

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

November 30.

The quarterly theological conference of the Wellington Deanery was held at Otaki on Wednesday. The Very Rev. Dean John McKenna presided. About seventeen priests were present.

The Very Rev. Father Clune, C.S.S.R., returned from the south during the week. Most of the Fathers of the Order are expected to be at the Monastery next week, prior to their leaving for various parts of the Dominion to conduct retreats.

At Meane on to-morrow his Grace the Archbishop will ordain to the priesthood the Rev. — Hurley and the Rev. — Henry. A number of other candidates are to receive minor orders. The Very Rev. Father Keogh, of St. Patrick's College, left during the week to be present at the ceremonies.

The many friends of Mr. Aloysius MacDonald, the popular manager of the Bank of New South Wales, and one of our most practical Catholic laymen, will regret to hear that he is dangerously ill. His son, the Rev. Father MacDonald, arrived from Sydney during the week to be present with his father.

Among the latest of our people to return home from their sojourn abroad are Mr. and Mrs. Martin Kennedy and family, and Mrs. H. Sullivan, her son, and daughter. Mr. Kennedy has brought with him a fine motor car, in which he did some enjoyable journeys in Ireland.

The latest workers for Mother Aubert are the Post and Telegraph Rifles, under Captain Morris. They were assigned the task of shifting a large number of posts, which were quickly despatched to their destination. Other members of the Postal service also lent assistance.

The splendid work in the interests of the development of musical art by the Sisters of the Hill street convent was illustrated by the concert given before a large audience in the concert room of the Town Hall on Tuesday evening. All the vocalists were pupils of the convent school, but it must not be supposed that it was an infants' class which faced the audience. The vocalists were all 'grown up' and there were noticed several voices—soprano, mezzo-soprano, and contralto—which would add charm and beauty to any choir music, sacred or secular, that could be presented. A fine example of their four-part singing was found particularly in Gounod's chorus 'Oh sing to God.' At times in this remarkable musical structure one could easily imagine the lower parts were being taken by tenors and basses, for the harmony was full and sonorous, and although the singers had not the guidance of a conductor the 'attack' was irreproachable, and the rhythm of the beautiful theme evenly maintained. The vocal soloists were Misses Maxwell, Violet Lamacroft, Eileen Ward, May Storey, McEnroe, Olive Moore, Agnes Segrief, Edith Martin, Denhard, Sweeney, and Frances Morrison. In almost every instance encores were granted, but one or two of the young ladies when recalled bowed their acknowledgments. Miss Evatt, for her playing of two of Greig's pianoforte pieces, 'Papillon' and 'Au Printemps,' was vociferously complimented. The pianoforte accompaniments were delightfully played by Mrs. F. Montague, and violin and cello obligatos were given to some of the numbers by Mr. E. Montague and Miss Mona Montague respectively.

Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

November 29.

At the recent Flower Shower Mrs. Dempsey and Mrs. and Miss Neylon were prize-winners.

In order to provide funds for the payment of interest, etc., on the special loans of £5000 and £40,000 for constructing electric tramways, recently sanctioned by a vote of the ratepayers, the Borough Council of Wanganui are striking a special rate of 9d in the £. This will increase the rents of the town, which now are very high.

The net profits from the bazaar, which was organised by the well-wishers of the champion band (Wan-

ganui Garrison), was £430 16s 8d, of which £415 16s 9d was paid for the new instruments recently purchased. It is pleasing to know that the instruments were admitted into the Dominion free, thanks in a large measure to the efforts of Colonel Watt and Mr. J. T. Hogan, M.H.R.

Master Haydn Beck, of Wanganui, who is only eight years of age, has secured senior honors in violin playing at the Trinity College examinations. It is the intention of his father to send him to Europe for further training, and in order to provide funds for this purpose concerts will be held in the leading towns of the Dominion. The first was held on Friday, when Master Beck astonished the large audience present by his artistic playing, especially in his 'Allegro vivace' and 'Carnival de Venice.' He was greeted with a storm of applause at each of his appearances on the stage.

The Irish Rifles, which are now being resuscitated, were made the subject of the Very Rev. Dean Grogan's and Rev. Father Mahony's remarks at the different Masses last Sunday, when they appealed to Catholic young men of the district to become members of the local Irish Rifles Volunteer Corps, which was the only one now existing in the Dominion. They urged the parents to recommend their sons to join this corps in preference to other local bodies of volunteers, thus making it as it should be a purely Catholic corps. It is pleasing to hear that the appeal has been responded to.

Dannevirke

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The social gathering in aid of St. Michael's Catholic church, Dannevirke, took place in the Drill Hall on the evening of Wednesday, November 20, when there was a very good attendance. The Very Rev. Father O'Shea, V.G., was present during the early part of the evening. A committee of ladies provided an excellent supper. During the evening songs were contributed by Mesdames Adams, Neagle, Terry, Misses Cotter and Finnis, and Mr. Cartwright, a Highland fling was danced by Miss Hildeross, and a bagpipe selection and dance were given by Mr. Sutherland. The duties of secretary were capably carried out by Mr. J. Pettit. The gathering was one of the most successful ever held in the township, and the net proceeds will amount to about £20.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 2.

The Rev. Father O'Donnell, C.S.S.R., is at present engaged conducting the annual retreat at Mount Magdala.

The Marist Brothers of the South Island are to assemble in Christchurch this year for the annual retreat.

The health of his Lordship the Bishop had so far improved as to have allowed him to participate in the duties of the Cathedral on Sunday.

A retreat for First Communion and Confirmation candidates is to begin in the Cathedral on Wednesday, preparatory to the ceremonies of next Sunday.

Among visitors to Christchurch is Mrs. Thomas Jordan, late organist of St. Francis' Church, Melbourne. On Sunday, November 24, Mrs. Jordan played the organ, accompaniment of Gounod's 'Messe Solennelle' at St. Mary's, Church, Manchester street. A 'Morceau' by Guilmant at the Offertory, and as a recessional, the celebrated March from 'Moses in Egypt' were also played with fine effect by Mrs. Jordan.

The local branch of the Royal Humane Society at its distribution of awards for bravery last week recognised the action of another of our young Catholic boys, as shown in the following paragraph in the report:—In the case of Edward Haughey, aged sixteen, of 209 Barbadoes street, Christchurch, for rescuing Lillian Jane Fisher, aged fourteen, from drowning, at Barbadoes street bridge, Christchurch, on December 10, 1906, the committee recommended the award of a certificate. After some discussion it was resolved to send a letter of commendation.

According to Professor Bickerton, we have easterly winds here on one hundred and ten days in the year, and nor-westers on about twenty-five. With a fair proportion of south-westers and other varieties, very few of the remaining 230 days are perfectly still, a calm day, therefore, being somewhat of a rarity. Under these conditions efforts to abate the dust nuisance must prove a rather disheartening undertaking.

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