

INTERCOLONIAL

At a conference on public morals in Sydney last week appalling statements were made as to the extent of the immorality at the present time, especially amongst young girls. Resolutions were passed for comprehensively dealing with the evil and these will be presented to Parliament with a view to legislation.

On July 1 eight priests left Sydney on a visit to the South Sea Islands: Rev. Father Roche (Muswellbrook), Rev. Father O'Flynn (Newcastle), Rev. P. Murphy (formerly of Merewether, but now on leave), Very Rev. Father Bertreux, S.M., of New South Wales, and the Rev. Fathers L. Martin, E. O'Brien, M'Carthy, and Cary, of Victoria.

His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne has made the following clerical changes in the archdiocese: Rev. P. J. Fitzgerald, from St. Brigid's, North Fitzroy, to St. Mary's, Geelong; Rev. W. B. Power, from St. Mary's, Dandenong, to North Fitzroy; Rev. J. Collins, from Geelong to St. Ambrose's, Woodend; Rev. M. Ryan, from Woodend to Dandenong.

On June 24 the parishioners of the Rev. E. J. Luby, Brunswick, Melbourne, entertained the rev. gentleman and presented him with an address and a purse of 150 sovereigns in celebration of his silver sacerdotal jubilee. There was a large and representative gathering. Mr. W. Rose, J.P., who presided, made the presentation on behalf of the parishioners.

The Rev. Father F. J. Roche, who has labored uninterruptedly for the last 16 years in the diocese of Maitland, the last seven of which have been spent in Muswellbrook, where, throughout the district, many schools and churches stand as monuments to his zeal and energy, was made the recipient, prior to his departure on a holiday visit to some of the islands of the Pacific, of an address and purse of over 80 sovereigns.

At a committee meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Melbourne, it was decided to adjourn out of respect to the memory of the late Archdeacon Slattery, who was a generous benefactor of the Society. He always contributed £100 per annum, and sometimes more. In fact, whenever he obtained a bequest he generally shared it with St. Vincent de Paul Society. Deep and heartfelt expressions of regret were manifested by all the members for the loss of one whose love and sympathy for the poor and afflicted were ever in readiness to relieve and comfort those in distress.

When Mr. J. G. Duffy, M.L.A., was addressing an election meeting in Seymour about 17 years ago, he was asked by Mr. T. Bolton, a local butcher, if he would favor giving a bonus to the parents of large families. Mr. Duffy replied that he would, and jocularly added that, should Mr. Bolton ever become the father of 20 children, he would, if unable to induce the Government to give him a bonus, present him with one out of his own pocket. As years rolled on, Mr. Bolton's twentieth child arrived, and when Mr. Duffy was in Seymour recently attending a social function, Mr. Bolton reminded him of his promise, and the other day he received a handsome silver-plated mug from Mr. Duffy.

The Nursing Sisters of the Little Company of Mary are established in South Australia (writes the Sydney correspondent of the Adelaide 'Southern Cross'), and you will, therefore, be interested in the annual meeting of the subscribers to their beautiful hospital at Lewisham, Sydney. The meeting was held under the presidency of the Governor and there was a large and distinguished gathering. The Cardinal delivered an address describing and eulogising the work of the Sisters. The State Governor (Sir Harry Rawson) also paid a tribute to the Sisters. The collection amounted to £150. The Sisters have won the hearts of the people of all denominations. The Rev. Dr. Porter, a Baptist clergyman known for his anti-Catholic prejudice, was a prominent figure at the meeting, and among the donations received during the year was £100 from a Protestant gentleman.

The thronged congregation in St. Mary's Church, Geelong, during the obsequies of the late Archdeacon Slattery was moved to considerable emotion when his Grace the Archbishop in the midst of his delivery of the funeral oration digressed to read a letter which he had received that day from one of the many who had been assisted by the deceased priest. The writer proceeded to say: 'If ever there was a true Christian on this earth, it was this man (the Archdeacon). Some 16 years ago I was in very great distress, and somehow I felt impelled to write to the Archdeacon, though I had never seen him. Next evening when I opened my door, I found a letter, which contained a cheque for £8. In the letter the Archdeacon said his duties prevented him from being able to get employment for people, but at the same time he would help me in order that I might be the better enabled to help myself. He concluded by advising me to put my trust in God. Although a bit of a sceptic in religious matters, the letter came as such a surprise that instinctively I dropped on my knees to offer a prayer for my benefactor and for myself. I mention this so that you may fully realise what a man he was.' The Archdeacon died practically penniless. Tangible proof of the hold he had on all classes was evinced on the day of the announcement of his death when a meeting of a representative character was held in Geelong and the sum of £300 subscribed towards erecting a mortuary chapel in the local cemetery to perpetuate his memory. The total cost, £500, has now been fully subscribed.

