

## N.Z. CATHOLIC FEDERATION

### CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESAN COUNCIL HALF-YEARLY MEETING.

The half-yearly meeting of the Christchurch Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation was opened at the Catholic Hall, Temuka, on Tuesday evening, January 27, and concluded on the following morning. The president, Very Rev. J. A. Kennedy, D.D., presided, and the various parish committees were represented by the following delegates: Cathedral (Christchurch), Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy and Mr. J. R. Hayward; Ashburton, Very Rev. J. J. Dean O'Donnell, V.G., and Mr. M. Burgess; Fairlie, Rev. A. Galerne, S.M., and Mr. D. England; Lincoln, Rev. D. Lean; Little River, Miss M. C. Cassidy; Morven, Messrs. J. Tanguy, P. Hanley, and P. Cooney; Makikihi, Messrs. N. Geany and M. Earl; Rangiora, Mrs. Blake and Mr. J. Catherwood; St. Mary's (Christchurch North), Very Rev. P. Dean Regnault, S.M., Miss M. M. Callaghan, and Mr. Kelly; St. Andrews, Mr. J. O'Connor; Temuka, Revs. E. Kerley, S.M., and R. Hoare, S.M., Messrs. T. Knight and P. Hally; Timaru, Messrs. J. O'Brien and M. Hyland; Waimate, Rev. W. Peoples, S.M., Messrs. M. Lyons and M. Leonard; executive officials, Mr. W. Hayward (treasurer) and Mr. F. J. Doolan (diocesan secretary). Apologies for absence were received from his Lordship the Bishop, Very Rev. Dean Hyland, Rev. Fathers Aubry, S.M., and Creed, and Mr. T. Cahill. A number of visitors also attended the meeting. In welcoming the delegates the Very Rev. president expressed satisfaction at the excellent attendance. Referring to the business transacted during the past half-year, he thanked those forming the executive for their assistance in promoting the interests of the Federation, which was never in a better position than at present. Mr. T. Knight (secretary of the local committee) was appointed minute secretary for the meeting. The secretary read the executive's report, which dealt with the extension of the Federation in several parishes, increase of membership, parochial visits, Dominion Council meeting, Federation scholarships, Irish Race Convention, etc., and concluded with the following appreciative reference to the *N.Z. Tablet*:—"We desire to express to the management of the *Tablet* our appreciation of the excellent manner in which Federation affairs have been dealt with in the columns of that paper, and also our thanks for the very liberal space allotted to our reports of executive and other meetings." An animated discussion ensued on the conditions of the scholarships, and on the small number of parishes visited. Satisfactory explanations were made on these points by the chairman. Many of the delegates expressed warm approval of the success of the scholarship scheme generally, and of the recent examinations. The examiners' reports were read, and their work highly commended. The treasurer presented a statement of accounts, which showed a record balance to credit. A substantial sum was also shown to have been invested in a satisfactory manner. The membership enrolments showed an increase of 2000 as against the corresponding period of the previous year. This splendid record had been mainly the means whereby the fine surplus was produced, and had also created the keen competition throughout the diocese in the provision of funds for the furtherance of the scholarships movement. After an adjournment for refreshments, provided by the ladies of the parish, reports from parish committees were read. Most of these showed increased membership—several as high as 100 per cent.: St. Mary's, Christchurch, was shown to be the strongest, numerically, with Waimate and Timaru in the order named. The diocesan secretary, in moving the adoption of the reports, paid a tribute to the excellent work of the various parish officials, and their much-valued co-operation with the executive. To this (he said) could mainly be attributed the splendid results shown not alone in the general activities of the Federation, but especially in matters of secondary education. Several other speakers endorsed the secretary's remarks.

A remit suggesting an alteration in the election of parish committees was discussed at length, and it was finally decided that the present rule should not be interfered with. Before resuming business next morning a special Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., in the presence of the delegates, and a large number of parishioners, and the Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy addressed the congregation on the work of the Federation.

