

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

August 10.

Rev. Mother Maris Stella, of the Sisters of Nazareth, has had a very serious relapse of sickness, and her condition is causing grave anxiety.

The committee of management in connection with the Catholic Girls' Hostel has appointed Miss A. Beveridge to the position of matron. The committee unanimously decided to suitably recognise the services rendered by Miss L. Johnston since the inception of the Hostel. A committee of ladies is making arrangements to carry out this proposal.

Bro. L. J. Courtney, B.P., presided at the recent fortnightly meeting of St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, held in the Hibernian Hall. There was a good attendance of members. Sick allowance (£13 13s 4d) and accounts (£9 7s 6d) were passed for payment. Three members were initiated and one nomination for membership received.

By the death of Mr. T. Morland, which occurred at Sumner during the week, Canterbury has lost a respected pioneer. During his illness, which was of short duration, he was attended by Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy and the Cathedral clergy, from whom he received Holy Communion daily. Mr. Morland was 79 years of age and, besides having been a staunch friend to Mt. Magdala and Nazareth House, Christchurch, and also the convent and church at Rakaia, he was a benefactor to the Cathedral. He was particularly well known in the Ashburton district, where he successfully farmed at Mitcham, and latterly at Rosebank. His remains were interred at Rakaia, Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Rev. Fathers Long and Gallagher attending. Owing to the indisposition of Rev. Father Price, the funeral service was conducted by Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy. In spite of most inclement weather the funeral was a very large one.—R.I.P.

The boys of the Marist Brothers' School still uphold the traditions of their predecessors in the line of sport. They have this season secured the senior and light-weight shields offered for competition by the Canterbury Rugby Union amongst primary schools. A constant follower of these school matches, speaking with reference to the Marist Brothers' boys, said he always admired their neat and regular dress—all being fully equipped with green and black jerseys and white trousers. Other schools, with one exception, from a dress standpoint, might well be termed variegated. The lightweight combination has scored 128 points, and only three have been registered against it, viz., a penalty goal. Its line has not been crossed. Sydenham School suffered defeat by 9 to nil; Somerfield by 24 to nil; West Christchurch by 11 to nil; Richmond by 40 to nil; Elmwood by 20 to nil; Addington by 21 to nil; Whareuui defaulted. The match against Waltham ended in a draw, Marists scoring a try and Waltham a penalty goal. Rev. Brother Marcellin is to be complimented on the success attending his constant attention to the training and coaching of the teams. The senior boys' contest has been a very close one, there being little to choose between the teams. The Marist boys scored 48 points and had 15 against them. West Christchurch lost to the Greens, 15 points to 30. The Elmwood game ended in a draw, neither side scoring, but Sydenham were beaten by 9 to 3. In the second round West Christchurch were beaten by 9 to 3; Sydenham, 3 to nil; and Elmwood, 8 to 3. Waltham being winners of the B section, had to face the Greens for the final, and the latter were victorious after a strenuous game by 3 points—a try scored by D. Galvin.

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Te Kuiti

Addressing a large congregation at Mass on last Sunday (writes a correspondent under date August 6) Father O'Flynn impressed on the parishioners the necessity of assisting to their utmost in the promotion of the bazaar and carnival now being undertaken.

The Altar Society recently formed is doing excellent work, and the members hope soon to have sufficient funds to provide everything necessary for the altar.

The socials arranged to augment the funds in connection with the bazaar have proved a great success, and, as a result, material has been brought wherewith to enable the ladies to make up articles suitable for the stalls.

The queen carnival, which has started off with three candidates—Miss Pearl Park (green and black), town; Mrs. E. P. Ryan (pink and black), country; and Miss Te Araho Lorna Kawe (gold and black), Maori queen, has met with great success. It only requires the continuance of the various committees' efforts to ensure the greatest achievement, financially, yet recorded here in such undertakings.

Father O'Flynn and the church committee are exerting every effort in their endeavor to liquidate the existing debt on the church, and to provide funds for the erection of a convent. The congregation, realising the importance of establishing a convent in the town, are determined to assist in every possible way.

The euchre party held in Clarke's dining-rooms on last Tuesday evening in the interests of the town queen candidate, proved a complete success. The prizes were won by Mrs. Parke and Mr. Keogh.

The country queen has a strong committee assisting her candidature, while the social given recently to help the Maori queen aided very materially in the object sought. The latter's committee are confident of securing the position of honor for her.

ONE THOUSAND CONVERTS.

The inspiring spectacle of a thousand converts receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation was witnessed in the Cathedral last Monday (says the Boston Pilot of June 5). From all parts of the diocese they came, the year's contribution of other sheep to the fold of Christ. This annual custom of the confirmation of converts inaugurated some few years ago by his Eminence the Cardinal, furnishes an object lesson to those within and those without the Church.

It teaches that the Church has lost nothing of her perennial power to attract inquiring souls searching unselfishly for the light of truth; it teaches that there is around us an increasing number of souls dissatisfied with the religious position in which they find themselves and longing to breathe a purer air of doctrine; and it teaches that the Divine commission of Christ to His Apostles to preach the Gospel to every creature is being successfully accomplished in this diocese of Boston by devoted priests and faithful people.

The success of religion may be measured in various ways. It is seen in the many remarkable monuments of ecclesiastical architecture reared by zealous priests and self-sacrificing people. Churches, schools, convents, hospitals, and charitable institutions abound. In the short space of a hundred years the Catholic Church in Boston has prospered beyond the fondest dreams of its early pioneers. With this material advancement has proceeded a rugged spiritual growth that has made the sterling faith of the Catholics of Boston felt throughout the country.

But one of the best measures of spiritual vigor of the Church in Boston is seen in the spectacle annually presented by the confirmation of converts. The Church has not only been able to hold its own and to prevent leakage as the census figures testify, but is able yearly to add goodly numbers of converts to its fold. This is not only a healthful sign of growth, it is a tribute to the spiritual head of the archdiocese and to the zealous priests and faithful people laboring under his wise guidance.

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