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Sacramento, California

May

1908

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The Cathedral Monthly Tidings

Sacramento, California

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Vol. I.

MAY, 1908

No. 7

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Eleventh and K Streets.

RT. REV. THOMAS GRACE, D. D., Bishop of Sacramento.

RT. REV. MSGR. T. J. CAPEL, D. D.

REV. J. H. ELLIS.

REV. PATRICK RYAN

REV. P. J. HAYES.

Office Hours of Cathedral Clergy: 10 to 12 a. m., 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p. m. Sick calls should be sent in before 10 a. m. if possible. Urgent sick calls are attended at any hour.

The Rt. Rev. Bishop has almost completely recovered from his late serious indisposition. It is expected that he will be able to leave the house within the next few days.

Rafael, where he will serve as chaplain of St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum. The prayers and good wishes of many friends accompany Father Van Schie to his new field of labor.

The Rev. P. F. Brady, of Red Bluff, will deliver an illustrated lecture on his travels in Europe, in Serra Hall, Tuesday evening, June 16, for the benefit of St. Stephen's convent.

First Communion will be administered to a class of children at 8 o'clock Mass, Sunday, May 31. The children were prepared by the Sisters of St. Francis.

A retreat for the children was conducted by Father Hayes.

Confirmation will be administered in the Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday, June 7. First Communion will be administered at the 8 o'clock Mass on same Sunday.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the A. O. H. made an enjoyable event of the visit to this city of State President Mrs. McFadden and Miss Molloy of San Francisco. These guests of the local division were fully-hoed and feted in the most hospitable manner during their brief stay.

Rev. Father Van Schie, for some time assistant at the Cathedral in this city, has been transferred to San

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The Way of Happiness

A very practical and searching talk to Catholic men, applicable to a much wider audience than that to which it was addressed, was delivered by Archbishop O'Connell at the close of a recent retreat at Boston College.

"You must also have learned from this retreat," he said, "that there is some lack in your life. You are busy, perhaps successful. Are you happy? For that need not necessarily follow. What is the lack? Or what is it that creates the lack? Happiness is a sentiment. The lack of this sentiment gives heartache. You are yearning for something you have not acquired. Have you learned what this is? In the light of the retreat, which is the true white light of God's illuminating grace, you know it is not money. You know it is not even success, though doubtless both for a while bring some show of contentment. What is it, then? I shall tell you. It is the charity of Christ."

"What are you doing for somebody else? I do not mean now those who are doing something for you. That is trading. I mean those who are nothing to you; no, not nothing, for every man is your brother in Christ. But I mean the men who are neither your patrons nor your clients; the men from whom you get nothing, and expect nothing. I mean the patient who is too poor to pay his fee; I mean the immigrant of yesterday; I mean the poor woman who is unable to purchase. What are you doing for them?

Nothing? Then that is the void. That is the lack.

"Do you think God will allow you to be happy while those who need you and your aid are suffering? Do not tell me that they do not come into your path. Then your path must be a narrow one in this great city; so narrow that there is only room for self. Do you never go into the houses of the poor? Then you are missing a great deal in life. There is so much they could teach you, so much they would give you for an act of kindness. There are whole quarters in our great city which could supplement your university education. The doors of this great school are wide open to you, and the only passport needed is an act of Christian charity, which in the end will enrich you far more than those to whom you do it.

"Of course, you must be business-like in your life of business, but the life that is only business is no life at all. It is only a cruel machine. It is that that is drying up the kindness that is natural in every human heart. Business in the end begets pure and simple selfishness. Unless there is some small part of every day into which business can not enter, which is reserved entirely and solely for some word or act or deed of unselfishness, the heartsprings will surely run dry and the true joy of life be turned into dismal ashes. This the retreat must have shown you, and unless you go out from this retreat less selfish you will certainly go out more unhappy."

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Y. M. I. CIRCLES.

Preparations for the coming Grand Council of the Y. M. I. which meets here in August, will be carried on vigorously and a brilliant success for the event is assured. The members of the local organization are determined to make the occasion a memorable one in the Catholic annals of Sacramento, and it is not too much to say that the Catholics of the city stand solidly behind them.

The unfortunate fluke of the Chamber of Commerce Committee of Fifty in slighting the Y. M. I. in the matter of the funds subscribed by the public for the entertainment of this year's conventions, has caused the Y. M. I. some inconvenience by necessitating a change in the arrangements, but the result of that "mistake" will react upon the responsible authors of it.

The Y. M. I. has added a succession of social triumphs to its list since

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Easter. The Removal Ball was a brilliant success both from a social standpoint and as a civic celebration. The anti-removal sentiment was boosted in a very effective way in the scenic effects and accessories of the function.

