

St. Mary's Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Wellington. A Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated at the Sacred Heart Basilica on Tuesday, after which the remains were taken to the Karori Cemetery for interment. The funeral procession was largely attended.—R.I.P.

The committee of St. Patrick's Day celebrations, which are to be held under the auspices of the combined Hibernian Societies and the Wellington Catholic Club, are striving hard to make the year's celebrations a great success. There will be a picnic and sports gathering at the Very Rev. Father Lane's grounds, Lower Hutt, on St. Patrick's Day (March 17). A special train will leave Te Aro station at 9.40 a.m. Amusement will be provided for young and old. The Garrison Band will be in attendance, and will play a selection of Irish national airs during the day. In the evening an Irish national concert will take place in the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall, at which the best local talent will assist. A novelty in the programme will be the introduction of ancient Irish pipes and the old national costume of the piper. A very pleasant and enjoyable evening can be looked forward to. The completion of the celebration will take the form of an amateur athletic gathering on the Basin Reserve on Saturday, March 19.

The list of passes at the Trinity College theoretical examination held in December last has just been received from London by the local secretary. The percentages are high, and show an improvement on those of the previous examination. They are as follow:—Intermediate 74, Junior 77, Preparatory 88. Ten convent pupils were successful. The particulars as far as they concern our convent pupils are as follow:—Intermediate division: Pass, Agnes Golder (Petone Convent), 74. Junior division (honors): Pauline Brown (Otaki Convent), 92; Queenie Cameron (Petone Convent), 83; pass—William Coles (Petone Convent, 60. Preparatory division: Phyllis Connolly (Petone Convent), 100; Maggie Wildsmith (Petone Convent), 100; Nellie Neazor (Petone Convent), 92; Doris McMeekan (Otaki Convent), 92; Gwenith Baxter (Petone Convent), 87. There being a tie in the Preparatory division for the prize given for highest marks it was allotted, according to custom, to the younger of the two candidates—Phyllis Connolly (Petone Convent), 100.

## DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

March 14.

His Lordship the Bishop is expected to return from the North Island next week.

Several additional subscriptions have been received in aid of the Cathedral fund, which now totals just upon £264 for the anniversary celebration special collection.

Two Sisters of Nazareth arrived from London last week to reinforce those of the Order in Christchurch, preparatory to entering into occupation of the new Nazareth House building.

The following candidates from the Convent of Mercy, Lyttelton, have passed the theoretical examination in music, held in December, in connection with Trinity College, London:—Junior division—Honors: Beatrice Ironside, 99 marks; John Ironside, 97; Leslie Carter, 96; Vera Ryan, 94; Barbara Duff, 93. Preparatory division—Distinction: Lulu Hannay, 90 marks.

The following candidates from the Convent of Mercy, Colombo street, Christchurch, have passed the theoretical examination held in December in connection with Trinity College of Music, London:—Senior division—Jane Donnelly and Johanna Moroney. Intermediate division—Honors: Dorothy Trolove and Maisie Conolly. Pass: Hannah Ryan. Junior division—Honors: Phyllis Hollow, Evelyn Cousins, Marjorie Young, and Vera Wilson. Preparatory division—Distinction: Winnie Barcock, Anna Patrick, Mildred Trolove, and Violet Bargrove.

The periodical report of St. Joseph's Conference, Lyttelton (Mission to Catholic Seamen), prepared for inclusion in the general report of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for 1909, affords interesting information as to the nature and extent of the really effective work accomplished during the past twelve months by the Brothers of St. Vincent de Paul at the port. Fifty-seven steamers and two sailing vessels were visited, on which 416 Catholic seamen were met. Magazines and periodicals to the number of 850 were distributed, besides numbers of prayer-books, rosaries, scapulars, etc. The membership of the Conference has increased during the year, the new members successfully imitating the zeal and energy of the pioneer Brothers. The want of a meeting hall is keenly felt by the Brothers; the fund for the erection of such is but slowly accumulating. The devoted workers hope, however, that some generous benefactors will come forward and enable the project to be completed.

