

THE HOLY MOUNTAIN

ITS SOLEMN ASCENT BY THE CANDIDATE FOR PRIESTHOOD.

The Sacred Stages by which the Candidate for Ordination into the Church of God Attains the Holy Privilege of Celebrating Mass.

In treating of the minister whose duty and whose privilege it is to offer the holy sacrifice it is well to offer what solemn stages he arrives at the mountain of God. After due probation he is formally admitted to the clerical body by the ceremony of holy unction. He now sets aside the ignominious garb of the world while the Pontifical robes upon him the distinctive robe of the cleric. With the dress of the world he also sets aside all worldly hopes and ambitions, declaring that henceforth the Lord shall be his portion, his cup and his inheritance.

This separated from the world, he reaches the first stage in his ascent of the mountain of the Lord. Another period of study and preparation and he is, if found worthy, called to the office of ostiarius. It is the duty of ostiarius to ring the bell which calls the faithful to worship, to open the door of the church to the worthy and close it upon the unworthy.

Another probation with more study and deeper introspection and he attains to the second of the lesser orders—he is made lector. He is now privileged to sing during the hours of divine office the canonical lessons and to prepare the bread and fruit fruits offered by the faithful. In due season he is promoted to the office of exorcist. Another canonical period and the fourth and last of the lesser orders is bestowed upon him. He is made acolyte, whose privilege it is to enter the sanctuary, adjust the lights and prepare the water and wine for the sacrifice.

He has now reached the fifth stage in his ascent of the holy mountain. He has entered the holy of holies. But if the atmosphere is too rare for his carnal nature he may yet retrace his steps—he may descend and dwell with the multitude upon the plain. If he finds, however, that with God's grace, he can go on he is once again ushered into the presence of the bishop who stands ready to elevate him to the sub-deaconate. But this the prelate will not do till he has reminded the candidate again and again to reflect upon the awful step which he is about to take. Before proceeding to the ordination the celebrant bids the young man reflect again and again while it is yet time, for once a subdeacon he cannot recede. The words fall solemnly upon the ears of the trembling candidate. But with God given firmness he takes the final step which makes him forever the slave of the sanctuary, while with an oath he voluntarily binds himself to a life of perpetual chastity.

It is now his blessed privilege to handle the sacred vessels which are consecrated by contact with the body and blood of the Lord. Every step in this long series has brought him nearer to the holy of holies—nearer to the Blessed Sacrament. A higher stage is reached. He is ordained deacon. Now it is his privilege to touch not alone the sacred vessels, but the divine victim itself, for in the absence of the priest the deacon must bear the Blessed Sacrament to the sickroom and place the Sacred Host upon the lips of the dying. The deacon may also be allowed to baptize and to preach.

The ceremonial of the church is never more imposing or more majestic than when the Levite is promoted to the sacerdotal order. The candidate is called forth. The archdeacon, addressing the bishop, says, "Most Rev. Father, our Holy Mother, the Catholic Church, asks that you ordain this deacon here present to the burden of the priestly office. To whom the bishop responds, "Do you know that he is worthy?" The archdeacon replies, "As far as human ken, I know and do testify that he is worthy to bear the burden of this office." To which the pontiff answers, "Thanks be to God."

Then turning solemnly to the candidate the ordaining prelate says: "Beloved son, you are now to be consecrated in the priestly office. See to it that you receive it worthily and worthily discharge its obligations, for know you that it is the office of the priest to offer sacrifice to bless, to preside at divine worship, to preach and to baptize. It is with the greatest fear that you should advance to this eminence. You are to stand among the faithful of God's church even as the seventy-two ancients among the people of Israel."

The bishop's words go burning to the soul of the candidate. The longed for moment has come—he has reached the very summit of the mountain of God. The benediction of all the powers of heaven is called down upon him. Anon he is lifted up and robed in priestly garments. The horn of God's ointment is poured out upon him. An oath goes forth in heaven. The Lord hath sworn him a priest—a priest forever, a priest according to the order of Melchisedec. Yes, a priest whose duty and whose privilege it is to offer up the sacrifice of the new law and to preside in the tribunal of penance, to offer the sacrifice of the Body and Blood of Christ and to pronounce sentences which shall be ratified in heaven. Who is he, O Thou three Holy God, that he should dare to call Thee down to earth? Who is he, though all beholding Judge, that he should dare to sit in judgment of the world which Thou hast redeemed with Thy most precious blood? Can man do these things and live? Yes, for it is God's will. It is God's work.

Around the Globe

Catholic News From Many Places

The Rt. Rev. James Davis, consecrated Bishop of Milopotamos in 1904, will succeed the late Mgr. Cosgrove as Bishop of Davenport.

