

The Catholic World

AUSTRIA—An Imperial Gift

One of the most notable, as it is also one of the most valuable, of the gifts to Pope Leo X. on the occasion of his Pontifical Jubilee is that presented by the aged Emperor of Austria as a mark of his homage and affection to the Sovereign Pontiff, and of the devoted attachment which has ever been maintained for centuries past by the Imperial House of Hapsburg towards the vicar of Christ. The souvenir consists of a superb pectoral cross of gold, of beautiful rococo design, and richly ornamented with jewels. The gems, which are of rare lustre, comprise upwards of a hundred fine diamonds and rubies, specially selected, the work having been executed by experienced jewellers under the Emperor's frequent supervision.

ENGLAND—Recalled to Rome

The Very Rev. Father David Fleming, at the close of the leave of absence granted to him by the Holy Father, has been called to Rome to resume his former duties.

FRANCE—Funeral of Cardinal Mathieu

The funeral of Cardinal Mathieu, whose remains were removed from London on October 28, took place at Nancy. The Cardinal-Archbishop of Marseilles and Rheims, the Archbishops of Paris, Besancon, and Toulouse, and a number of Bishops were present at the Requiem Mass in the Cathedral. MM. Barres and Vandal, of the French Academy, attended and several addresses eulogising the deceased, including one by M. Barres, were delivered at the cemetery.

Decrease in Population

Discussing the depopulation of France from the military point of view, M. Messony, Deputy for the Seine Department, in an article just published, calculates that at the present rate of decrease France will in the course of the next fifteen years lose thirty-seven or thirty-eight regiments by the diminution of the male population available for service.

ITALY—For the Foreign Mission Field

Special religious services were held at Turin on Sunday, November 1, on the occasion of the departure of fifty-five Salesian missionaries and twenty nuns for Brazil, Chili, Ecuador, and Colombia. The scenes were very affecting as some of them bade farewell to aged parents whom they will never see again.

ROME—The Sacred College

The death of Cardinal Mathieu and of Cardinal Casanates makes the number of vacancies in the Sacred College fourteen (writes the Rome correspondent of the *Catholic Weekly*). There is naturally much discussion as to how many of these vacant places will be filled and as to who are the prelates likely to be chosen. As I have said before, no reliance whatever is to be placed on statements appearing in the press in this connection. In fact, the date of the next Consistory is not known, and, probably, is not yet even fixed upon. Undoubtedly several new Cardinals—perhaps as many as nine—will be created at that Consistory. There is fair reason for thinking that Archbishop Farley, of New York, and Archbishop Amette, of Paris, will be amongst the number. In English circles here it is confidently asserted that the Archbishop of Westminster or Abbot Gasquet, or both, will be amongst the number.

Private Audience

The Right Rev. Dr. Collins, Bishop-Auxiliary of Hexham and Newcastle, the Right Rev. Dr. Fara, Bishop of S. Carlo di Amed, Chili, and the Right Rev. Dr. Jenihan, Bishop of Auckland, all of whom were present at the Eucharistic Congress, were received in private audience by the Holy Father on October 29.

Reception of the Russian Minister

M. Sozonow, Russian Minister to the Vatican, was received in solemn audience by the Holy Father recently, when he presented his Holiness with an autograph letter from the Czar, conveying hearty jubilee congratulations. The audience is said to have been extremely cordial on both sides.

SOUTH AFRICA—The Eastern District

The other day (writes a Rome correspondent) I had the pleasure of an interview with the Right Rev. Bishop McSherry, Vicar-Apostolic of the Eastern District of the Cape of Good Hope, who is on an *ad limina* visit to Rome. Dr. McSherry intends to remain here for three or four weeks. His Lordship will then go to Ireland, prior to

returning to Port Elizabeth. He desires, he told me, to assist at the jubilee Mass of Pius X., whom he met in Venice, while Patriarch of that See, twelve years ago. 'Pope Pius X. is as vigorous and strong looking,' said Dr. McSherry, 'as Cardinal Sarto was a dozen years ago, when I had the pleasure of meeting him.' Dr. McSherry intends to renew the acquaintance in a few days, when he will be received in private audience by his Holiness. I learned from the Bishop, who was present at the Eucharistic Congress, that he was much struck by the change which has taken place in the attitude of the bulk of the English people towards the Catholic Church. 'It is,' said he, 'a most welcome change, and affords great promise for the future. The people are now respectful towards the representatives of the Catholic Church and ready to hear what they have got to say. That, I need hardly tell you, is an advantage by which we should profit immensely.' Bishop McSherry has under his jurisdiction about fifty priests, between three and four hundred nuns in twenty convents. His Vicariate is very extensive, covering an area of no less than one hundred thousand square miles. The climate is the finest in the world. Notwithstanding the terrible business depression which is acutely felt in South Africa, the outlook for the Church is bright, but great difficulties are encountered by the clergy, the Catholics being isolated and scattered over such a large area, and funds from outside will be wanted till the times become better.

UNITED STATES—Catholic Indians

According to the report of the Bureau of Indian Missions for 1907, there are 51,107 Catholic Indians in the United States. They are ministered to by 134 priests in 90 missions.

The Little Sisters of the Poor

There are at present in the United States some 630 Little Sisters of the Poor. They minister to the needs of over 9000 poor and aged men and women. In all, 49 homes are in charge of these devoted servants of the aged and homeless poor. 'No words (says a writer in the *Rosary*) can do justice to the value of the work—oftentimes intolerably repugnant, if viewed in the light of mere philanthropy—which these servants of the Master have performed in this half-century of their American existence. Their lives are veiled from the world—hidden in Christ, to Whom alone they look for their reward. Those who have come in contact with the Little Sisters and their heroic work will enter full-heartedly with them into the joy of the semi-centennial.'

A Venerable Priest

Canon Jeremiah C. Moynihan, the oldest priest in Chicago, probably in the world, died on October 13. The venerable priest was born on May 3, 1808, in Kanturk, County Cork, Ireland. For over seventy years he lived in the United States, engaged in his priestly labors. Four years ago he retired, but until two years ago he celebrated his daily Mass.

GENERAL

Catholic Missions in Africa

Some idea of Catholic activity in the field of foreign missions may be gleaned from the statement printed in the *African Almanac* for 1909, prepared by the Fathers of the Holy Ghost, that at present there are no fewer than 25 religious Orders and Congregations engaged in winning Africa to Christianity, with 2574 secular priests and religious of both sexes, while the continent is divided into 71 vicariates and prefectures apostolic.

A Grand Duchess Enters a Convent

The widowed Grand Duchess Sergius (Princess Elizabeth of Hesse-Darmstadt, and niece of King Edward) has entered the Convent of the 'Blue Nuns' at Moscow, a community (writes a correspondent) which numbers among its inmates the members of not a few families sufficiently distinguished to be enrolled in the 'Velvet Book,' the Russian 'Burke.' The Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna (such is her Russian title) is forty-four, and married the ill-fated Grand Duke Sergius in 1884, when she was twenty.

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