

N.Z. CATHOLIC FEDERATION

CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

The Christchurch Diocesan Executive met on April 29 at St. Mary's Presbytery, the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., presiding, and there was a good attendance of members. Fathers Aubry, S.M. (Greymouth) and Bonetto (late of Akaroa) were present, and received a warm welcome, the chairman eulogising their good work and enthusiasm in the cause of Federation, and of the great success that had attended their efforts in their parishes. In replying, Father Aubry stated he was much indebted to the Very Rev. Dean Hyland and Mr. J. E. Doolan for addresses delivered in the parish, and also to the local officers, and he assured the meeting that the membership would be considerably increased in the near future. Father Bonetto also replied, and paid a warm tribute to the memory of the late Private Michael Daly, who as secretary of the parish committee was the mainspring of the Federation for many years. Correspondence was received from the general secretary regarding the business transacted at the Dominion Council and Executive meetings, and the secretary was instructed to get further information on several questions. Satisfaction was expressed that an Educational Policy was in course of preparation, and that arrangements were being made to hold a conference of our secondary school teachers in Wellington about the middle of May to arrange a uniform system of examination in connection with the Federation scholarships. Very satisfactory returns were received from Temuka, Pleasant Point, St. Mary's, Fairlie, Ross, and Greymouth branches, and the secretary was instructed to communicate with the remaining branches, urging on them a more prompt compliance with the rules and the wishes of their executive. Messrs. W. and J. R. Hayward were elected as the Federation representatives on the board of management of the girls' hostel. A lengthy discussion ensued on the best means to adopt in visiting the outlying parishes and placing the scholarship proposals before our people, and it was decided to visit as many as possible about the end of May.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION.

The golden jubilee of the Mother Superior of St. Mary's Convent, M.M. Mechtildes Boland, was celebrated on Wednesday, April 23. There was Solemn High Mass in the convent chapel. Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., being celebrant, and Very Rev. J. A. O'Connell, S.M., and Rev. Father J. Long, deacon and subdeacon respectively. His Lordship Bishop Brodie delivered an address appropriate to the occasion. Afterwards the Bishop and clergy were entertained to lunch in the convent. At 3 p.m. there was a reunion of past and present pupils of the Sisters, when the following programme was submitted: Jubilee chorus, pupils; address, Miss M. McManaway; vocal solo, "The Crown," Miss L. Kilbridge; selection, "Au Fait," orchestra; recitation, "The Mill Wheel," Miss D. Shaw; piano solo, "Liebestraum," Miss E. Forman; glee, "Hail, Smiling Morn," senior pupils; vocal solo, Mrs. F. O'Brien; selection, orchestra; vocal solo, Miss S. Murray; selection, "Believe Me, if All Those Endearing Young Charms," orchestra. Mrs. Middleton was accompanist. During the concert, Miss H. Card, lady mayoress of Featherston, presented the jubilarian with a cheque from the old pupils residing in the North Island. Amongst the clergy at one or more of the functions were Very Rev. Dean Hyland, Fathers Morkane (Mosgiel), O'Connell (Wanganui), Price, Graham, Cooney, Hanrahan, Long, Murphy, Seymour, O'Boyle, and Roche.

In the evening Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament brought the day's celebrations to a happy conclusion.

The jubilarian was the recipient of numerous gifts and congratulatory telegrams from her many friends throughout the Dominion.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

May 1.

Universal regret was expressed and much concern felt in the city last week when it became known that his Lordship Bishop Cleary was lying seriously ill at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. For two days his condition was critical, but it is gratifying to report that at time of writing his Lordship's health was rapidly improving, and it is hoped he will be able to leave hospital within a few days.

Father Forde, erstwhile parish priest at Taumarunui, took up his duties as Administrator of the Cathedral parish from to-day.

Father Brennan, late Administrator, proceeds shortly to assume the charge of the parish of Takapuna.

Father Whelan, C.S.S.R., is at present conducting a retreat for the boys at Takapuna Orphanage. Last week Father Whelan gave a retreat to the students at Sacred Heart College.

On Saturday next, a garden fete will be held in the grounds of St. Joseph's School, Grey Lynn, in aid of the school funds.

The biennial local bodies election created considerable interest in the city on Wednesday last. For the City Council, there were 50 candidates in the field for 21 seats. The majority of the old councillors were returned, and Labor, for the first time, will be officially represented by three members. It is pleasing to report that our esteemed friend, Mr. P. J. Nerheny, still retains the confidence of the citizens, whom he has so worthily represented for many years in various capacities, being returned with handsome majorities to both the City Council and Hospital and Charitable Aid Board.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

May 5.

The fortnightly meeting of the Celtic Club was held on April 29, in the Hibornian Hall. Mr. J. Curry presided, and there was a good attendance of members. Father Fogarty was among those present. With reference to the projected bazaar in aid of the Cathedral schools' building fund, which the club had been asked to support, Misses C. O'Connor, G. Baker, Messrs. A. F. Jarman and J. Curry were appointed to attend the next meeting of the bazaar committee. Mr. Jarman (secretary) reported that £18 10s 4d was the net result of the club's recent dramatic performance. Two new members were elected and two candidates nominated.

The ordinary meeting of St. Mary's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held on Monday evening, April 28, at Ozanam Lodge. Bro. A. F. Roche, B.P., presided. The chaplain (Father Roche) was present, and there was a good attendance of members. Two members were initiated and two nominations were received. For the first time in the history of the branch a funeral grant of £20 was passed for payment. A letter from Dr. Ardagh, notifying his homecoming, and tendering good wishes to the branch, was received with pleasure. At the conclusion of the business a programme of impromptu speeches was indulged in and proved interesting and entertaining. Father Roche acted as chairman for this part of the meeting.

A most successful mission has been conducted at Rangiora by Father Kilbride, C.S.S.R. At its conclusion his Lordship the Bishop on last Sunday administered the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Every evening during the month of May there are special devotions in honor of our Lady at the Cathedral, and also at St. Mary's. On last Sunday evening the discourses were on that beautiful devotion, Father Murphy occupying the pulpit at the Cathedral and

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