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AT CORPUS CHRISTI.

CONFIRMATION OF ADULTS BY THE RT. REV. BISHOP.

Close of the Very Successful Mission—28 Men and 19 Women Confirmed—Eloquent and Instructive Addresses by Bishop McQuaid.

A large and thoughtful congregation filled the beautiful little church of Corpus Christi to overflowing Sunday afternoon last. It was the occasion of the visit of Bishop McQuaid to confirm a class of adults. The effects of the mission were to be seen in the earnest and happy faces of those assembled and the close attention with which they listened to the soul-stirring words of the Bishop.

At 4 o'clock the Bishop, vested in cope and mitre, and attended by Revs. F. C. Oberholzer of Holy Redeemer Church and J. J. Leary, rector of Corpus Christi, appeared on the altar. Turning to the congregation the Bishop spoke as follows:

"Among the many blessings brought upon a parish by a successful mission is the confirmation of those adults, who have been brought up in thinly settled regions where there was no bishop or where the parishes were far apart. So it happened where the Ordinary paid his visitation, all in the parish were not prepared to receive this great sacrament. Before he came again, they had, perhaps, removed to other scenes. In the march of time, they thought less of the sacrament and so grew up to mature years, without enjoying the blessings it confers. You, dear children, have passed the bright and promising age when children love to receive this sacrament. But better now than later; better now than never. The Sacrament of Confirmation is not to be treated lightly. All the sacraments left by Christ to his children are precious in value from the sacrament of Baptism imparted to the infant to that which sends the old man to meet the judgment of his life spent here. Who is there that has not forgotten himself? Who is there that has not fallen away from God? Who is there can lay claims to being Immaculate? What could we do without the Eucharist to strengthen us in our walk through life, that Christ Himself gives us as a proof of the craving desire of his soul to hold us to Himself? There is no one who, when tempted, is not weak enough to fall.

"To be sure, we can be saved without the Sacrament of Confirmation. But what graces we lose; what risks we take; we deprive ourselves of the light and grace placed by Christ in this Sacrament of Confirmation. God wanted to show to us His love, that love which was shown so strongly on the Cross love creeps out in all his actions while on earth. He wishes to bury us to life everlasting with Himself in heaven. Christ knew every one of the dangers we are exposed to by the enemies of His cause, His religion; so, in His mercy, He left us this sacrament for our salvation. He knew the devil would try to darken and obscure the faith in the minds of His followers. You know how this world is filled with temptation. You will not go far without hearing the scoffs and sneers of unbelievers. Who are these unbelievers? What are they in comparison with Christ, God Infinite, who made us, our Lord Creator, Master! What are they in comparison with God who rules in heaven and earth? Yet listen to their debased and vulgar talk. When we hear a child speak disrespectfully of its father and mother we look amazed at the impudent little thing. How should we feel when these miserable creatures, who are in

sects, presume to raise their puny voices against the God of Heaven!

"The gift of faith is given us by God. You who have been brought up in the church, you whose parents have grounded you in your religion, know the church, know the Cross on its brow, the altar within and the truths implanted therein. You believed, nay would have died for, those doctrines. But when you go out from the church and mingle with the crowd things are said and arguments advanced that you cannot answer at the time. You know they are wrong; if you had the books, or the priest was at hand, you could soon answer them; as it is you cannot. It is not necessary to have an answer to those miserable blasphemers, to every devil of hell that comes to deride and belittle Jesus Christ's teachings. Some are afraid to hear others maligning the holy truths of our religion; they listen to calumnious falsehoods, which they cannot answer and say they are sorry the Catholic religion teaches such things. It is not the religion, not the Pope, bishop or priest who teaches, but Jesus Christ Himself. The Pope, Bishop and priests merely announce God's truth as it has been delivered to them. When we hear people sneaking away from God's truth, we should pity such poor souls. They are not like the martyrs of old who died in great numbers, rather than deny Christ. In the olden days when they were baptized, confirmed, the priests and bishops told them they would meet enemies who would deride God's truths and compel them to do likewise under penalty of death; the faithful were told to stand firm and they did so. This is the kind of faith we must have.

"Dear children, when you receive the Holy Ghost, He will bring you what you most stand in need of. Nothing should cause you to be cowardly. Thank God, you have come so far unscathed. Now God has removed all sin from you and with believing minds and earnest souls you will receive this great sacrament. Now I will stretch out my hands over you and, as I am a bishop of God's Church, a successor of the Apostles, to whom it is appointed to administer the sacrament of confirmation, raising my hands, will call down from Heaven the Holy Spirit. At my word for so Christ hath said, the curtain will open and the Holy Ghost will come, not into this church, not near you, but into each soul; He will enter into that soul and give you heavenly graces, as you are prepared; if you need much you will receive it.

