

# Holy Cross College, Mosgiel

## SILVER JUBILEE

### Twenty-five Years' Record of Notable Achievement

(By C.J.M. for the *N.Z. Tablet*.)



THE LATE RIGHT REV. MICHAEL VERDON, D.D., SECOND BISHOP OF DUNEDIN

Founder and First President of Holy Cross College.

Never do we so fully grasp the meaning of that beautiful word, "Seminary," as when we hear again that striking sentence spoken by Christ to His Apostles: "I have chosen you and appointed you, that you should bring forth fruit, and your fruit should remain." Seed-time and harvest: these are the simple thoughts in the Divine Mind. Seed-time it is when He chose and appointed those privileged souls; harvest-time it is when they should bring forth fruit, fruit that should remain. The Divine Saviour went out to sow His seed in that first spring, and the seed fell upon good soil, for the seeding-ground, the first Seminary, was none other than the simple hearts of those poor men, the Apostles, whom from all eternity He had chosen and appointed, whose fruit will remain until the end of time. And the seeds of His divine teaching and sanctity, falling on the souls of His Disciples, quickly grew up in the light and warmth of grace, till the time came when He could transplant them, and set them forth in the wilderness of the world, there to scatter in every spring the seed that is His and to gather in every autumn the ripening harvests. These divine seed-times and harvests have known, and will know, no end; for though the harvest is great and the reapers are sometimes few, yet will He always choose and appoint anew His workers to sow and to reap, even till the last harvest in time is gathered into His eternal Mansions.

#### The Apostolic Seminary.

In Christ Himself, then, was the first and best Seminary, and therein on the Apostles' hearts He scattered His seed by His words and example, His life and His death. He was the College of the first priests; in Him and with Him and from Him the first bishops and priests gained all their priestly training, after they had answered the divine invitation, "Come, follow Me," which was the first vocation to the priesthood. Himself the great High-Priest, He gathered about Him the first students, who were to be "other Christs," other priests, to do the self-same work as was His to do. By His life and words, and chiefly by His example, He every day taught His simple pupils, gently moulding their hearts till they were fashioned unto His own.

At last the training was complete, and the Eternal Priest and Mediator could prepare to leave His ambassadors to carry on His priesthood and "ministry of revelation." Then it was He "ordained" them, giving them wondrous powers to heal and to consecrate, and so He sent them forth from the first and greatest of seminaries to sow and to

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