The various services in connection with the mission now being conducted in the Cathedral by the Redemptorist Fathers, are very largely attended. Each evening the teaching and doctrines of the Church on selected subjects are lucidly explained. There was an exceedingly large congregation on last Thursday evening, when one of the special solemnities of the mission—that in honor of the

Blessed Virgin—was observed. The Rev. Father Hunt, C.S.S.R., was preacher, and, from the text, 'Behold thy Mother,' delivered an eloquent and strikingly impressive sermon on 'Devotion to the Blessed Virgin as taught in the Bible.' He very clearly defined 'devotion' as practised in the Catholic Church, and explained how it differs from adoration. He concluded with a touching exhortation to, and consecration of, the great congregation to the Blessed Mother of God. A special altar was arranged in the sanctuary, brilliantly illuminated, and tastefully adorned, upon which was enthroned a representation of 'Our Lady of Perpetual Succor.' The spiritual results of the mission were made manifest at the early Masses during the week, and amply demonstrated at the seven o'clock Mass in the Cathedral on last Sunday, the number thronging to the Holy Table being a sight not likely to be soon forgotten. A pleasing feature was the large gathering of the men, the H.A.C.B. Society, Catholic Club, and other organisations being strongly represented. The celebrant of the Mass, the Rev. Father Hunt, C.S.S.R., was assisted by the Rev. Father Whelan, C.S.S.R., in giving Communion. Extra seating for several hundred persons was prepared for Sunday evening, and even this failed to entirely come up to requirements, many having to be accommodated in the sanctuary. The Rev. Father Hunt, C.S.S.R., was preacher, and, from the text contained in the second Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy, IV., 7: 'I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course, I have kept the faith,' delivered a splendid discourse on Catholic faith.

## HIBERNIAN SOCIETY.

In honor of the feast of St. Patrick, a record number of members of St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, Christchurch, in regalia, approached the Holy Table in a body at the Cathedral at the seven o'clock Mass on Sunday last. The Rev. Father Hunt, C.S.S.R., was celebrant, and in the course of a brief address expressed appreciation of the spectacle afforded that morning. Speaking in regard to the Hibernian Society, his remarks were principally directed towards Catholic men outside the ranks of the society, whose spiritual and temporal interests would be very greatly enhanced by becoming associated with their brothers in religion in fraternal union with so admirable a benefit society. All members of the Catholic Club would find it to their advantage to join, and he would also suggest the formation of a ladies' branch. After Mass the members were formed in procession and marched up High street to Freeman's Cafe for breakfast. Bro. Grimes, B.P., presided, and seated on his right was the Rev. Father Hunt, C.S.S.R., and on his left the Very Rev. Father Price, Adm. (branch chaplain). At the conclusion of breakfast the president read an apology from his Lordship Bishop Grimes, who regretted his inability, through absence from the city, of attending and he thus afforded an opportunity of personally thanking the members for their numerous services to the Church and religion, and assistance to the Bishop and clergy. Though absent, he would be present with them on so auspicious an occasion in spirit and desire.

Bro. Grimes heartily welcomed the clergy and other representatives, expressing appreciation of the kindly feeling always existing between them; all were gratified at the excellent manner in which the members had turned out that morning, thus encouraging the hope for a similar celebration next year.

Bro. R. O'Shaughnessy, P.P., in proposing the toast of the 'Bishop and Clergy,' spoke at length of the kindly interest manifested consistently by his Lordship the Bishop, and the real practical assistance given by the clergy as chaplains in connection with the branch. Their present strength was 250 members, showing an increase of 100 during the past year or so. Much of this success must be attributed to the influence of the clergy, who, like, the Redemptorist Fathers, lost no opportunity of advocating the advantages of membership. He spoke also of the admirable work being done in the Cathedral parish by the Very Rev. Administrator, and also for the branch as its present chaplain.

The Very Rev. Father Price returned thanks on behalf of the Bishop and clergy. He deemed it a great honor (he said) to be associated with the society, which could always count on his sincere support. He was half an Irishman by birth and wholly one by sentiment and sympathy. Any small service he had so far been enabled to perform for them had more than been repaid by the hearty response and support of the Hibernians to any appeal from him. He expressed the hope that the society would gain still greater strength during the next few years. Such an influential body was of incalculable benefit to the Church and the greatest help to the priests.

The Rev. Father Hunt, C.S.S.R., said it gave him much pleasure to acknowledge on behalf of the Redemptorist Fathers the kind sentiments given expression to. He congratulated the society on the manifestation of faith and piety given that morning. He congratulated the Bishop and clergy of Christchurch also on the splendid body of ardent workers to be found in the society, and, working together, it was easy to understand what they were capable of bringing about in various ways in their respective spheres. He (Father Hunt) had been for seventeen and more years advocating the claims of the H.A.C.B. Society, and had no reason to regret it. Individual personal effort was the best possible means to attain the society's ultimate

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