

DIVINE FAITH AND THE ROSARY.

Yet another excellent fruit follows from the Rosary, exceedingly opportune to the character of our times. This We have referred to elsewhere. It is that, whilst the virtue of Divine Faith is daily exposed to so many dangers and attacks, the Christian may here derive nourishment and strength for his faith. Holy Writ calls Christ the "Author and Finisher of faith" (Heb. vii., 2)—the "Author," because He taught men many things which they had to believe, especially about Himself, in whom "dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead" (Colos. ii., 9) and also because He mercifully gives the power of believing by the grace and, as it were, the unction of the Holy Ghost; the "Finisher," because in heaven, where He will change the habit of faith into the splendour of glory, He openly discloses to them those things which they have seen in this mortal life as through a veil. Now, Christ stands forth clearly in the Rosary. We behold in meditation His life, whether His hidden life in joy, or His public life in excessive toil and sufferings unto death, or His glorious life from His triumphant resurrection to His eternal enthronement at the right hand of the Father. And since faith, to be full and sufficient, must display itself—for with the heart we believe unto justice, but "with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. x. 10)—so have we also in the Rosary an excellent means unto this, for by those vocal prayers with which it is intermingled we are enabled to express and profess our faith in God, our most watchful Father; in the future life, the forgiveness of sins; in the mysteries of the august Trinity, the Incarnation of the Word, the Divine Maternity, and others. All know the value and merit of faith. For faith is just like a most precious germ, producing now the blossoms of all virtue by which we are pleasing to God, and hereafter to bring forth fruits that will last for ever: "for to know Thee is perfect justice, and to know Thy justice and Thy power is the root of immortality" (Wisdom xv. 3). It is here the place to add a remark respecting the duties of those virtues which faith rightly postulates. Among them is the virtue of penance, and one part of this is abstinence, which for more reasons than one is necessary and salutary. It is true the Church is growing more indulgent towards her children in this matter, but they must understand they are bound to take all care to make up for this maternal indulgence by other good works. We rejoice for this reason also to propose particularly the use of the Rosary, which is capable of producing worthy fruits of penance, especially by the remembrance of the sufferings of Christ and His Mother.

To those, therefore, who are striving after supreme happiness this means of the Rosary has been most providentially offered, and it is one unsurpassed for facility and convenience. For any person even moderately instructed in his religion can make use of it with fruit, and the time it occupies cannot delay any man's business. Sacred history abounds with striking and evident examples. It is well-known that there have been many persons occupied in most weighty functions or absorbed in laborious cares who have never omitted for a single day this pious practice. Combined with this advantage is that inward sentiment of devotion which attracts minds to the Rosary, so that they love it as the intimate companion and faithful protector of life; and in their last agony they embrace and hold fast to it as the dear pledge of "the unfading crown of glory." Such a pledge is greatly enhanced by the benefits of sacred indulgences, if properly employed; for the devotion of the Rosary has been richly endowed with such indulgences by both Our predecessors and Ourselves. These favours will certainly prove most efficacious to both the dying and the departed, being bestowed, as it were by the hands of the merciful Virgin, in order that they may the sooner enjoy the eternal peace and light they have desired.

PRAYER FOR THE REUNION OF CHRISTENDOM.

These considerations, Venerable Brethren, move Us incessantly to extol and recommend to Catholic peoples this excellent and most salutary form of devotion. Yet another very urgent reason, of which We have often spoken both in Letters and Allocutions, encourages Us to do this. For that earnest desire, which We have learnt from the Divine Heart of Jesus, of fostering the work of reconciliation among those who are separated from Us daily urges Us more pressingly to action; and we are convinced that this most excellent reunion cannot be better prepared and strengthened than by the power of prayer. The example of Christ is before Us, for in order that His disciples might be one in faith and charity, He poured forth prayer and supplication to His Father. And concerning the efficacious prayer of His Most Holy Mother for the same end, there is a striking testimony in the Acts of the Apostles. Therein is described the first assembly of the disciples, expecting with earnest hope and prayer the promised fullness of the Holy Spirit. And the presence of Mary united with them in prayer is specially indicated:—"All these were persevering with one mind in prayer with Mary the Mother of Jesus" (Acts i. 14). Wherefore as the nascent Church rightly joined itself in prayer with her as the patroness and most excellent custodian of Unity, so in these times it is most opportune to do the same all over the Catholic world, particularly during the whole month of October, which We have long ago decreed to be dedicated and consecrated, by the solemn devotion of the Rosary, to the Divine Mother, in order to implore her for the afflicted Church. Let, then, the zeal for this prayer everywhere be re-kindled, particularly for the end of holy Unity. Nothing will be more agreeable and acceptable to Mary; for, as she is most closely united with Christ, she especially wishes and desires that they who have received the same Baptism with Him may be united with Him and with one another in the same faith and perfect charity. So may the sublime mysteries of this same faith by means of the Rosary devotion be more deeply impressed in men's minds, with the happy result that "we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise."

Meanwhile, as a pledge of the Divine favours and Our affection, We most lovingly impart to you, your clergy and people, the Apostolic Benediction.

Given at St. Peter's in Rome, September 20th, 1896, in the 19th year of Our Pontificate.

LEO P.P. XIII.

