

Invite the faithful to enrol themselves in some of the many Confraternities, Sodalties of our Blessed Lady, the Apostleship of Prayer, and other pious associations, wherein we can do so much good for ourselves and for the souls in purgatory.

And now, dearly beloved brethren and children in Christ, we must call your attention to other important subjects.

In a circular sent to the clergy last month we made known to you the result of some of the deliberations of the Catholic bishops of New Zealand, more especially on the important subject of the education of our dear children. We now urge and implore you not to let this circular remain a dead letter.

1. Be unceasing in your generous efforts to maintain—and, when not already existing, to establish—thoroughly efficient Catholic schools in your several districts. Never suffer your children to attend godless schools whilst a Catholic school exists in your locality.

2. Help your priests to obtain a full and complete census of all Catholics in your respective parishes.

3. See that are qualified to vote have their names duly registered.

4. Be faithful to your religious duty of helping into Parliament those only who will publicly pledge themselves to support our just claims for the Christian education of our children.

5. Whilst recalling to parents and guardians their obligation to provide wholesome literature for those under their charge, and remove from them all that is unwholesome, the bishops remind them of the strong recommendations of our Holy Father the Pope to support the Catholic Press. The Press being a most powerful instrument for good or evil, reason and faith point out to Catholics their duty to encourage that which is an instrument for good—viz, the Catholic Press.

6. We are glad to hear that many of our people take in the excellent publications of the *Messenger of the Sacred Heart* and the *Australian Annals of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*. We should rejoice to know that the admirable publications of the *Dublin Review*, the *Month the Catholic World*, the *American Quarterly Review*, the *Ave Maria*, etc, were more widely read by our people. No Catholic home should be without one or more of these ably written periodicals. Though it may seem somewhat invidious to single out one among all that are excellent in their kind, we will venture to say that the *Ave Maria*—to which several of our dioceses already subscribe—is both highly instructive and entertaining. It contains contributions on religious, literary, and general information by writers of no little renown. A well-bound volume of the *Ave Maria* would be a most appropriate premium in our schools for their annual or other distribution of prizes.

We cannot conclude this Pastoral without reminding you of a great and holy work which has been for some years in our midst. You have doubtless heard of the great good that is being done by the religious of the Good Shepherd at Mount Magdala. Since this wonderful institute has been established in New Zealand, it has sheltered and preserved no fewer than 157 penitent girls. Eighty are still in the asylum, some of these from the very beginning. Many have settled down with their families or in good situations, where they are giving every satisfaction. The work done by the heroic daughters of the Good Shepherd is not of local, but of colonial importance; as a matter of fact, there are at present more from the archdiocese of Wellington and the diocese of Dunedin than from the diocese of Christchurch. Nevertheless, as it is nearer our own homes, we all more readily realise the immense amount of good that the devoted religious are doing. Had they brought back but one strayed sheep to the fold we should have reason to be thankful; but when we know that they have rescued so many, our gratitude to Almighty God, and to His consecrated spouses, should be unbounded. If it is of faith that there "shall be more joy in heaven upon one sinner that doth penance (L. c. xv., 7) than upon ninety-nine just," what must be the joy of God and His angels over so many who have been brought from their evil ways, into which, perhaps, they were led by the fault of others more than their own? Doubtless the holy religious have many a consolation in the midst of their arduous labours, but they are overwhelmed with the weight of an enormous debt, which, through no act of their own, hangs over their establishment and grounds. With too scanty accommodation for the actual inmates, they have no means of extending the building, which is still in a most unfinished state; nor can they entertain the bare thought of any extension with a debt of £12,000 over their heads. They are most grateful—and so are we—to those who, without distinction of race or religion, have hitherto, and generously, come forward to help them in their noble work. If the charitably disposed throughout the Colony would take so great an undertaking to heart, and vie with each other in giving a helping hand, this debt, though seemingly great, would soon be a thing of the past. If, in each parish in New Zealand, a few zealous souls would organise a house-to-house collection, we feel confident that the debt would soon be extinguished. One or two noble-minded men, not even members of our holy Church, have generously offered to give a most liberal donation provided five or six more will follow their good example. Let us hope and pray, dearly beloved, that our dear Lord will soon

