

# The Catholic Journal.

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## Very Rev. Joseph Strub.

Sketch of the Deceased Provincial of the Order of the Holy Ghost.

Last week the death of Very Joseph Strub, provincial of the Order of the Holy Ghost, was briefly noticed. From the *Michigan Catholic* the following sketch of his life is taken:

Very Rev. Joseph Strub was born in Alsatia, France, on the 1st of November, 1833. From his very youth he manifested a great desire to devote himself to the conversion of the colored people in Africa. Scarcely had he finished his studies in the Seminary at Strasburg when he asked the venerable Bishop A. Raes for permission to join the still young Order of the Holy Ghost and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Several eminent priests and young seminarists left on the same day the diocese of Strasburg and after a long trial in the Novitiate at Paris, became ardent missionaries and sacrificed their lives for the conversion of the colored people under the scorching sun of Africa, where about three hundred missionaries of the same order are to-day toiling and civilizing the poor abandoned tribes living in paganism and corruption.

Father Strub, according to his desire, was sent to Senegal and there for nine years he worked to the admiration of all. It was a sad day when he was called back by his Superior General to become Superior and provincial of the Order in Germany, for the colored people whom he had converted were so attached to him that for many years they held up a correspondence with their beloved father. On his return from Africa, his name was proposed by the French government to become Bishop of Dakar, Senegambia, but he declined through humility.

When the Franco-German war broke out, Father Strub was invested by the French government with extraordinary powers as head chaplain of the French troops on the east side of France. As such, he had under his immediate orders more than fifty priests and when so many French soldiers were taken as prisoners, he had his headquarters at Mayence and all the charitable resources sent by the different French provinces was distributed by him. When the war was over the government of France, in gratitude for the services rendered, bestowed the decoration of the Legion of Honor on Father Strub and proposed him again at Rome as Bishop, and again he refused.

In the year, 1872, when the Fathers of the Holy Ghost were expelled from Germany because they were too French, Father Strub, called by several Bishops of America, arrived in Cincinnati and founded several communities of his Order in the Archdiocese of Mgr. Purcell, where he did a great deal of good. Later on he established several houses in the diocese of Pittsburg, in the time of Bishop Domenee. It is in that diocese Father Strub established his headquarters and built a college, which is the glory of Pennsylvania. During his administration the Order of the Holy Ghost has spread in the North and South. There are houses in Arkansas where the priests devote themselves to the conversion of the colored people; in Pennsylvania, in Michigan, etc.

### PECULIAR CONVERSIONS.

In conversation with a priest a few days since, a *JOURNAL* representative was told of two conversions under rather peculiar circumstances. They are worth repeating:

The first one occurred some years since. The plumbing and gas fitting

at the church was out of order and two workmen were sent to make the necessary repairs. From their talk, they were ardent disciples of Voltaire and great readers and admirers of French infidel writers. A brother stationed at the church, which belonged to a religious order, happened to enter into conversation with the men and was shocked at their utter disregard of religion and Christianity. He attempted to reason and argue with them, but to no avail. Their infidel tendencies had become too deeply seated. Finally one of the Fathers passed by, and the Brother called upon him. He talked with the men a few minutes, and then invited them to call at the parochial residence in the evening and he would discuss Christianity and infidelity with them to their hearts' content. They agreed, and boasted they would worst him. When evening came, the workmen were on hand. They set forth their arguments and quoted their authorities with much gusto. The Father answered them rather too conclusively for their own peace of mind. These discussions continued for several weeks; at last the infidels were completely routed. The elder of them (they were cousins) and the son of an English Episcopal minister, said: "Well, there is nothing left for us but to become Catholics." Accordingly they came to the Father for instruction; when they were sufficiently prepared the elder man was baptized and received into the Church. The Father did not consider the younger man sincere enough in his professions, so postponed the date of his baptism. A few weeks after, the elder man came to the Father and said he thought his cousin was dying. Accordingly the priest went to his bedside and asked him if he still truly wished to enter the Catholic Church. The dying man, for such he was, gazing into the Father's face, said with tears in his eyes, "Yes, Father, I know I cannot be saved if I remain outside the Church." The priest ascertained that he had never been baptized, so he made no delay in administering the sacrament; on Holy Thursday the convert received Holy Communion; on Good Friday he died, and on Easter Sunday his remains were laid in their last resting place. Could there be a more affecting conversion? Or could there be a more conclusive evidence of the kindness and forbearance of God. This man, though his life had been almost a constant insult to his Creator, was allowed time to make his peace with his Maker and prepare for the last journey, ere the slender thread of life was snapped and the soul ushered into the presence of its Maker.

