

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph's Cathedral from the 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday. His Lordship the Bishop officiated at Compline in the evening, after which the monthly meeting of the Men's Confraternity of the Sacred Heart was held, followed by procession and Pontifical Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The following announcement was made at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday:—"It is the desire of the Public Health Authorities that children under 16 years of age should not go to Sunday Schools, or to churches, until further notice. On account of the vital interest at stake, parents would be quite justified in not sending their children to Mass to-day."

The annual spiritual Retreat for the clergy of the diocese, conducted by the Very Rev. Dr. M. J. O'Reilly, C.M., Rector of St. John's College, Sydney, commenced at Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, on Monday evening, the 26th ult., and concluded on Friday, the 30th. The annual synodal meeting was held at the termination of the Retreat.

The annual Retreat for laymen was opened at Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, on Friday last and concluded on Monday evening. The Retreat, conducted by the Very Rev. Dr. O'Reilly, C.M., Rector of St. John's College, Sydney, was attended by 42 retreatants, representing all parts of the diocese from Oamaru to Invercargill and Central Otago. The concluding ceremonies were graced by the presence of his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Whyte and a number of the city clergy, and included Pontifical Benediction in the college chapel, his Lordship the Bishop being attended by Rev. Fathers Kaveney, Adm., and Hally as deacon and subdeacon respectively, and Very Rev. Father Morkane, Rector of Holy Cross College, as master of ceremonies. On Tuesday morning his Lordship offered Holy Mass for the special intentions of the retreatants. As space does not permit of an extended report of the Retreat, this will be given in our next week's issue.

St. Vincent de Paul Society PARTICULAR COUNCIL OF DUNEDIN.

The quarterly meeting of the various conferences of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, in the circumscription of the Particular Council of Dunedin, will be held at St. Joseph's Hall, Rattray Street, on next Monday evening, at 8 o'clock. Very Rev. M. J. O'Reilly, C.M., D.D., Rector of St. John's College, Sydney, has very graciously consented to deliver the occasional address, and besides the members, friends generally of the society are invited to be present. As Dr. O'Reilly is recognised as one of the greatest public speakers of Australia, a rare treat is in store for all who attend the meeting.

Invercargill

(From our own Correspondent.)

January 31.

When it became known to the congregation that a Dominican priest was conducting a Retreat for the local Sisters, one and all began to hope that we would be favored with at least one of his sermons, and we

were not disappointed, it being announced at the early Mass that Very Rev. Prior Hogan would preach at devotions in the evening. St. Mary's Basilica was crowded—it reminded one of the missions. The sermon was a powerful denunciation of those who would attempt to explain the gifts of Divine Providence as so-called scientific facts. The preacher dwelt for some considerable time on Lourdes and brought most vividly before his listeners the truth of miraculous happenings which are daily being enacted there by Divine Providence, and disposed most effectively of those who would attempt to belittle the works of our Divine Lord.

Rev. Brother Herbert and his two assistants arrived during the week, and we all sincerely hope that their stay in Invercargill will be a pleasant one. The beautiful new brick residence for the Marist Brothers is nearing completion, and by the time the school starts the Brothers will be settled in their new home. The house is a most up-to-date two storied brick building, situated very near the new school, and when the grounds are laid out will be one of the finest residences in Invercargill.

Knights of the Blessed Sacrament, Wellington

The week-end Retreat for laymen was made the occasion of a rally for enrolments in this world-wide movement, and all of the Retreatants gave their solemn word of honor to observe the conditions attached to the Knighthood of the Blessed Sacrament, viz., weekly Communion (daily if possible), faithfulness to Benediction and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and if unable to visit a church when passing, to respectfully raise their hats with the ejaculation "Hail my Lord and my God."

At the time of Archbishop Redwood's jubilee the presentation of a gold badge of the Knights, together with an illuminated address from the New Zealand Knights, was crowded out, and the subsequent absence of his Grace in Europe delayed the ceremony until the Retreat provided the opportunity last Sunday, when his Grace was present.

The Rev. Father McGrath, on behalf of the Knights, welcomed his Grace, and explained that the Knights of the Blessed Sacrament was a war-time foundation by Catholic soldiers who wished to make their sacrifice to the King of Kings.

The movement was blessed and approved by our Holy Father and was now world-wide. He called upon Knight A. Conroy—who joined the movement in England, and who, when he came to this country, pioneered it in New Zealand—to read the address and hand to his Grace the gold badge of the Knights. Following is the text of the address, which was beautifully illuminated by Knight Conroy's brother:—
May it please your Grace,

We, the Crusaders of the Blessed Sacrament, desire to avail ourselves of the occasion of your Episcopal Golden Jubilee to express to you the loyal and loving sentiments of our Order towards your Grace as the great Knight Commander of our Holy Church in New Zealand.

In the episcopal life of your Grace there has been, under God, such a wonderful blending of the heroic and the marvellous that we, as Knights and Handmaids of the Blessed Sacrament cannot but recognise in your devotion to our Eucharistic Lord the vital factor in your every achievement.

The romance of another Knight, Sir Galahad, poetically tells us of difficulties and dangers surmounted, with the quest of the chalice wherein were caught the last drops of the precious Blood, as motive. But we see in your career no less chivalry—not in the seeking of a sacred souvenir has your life of abundant fruitfulness been spent. By the daily holding and receiving the sacred reality of Calvary you have pursued the Vision Glorious—the nobler quest of Christian Knighthood—Souls and more souls.

By the thousands of Masses you have celebrated and by the hundreds of thousands of Holy Communion you have administered, by the more than a hundred priests of your ordaining, and the numerous eucharistic homes of your blessing, to effect the miracle and to perpetuate the memory of the first Holy Thursday, we hail you by these and every other right and title the Knight General of our Order in New Zealand.

In token of this office, which we now humbly ask you officially to undertake, we beg your acceptance of the accompanying gold cross of our Order, conveying the heartfelt sentiments of devotedness with which we subscribe ourselves.

P. D. HOSKINS, K.S.C., K.B.S.

A. CONROY, K.E.B.S.

His Grace in replying thanked the Knights for the honor conferred upon him. No Archbishop (said his Grace) would be worthy of that office if he had not an affection and love for the Blessed Sacrament and of a movement promoted to honor and spread devotion to that great Sacrament. He assured the movement of his paternal affection and blessed it with all his heart. He congratulated them on the great good that they were doing. His Grace then gave an entertaining account of his visit to Rome and to the Eucharistic Congress at Amsterdam, where he was most enthusiastically received. His Holiness received him most cordially, and was deeply interested in the account which his Grace gave of New Zealand. His Grace presented to His Holiness a colored photo of his jubilee celebrations, which the Holy Father was most pleased to receive. The Holy Father then presented the Archbishop with a gold medal, and commissioned him to impart the Papal Blessing to his people in New Zealand. In conclusion, his Grace imparted the Papal Blessing to the Retreatants.

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