The Consolidation banquet in honor of the wedding of the two local branches of the organization was another highly creditable achievement to the good. The Y. M. I. of this city seems to be renewing its youth and is certainly establishing a reputation for doing things, not only for the Catholic community, but for the city at large.

Y. L. I. MATTERS.

Grace Council has been very active socially and otherwise. The parties and socials of this institute enjoy a distinction all their own. There are several informal entertainments in prospect during the summer months. With their usual generosity the ladies of the Y. L. I. are aiding materially in securing the success of the coming Grand Council

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ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY.

Holy Childhood Sodality Have Reception of Members, Election of Officers and Garden Party.

Fifty-two little people assembled in the Sodality Room, St. Joseph's Academy, at 2:00 o'clock on Thursday afternoon for the reception of new members. Thirty-five little girls received the badge of the Divine Infant, after which they marched in procession through the grounds, chanting litanies and singing hymns.

Returning to the Sodality room, an election of officers was held. Francis Fitzgerald was elected president; Marie Nulis, vice-president; Gertrude Harland, treasurer; Mary Hanson, secretary; Rose Brady, librarian; Loretta Douglas, guardian of the oratory.

The little people were then invited to return to the garden, where they enjoyed an ice cream feast spread for them by the Sisters, the junior boarders being the hostesses.

OUTING TO BRUSHY LAKE.

The Sisters of Mercy, conducting St. Joseph's Academy, gave the young lady boarders and the Class of '08 a most enjoyable outing at Brushy Lake on Thursday. Kent's two "carryalls" left the Academy yard at 8:00 a. m., and after an eight-mile drive, deposited their loads of merrymakers at the lake.

Rambling, boating, and the disposal of the good things with which the hampers were filled kept the young people merry and busy until "the

hour when the Angelus chimes," when, tired but happy, they took their seats for the homeward drive.

The weather was as if "made to order," atoning fully for two postponements caused by April showers falling in the merry month of May.

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered the Sisters for the delightful treat, and to the Del Paso Outing Club, which, through the courtesy of Mr. Geo. Locks, kindly enabled the Sisters to select this beautiful spot for their picnic.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.

Several members of the order in this parish are sporting the beautiful emblem of the Fourth Degree, since their visit to San Francisco during Fleet week. The local Knights have manifested a keen interest in the good of the order by faithful attendance at initiations in nearby communities. Stockton and Santa Rosa were among the last places visited. The Knights are also making a reputation for the high-class entertainment features inaugurated. Father Harvey's Shakespearean lecture was a real intellectual treat, relished alike by members and their guests.

The noble Greek conception of life as a well-balanced activity and fruition of bodily and mental powers, a concept which was elevated to the spiritual plane by Christianity, has been forgotten in our headlong pursuit of a phantom, a will-o'-the-wisp.

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ANGELS' SODALITY ENTERTAIN.

Cathedral Hall held a delighted audience Friday night when the Angels' Sodality entertained for the benefit of the Christmas Crib fund. A fine program was presented and those who assisted acquitted themselves with distinction. The clever little playlets which began and closed the entertainment were very amusing and received much applause. The program was arranged as follows:

The Baby Show at Pineville.

Miss Polly Prim, who acts as Judge
.....Edwina Knapp
Mrs. Smith, whose baby wins the
prize.....Cecilia Norton

Mothers of troublesome babies.

Mrs. Davis.....Ramona Killen
Mrs. Wright.....Martha Killen
Mrs. Brown.....Adeline Santos
Mrs. Perkins.....Julia O'Neil
And Chorus.

Trio.....Spring Song
Kitty Fitzgerald, Helen Azevedo,
Lucille Blackwell, Leita Blackwell,
Olive Niles, Alice Messner, Ruth Berry,
Rose Rooney, Alice Rooney.

Dialogue.

Julia Devine.....Kitty Fitzgerald
Vocal solo.....Helen Azevedo
Piano solo.....Nelle Azevedo

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The Holy Father's Appeal for Indians

Cardinal Gibbons, president of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, has received from Cardinal Merry del Val the following autograph letter commending the Society for the Preservation of the Catholic Faith among the Indians, to the Bishops, clergy and faithful of the United States:

To Our Beloved Son, James Gibbons, Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church, Titular of Saint Mary's beyond the Tiber, Archbishop of Baltimore, and to all our other Venerable Brethren, Archbishops and Bishops: this Apostolic Letter concerning the holy undertaking of safeguarding the Faith among the Indians of the United States of North America.

PIUS X. POPE.

