

The mission for men conducted by the Marist Missionary Fathers during the past week was brought to a close last evening. The attendance at all the exercises was most gratifying. At the daily Masses there were large numbers of communicants. On Sunday morning at the 7 o'clock Mass, the celebrant being Very Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., a most edifying sight was the general Communion of men, about 300 approaching the Holy Table. In the evening Father O'Connell, S.M., preached an eloquent sermon on the Blessed Eucharist, and urged on all the necessity of frequent Holy Communion. After the sermon the procession took place in which the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society took part. The renewal of Baptismal vows, followed by the Papal Benediction, brought to a close one of the most successful missions given in St. Mary's. The inauguration of the men's and women's branches of the arch-confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament took place yesterday, when large numbers presented themselves for enrolment. A mission was opened at Hornby yesterday morning by the Rev. Father Herring, S.M., and crowded congregations attended both morning and evening.

Communion Breakfast.

Immediately after the 7 o'clock Mass a Communion breakfast was held in St. Mary's Schoolroom, when about 300 were present. The Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., presided. The Ladies of Charity and Children of Mary waited at the different tables. The following toasts were honored: The first was 'The Pope and the King.' 'The Bishop and clergy,' was proposed by Dr. A. B. O'Brien, who said that the members of the Catholic clergy were men specially chosen by vocation and severe training for the priesthood. The Catholic laity recognised that their priests were God's chosen apostles, and this was one of the sources of love and respect which existed between priests and people.

In the absence of his Lordship the Bishop, the Very Rev. Dean Hills, V.G., responded, and referred to the excellent work of the mission. He was sure that his Lordship, would have rejoiced to have been with them that day.

Mr. H. H. Loughman proposed the 'Missioners,' and said that he hoped that the good result of their labors would be permanent. He referred to the arduous nature of mission work, which made 'young men old.'

Very Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., in responding, said that the Missioners endeavoured to lift the people up and make them realise the responsibilities of life. He expressed pleasure at revisiting St. Mary's after an absence of three years, and seeing many of the pioneers who had done such valiant work, and for whom he always felt a great respect. Father O'Connell then proposed the toast of 'Kindred societies'—namely, the Hibernian Society, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the Catholic Club. He urged all present to join these societies, as by doing so they would be benefited both spiritually and temporally.

Mr. Sloan (president of the Hibernian Society), in responding, welcomed the idea of a St. Mary's branch, and referred to the splendid work that Father O'Connell had done in helping in the formation of new branches throughout Australasia.

Mr. F. C. Delany (president of the local conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society) urged all to become active members, and assist in the helping of those distressed—materially or spiritually. The principles left by their founder, Frederic Ozanam, were faith, charity, and humility, and the practice of these would help them to carry out the good resolutions made at the mission.

Mr. J. Devonport replied for the Catholic Club and urged accession to its membership, instancing the Catholic training such clubs gave young men.

The 'Catholic Federation' was proposed by Mr. J. O'Gorman, who pointed out the urgent need of all Catholics to join this organisation. He referred to the splendid work which had been done in Germany, America, England, and Australia by the Catholic Federation in meeting attacks on the Church, and obtaining justice for Catholics. The Federation was not a political body except where politics attacked religion.

Mr. W. Hayward, jun., president of the Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation, who responded, gave many instances of good work already done by the Federation.

The toast of 'The press, religious and secular,' was proposed by Mr. A. J. Malley and responded to by Mr. Hoban. Both gentlemen made special reference to the *N.Z. Tablet*, and expressed the desire to see that paper in every Catholic home.

The toast of 'The ladies,' proposed by Mr. A. P. De La Cour, and responded to by Mr. G. Hayward, enabled the speakers to comment upon the willingness of the ladies of the parish to assist in any good work in which their services were required. A special meed of praise is due to the work of the energetic secretary (Mr. T. H. Cape-Williamson, of the St. Vincent de Paul Society), under whose auspices the breakfast was held.

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