Archdiocese of Wellington.

(From our own Correspondent.)

December 12, 1896.

THE Rev. Dr. Kennedy of the Ecclesiastical Seminary, Meanee, was in Wellington last week, on his way to spend a holiday in Christchurch. During his stay here he was the guest of the Very Rev. Father Devoy at the presbytery, Boulcott street. Dr. Kennedy preached on Sunday evening in St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, when there was a very large congregation present.

Mr. Thomas Dwan, who left here on a trip to the United States and Europe some months ago, returned during the week, looking all the better for his travels. He had a royal time of it in the States, but when he arrived in New York and looked across the Herring-pond, and saw the angry and uninviting aspect of the Atlantic he decided not to proceed further, and returned to the sunny isles of the South.

A meeting of ladies and gentlemen interested in the annual schools' picnic, was held in St. Patrick's Hall on Sunday afternoon, the Very Rev. Father Devoy presiding. It was decided to hold the outing at Father Lane's grounds, Lower Hutt, on Boxing Day. Committees were formed to make the necessary arrangements and draw up a programme of sports. Considering the enthusiastic manner in which the matter has always been taken up here, the success of the outing is assured provided the clerk of the weather is in a happy mood.

ST. MARY'S CONVENT.

There was a crowded audience in the classroom of St. Mary's Convent, Hill street, on Monday evening, when the annual distribution of prizes to the pupils attending the Convent High School took place. The room was tastefully arranged for the occasion, the pupils taking their place on a temporary stage at one end. The front of the stage was nicely set off with art muslin decorated with white flowers, ivy leaves and other foliage. Among those present by invitation besides the friends and relatives of the pupils were the Very Rev. Father Devoy, V.G., the Very Rev. Dr. Watters, rector of St. Patrick's College, the Rev. Father O'Meara, etc. A fine programme of vocal and instrumental music was performed by the pupils in the usual finished style for which they are distinguished. As is well known the pupils have attained much distinction, year after year, in the examinations conducted under the auspices of the London Trinity College and School of Music, so that if they excelled in the concert it was only what was to be expected. Besides the vocal and instrumental selections which made up the programme, Miss M. Putnam gave a good recitation in French entitled "L'Aveugle et le paralytique." The following was the programme:—Piano duet, "Selavonic dances," Misses Long and Blake; vocal duet, "The flight of the swallows," Misses Long and Driscoll; piano solo, "Norwegian bridal march," Miss Waldegrave; song, "The Last Muster," Miss Shapter; piano duet, "Danses Espagnoles," Misses Falconer and M. Brady; song, Braga's "Serenade," Miss Smith (violin obligato, Miss E. Hennah); piano solo, "Nordische Tanze," Miss Long; violin solo, Miss E. Hennah; song, "Solvejgs song," Miss Long; solo and chorus, "Casta Diva," Miss Stevens; piano duet, "Valse Brillante" (two pianos), Misses Beck and Coupland, Sullivan and Reilly.

At the conclusion of the entertainment the Very Rev. Father Devoy, who presented the prizes, complimented the pupils and the good Sisters on the excellence of the programme, and regretted that his Grace Archbishop Redwood was not present. He had been informed by the Rev. Mother that the result of the examination of the school had been highly satisfactory, which was what was only to be expected, considering the care and attention bestowed on the training of the children by the good Sisters. No doubt when the pupils went home for the holidays their parents would notice the progress they had made during the year, and they would then be able to appreciate the labour of the Sisters on behalf of the pupils. The Sisters did not work for any reward, save the satisfaction they felt at doing good. They worked for a high, a holy and a noble end, and their labours had been marked by great success. The primary schools taught by the Sisters in various parts of the Colony were doing good work, and when these schools were submitted to Government examination, they were found to be up to the standard of the State schools and many of them over it. He then referred to the great success of the convent pupils at the musical examinations, and hoped they would enjoy their holidays and come back with renewed vigour to their studies.

The following is the prize list:—

- Good Conduct.—Prize medal (presented by Mr. Kohn), Miss Smith.
- English Composition.—Prize medal (presented by His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Redwood), Miss Waldegrave.
- Christian Doctrine: Senior Division.—Prize medal, Miss Achison; equal in merit, Miss Sullivan.
- Singing: Senior Division.—Miss Stevens; junior division, Miss Smith.
- Music.—Piano: First class, Miss Blake; second class, Miss Waldegrave; execution from memory, Miss Long, third class Miss M. Brady; fourth class, Miss Reilly; fifth class, Miss McClean; sixth class, Miss Dennehy.
- Needlework, plain and ornamental.—(Gift of Mr. Corrigan), Miss E. Hennah; lace work, Miss E. Sheridan.

CLASS PRIZES.

- Matriculation Class.—Mathematics, Miss Y. McLaughlin.
- Civil Service Class.—English composition for highest marks in class work during the year, Miss Achison; equal in merit, Miss

J. PATTERSON, TAILOR (late Cutter for A. Begg), 219 CASHEL ST. WEST (two doors from J. Bates and Co.), CHRISTCHURCH, has now opened with a fresh selection of English and Colonial Tweeds, Suitings, etc., of choicest patterns. Clerical Suits a speciality. First-class Stylo. Best Workmanship. Reasonable Prices.