

of parish funds,*about the second week in November.

Sunday, November 2, will be a red-letter day for Devonport parish, for then the beautiful new church will be solemnly blessed and opened. It is hoped that his Lordship the Bishop will preside at the Solemn High Mass, and a large gathering of clergy and laity is expected. Very Rev. Father Whelan, C.S.S.R., Superior, will preach the occasional sermon.

The Redemptorist Fathers will conduct a mission in the Devonport parish during November.

The retreat for the clergy next January will be conducted in the Sacred Heart College, by the Very Rev. Father Maurice O'Reilly, C.M., rector of St. John's University College, Sydney. The same eloquent preacher will give the religious exercises in connection with the retreat of the Sisters of Mercy at St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby.

The retreats for the Marist Brothers, Sisters of St. Joseph, Sisters of the Mission, and Little Sisters of the Poor will be conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers.

His Lordship the Bishop is still a patient in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Mount Eden, and we regret that he is making but slow progress towards recovery.

The Rev. Father Bradley is at present conducting the annual examination in Christian Doctrine in the various schools in the city and suburbs.

The following appeal in aid of the seminary fund is being made during October:—"The purposes of Christian education, under any circumstances, are simply amongst the grandest that can stir the energies of man, for they aim at leading, to its highest perfection, the noblest of God's works on earth—the human soul. The Catholic notion is the only complete one, for it alone embraces the whole of human nature, and consults at once for the temporal and for the eternal interests of man. Now, if the purposes of education rank amongst the highest, if the conception of education prevailing in the Catholic Church be the only complete and the most perfect, how surpassingly noble must be the purposes of an ecclesiastical training—for the priesthood of the Church—to enable the Levite—in the reception of Holy Orders, to share in the priesthood of Jesus Christ Himself. It has always been the desire and the aim of the Church that the Ministers of God should be as well prepared, both in mind and heart, for their great office as training and education can make them. There is necessarily much to be learnt before a man can be trusted to teach and guide the flock. Such a man must be cultivated in literature and science, well acquainted with Holy Scripture, skilled in divinity, and prepared to give prudent direction in matters of conduct and morality. Moreover, he must be a spiritual man, both in principle and practice; he must not only know what Christian virtue is, and how it is to be acquired, but he must have schooled himself for many years in the school of Jesus Christ—learning to cling to God, to subdue himself, and to show forth in his life the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The more effectively he is thus prepared, the better will he succeed in the work of the ministry: for although it is God who commissions him and God who makes his efforts fruitful, yet we know that Our Lord wishes His instruments to take pains to fit themselves for His work, and that to undertake the priesthood without due instruction and training is to be guilty of criminal presumption and to tempt Almighty God. Hence a priest's course of education is a long one. It is Cardinal Gibbons' opinion that students at the time of their ordination are, as a rule, more thoroughly grounded in sacred science than graduating lawyers are in the abstract knowledge of their profession, because the curriculum of the former covers a longer period of time than that of the latter. The aspirant to the priesthood, after the years of his schooling as a child, and the secondary course, then enters on a special course of study, lasting from five to seven years longer, during which he is occupied in the acquirement of that learning and that perfection of personal character which are specially required by his holy vocation and profession. It is for this reason so much expense has to be incurred at the various seminaries where our Levites are preparing to give themselves to God and your service in this diocese, and, further, the travelling expenses from the Old Land are very considerable. Our desire is to have as many of our young New Zealanders join the ranks of the priesthood as circumstances permit, but we have still to rely largely on the Irish Colleges for our vocations. Since the present Bishop's first arrival in our midst, some eight years ago, as many as 24 young priests have come to the diocese, and work awaits many more. Our present indebtedness is over £500—and this appeal for the Seminary Fund is to clear off that liability. A pleasing feature of recent years is the keen interest manifested in this appeal by the various legacies bequeathed to this fund. All these are now well invested, and our present intention is, that, as far as possible, only the

interest on these investments shall be available; so that in time, we may husband our resources, and make the fund self-supporting. All, priests and people, who have the interest of the Catholic Faith at heart, in this young land of promise, should continue to take a lively and practical interest in this Seminary Fund for the education of students for the priesthood, contributing to the best of their power for this purpose, and often directing their prayers to obtain from God the great blessing of holy and wise priests."