The other peculiar conversion was that of a colored man. He lived opposite the church and, when service was in progress, was wont to sing the songs peculiar to the colored race as loudly as his strong lungs would allow. This was repeated, time and again, to the infinite disgust and disturbance of the worshippers. One day the colored man attended a picnic given by a society connected with the church. While there, several of the members had considerable fun with him. In the course of the talk, he said he would like to be a Catholic and that his sister was already a member of the True Church. Though the "boys" thought the colored man was fooling, they brought him to the priest. He talked quite seriously and, after a little, came regularly for instructions. In due time, he was baptized, received Holy Communion and was confirmed. He is now a devoted Catholic and, apparently, happy as a man can be. Another peculiar phase of the case is that the colored man mentioned speaks German very fluently.

## AROUND THE GLOBE.

What the Church is Doing in this and Other Continents.

There are at present thirty-one priests in Kansas City, twenty-seven of whom are in Missouri and four in Kansas.

Gounod, the composer, has been asked to write a mass for the opening of the immense organ which is building for St. Peter's at Rome. Four thousand choristers will sing it.

The Cathedral of Mexico is the largest in America, and cost \$20,000,000. It was commenced by the Spaniards in 1563, on the site of the old Aztec temple, or pyramid, and finished in 1577.

Very Rev. James J. Ward, assistant pastor of St. Peter's church at Rome, N. Y., has been appointed by Bishop Ludden as pastor of St. Malachy's church at Sherburne, Chenango county.

The Jesuits have established a mission station for the Kaffirs near King Williamstown, South Africa. They have 200 native converts attached to the mission for whom Father Koenig, S. J., intends building a church.

Latest mail advices from England state that the Vatican has recently appointed the Rt. Rev. Dr. Wilkinson Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, and the Very Rev. Canon Gordon, D. D., V. G., coadjutor bishop of Leeds, with the right of succession.

Rev. J. A. Stephan of the Catholic Indian bureau, while in St. Paul, said that it was true that Sister Catherine (nee Drexel) would build a convent in Torresdale, a few miles from Philadelphia. Torresdale is the country residence of the Drexel family.

January 12th, Archbishop Ryan, of Philadelphia, delivered an eloquent lecture in St. Louis on "Christianity, the Preserver of Civilization." He dwelt particularly upon the beneficial and elevating effect exercised by Christianity upon the condition of woman.

The Rev. J. J. McCann, pastor of St. Helen's church, Brockton, Toronto, has been appointed by Archbishop Walsh, dean of the archdiocese of Toronto. The last dean of Toronto was the late Mgr. Proulx of St. Michael's cathedral, who died in 1881, the oldest missionary in the province of Ontario.

"Workingmen and employers together proclaim Leo XIII. the Father of the workingmen, the Defender of the weak and the Pacifier of the people." Such was the expressive telegram sent the other day to the Holy Father by the Messrs. Harmel, who were at the head of the recent French pilgrimage to the Eternal City.

At Trinidad, in Japan, in China, in India, in Madagascar, there are asylums for lepers, founded and conducted by Catholic missionaries. In the last mentioned place the Jesuits have created a special asylum for these unfortunates. Before the establishment of this place of refuge the lepers were entirely neglected.

The general council of the Catholic societies of Columbus, representing fifteen hundred society members, who are at the same time citizens and taxpayers, has adopted resolutions strongly protesting against the confirmation of General Morgan as Indian Commissioner on account of the policy pursued, which is hostile to the Catholic Indians and detrimental to the Catholic Church.

A very successful mission was given at St. Vincent de Paul's church, Cape Vincent, by the Redemptorist Fathers, Bohn and Frawley. The mission began Sunday the 12th and closed with

the Papal benediction at high mass on Sunday the 19th. Much good was done by the eloquent and touching appeals of the missionaries, and many a soul was brought to repentance and peace. The same Fathers closed a week's mission at Rosiere on Sunday the 19th.

Cardinal Gonzaalez y Diaz has asked the Pope to let him resign the archbishopric of Seville and the red hat, that he may retire to the Dominican monastery of Ocana, where he began his religious life. The Pope has permitted him to resign the archbishopric but not the cardinalate. His eminence is one of the ablest writers in Spain; he will devote his retirement to writing a voluminous book on prehistoric discoveries.

Mrs. Coppinger, eldest daughter of Secretary Blaine, died recently. She was a devoted Catholic, and was buried from the church of St. Matthew, at Washington. Father Thomas Sherman, of the Society of Jesus, and son of General Sherman, officiated at the funeral. Cardinal Gibbons and many other distinguished persons were present.