inspire a few more generous minds to co-operate in a work which must be so dear to the heart of Him who shed the very last drop of His precious blood for those whom the Sisters of the Good Shepherd would always welcome to Mount Magdala. Would that it were in our power to lighten their burden without making any other appeal! The limited means at our disposal will not, alas, allow us to do what we fain would. However, we will gladly devote to the wants of this great institute the proceeds of the collection to be taken up in the diocese on Rosary Sunday, October 2, in behalf of the diocesan charities. At the same time, we most earnestly exhort priests and people to be more than usually generous on this occasion. Remember, dearly beloved brethren and children in Christ Jesus, that what you do for the poor children of the Good Shepherd you are doing for God Himself. What more deserving objects of charity can you desire than to help those whom Christ Jesus declares He came especially to seek out and save? Who more poor and needy than those, the outcasts of society? Is not alms bestowed on such the best way to fulfil the duty we owe God and ourselves? Remember the words of the inspired penman:—"Alms delivereth from death; and the same is that which purgeth away sins, and maketh to find mercy and life everlasting. Blessed is he that understandeth concerning the needy and the poor; the Lord will deliver him in the evil day." Again:—"He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord and He will repay him." Whilst "He that stoppeth his ear against the cry of the poor shall also cry himself, and shall not be heard." "He that giveth to the poor shall not want; he that despiseth his entreaty, shall suffer indignance. Reject not the petition of the afflicted and turn not away thy face from the needy. Give alms out of thy substance."

This charity, dearly beloved, is God's own command: "According to thy ability be merciful. If thou have much give abundantly; if thou have little, take care even so to bestow willingly a little; for thus thou storest up for thyself a good reward for the day of necessity. For alms deliver us from sin, and from death, and will not suffer the soul to go into darkness. Alms shall be a great confidence before the most high God to all them that give it." Let us, dearly beloved, ponder over and take to heart these consoling words of the God of all consolation, the Good Shepherd Himself: "I was hungry and you gave Me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me to drink. I was a stranger and you took Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. Then shall the just answer Him, saying: Lord, when did we see Thee hungry, and fed Thee? thirsty, and gave Thee to drink? and when did we see Thee a stranger and took Thee in? or naked and clothed Thee? . . . and the King, answering, shall say to them: Amen, I say to you as long as you did it to one of these My least brethren, you did it to Me."

We feel sure, dearly beloved, that you will not resist this fervent appeal of our Blessed Lord Himself in behalf of those who are so dear to His Sacred Heart for, "to do mercy, pleaseth the Lord more than victims." Following justice and mercy here, you shall find justice and glory hereafter.

Having read this pastoral on the Sunday preceding Rosary Sunday, the collection for Mount Magdala will be announced for the following Sunday, October 2nd, or the first time after when the priest shall visit the outlying districts. This collection should be forwarded to us as soon as possible.

During the month of October, Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament may be given after some appropriate devotions in honour of our Blessed Lady, every afternoon or evening, provided the rubrics be faithfully carried out and the faithful attend in sufficient numbers.

Given at our pro-Cathedral, Christchurch, on this the 21st day of September, in the year of our Lord, 1892, being the feast of St Matthew, the Apostle, and appointed to be read in all the churches and chapels of the diocese the first Sunday after it shall have been received.

Once read, it should be placed, together with the Encyclicals of our Holy Father, in a conspicuous spot within the church.

† JOHN JOSEPH GRIMES, S.M.

Bishop of Christchurch.

LORD GLASGOW ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

(Sydney Freeman's Journal.)

THE new Governor of New Zealand, Lord Glasgow, has not been slow in contributing to the general consensus of opinion as to the supreme service to religious education in these parts of the Catholic Church. It seems to be, in the common phrase, one of the first things to strike the stranger, and no wonder, for, go where he will, on every side are monuments, from the palatial college to the humble school, of the Church's zeal for the education of her children. We need not remind our readers of the many eloquent tributes paid by successive Governors of this Colony to the excellent work of our Catholic schools and colleges, nor with what tolerance even in the case of our strongest opponents they have generally been received. In New Zealand, we regret to see, the spirit is somewhat different. The little speech by