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

October 20.

The M.B.O.B.A. senior team, at the invitation of the Westland Rugby Union, toured the Coast, and were most successful. Playing at Greymouth they won by 23 to nil; at Reefton they were successful by 28 to nil; and against a combined team at Hokitika, were victorious by 18 to nil. The team was entertained with great hospitality, and the members are eloquent in praise of the sports of Westland. The Coasters likewise express genuine admiration of the M.B.O.B. for play, conduct, and general good fellowship. Mr. George Payne, who accompanied the team as manager, was most popular and successful. The team was met on its return by the Marist Brothers, and taken to Mr. Dickson's Carlton Cafe, where the members were the guests of his Lordship the Bishop to a complimentary dinner.

The Very Rev. Father Whelan, C.S.S.R., Fathers Hannigan, C.S.S.R., and O'Brien, C.S.S.R., have been giving a children's mission at the Cathedral during the past week. Each morning and afternoon the building has been well filled with children, who listened with rapt attention to the mission sermons. Yesterday morning there was a general Communion, and in the afternoon the mission was brought to a close by a sermon on "Perseverance." Bishop Brodie administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 114 children and a few adults. The mission for adults began at 11 o'clock Mass yesterday morning, when the three missionaries were received at the Cathedral doors by his Lordship the Bishop and Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Adm. The Superior, Father Whelan, addressed the crowded congregation from the text, "Lord that I may see." In the evening Father Hannigan delivered a very impressive sermon on St. Paul's words, "With fear and trembling work out your salvation." The mission will be continued each morning and evening for a fortnight.

St. Matthew's (Ladies) and St. Patrick's branches of the Hibernian Society jointly held their anniversary celebration in the Hibernian Hall on Wednesday evening, October 15.

Bro. T. P. O'Rourke (president St. Patrick's branch) and Sister E. Jacques (president St. Matthew's) conducted the evening's programme. Amongst those present were his Lordship the Bishop, Father Long (chaplain), and Father Murphy. A short musical programme was contributed to by Mrs. Baxter (piano solo), Misses M. G. O'Connor, E. Rodgers, and Dorothy Taylor.

Addressing the gathering, his Lordship Bishop Brodie first of all read a letter he had received from Father Eccleton, Reefton, having reference to the recent tour of the M.B.O.B. football team, and to the victories and excellent behaviour of the members. Continuing, the Bishop complimented both branches of the Hibernian Society on the fine spirit and enthusiasm that existed amongst the members. That the society was the soul of faith, and a great aid to the Church, he had no hesitation in saying. While appreciating the work of all the stalls in the recent fair, he felt proud of the Hibernian effort and success. His thoughts went across the seas to Ireland, where a sad battle in the cause of justice and freedom was being fought. His Lordship expressed regret at being unable to attend the Irish Race Convention in Melbourne, but said the movement had his entire sympathy.

Sister Jacques expressed pleasure at seeing so many in attendance at this celebration of the society, and briefly referred to its numerical strength. Bro. O'Rourke thanked all for their good wishes and support. Notwithstanding the altered spirit of the people since the declaration of Peace, sad remembrances remain of lost ones, and the Hibernian Society extends its sympathy to all who are bereaved.

Advantage was taken of the occasion to present the Hibernian Queen (Miss Nance McCullough) with a mark of appreciation from members, and Father Long, in asking her acceptance of a gold wristlet watch, spoke of the great feat accomplished by the Hibernian supporters, who were responsible for a third of the whole takings at the Victory Fair.

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