Dearly Beloved Son and Venerable Brethren, Health and Apostolic Benediction:

Among the chief glories of the Catholics of America must be enumerated their achievements in spreading the Catholic Faith among the people of their own nation and the example they have set the rest of the Catholic world in promoting by their energy and generosity the cause of religion and the welfare of souls.

The knowledge of this inspires us with consoling assurance at this particular time when in our solicitude to protect as effectively as possible and in the most practical manner the interests of Catholicity among the American Indians, we have come to realize the necessity of arousing our Catholic people in America to activity and of stimulating their zeal in behalf of these their brethren in the Faith.

We realize the many and grave difficulties incidental to the noble work of providing for the education of Indian children in Catholic schools, and we are aware how active in the prose-

cution of this work has been the Society for the Preservation of the Faith among Indian children, established by you—a society which spares no effort to protect the Faith of the Indians against every peril and to propagate the Faith among the Indians in every way.

This society is adapted to the end for which it has been instituted, as it endeavors to arouse the people to the importance of taking an active interest in the souls of the Indians; as it, likewise, collects a fee from each of its members, and thus, besides combining their efforts, it unites their resources, and so, by defraying the expenses necessitated by the Catholic Indian Schools, makes it possible to keep up these institutions.

In consideration of what, with due encouragement, this society can accomplish for the development of citizenship, for civilization and particularly for religion, in which the Indians, deprived of Catholic schools, will, without doubt, suffer injury, to say nothing of the loss of souls, we are convinced that it is incumbent upon us as a duty of Our Apostolic Office to commend this society to the Bishops, to the clergy and to the faithful of the United States of America, to the end that it be established in every parish.

Of one thing we feel assured, namely, that the Indians will not be deprived of the blessings of salvation, nor yet of the advantages of Christian education, if the other faithful children of the Church in America, regarding them as their brethren—all Christians being members of the one family of Christ—and manifesting their devotion to them, make it a point, one and all, to enroll their names and contribute their fees as members of this society.

As a pledge of heavenly graces and a token of our benign interest, with all affection in our Lord, we impart to you, the Bishops and the faithful, and to your work, the Apostolic Benediction.

Given at Rome at St. Peter's, the third day of April, 1908, the fifth year of Our Pontificate.

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WHAT IS FAITH?

What is faith? We answer, in the words of the great Cardinal Newman, who gives the following definition, or rather description, of the first of the theological virtues:

"Faith is not a mere conviction of reason; it is a firm assent. It is a clear certainty, greater than any other certainty; and this is wrought in the mind by the grace of God, and by it alone. As, then, men may be convinced, and not act according to their conviction, so may they be convinced, and not believe according to their conviction. They may confess that the argument is against them, that they have nothing to say for themselves, and that to believe is to be happy; and yet, after all, they avow they cannot believe, they do not know why, but they cannot; they acquiesce in unbelief, and they turn away from God and His Church. Their reason is convinced, and their doubts are moral

ones, arising in the root from a fault of the will.

"In a word, the arguments for religion do not compel any one to believe, just as arguments for good conduct do not compel any one to obey. Obedience is the consequence of willing to obey, and faith is the consequence of willing to believe; we may see what is right, whether in matters of faith or obedience, of ourselves, but we cannot will what is right without the grace of God. Here is the difference between other exercises of reason and arguments for the truth of religion. It requires no act of faith to assent to the truth that two and two make four; we cannot help assenting to it, and hence there is no merit in believing that the Church is from God; for though there are abundant reasons to prove it to us, yet we can, without an absurdity, quarrel with the conclusion; we may complain that it is not clearer, we may doubt it, if we will; and grace alone can turn a bad will into a good one."

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Catholic Doctrine of Indulgence

"Indulgence" was the theme of an interesting lecture delivered recently by Bishop Conaty before the Bible study class at the Woman's Club house, Los Angeles. Bishop Conaty gave a history of indulgences and described their meaning in the Catholic Church. He said in part:

"According to the definition of the catechism an indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment due to sin after the sin and its eternal punishment have been remitted by the sacrament of penance. Indulgence has no effect until sin has been remitted. Consequently it requires that the person receiving its benefits be in the state of grace; that is, to possess the friendship of God either in innocence of life or by reason of the pardon of God for the sins which have been remitted. According to the teaching of the Catholic Church every willful sin has in it two things resulting from man's offense against God. One is guilt and the other is punishment. If the sin be a grievous one, the guilt on the soul is grievous and the punishment deserved by it is both eternal and temporal. If the sin be but venial the punishment due is but temporal.