Cardinal Ganglbauer's successor as Archbishop of Vienna, Vicar Apostolic A. Gruscha, who has been the chaplain general of the Austrian army, is in every way qualified for the task committed to his hands. As a friend of the poor, he will be a worthy successor to the deceased prelate.

January 28th Rev. Andrew O'Neil, S. J., director of the Holy Family schools, and pioneer of Catholic education in Chicago, celebrated his silver jubilee. A grand reception was tendered the beloved priest by the former students and their friends. Addresses were made by Fathers O'Neil and Murphy, Hon. W. J. Onahan and Hon. J. A. Taylor. The number of children registered in the parochial schools during the past year was 4,237.

A terrible disaster occurred at an early hour Monday morning in Washington. The residence of Secretary of the Navy Tracy was burned to the ground. All the members of the family were in bed at the time. Mrs. Wilmerding, the Secretary's daughter, escaped by jumping from a second story window; Mr. Tracy was carried out more dead than alive; Mrs. Tracy died from suffocation shortly after being removed from the burning building; Miss Marie Tracy, a fourteen-year old daughter of the Secretary, and the French nurse, Josephine Morell, were burned to a crisp. It was thought at first that Mr. Tracy could not recover, but he is now out of danger.

The London *Times* has settled the libel suit brought against it by Charles Stewart Parnell. The Irish leader receives £5,000, and the *Times* has to pay the cost of the prosecution. The suit of Mr. Parnell's private secretary, Henry Campbell, against the paper has been stopped by payment to Mr. Campbell of £200 and costs. This will have no effect, one way or another, on the report of the Commission appointed by the government to investigate Mr. Parnell's character.

Pigott, the informer, had \$4,000 insurance on his life. Under English law, the family of a suicide is not entitled to receive from an insurance company the money which would be theirs had his death taken place naturally or by accident. The insurance people, however, thought it would be a good advertisement for them, and handed over the money. His creditors put in claims ad infinitum until the whole sum was exhausted, and the informer's children left penniless. Pigott's former housekeeper is raising the little ones.

## DIOCESAN NEWS.

What is Going on in the Parishes outside Rochester.

Miss Mary FitzGerald, of Mumford, was the guest of friends in LeRoy this week.

Mrs. Mary Riley Connors, of Bridgeport, Conn., is visiting friends in Phelps.

Miss Susie Dailey, of Geneva, was the guest of friends in Phelps on Monday.

Miss Mamie Beirne, of Macedon, was the guest of Miss Rose McAniff, of Phelps, the past week.

An entertainment will be given February 14 by the Young People's society of St. Patrick's church, Mumford.

### Dansville News.

Miss Elizabeth Schubmehl is visiting in Rochester.

Miss Kittie Powers has gone to Hornellsville for a few days' visit.

T. J. Daugherty and sister, Miss Sadie, spent a few days with friends in Rochester last week.

Miss Alice Rowan is visiting in Groveland.

St. Patrick's "Dramatic Club" goes to Cohocton next week to play "Uncle Jack" and "Hearing and Believing" at the Catholic church fair.

Mrs. Doran, grandmother of P. J. Donnelly, of this place, died at her home in Anover on Saturday. She was about 95 years old.

It seemed as though every society in connection with St. Patrick's church held a meeting on last Sunday. At early mass the Children of Mary received Holy Communion in a body. Father Day preached an eloquent sermon on the virtue of obedience, and after the high mass the Total Abstinence society held their regular meeting. Sunday school was held at 4 o'clock and vespers at 4:30. After vespers, the Children of Mary met, and at 7:30 the Young People's Society assembled to arrange a suitable programme to be carried out on the evening that the supper for the library fund is held.

### Geneseo News.

Miss Mary Mallon, of Rochester, has been spending the past week in this village with friends.

T. Costello and wife are rejoicing over the advent of a little stranger that came to live with them last Sunday. It's their first daughter.

The mission, which closed last Sunday evening, was a grand success in every respect—about 600 members of the parish receiving Holy Communion and 300 taking the temperance pledge. In the closing remarks of Rev. Father Doyle, in which he bid them farewell, he gave some good advice, and hoped that they would remember the promises made during the mission. There were many deeply affected.

Rev. Father Devin, who is a convert to the Catholic faith, was requested by several persons to tell why he became a Catholic, and he consented to speak on that subject last Monday evening at 8 o'clock. Long before that hour had arrived every seat was taken, people of all denominations being present, while a large number had to stand. The Rev. Father told them how he commenced to try and study the true church. His discourse was listened to with deep interest, and it made those of the congregation who heard it firmer in the belief that they were of the True Church; it gave our non-Catholic friends who were present a chance to study a little the early history of our religion. It was one of the finest lectures of the kind ever delivered in Geneseo.