Having invoked the Holy Ghost, I will mark upon your foreheads the sign of the cross. I sign thee with the sign of the Cross and confirm thee with the Chrism of salvation, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. At the same time I will give you a slight tap on the side of the cheek, saying, 'Peace be with thee,' thus reminding you that the peace of Jesus Christ will be with you always if you are faithful. You will now raise your whole hearts to God and you will pray for yourselves. All gathered here will unite with you in asking God to so bless you that all the powers of hell will not weaken your faith.

The congregation then united in reciting with the pastor, Rev. J. J. Leary, the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, and the Creed.

The confirmation class, composed of 28 men and 19 women, marched up to the altar rail and received the sacrament.

Afterwards the Bishop addressed the class as follows: "Christ has done as He has promised; He has received you as His children and given you these graces. You must now

not only know His law but you must be wise enough to follow it; you must be brave and defend it. The fear of God keeps many from going astray. There are those miserable cowards who would do wrong if it were not for fear of man. But the fear of God is both in light and darkness; He is on the street and in the house. A man will be afraid to sin wherever he may be, if he has the fear of God in his heart. No matter what be the example of others, we should stand up for God. How many in Rochester have fallen away; who go to mass but seldom, perhaps only on Christmas and Easter and some of the more important festivals. They have lost the graces of confirmation; they have not fallen away entirely, perhaps, but they have but a faint hand clasp upon God's grace; they are in danger of eternal damnation. A man is greatly to be pitied when he first starts to go down. What are you going to do in the future? God will help you if you ask Him, but you are perfectly free to go your own way if you wish. You may tell the Holy Ghost you don't want him; you may go astray as soon as you leave the church. No one is going to kick you into heaven. Religion is soft and persuasive, not harsh; it is from heaven and God-given; therefore, if we fall away, it is our own fault. You should study your catechism thoroughly; we priests study all our lives and when we come to the end, if we know the catechism thoroughly we know a great deal. These are some people who go upon a platform and give Almighty God instructions how to run the universe. God hates proud arrogant people; He loves the humble man. Dear children knowing your catechism is not enough you must live up to its teachings. You have had impressed upon you in this mission the importance of morning and evening prayer. When you feel as if you did not want to pray, then you should be afraid. When you are in a room with non-Catholics, then is the time you should be most mindful of your prayers. You should make the sign of the Cross larger than ever. Never be afraid to own you are a true soldier of Jesus Christ. You must go to mass every Sunday and keep holy the Sabbath day. By this I do not mean that you must not take innocent recreation, but I do say you will not find recreation in saloons. There is where they sneer at Pope and Bishop; there is where they breed infidelity. Receive the sacraments and then when the last hour is come, the priest will not be summoned in dread, but in peace. He will hear your confession and give you absolution; then fortify your soul with the sacred Viaticum to cheer you in your journey to another world. Hold fast the gifts you have this day received from God."

Sunday evening the mission closed. A large congregation of men was present. An eloquent address was delivered by Father LeFevre. The Bishop also spoke of the good accomplished at the mission and complimented Corpus Christi for its work. Among those present were Revs. J. J. Leary, J. P. Kiernan, F. C. Oberholzer, M. J. Hargather, William Gleeson, Frank O'Donoghue, C. M. The choir rendered some very fine music, especially the "Tantum Ergo," a sextette for male voices composed by Mrs. J. Vogt.

De Rossi, the most celebrated archaeologist in the world, announces the discovery in the diocese of Algiers of an ancient altar, containing relics, which are described in an inscription; the date is A. D. 359. Among the relics is mentioned a piece of the true cross, which was found A. D. 335.

AROUND THE GLOBE.

What the Church is Doing in this and Other Continents.

The pope has conferred the order of Christ upon Dr. Windthorst, leader of the German clerical party.

Rev. Father Malone, of St. Peter and Paul's Church, Brooklyn, will shortly celebrate his seventy-ninth birthday. He has had charge of this parish since 1844.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Phelan will make a visit to Rome some time this month. He has long contemplated this visit, but has been prevented by the pressure of arduous duties at home.

The Sisters of Mercy of Ukiah, Mendocino county, Cal., have opened a school for the instruction of the Indians in their vicinity. At present their class-room is in the open air.

Joseph Haworth, the eminent actor at present starring with marked success in Paul Kean's, is a devoted and sincere Catholic. So are Mary Anderson Mlle. Rhea and Frederick Paulding.

As the result of General Simmons negotiations with the Vatican it has been arranged that Malta shall be a center whence to dispatch Catholic missionaries to places in the east and in Africa hitherto in the hands of foreign missionaries.