Eternal punishment is remitted with the pardon of the guilt of grievous sin, but there frequently remains an obligation to satisfy by reparation for the fault committed and consequently temporal punishments follow in the wake of sin and are satisfied for by the personal dispositions of the repentant sinner or by acts of penance to which are attached special blessings which stand in the way of satisfaction for the temporal punishments. According to the teaching of the Catholic Church the scope of indulgences is entirely outside of sin and necessarily supposes the previous pardon of sin."

Bishop Conaty quoted from the Old Testament the many incidents of punishments which remained to be endured after the sin had been remitted by Almighty God. The many hardships and sufferings of Adam's life, the punishment of Moses and of David after their sins had been forgiven. He spoke of God's willingness to pardon the sins and grant indulgence to Sodom provided ten just men could be found in the wicked city.

Bishop Conaty said that the authority in the matters of indulgence by the Church was found in the commission which Christ gave to the Apostles for the forgiveness of sins, and said

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that as there was in the Church the ministry of reconciliation invested by Christ with Christ's own power over sin, so that authority was over the punishments due to sin as well as to sin itself. He cited the action of Christ toward the adulterous woman and that of St. Paul toward the incestuous Corinthian, and said that the Apostle was fulfilling the ministry of forgiveness by not only remitting his sin and then forcing him to acts of penance, but also by remitting the part of the penance which had been imposed.

The Bishop explained that an indulgence was a share in the merits of Christ, as also a share in the merits of the saints. It served as an encouragement to acts of penance and deeds of goodness by being in the nature of a reward for special acts of devotion, of mercy and of charity.

"Indulgence stands as a form of helpfulness to the individual who may be spiritually unable to rise to the heights of personal satisfaction due to the justice of God and is a result of that doctrine of the Church known as 'the communion of saints,' in which the spirit of brotherhood enables the good to help one another and thus give strength to the weak and bear one for the other the burden which justice demands."

YOUNG LADIES' SODALITY.

The members of this society are resting on their social laurels temporarily. The Evans Fleet party was a novel entertainment and was enjoyed by all who assisted at the function. The same is true of the more recent party at Red Men's hall. As entertainers the members of the Sodality haven't much to learn. They know how to do it and are clever in reducing the knowledge to practice.

The following incident of the Kaiser's visit to Corfu is told by the correspondent of the Neues Wiener Tageblatt. Among other places he visited was Death Island, where an ancient nunnery exists.

Arriving unexpectedly he found the superior cleaning the church lamps and two nuns scouring the floor. The Kaiser entered into conversation with one nun, while King George acted as interpreter. The Kaiser asked the nun how long she had been in the nunnery. She replied:

"About twenty years."

The Kaiser remarked that she must have commenced her novitiate very early. She said, "At 16."

The Kaiser then asked: "What caused you when so young, almost a child, to renounce the world, and its

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pleasures? Some great misfortune?"

She answered, "No, only love for God. And you, who have remained in the world, what pleasures do you find in it?"

The Kaiser without replying asked: "Did it cause you no sorrow to sacrifice your youth?"

She said, "What is youth? A dew-drop in the field, which nature gives in the night and which disappears with the first rays of the morning sun."

After this the Kaiser left her, shaking his head.

POPE GREETES FARM HANDS.

Plus X has just given a special audience to about 1,500 laborers from the suburbs of Rome who are engaged in the cultivation of the "agro romano." They are perhaps the most unfortunate tillers of the soil in Italy, because of the malarial fever which is prevalent in the region.

The Pope received them in the

throne room and listened to an address by Prince Borghese, who is a big land-owner in the region and who was the chief organizer of the strange pilgrimage. The ploughmen, their herders and the others who were admitted to the audience greeted the Pope with cheers, and the Pope delivered to them an address on the necessity of their being faithful to God in order to do well in this world. When the pilgrims were dismissed from the Vatican they gave loud cheers for the Pope, who bestowed on them the apostolic benediction.

We should be perfect in all we do, not merely for the present, but to help in the formation of a good character. We should not be like the soapstone that crumbles as it is rubbed, but like gold, that shines brighter and brighter the more it is used.

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"It is not right for me to sit here, when I am strong and well and can stand, while that poor feeble old woman can see nothing. I ought to honor old age, as I want some one to honor me when I am old."

Then she gave up her seat to the

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old woman and went and stood in the crowd. But while Jeannette was standing upon her tiptoes, trying in vain to see, a courier of the Emperor, covered with gold lace, elbowed his way to her side, and said:

"Little girl, His Majesty would be glad to see you in the royal box."

When the abashed child stood before the Emperor, he graciously said: "Come here, my daughter, and sit with me. I saw you give up your seat to that old woman, and now you must remain by my side."

So God honors those who honor his servants, especially honors those who honor the aged and seemingly helpless disciples, whose earthly pilgrimages are nearly ended.

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