Friends at Court

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- July 19, Sunday.—Seventh Sunday after Pentecost. St. Symmachus, Pope and Confessor.
 " 20, Monday.—St. Jerome Emilian, Confessor.
 " 21, Tuesday.—St. Alexius, Confessor.
 " 22, Wednesday.—St. Mary Magdalen, Penitent.
 " 23, Thursday.—St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr.
 " 24, Friday.—St. Vincent de Paul, Confessor.
 " 25, Saturday.—St. James, Apostle.

St. Symmachus, Pope and Confessor.

St. Symmachus, who was Pope from 498 to 514, was born in Sardinia. He was the successor of Athanasius II. He zealously combated the heresies of Nestorius and Eutyches, and some writers attribute to him the introduction into the Mass of the 'Gloria in Excelsis.'

St. Jerome Emilian, Confessor.

St. Jerome Emilian belonged to a noble Venetian family. Upon the death of his father, when he was about fifteen years of age he entered the army, to the great affliction of his mother, who soon beheld him fall into a dissolute way of life through the bad example of his companions. Having received a commission from the Venetian Senate to relieve the garrison of Castelnovo, which was invested by a German army, Jerome succeeded in effecting an entrance to the citadel, and in repelling for some time the assaults of the enemy. Upon the fall of the castle he was seized, loaded with chains, and cast into a dark dungeon. In these straits he began to reflect with anguish on the state of his soul, and with sighs and tears acknowledged the justice of God in thus treating him according to his merits. Suddenly a ray of hope penetrated his heart when he thought of the tender mercy of our Blessed Lady, and he made a vow on the spot, in case of his deliverance, to visit barefoot her celebrated shrine at Treviso, and there publish aloud her bounty in his regard. As soon as he completed the terms of his vow he returned to Venice, and, renouncing the honors and offices of the State, devoted himself henceforth to the service of God and the relief of the afflicted poor.

St. Mary Magdalen, Penitent.

According to an old tradition, St. Mary Magdalen was the sister of Martha and Lazarus, and was that sinner who anointed the Saviour's feet. After her conversion she became the most faithful and zealous servant of the Lord. She stood with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and Mary, the wife of Cleophas, under the Cross; she was first at the sepulchre after the Sabbath, and there saw Jesus, whom she thought to be a gardener, until He kindly made Himself known, and commanded her to announce the news of His resurrection to the Apostles and Disciples. She came into Provence, Gaul, with Lazarus and Martha, and passed the rest of her days at St. Baume, in penance, prayer, and contemplation.

St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr.

St. Apollinaris, who was the first Bishop of Ravenna, and the only one of this Church who suffered martyrdom was, it is believed, a disciple of St. Peter. He is famous in Church history although the acts of his life such as we have them, are not authentic. His panegyric was pronounced by St. Peter Chrysologus, one of his successors. Hungary claims him as its apostle. His remains, formerly kept at Classe (ancient sea harbor four miles from Ravenna), were transferred in 549 into a vault of the same church. Pope Honorius founded a church at Rome in honor of St. Apollinaris about the year 630.

St. Vincent de Paul, Confessor.

St. Vincent de Paul was born in 1576. The indications of ability which he exhibited led to his being sent to school at Toulouse. He was admitted to priest's orders in 1600. He laid the foundation of what eventually grew into the great and influential Congregation of 'Priests of the Missions.' Vincent's preaching was of the most simple kind, singularly effective and progressive. He founded the Order of the 'Daughters of Charity' at Paris in 1631. The Order is popularly known by the title of 'The Sisters of Charity,' or 'Grey Nuns,' and its members have won for their Order as well as themselves the admiration, esteem, and well-deserved praise of all nations for their godlike ministrations to the sick and afflicted during times of war and peace. St. Vincent died at the advanced age of 85, at St. Lazare, September 27, 1660; and was canonised by Clement XII. in 1737.

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