A remit from St. Mary's Committee dealing with the question of establishing a boys' hostel in Christchurch or the providing of accommodation in private homes, was considered. A lengthy discussion ensued, all agreeing as to the necessity of such an undertaking. The question was ultimately left to the executive to report on at the

next meeting. A further remit from the same committee was also very favorably criticised, and referred to the executive for consideration.

Very Rev. Dean Regnault, in an interesting speech, put forward several suggestions in the interests of the Catholic body throughout the Dominion, and moved that these matters be referred to the Dominion Executive for their consideration. Several speakers warmly supported the mover, and the council's representative was instructed to bring these matters up at the next meeting.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Very Rev. chairman, to Father Kerley for the excellent provision made for the meeting, and to Mr. Knight for valued services, and a very successful conference terminated. In the afternoon the visitors were the guests of the local committee to a motor tour of the Geraldine, Waituki, and Pleasant Point districts.

### ROME IN 1920.

The year 1920 will be the year par excellence for world-wide gatherings in Rome. "All roads lead to Rome." First, Gaels from the four winds under the banner of the Cardinal Primate of All Ireland are expected to attend the Beatification of Oliver Plunket, one of his Eminence's predecessors in the historic See of Armagh. Some day next spring the venerable successor of St. Patrick will see his life-long work realised to the fullest. Then Cardinal Logue no one has done so much and made so many sacrifices in the cause of the martyred Archbishop of Armagh. Secondly, December 8, 1920, will see the celebration of the 50th year of the definition of the Dogma of Papal Infallibility. This was defined by Pius IX. on December 8, 1870. More Bishops were present at this, the Vatican Council, than in any other of its many predecessors. At the first Council of Nice there were 318 Bishops. At the first Council of Constantinople, 150; at the second, 165; at the third, 170. And so on with all the other Oecumenical Councils down to the Council of Trent, at which gathered 200 Bishops. At the Vatican Council of 1870 no fewer than 533 Bishops assisted. And at Turin on August 15, 1920, anniversary of the birth of Don Bosco, a monument to the venerable founder of the Salesians will be unveiled. Delegates from Salesian houses in India, Patagonia, Australia, China, Africa, America, as well as from every part of Europe, will come to Turin for the occasion to honor "the friend of the poor boy."

### VALEDICTORY TO FATHER CAHILL, WAIPAWA.

At the conclusion of Mass at St. Patrick's Church on Sunday (says the *Waipawa Mail* of February 24), Mr. Lee, on behalf of the congregation, wished the Rev. Father T. J. Cahill, who leaves Waipawa on Saturday next to visit his mother in Ireland, a pleasant journey and safe return. He assured Father Cahill that during the time he had been in Waipawa he had endeared himself to his people, who would be glad to welcome him back after a well-earned holiday in the land of his birth. He then asked Father Cahill to accept a cheque from the congregation as a small token of their regard for him, and said they trusted he would find his mother in good health and that she would be spared to him for many years to come. Father Cahill, in thanking the people for their gift, said he was somewhat overwhelmed, as he had not expected anything of the kind, especially as he had only been in Waipawa for a short while. He was, however, grateful for the kindly spirit which prompted the gift, and thanked them for the good wishes expressed on their behalf by Mr. Lee. He then said he was going to return their gift to them, and he would ask them to spend the money in erecting a concrete fence in front of the church as the church peace memorial. The general public will join with members of the Catholic Church in their good wishes. During the time he has been stationed in Waipawa Father Cahill has shown a practical interest in the place, as evidenced by the work which he put into the laying down of the pathway connecting High and Waverley streets, a work which is much appreciated by the large number of townspeople who make use of it. He has also effected very considerable improvements in the surroundings of the Catholic Church, in the planting of hedges and shrubs, which when well grown will add to the beauty of the place. Father Cahill leaves Wellington on the Ruapehu.

When I see the night aglow with stars, I say—Praise be to God. God was thinking of our pleasure when He decked the skies in gold and the earth in the colors of the opal.—Columba O'Donnell.

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