

Father S. Mahony, Wellington, was in Wanganui for a few days on his way home from Hawke's Bay, also Father Hurley. All these good visitors helped to tide over the absence of our own Fathers during the Retreat, meaning business as usual for us, and we are extremely grateful.

One day last week, someone's silver jubilee was celebrated up at Mount St. Gerard—Sisters Benedict, Stanislaus, Patrick, Ignatius, and Josephine. Their old school-mates and many friends add congratulations to the big number already received.

I am sorry to say that Mr. M. Meehan, for some little time farming at the soldier settlement outside Rongotea, has had to give up his place for the present. Mr. Meehan is going to Hammer, where the treatment and rest will be of infinite value to him.

Mr. George Corliss, of Westmere, is also under marching orders for the same place. Both these boys got straight into harness just as soon as they could after their return from active service, and have worked so hard that a rest is necessary. Everyone wishes them a speedy and complete return to good health.

We have just heard that as the result of his recent accident Mr. J. Leberre, Wellington, has lost his eye. Mr. Leberre came through the war and its many tight corners, and his Wanganui friends regret the hard luck which has overtaken him now.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Rodgers, of Aramoho, and their daughters left a few days ago for their new home at Timaru. Mr. Rodgers has been transferred to the South Island. During their years in Aramoho Mrs. Rodgers and the girls have been great helpers in everything connected with the Church. The choir girls entertained Miss Beryl Rodgers, who has been organist for some time, and gave her a little souvenir of her stay here.

On last Thursday the Aramoho had another day out at the Tea Gardens, providing the usual enjoyments and bargains. It was a very fine day, everyone was in good trim and seemed to be taking a lot of money. The bazaar is fairly close now, and fortunately will soon be over. The holiday-makers are nearly all home again and are as keen as mustard to take a hand with the stay-at-homes.

On Wednesday night of this week, the Children of Mary had the first social of the season, naming it for variety's sake "The Leap Year Frivolity Razzle." The old Villa was glorified and decorated a bit, some of the young people putting in a lot of energy and time to get a good result. Mr. and Mrs. Holly, very kindly supplied excellent music, which everyone appreciated and enjoyed. The dancers tripped round the library and the length of the big corridor. In another room card tables were arranged and progressive euchre was played, and the broad verandah was welcomed by all who sighed for a cool breeze. There was supper, nothing elaborate, just a cup of coffee and very plain cake (sugar is almost unobtainable) and lots of cold drinks. Everyone enjoyed themselves and the money poured in.

Died during the last few days two well-known members of the congregation, Mrs. Rodgers of Aramoho, who had been ill for some time before her death, also Mr. Michael Foley of Wanganui.—R.I.P.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

February 2.

The new St. Bede's College will be opened on February 15 by his Grace Archbishop O'Shea. He will be assisted by his Lordship Bishop Brodie, and his Lordship Dr. Cleary, Bishop of Auckland, has intimated his intention of being present also, should his health permit.

Rev. Mothers M. St. Basil and M. St. Anthony, of the Institute of Notre Dame des Missions, together with Rev. Mother M. St. Stephen, of the Ashburton Convent of the Order, returned from Europe by the Bremen.

Bro. T. Fogarty, formerly secretary to St. Mary's Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, has been appointed president, replacing Bro. Cape-Williamson, who, owing to pressure of business, found it necessary to retire from office. Bro. Albertsen succeeds Bro. Fogarty as secretary.

A concert in aid of the school funds is to be given in the Sacred Heart Schoolroom, Addington, on February 12. Excellent talent has been secured, and patrons may look forward to a good evening's entertainment.

Mr. W. Rodgers presided at a meeting on Sunday evening in connection with the Cathedral schools' annual garden fete, to be held on February 28 and March 1.

The greatest victory message ever delivered to humanity came from the lips of the Archangel Gabriel in the humble home at Nazareth.

DIocese OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

January 30.

The spiritual retreat for the clergy of the diocese opens on Monday next, February 2, in the Sacred Heart College, and will conclude on Friday, February 6.

Owing to the war conditions and the influenza epidemic, the numbers of children in the orphanages at Takapuna and "The Pah" (Onchunga) have severely taxed the accommodation in those institutions. The present excessive prices of materials and cost of building, preclude any possibility of permanent extensions to the existing buildings, and accordingly the boarding-out scheme is being tentatively adopted. Applications are being considered from suitable Catholic homes in town and country, from Catholics who desire either to adopt or give a home to the orphans. In numerous cases the Education Department makes an allowance for board.

The reports of the recrudescence of influenza in various parts of the world have led the local educational and health authorities in Auckland and elsewhere to adopt some precautionary measures to ward off the danger. For the present all schools will remain closed, as Dr. Monk, District Health Officer, considered it wise not to let the children assemble during hot weather in somewhat crowded rooms. In Auckland, the order postponing the opening of the schools will be received with little regret, for February is always a trying month for children and teachers alike.

His Lordship the Bishop returned on last Monday from visitation of the Waikato District.

On Sunday evening, January 25, Rev. Father Skinner, of Waiuku, preached an impressive sermon to a large congregation in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The bazaar and queen carnival held in Helensville last week-end was somewhat spoiled by the very inclement weather. However, Father Mansfield is quite pleased with the financial results, as he is now in a position to repair and paint the church. The winning candidate in the queen carnival was Miss Vera Hafford, one of the most popular young ladies in Helensville.

Father Andersen, M.A., a newly-ordained priest from Christchurch, is on a holiday visit to Auckland, and is a guest of the priests at St. Benedict's. Other visitors from the south were the Misses Cartwright, well known in Catholic music circles in Oamaru.

The opening of the tennis court in connection with St. Benedict's Club was to have taken place on Saturday, January 24, but owing to the very wet weather it had to be postponed.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to Father Ryan, S.M., whose brother died in Wellington last week.

It has been decided that the national concert in connection with the St. Patrick's Day celebrations is to take place in the Town Hall on Thursday evening, March 18.

ST PATRICK'S CONVENT, TESCHEMAKERS.

The annual Retreat of the Dominican Nuns, Teschemakers, which was conducted by a religious of the Dominican Order, Rev. D. B. Falvey, O.P., Adelaide, was brought to a close last Friday. The Sisters were privileged on this occasion in securing for the first time during their 50 years in New Zealand a Friar Preacher to work in their midst. This forms a link in the history of the Dominican Nuns in New Zealand connecting them with St. Dominic's first daughters to whom 700 years ago, the Saint entrusted the care and education of young girls. The need is not less in our own day for training the young in their earliest years in the habits of self-control and virtue, as well as in those branches required by our modern system of education. St. Patrick's has ideal surroundings for accomplishing these ends, and parents entrusting their daughters to the care of the nuns may rest assured that now, as in the past, nothing will be left undone to educate them in the truest sense of the word.

We take this opportunity of reminding parents and guardians that the college re-opens for present year's work on Monday, February 9, boarders to be in residence on Saturday, 7th inst. Those desirous of placing their children under the care of the Dominican Nuns are requested to apply for a prospectus of the college to the Mother Superior.

HELD OVER

Pressure on our space compels us to hold over a report of the public meeting held last week at Temuka under the auspices of the Christchurch Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation; also a quantity of other matter.