

Here and There

New Religious Congregations Approved.—The Congregation of Religious has (says the Roman correspondent of an exchange) definitely approved the constitutions of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Brentana, whose mother house is at Milan, and those of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, whose mother house is in Rome. It has approved for a trial of seven years the constitutions of the Sisters of the Patronage of St. Joseph and those of the Sisters of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin, of the Order of St. Benedict.

Dean of American Hierarchy Dies.—Bishop Ryan, of Alton, Ill., U.S.A., who has just died after an episcopacy which extended over 35 years, was born at Thurles, Co. Tipperary, on June 17, 1848, and proceeded to U.S.A. when seven years old. The family settled in Louisville, Ky., where the lad attended the parochial school. After his ordination to the priesthood, he rendered signal services throughout the diocese of Chicago. At the time of his death he was Dean of the American Hierarchy.

An Irish Nun Dies.—Sister Dominic, said to have been the oldest member of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the United States, died in the Convent of the Church of Our Lady of Victory at Brooklyn at the age of eighty-seven. She was active almost until her death, and recently directed the graduation exercises of the parish school. Sister Dominic was born in Ireland and spent practically all her life teaching in parochial schools and convents in Brooklyn. She was in turn Superior of several educational institutions, including the Convent of the Church of Our Lady of Victory at the time of her death.

Priest-Astronomer.—Father Daniel J. McHugh, C.M., head of the department of astronomy at De Paul University, Chicago, has received the rare distinction to be elected a fellow in the Royal Astronomical Society of London. There are only 76 fellows of the society in the United States, and besides Father McHugh, only one priest. Father McHugh's election came as a surprise to him. Membership in the society is conferred on the recommendation of other members after a formal and rather intricate method, during which the right of the nominee to recognition is rigidly examined. It is believed that the reason for Father McHugh's election was particularly his work in connection with the studying of the Halley Comet in 1909.

Over a Century Old.—Granny Coffey, of Coatdyke (Scotland), who has reached the patriarchal age of 104 years, is still in possession of all her faculties (says an exchange). Her maiden name was Mary Burke and she hails from Clonmel, where she was married to Malachy Coffey about the year 1840. One of H.M. Commissioners, accompanied by Mr. Brown, of Coatbridge, paid her a visit recently, and after a short conversation inquired of her who was the gentleman in the picture on the wall, and she replied: "Ah, ye don't know that gentleman. Well, that's Father Tom Burke, the greatest man ever God allowed to live." The Commissioner was very anxious to ascertain her proper age; however, that is unobtainable, but family records go to show that above is the correct age.

The Church and Republics.—Catholic communities founded all the republics that ever existed in Christian times up to the date of the American Independence, 1776. The oldest republic in the world, and one of the most radical in its democracy, is St. Marino, in Italy, founded in the fourth century by a Catholic monk. The Republic of Andorra, in Spain, was founded by a Catholic Bishop in the ninth century. St. Marino is especially noted for the reason that it is surrounded by the Papal territory, and the Popes have always been the vigilant guardians and protectors of its independence. The twelfth century saw the birth, under the fostering care of the Popes, of the Italian Republics of Venice, Genoa, Florence, Sienna, and others, and the fourteenth century saw the Swiss Cantons, under the guidance of William Tell and his associates, establish their free confederation, which exists to this day.—*Newman Quarterly.*

St. Quentin's Bells.—During the war the Germans removed from the town of St. Quentin the peal of 80 bells

belonging to that city, and which dated from 1762. The city of Malines decided four years ago to offer to St. Quentin a new peal of bells to be raised by public subscription. Lately the casting of the five principal bells of the new peal was performed at Louvain, and all the Belgian bellringers were present to witness the operation. As the casting began the Mayor of St. Quentin threw into the molten metal some pieces of silver and a gold ring, and the bellringer of St. Quentin, M. Cautelon, who is 75 years old, added a handful of medals won by him in bell-ringing competitions. The foundrymen, in accordance with custom, then knelt and made the sign of the Cross. M. Cautelon played the "Marseillaise" and the "Brabanconne" on a peal of bells which had just been completed for another city.

Perpetual Rosary Shrine.—There is a beautiful Perpetual Rosary Shrine on the front lawn of the monastery grounds at the Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary, Camden, New Jersey, U.S.A. In the centre of the shrine is a Rosary group of stone. The shrine is sheltered by a handsome cut-stone canopy, on the apex of which is placed a large electrical cross. There are also electric lights in the shrine, which at night light the entire vicinity. A public pilgrimage is made to the shrine on the afternoon of the first Sunday of every month. Compline is sung by the nuns in the monastery choir, after which the Rosary is recited by the priest and pilgrims while they go in procession to the shrine. At the shrine the pilgrimage prayer is recited, followed by a sermon and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The pilgrims then return in procession to the chapel to venerate the relic of St. Dominic. The pilgrims place their intentions in a basket at the altar railing, which is carried in the procession and placed on the shrine altar during Benediction. In addition, the intentions are prayed for by the nuns in their perpetual Rosaries from midnight on Saturday to midnight on Sunday.

BULLER NOTES

The old bell from St. Patrick's Church, Charleston, has been removed to Westport, and a spire wherein to hang it has been erected at St. Canice's (writes a correspondent). Doubtless the musical tones of the bell, so long silent, will recall to many Charlestonians memories of the golden years of long ago. To-day, that old seaside town is something akin to the "Auburn" of Goldsmith, only the ruins of Charleston are more pathetic and more complete. But the glamor of romance still lingers round that desolate spot. The pioneers are sleeping in the quiet cemeteries, their children are living afar, but the little church still stands as if in defiance of time. And not more than twenty miles away the bell that some will never again harken to calls the Catholics of Westport to Mass or evening devotions.

The euchre parties held weekly in St. Canice's Club are now a recognised success both socially and financially. The proceeds are devoted to the painting of the church and the club funds alternately. The convent looks very spruce indeed with its new paint, and we hope ere long that the same may be said of the church and club. But the hard part is that these improvements cost money.

Rev. Father O'Shea, who is travelling on behalf of the Irish Mission to China, was recently in Westport.

The Seddonville folk are busy these days collecting funds for their new church. There are not half a dozen Catholic families all told in the locality, yet with characteristic energy and zeal they have built a church and named it the Church of Our Lady of Compassion. May the efforts of the Seddonville-ites be crowned with success.

The death took place at Westport the other week of Mrs. Annie Norris, formerly of Charleston. Deceased was a native of Australia but came when a child to New Zealand with her people. The sympathy of the community is extended to the sorrowing family.—R.I.P.

PILES

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