Report has it that the Countess Markuer of the Russian embassy at Washington, and a recent convert to the Church, will enter the Sisters of Mercy Order in Paris.

The late Miss Barbara Daly, who died recently at Biarritz, left \$10,000 to the Sisters of Charity, Dublin, and several bequests of \$5,000 to the Irish Jesuits Fathers for charitable purposes.

His Catholic Majesty, King Menelik of Ethiopia, has designated the Abbe Matheson, prior of the convent in the Tigre, the ecclesiastical Superior of the Abyssinian colony, in Jerusalem.

The committee of the Labor Exchange at Oberbourg has voted in favor of demanding from the municipality, which is Socialist the use of the Cathedral Presbytery as headquarters of the exchange.

The United States will have, this year, its first international Eucharistic Congress. It will convene at Pittsburg in the Autumn. His Holiness, Pius X. will send a representative in the person of His Eminence, Cardinal Serafino Vannutelli. The preliminary preparations will be made at a Conference of the Priests' Eucharistic League of the diocese of Pittsburg.

The Revs Wenceslaus Kinold, O. F. M., of Fulda, Thuringia, and Mauritius Bertin, O. F. M., of Paris, France, are on their way to Sapporo, North Japan, where, after an interruption of three hundred years, they will reopen the Franciscan missions. The Franciscans will have charge of several large missions in Japan.

The Rev. John Hennessy, C.S.C. who was ordained a few days ago in the college chapel of Holy Cross College, Washington, by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Curtis, has left for India, which will be the future scene of his priestly labors. Father Hennessy comes of a religious family. A brother, Rev. Thomas Hennessy, C.S.C., is a priest, while three sisters, two aunts and several cousins are members of the Holy Cross Sisterhood.

Carlisle Institute, which was established at Carlisle, Pa., in 1879, for the higher education of the Indian, and in which the notorious Captain Pratt once flourished, may possibly be abolished. The subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Indian appropriation bill under consideration, has agreed to report an amendment striking out the appropriation for this school. The reason advanced by the members of the committee is that a school so far away from Indian reservations is not so effective as the western educational institutions for the Indians.

Speaking of Cardinal Gibbons, a Baltimore priest says that during the forty-five years of his ministry, Cardinal Gibbons has never been ill enough to omit the daily recitation of his breviary. "If everybody adopted the cardinal's regime as regards work, rest, worry and abstemiousness," says the priest, "the occupation of mental healers, faith-healers and health-faddists would have to deal only with the diseases incident to old age and accidents."

Cook Opera House.

The topline in the vaudeville programme announced for next week at the Cook Opera House, will be Mary Norman. This young woman is widely known for her exceptional talent in satirizing types common to "high society." The Baggesens, a troupe of crazy jugglers who do stunts a la Sam Elton, are down for rapid-fire stunts, both amusing and grotesque. One of the best of the monologists is Cliff Gordon, "The German Senator." The Sutcliffe Troupe will present dances of various nations in an act said to be instructive as well as entertaining. Henry and Alice Taylor promise an exhibition of sharp-shooting. The Orpheum Comedy Four is described as a comedy male quartette of average ability. Mullen and Corelli will have an acrobatic offering, in which they have all sorts of fun with a fake piano. Fortune and

Davis will have a little musical tar called "My Sweetheart," and the Kinetograph will show new pictures. This bill will be offered all the week with daily matinees.

Washington Letter

Bill Introduced Regarding Pensions

A bill of great importance to veterans—many of whom are Catholics—has just been introduced in the House. Its object is to remove the difficulties which pensioners had to overcome in getting their increase. Under the present law a pensioner is entitled to an increase of his pension when he reaches a certain age, but he must make a new application for it and go thru an endless amount of red tape and expense to get it. This is all nonsense. Even the officials at the Pension Office admit it, and favor the new bill, as it will also do away with a great deal of unnecessary work and expense.

Hon. Harry M. Coudrey, the able and energetic representative from St. Louis, prepared the bill and is going to put it thru with a rush. The text is as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in Congress assembled, That from and after the passage of this act, every pension granted to an officer or enlisted man of the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States on account of age alone as the pensioned cause, shall be increased to the amount to which the pensioner shall be entitled without making application therefor, from the date respectively on which such pensioner shall arrive at subsequent pensionable ages; and the Commissioner of Pensions is authorized and directed to adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this act.

Scandal upon scandal is breaking out in the Indian office here. Trouble has been brewing for some time and it was not the unexpected that happened when it boiled over. Congress is, in fact, sick and tired of the whole Indian business, and the conviction is being forced upon it that a huge blunder was perpetrated when the education of the Indian children was taken out of the hands of the Catholic mission schools. It is, of course, self-evident that, if the country wishes to enjoy the A.P.A. dance it must pay the fiddler, and that is what it is doing now.

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