convent, beginning on January 9.

On the afternoon of Sunday week the Rev. Father Corcoran attended at the Sunday school, Mornington, which is conducted by Miss D. Purton, and distributed a number of prizes to the children. Upwards of sixty children attend the school, and Father Corcoran at the conclusion of the proceedings spoke very highly of the good work done during the year by Miss Purton and her assistants, Misses Power, Plunkett, and Stevenson. Father Corcoran complimented the children on their regular attendance, and wished them a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Father Corcoran also thanked Mr. Plunkett for his kindness in giving the use of rooms for the purpose of the school.

Pontifical High Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph's Cathedral at 11 o'clock on Christmas Day by his Lordship the Bishop, Rev. Father Cleary being assistant priest, Rev. Father Corcoran deacon, Rev. Father O'Dwyer subdeacon, Rev. Father Coffey master of ceremonies. The occasional sermon was preached by the Bishop. The choir, under the conductorship of Mr. O. Feil, with Mr. A. Vallis at the organ, sang Gounod's No. 3 Mass—a composition never heard here before. As an offertory the choir sang the 'Adeste Fideles.' The outgoing march, Guilmant's 'Fantasia on Christmas Themes,' was played by Mr. A. Vallis. At Vespers the preacher was the Rev. Father O'Dwyer, S.J.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 29.

The approximate number of members of the affiliated Catholic clubs in New Zealand to the Federation was given by Mr. T. Adams at the social as 1500.

Speaking at the Catholic Club's social the Rev. Father O'Connell said that up to the present fifty priests for the various Marist missions had been ordained from the Meanecc ecclesiastical seminary.

Owing to his removal to Wellington Mr. C. Laferty has resigned from the presidency of the Christchurch Catholic Club. Mr. W. Hoban, the well known solicitor, has accepted the appointment to the position, and with his ability and wide experience should make an admirable leader.

We desire, said Mr. A. H. Casey, vice president of the Catholic Clubs' Federation, at the social, that the 'N.Z. Tablet' should be found in every club room and every Catholic home in the land—sentiments which were evidently universally shared in judging by the applause they met with.

An inter-club debate between representatives of Wellington and Christchurch Catholic Clubs was entered into on Christmas evening in the rooms of the latter. The subject, the rights and wrongs of the totalisator, was very keenly contested, with the result that Christchurch was awarded the victory on points gained. Mr. A. H. Casey, vice-president of the Federation, presided, and there was an attendance of about 130, including ladies. Messrs. D. Edmonds, R. McNamara, and J. R. Hayward spoke for Christchurch, and Messrs. C. Gamble, M. Kane, and S. Moran for Wellington. Messrs. Reichel (Wellington) and Dennehy (Christchurch) acted as judges.

A 'camp' in connection with the Federated Catholic Young Men's Societies of New Zealand has been formed in this city, consisting of ten tents and a marquee, and is situated on the Cathedral grounds. All the local arrangements were made by the Catholic Club members here, and up to the present about fifty visitors from all parts of the Colony have availed themselves of the excellent plan adopted for their accommodation, comfort, and sight-seeing facilities. The main object in view is to provide a common meeting place for visiting members of the Federation to view the Exhibition, to become acquainted with one another, and to more fully enjoy their holiday here. To accomplish this result nothing has been left undone. Members commenced to arrive on Christmas eve, and on Christmas morning the camp was formally opened. Breakfast is supplied each morning by a city caterer, and afterwards during the day the campers furnish their individual resources. Mr. A. H. Casey, vice-president of the Federation, is in charge, and the president, Mr. Leydon, is expected to arrive at the New Year.

On Thursday evening a 'smoke social' was tendered by the Christchurch Catholic Club to the visitors. Mr. W. Hoban (president) presided at a gathering of over a hundred. The clergy were represented by the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chénais, V.G., and Rev. Father O'Connell. The function, a most enjoyable one, was held in the Catholic Club rooms, nicely decorated for the occasion. An excellent supper was provided and a lengthy toast-list honored. The health of the clergy was proposed by Mr. J. R. Hayward and responded to by the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chénais and Father O'Connell. 'The Visitors' was responded to by Messrs. Casey (Wellington), Deehan (Dunedin), O'Connell (Ternuka), M. Daly (Hokitika), Duffy (Greymouth), Hogan (Wanganui), Hooker (Hawera), and Simms (Waimate). 'The Federated Societies' was proposed by Mr. T. Adams and responded to by Mr. A. H. Casey and Mr. H. McKeown, and 'The Christchurch Catholic Club' proposed by Mr. Reichel, was responded to by Mr. D. Edmonds and the secretary of the club. 'Kindred Societies' was proposed by Mr. D. O'Connell and responded to by representatives of the Hibernians and St. Vincent de Paul Societies. Interspersed with the toasts, songs were contributed by Messrs. Hogger, Beveridge, C. Goggin, R. Petersen, and W. Hallin; Mr. Deehan played a flute solo, and Mr. H. McKeown and Mr. R. McNamara recited.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

December 26.

The Masses in the churches yesterday were well attended. At St. Patrick's the first Mass was at six o'clock, and Masses were offered up every half hour until 10 o'clock. At 11 o'clock High Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Holbrook, Rev. Father Farthing being deacon, Rev. Father Murphy sub-deacon. His Lordship the Bishop was present in the sanctuary, and after the first Gospel addressed the congregation on the day's festival. While congregations, he said, had assembled within these walls in years past, to commemorate the feast of Nativity, others would follow in a like manner, still the celebration would go on. That it could never fade in the memories of the faithful was but the sure sign of its divine origin. After the Mass, the Rev. Father Molloy, on behalf of the priests and the choir,

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