

ther Benignus, formerly director of the College, has now taken charge of the Brothers' Novitiate at Tuakau. The new arrivals here will be Brother Palladius and Brother Martin.

With the termination of the holidays and of the Retreat of the clergy now in progress at the Sacred Heart College, we may soon expect a resumption of Catholic activities for the coming year. Some of the parishes are already settling down to active preparations, and it is to be expected that with such an early start this will be a highly successful year from every point of view.

Diocese of Christchurch

(From our own Correspondent.)

January 31.

The half-yearly meeting of the St. Patrick's branch (No. 82) of the H.A.C.B. Society, was held on Monday evening, January 5. The president (Bro. E. H. Turner) presided over a very large attendance of members. The sick visitors' report was received, and sick pay and other accounts were passed for payment. The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing term:—President, Bro. S. Doherty; vice-president, Bro. L. Mahoney; permanent secretary, Bro. M. Grimes; treasurer, Bro. W. P. Daly; warden, Bro. J. Roche; guardian, Bro. L. McMullan; sick visitors, Bros. H. Niven and P. Ryan; assistant secretary, Bro. H. Sloan; auditors, Bros. M. Garty and Wall; delegate to U.F.S. Dispensary, Bro. M. Grimes and T. P. O'Rourke; delegate to the U.F.S. Council, Bro. M. Grimes; delegate to U.F.S. Benevolent Association, Bros. R. O'Brien and W. P. Daly. The secretary reported that complete arrangements for the society's annual picnic, to take place on February 22 at Stewart's Gully, had been made. Motors are to leave the Hibernian Hall at 10.15 a.m., and judging by the demand for tickets this outing promises to be one off the most popular of the year. After the business of the meeting had been completed, the district deputy (Bro. M. Grimes) installed the office-bearers, and in doing so expressed his pleasure at seeing so many young members undertaking office, and spoke of the importance of the duties they were called upon to discharge. During the evening Bro. Grimes was installed as first permanent secretary of the branch, an honor well deserved in view of the fact that he has filled the office of branch secretary for 12 years. The newly-elected office-bearers briefly returned thanks, and a vote of thanks to those retiring was carried by acclamation.

His Lordship the Bishop is to leave for Auckland on Monday evening, the 2nd inst.

Rev. Father Timoney, late of Rangiora, has entered Lewisham Hospital for treatment which will occupy four or five weeks.

The opening of the new wing at St. Bede's College, has been postponed owing to the prevalence of infantile paralysis.

The annual sports arranged by the friends of the St. Joseph's Orphanage, Middleton, held on Saturday, the 24th inst., were very well attended, and much enjoyed by the boys. The prizes were distributed by Messrs. W. E. Simes and C. S. Thomas.

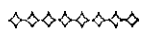
Addington

(From our own Correspondent.)

January 30.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament last Sunday. At the evening devotions the sermon was preached by Rev. Father Brennan.

Tennis is again sparkling up in this part of the world. Owing to the exceptionally wet weather at the opening of the season members lost interest in the club. Now, however, with the return of the summer weather this has been revived. In order to stimulate enthusiasm amongst the players, Rev. Father Quinn (president of the club) has donated a handsome silver cup to be competed for by the male members. The trophy has to be won two years in succession, and is then retained by the winner. But the lady members are not to be overlooked: Mr. Bob Mercer has kindly donated a trophy for them, and enthusiasm is running high. The thanks of the committee and members generally are extended to the two donors.



Timaru

(From our own Correspondent.)

January 29.

Rev. Brother Egbert has been appointed to take charge of the Marist Brothers' School here, and has Brothers Fidelis and Philip to assist. Brother Egbert is well-known here, having been connected with the school for 10 years (1915-16), part of the time as superior.

Mr. D. T. Kelly, B.A. (son of Mr. Jeremiah Kelly, Seadown), has been appointed to a position on the staff of the Timaru Boys' High School.

Mr. L. J. O'Connell, B.A., LL.B., lately solicitor in Christchurch, has commenced practice in Timaru.

The tennis club has elected a strong and enthusiastic committee to make the necessary arrangements for the annual carnival, which is to be held at the presbytery grounds on Saturday, February 14. There will be numerous competitions, stalls, games, music, etc. The grounds will be tastefully decorated and special lighting effects will be arranged for the evening. The function is always considered a popular one, with our people, who generally give generous support to the oldest established athletic and social club in this parish. The proceeds go towards the pavilion fund.



OUR DAILY DUTY

Every Christian, and especially every Catholic, is convinced that the poet uttered a genuine truth when he wrote: "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." Any one who is at all familiar with Holy Writ is moreover convinced that the duty of praying is of prime importance in the life of a Christian. St. Paul's counsel, "Pray without ceasing," is tantamount to saying that prayer should be not only the daily food of our souls, but their continual respiration. This advice of the great Apostle of the Gentiles is, of

course, only the echo of his Divine Master's teaching, since among all the duties imposed upon us as Christians, there is not one more frequently insisted upon than prayer, not one that Christ has more solidly established by His ordinances, or more highly consecrated by His example.

All prayer deserving of the name implies elevation of the soul to God. In genuine prayer we separate ourselves from our labors, our occupations, and the sensible objects by which we are surrounded, to fix ourselves upon Him. We extricate our minds from the hurly-burly of worldly affairs and material interests in order that we may enter into ourselves, may commune with the Almighty, may occupy ourselves with Him and with our eternal interests.

St. Teresa tells us: "If, when one is praying, one regards and considers the fact that one is conversing with God more attentively than one considers the words one is uttering, one is making both vocal and mental prayer, which may be of much advantage. If, however, one does not consider with whom one is speaking nor what one is saying, it may be thought certain that, no matter how much one may move one's lips, one prays very little." In other words, prayer is a real intercourse, a heart-to-heart conversation with God; and the great danger to be avoided in the recital of vocal prayers is the saying of them in a purely mechanical, routine fashion with none of that elevation of the soul which alone can vivify the sterile formulas, and raise the utterance of certain set expressions to the plane of actual praying.

Even the most fervent Catholics may, of course, be disturbed while at prayer by numerous distractions—and the more worldly one's life, the more multiplied will be such distractions,—but there is no excuse for discontinuing on that account the regular recitation of our daily prayers. Distractions do not vitiate or nullify our praying. If, as soon as we notice them, we endeavor to put them out of our minds, and bring our attention back to the consideration of God and of the words which we are addressing to Him, these distractions are of no practical account.

One point that can not be too strongly insisted upon is that we should never, under any circumstances, abandon the practice of praying, even if, to all appearance, our prayers have not been granted. St. Teresa well says on this matter: "Souls that have no habit of prayer are like a lame and paralytic body, which, though it has hands and feet, cannot use them. To abandon prayer, therefore, seems to me the same thing as to lose the straight road; for, as prayer is the gate through which all the graces of God come to us, when this is closed, I do not know how we can receive any of these graces." Another saying of the same great Saint is a consolatory one likely to encourage and sustain many a faltering traveller on the road to salvation. "The soul," she tells us, "that perseveres in the exercise of prayer, however many sins, temptations, and falls the devil opposes to it, may hold it for certain that, after all, the Lord will sooner or later rescue it from danger, and guide it to the harbor of salvation."—*Arc Maria*.

Joseph Howard



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