

the hall became a large dormitory with 40 cubicles neatly curtained off, and 40 beds all made on the premises. Then, after placing a chair and table in each cubicle, the carpentering committee swept up its shavings and departed, conscious of good work well done.

In the meantime the "Villa" was the scene of great activity. The best room was secured by the chapel committee who descended thereon with hangings and drapings. After a week of tacking and carrying, the chapel with altar and sacristy complete, stood ready for the presence of the King of Kings.

In other rooms desks were being shifted to make room for tables and chairs, and in no time the dining room was prepared, and the lounge room, with books and papers scattered about, was ready for occupation. What if backs ached or arms were tired? When God is pleased then aches are naught.

On the day prior to the opening two well-known ladies of the parish, whose ability needs no testimonial, took possession of the Villa kitchen and labored unceasingly to provide for a large family of retreatants. Surely God will reward a hundredfold the generosity of these two women whose presence, whether at Retreat or social, is indispensable.

Soon everything was ready, and on Friday night came the retreatants, bearing along with their bedclothes the best of intentions. Forty men, from eighteen to eighty they came—all with the same desire to spend some little time alone with God.

It is not necessary to dwell on the different exercises of the Retreat for these have been enumerated so often, but sufficient it is to say that he who would be alone with God needed only to mount the tower of the "Villa," where, in the early morning, through a veil of pink mist, the sign of God's great handiwork appeared, and to the music of a thousand birds in the tall pines the earth was bathed in a flood of golden light. And at dusk, when God compassionates a foolish, wicked world, he could look upon the sleeping town shrouded in clouds of silver river mist, and realise that life is but a day and the future a night shrouded in a mist of doubt.

Ah! those golden hours of peace sublime, those moments fraught with the pure love of God! Would that we blind mortals could cease to barter that love for the cup of pleasure which when drained leaves naught but dregs of exceeding bitterness.

We should therefore seize with eagerness upon an opportunity of attending a Retreat, for there in truth can one say, "My God and my All."

HOW YOU MAY HELP

The writer of the historical notes on the Church in New Zealand, now running through the *Tablet*, having in mind the added interest imparted by illustrations, would be very grateful if those possessing photographs of priests who formerly labored in the Dominion—the early missionaries especially—would forward such (with name, etc., attached) to the *Tablet* office. After being reproduced, these would be carefully returned to the owners.

OUR LADY'S LEAGUE

In response to the appeal of our Holy Father, members of the National Union of Italian Catholic Girls have begun an active campaign against immodest fashions, and are pledging themselves to modesty in dress, both inside and outside the Church. They have taken this as their oath:—

"Holy Virgin, we propose never to adopt any manner of dress displeasing to Thee. This means that upon every occasion, even when the devil tempts us and suggests that we pass the limits of holy modesty, we will remember our promise to Thee."

As the evil is already in our midst, shall not we Catholic women of New Zealand, as loyal children of Holy Church, and devout clients of Mary Immaculate, throw ourselves whole heartedly into this glorious campaign for the safe-guarding of womanly modesty?

All who are willing to respond may apply for Promise Cards to the Secretary of the Children of Mary, Convent of the Sacred Heart, Timaru.

The names will be sent later to Rome to rejoice the Sovereign Pontiff who has this intention so much to heart. A small charge of 2d per card will be made to defray the expense of printing.

Pray earnestly that fifty earnest workers may be found among our Catholic girls to help in extending the campaign over the length and breadth of our fair land. Will you join, and get as many others as you can to join in carrying out this noble enterprise?

OUR LADY'S LEAGUE.

Promise Card.

Holy Virgin, I propose never to adopt any manner of dress displeasing to Thee. This means that upon every occasion, even when the devil tempts me, and suggests that I pass the limits of holy modesty, I will remember my promise to Thee.

N.B.—The sleeveless dress is to be avoided everywhere and always. The sleeve that does not reach at least to the elbow should never appear in the House of God.

Kindly tear off this end and send it to the Secretary of the Children of Mary, Convent of the Sacred Heart, Timaru.

Name
Address

BISHOP BRODIE'S APPROBATION

Catholic Cathedral,
Christchurch.
February 17, 1925.

Dear Rev. Mother,

I cordially approve of the movement under the appropriate designation of "Our Lady's League." The aims and objects of the League seem to be in complete accord with the exhortation of our Holy Father Pope Pius XI on Christian modesty in dress, and consequently should commend themselves to the acceptance of all Catholics.

The fact that his Holiness has given his blessing to such a movement enables me to rejoice that Our Lady's League is being established in my diocese. The movement has my cordial approbation.

Yours most sincerely in Jesus Christ,
* MATTHEW J. BRODIE,
Bishop of Christchurch.

His Lordship Dr. Whyte, Bishop of Dunedin, has also given his cordial approval to the League movement in his diocese.

WEDDING BELLS

CLARKE—EGAN.

A very popular wedding was solemnised at the Catholic church, Gore, on February 3, the contracting parties being Miss Agnes (Reece) Egan, fifth daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Egan, Trafford Street, Gore, and Mr. Samuel Clarke, of Bluff, and formerly of Gore, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Clarke, Gladstone, Invercargill. Rev. Father Graham officiated. The church was tastefully decorated by girl friends of the bride with hydrangias and gaillardias. The bride, who was led to the altar by her father, looked charming in a gown of creme figured broche-de-Chine, simply made and finished with a spray of orange blossom at the waist. She wore a train daintily lined with heliotrope, and her veil of creme tulle, beautifully embroidered, was caught with pearls and orange blossom. Her bouquet was of white roses, sweet peas and maiden-hair fern, with touches of heliotrope scabias. The bridesmaids were Miss Hilda Egan (sister of the bride) and Miss Doris Hoffman (niece). Miss Egan wore a handsome frock of heliotrope marocain brocaded in silver, relieved with trimmings of shrimp-colored ribbon. Her veil was of heliotrope tulle with a coronet of silver leaves, and she wore silver shoes and stockings to match. Miss Doris Hoffman was daintily attired in a frock of creme lace and white shoes and stockings, and a wreath of silver leaves finished with streamers of heliotrope encircled her head. Both bridesmaids carried bouquets of heliotrope, sweet peas, scabias, and gypsophila. The bridegroom was attended by his brother, Mr. E. Clarke, as best man. During the ceremony Mrs. Poppelwell presided at the organ and played the "Wedding March" as the bridal party left the church. An adjournment was then made to Hoffman's tea rooms, when a sumptuous wedding breakfast was partaken of, and the customary toasts honored. After the wedding breakfast the guests proceeded to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Egan, where they were hospitably entertained. The bridegroom's present to the bride was a seal coat, to the bridesmaids a gold "Nellie Stewart" bangle and an ebony brush and comb respectively, and the bride's present to the bridegroom was a silver-mounted walking stick. The newly-wedded couple left by the afternoon's express *en route* to the North Island, where the honeymoon was spent, the bride travelling in a navy three-piece costume piped with white, and a navy and white hat to match. During the afternoon a number of congratulatory telegrams were received from absent friends. Mr. and Mrs. Clarke

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Sheep Stations, Dairy Farms, Town and Suburban properties for sale or exchange in all parts of Poverty Bay, Opoitiki, Whakatane, and Auckland. Inquiries invited, inspections arranged, and valuations made. Country rep., G. S. Bruce; town rep., J. H. Jones. Telephone—Office, 326; G. S. Bruce (private), 1107; J. H. Jones (private), 1180.

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