

Solemnities at Hastings

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The Church of the Sacred Heart, Hastings, was the scene of a most impressive ceremony on Sunday, November 26, when an ordination was held by his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Redwood, Archbishop of Wellington, at which the Revs. J. Barra, B. Gondringer, and P. J. Smyth (nephew of Dean Smyth) were raised to the priesthood, and Revs. R. Quinn and D. Hurley received subdeaconship. Shortly after 10 o'clock a procession left the presbytery for the church in the following order:—crossbearer, acolytes, sanctuary boys, clergy, candidates for ordination, and his Grace the Archbishop, attended by his chaplains for the occasion, the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy and Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Superior of the Seminary at Meance. Besides the local clergy, there were also present in the sanctuary Very Rev. Father Keogh (St. Patrick's College), Very Rev. Dean Binsfeld (Napier), and Rev. Father Lezer (Meance). As the procession entered the church, the choir intoned the 'Ecce Sacerdos Magnus.' In the sanctuary a beautiful throne had been erected. When on the throne his Grace was presented with an address of welcome, which was in album form and beautifully illuminated. His Worship the Mayor of Hastings, Mr. W. Y. Dennett, very feelingly read the address, as follows:—

'May it please your Grace,—We the clergy and parishioners of Hastings, gladly avail ourselves of the present occasion to express our joy and thankfulness at seeing your Grace once again in our midst, and to re-echo the words of wholesome welcome which greeted you in Wellington, on your return from the Eternal City, whither you had gone to give an account of your stewardship to the Vicar of Christ and to receive from our Holy Father's lips words of approbation and encouragement, in the great work entrusted to your paternal care as head of the Catholic Church in New Zealand. At all times your Grace has manifested a fatherly kindness to Hastings, but on this present occasion you have bestowed on us a special favor, not only by coming to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to our children and to speak to them and to us words of advice and holy unction, but by deigning to hold an ordination in this church, of which we are justly proud, thus affording us the great privilege of witnessing so impressive a ceremony. Though we know this favor has been especially granted us, through your regard for our devoted pastor, nevertheless we feel it as done to ourselves, and therefore with one heart and one voice, we unite with him in tendering your Grace our deepest and most sincere thanks. In return for such kindness, we have only to renew our promises of fidelity to Holy Church and of our readiness to assist in all things relating to the glory of God and the advancement of our holy religion. In conclusion, we pray that God may spare your Grace for many years to come, to advise and guide and encourage your flock in the paths of truth and holiness and Christian charity. Asking your Grace's blessing, we beg to remain, your respectful and devoted children in Jesus Christ.'

On account of the length of the ceremony, the Mass was not sung, but at the anointing the choir sang the 'Veni Creator.' After the Gospel his Grace briefly addressed the congregation, thanking them for their beautiful address of welcome and assuring them that it gave him great pleasure to be there that morning to administer the Sacrament of Holy Orders in their beautiful church, and as they rightly remarked, to testify his great regard for their devoted pastor, Dean Smyth, who had for so many years done such grand work in the parish, and who, he hoped, would be long spared to pursue his work of love.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the large congregation came to the altar rails to receive the blessing of the newly ordained priests.

In the evening there were solemn Vespers in presence of the Archbishop, after which his Grace preached a very fine discourse on the priesthood, treating of in simple yet beautiful language, the dignity and powers of the priest, and as a natural conclusion urged upon his hearers to show their respect for the sacred character of the priest, their appreciation of his sacerdotal powers, and their gratitude for his fatherly and zealous care. After the sermon his Grace gave the Papal blessing. Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament was given by the Archbishop, assisted by Dean Smyth and the Rev. P. J. Smyth.

Monday was also another bright day in the annals of Hastings parish. At 9.30 a.m. there was a procession of the candidates for Confirmation (127 in number), sanctuary boys, the clergy, the newly ordained priest, Rev. P. J. Smyth, vested for his first Mass, and his

Grace the Archbishop, from the presbytery grounds to the church. During the Mass the children, under the direction of the Sisters of St. Joseph, sang some appropriate hymns, and immediately after Mass his Grace addressed the children on the dignity and graces of the Sacrament of Confirmation, and urged them to be faithful to the obligations contracted by them at Confirmation. At the close of the ceremony the children and adults sang 'Faith of Our Fathers,' in a manner which went home to every person, inspiring him with love and reverence for holy faith and thankfulness to God for having bestowed on him the priceless gift of being a member of Holy Church; which alone has the promise of Christ and which alone therefore was yesterday, is to-day, and will be unto the end of ages.

It would be ungrateful on the writer's part to omit to mention that the altar was most beautifully decorated by the devoted Sisters of St. Joseph.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

December 2.

The Very Rev. Father Lewis, V.G., returned during the week from his visit to Rotorua.

The Rev. Father O'Dwyer, who recently arrived from Ireland, is at present acting in the Thorndon parish.

The Fathers of the Redemptorist Order are at present in town. They will be engaged for some time in preaching retreats. One is at present being conducted for the Sisters of the Poor, and one is also to be preached to the Children of Mary.

At the Sacred Heart Church, Hill street, to-morrow before the 10.30 Mass, a magnificent painting, 15ft by 9ft, representing Our Saviour surrounded by adoring angels, will be unveiled. The painting arrived from Italy, and has been fixed in position at the back of the altar. His Grace the Archbishop will at the same time ordain the Rev. Thomas Gilbert and the Rev. Bernard Quinn as deacons, and the Rev. Alfred Herring and Rev. Thomas McCarthy as priests. In the evening his Grace will preach a special sermon on 'The Priesthood.'

On Saturday last Mr. C. Foley, president of the city branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, journeyed to Hawera for the purpose of explaining the objects and advantages of the Society. A meeting was held on Sunday at which it was decided to establish a branch, and the necessary steps are now being taken to have this done. Judging by the opening proceedings, the branch should be a strong one. Father Clune, who has been the moving spirit in the matter, informs me that it is his intention to make an endeavor to promote the formation of other branches in the towns along the West Coast of the North Island.

It has been decided to hold the usual annual Catholic picnic at the Belle Vue Gardens, Lower Hutt, on Boxing Day. Very satisfactory terms have been settled with the manager there, and an enjoyable and successful outing may be anticipated. Special committees have been set up to manage sports for the children and adults. A special feature of the picnic will be the numerous side-shows on the grounds. The tug-of-war between the various parishes, an event in which the winning team gains the right to hold the very fine cup presented two years ago, promises to be more exciting than ever. In addition to teams from Wellington South, Te Aro, and Thorndon, a team will be entered by the parish of Petone. A canvass is now being made for trophies and prize money for the sports events, and so far the efforts in this direction have met with considerable success.

Denniston

(From an occasional correspondent.)

November 28.

The general Communion of the members of the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society took place on Sunday. Immediately after Mass the members, in their regalia, were photographed, and then proceeded to Bro. Callaghan's house, where about thirty members, including visitors, sat down to breakfast. The health of the 'Pope and King' was proposed by Bro. Milligan (president), and responded to by the Rev. Father Mollo, that of the 'clergy' by Bro. Callaghan (vice-president), responded to by the chaplain; the 'H.A.C.B. Society' by Mr. Vinsen, responded to by Bros.

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