The consultants of the arch-diocese of Milwaukee have forwarded three names to Rome, from which a successor to the late Arch-bishop may be chosen. The three Bishops of the province, Rt. Revs. Flasch, Katzer and Vertin, have done likewise.

On Easter Sunday morning, the cable informs us, three thousand men received Holy Communion in Notre Dame, Paris. This was the result of a week's mission given exclusively for men in that church by Pere Monsabre.—*Watchman*.

After a long contest, which has stretched over years and has provoked great dissensions inside the Parnellite party, the bill to close saloons in Ireland all day on Sundays has passed a second reading in the Commons by an enormous majority and will soon become a law. Nationalists and teetotalers pushed the measure forward.

Monsieur Kopp, the Bishop of Breslau, Germany, insists upon the necessity of founding Catholic clubs for workmen throughout the diocese as a barrier to the socialist propaganda. Several of leading Catholics of the district have offered their help to the Bishop to carry his proposal into effect.

Bishop Fitzgerald, of Little Rock, Ark., gives information that there are in his diocese five schools for colored children. There are on the roll of these schools 360 pupils and there is an average daily attendance of 300. There are five religious communities exclusively devoted to the diocese to the teaching of colored children, viz.: two houses of Sisters of St. Joseph; one house of Sisters of Mercy; one house of Sisters of Charity; and one house of Sisters of St. Benedict.

Mr. Robert Louis Stevenson, author of the story of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," writes home from Samoa: "I visited Molokai about fortnight after the death of Father Damien. It is a fearful place to live in, and reminds one of a walking nightmare. It would be one altogether for a visitor to spend more than an hour there were it not for the Catholic Sisters, but it is worth while going through the ordeal to see them mowing about among the stricken lepers, like angels of light and mercy, as, indeed, they are."

Archbishop Corrigan.

Letters from Mount Carmel, under date Laetare Sunday, March 16, tell of the arrival at the sanctuary of Archbishop Corrigan and party, who having somewhat changed their plans, proposed to leave Mount Carmel by steamer from Haifa Monday night March 17, to reach Beyrout the following morning at daybreak. Thence they proceed to Balbec and Damascus, Constantinople, Athens, Brindisi and Rome, at the latest. The entire journey has been most pleasant in every respect. Two weeks were devoted to the city and environs of Jerusalem visiting daily some new sanctuary, under the able guidance of the celebrated Frere Lievin de Hamme, long resident in Palestine. From Jerusalem they proceeded overland to Nazareth, spending four days en route in accomplishing a distance of eighty miles.

On the way they passed a night at Bethel, lunched at Silo, went through Samaria, etc. Sunday, March 9, was spent on the Sea of Galilee, the scene of so many of the miracles of the public life of our Divine Lord. The very spot where He said to Peter: "Feed My lambs; feed My sheep." The place where He fed 5,000 men with a few loaves and small fishes. Near by is the "Mount of the Beatitudes," Bethesda, His own City, and other hallowed memories. Monday brought them to Cana, and Tuesday to Mount Carmel, where they met with every attention and kindness from the good Fathers. They visited St. John of the Acre, the last stronghold of the Crusaders in Palestine, now a miserable wreck of former greatness.

Catholic Journalism.

In his letter to the director of the *Revista Popular*, of Barcelona, the Holiness treats of the duties of Catholic journalists, recommending concord and unity among the colleagues of the press; deference and proper submission to episcopal authority; stigmatizing the indulgence in private acrimony; under pretext of defending religion, to the grave injury of faith and charity; and laments the too oft abuse made of Papal utterances and letters breathing in themselves equal good will to all—to inveigh against those who are of different opinion on political and public matters, and thereby foment party strife and blame worthy dissensions.—*"E" in Cath. Home*.

The friends of private schools, the advocates of parental rights, ask only justice and fair play. They seek no favors. They stand on their constitutional rights. They interfere with no one who patronizes the public schools. Belonging to different churches, they merge all religious differences and questions of church doctrine and discipline in the one general principle common to all men, whether they profess religion or not, that there are parental rights with which the State cannot interfere, and among these rights there are none more sacred and inalienable than the right to educate their children, to choose for them the school they shall deem the best and the teachers to whom they can with fullest confidence entrust the instruction and training of their children. Let the demands of parents who prefer private schools be fairly stated, let their objections to the present compulsory law be discussed with candor; let the issue be truthfully and correctly presented, and we feel not the result.—*Catholic Home*.

The Holy Father, who is Supreme Patron of the Catholic University of Freiburg, has appointed the Dominican Father Joaquin Professor of the Chair of Sacred Literature in the same University.