

## CITY PARISH NEWS

## Interesting Budget of Happenings

## Gathered by Our City Reporters

## St. Bridget's.

The solemn high masses Christmas at midnight and 10.30 o'clock were celebrated by Father O'Donoghue and Father Burns respectively. Rev. Mr. Sullivan being deacon and Mr. Geo. McCall, both of St. Bernard's Seminary, sub-deacon. We were pleased to have our pastor, Father Kavanaugh, with us, he returned Christmas Eve. The choir under the direction of Edw. McCall, Miss Agnes Madden presiding at the organ, rendered Schmidt's mass. Little Lillian Bell sang "The Adeste Fidelis." The altars were beautifully decorated with palms and cut flowers.

An earnest appeal for the proper preparation for Christmas in a spiritual manner, was made by Father Burns of St. Bernard's, last Sunday. Prayers were requested Sunday for Mrs. Mahoney and Mr. Connors.

The announcements for this week were, a card party in the school house. Friday evening under the direction of Mrs. Harrigan and on the same evening, a card party at the home of the Misses Lennon on Payne Street.

Miss F. Blanche Drury assisted St. Mary's choir upon Christmas day.

Next Monday evening, a musical under the auspices of Miss Nellie Riley and Miss Celia Ryan, will be given at Augustine's Hall, corner of Clinton Avenue North and Hand Street.

Next Wednesday, feast of the Circumcision and New Year's day will be a holy day of obligation.

Next Friday will be the first Friday, masses will be celebrated at 5.30 and 7.30 a. m.

Branch 27, L. C. B. A., will meet Friday evening, the officers for 1908 will be installed.

## St. Mary's.

Emmet Craig is home from Conesus College at Buffalo, spending the holidays with his parents.

Dr. L. J. Somers is visiting at his home at Glen Falls, N. Y.

An anniversary mass was read Monday morning for Father Leary.

The funeral of Thomas Williams took place Tuesday morning from St. Mary's Church at 9 o'clock.

## Immaculate Conception.

The church was decorated tastefully and beautifully for the feast of Christmas. Special music was prepared by the choir for the occasion and the attendance at all masses was good.

A pupil of the seventh grade of this school, Anna Mae Daly, was buried from this church on Monday morning. The mass was sung by her classmates.

Mrs. T. Donoghue, nee Margaret E. Monaghan, of 41 1/2 Tremont St., was buried from this church on Thursday morning.

Next Sunday will be communion Sunday for the members of the Rosary Society. There will be a meeting of this society at 4 p. m.

A meeting of the Alumni was held on last Sunday, at which the officers for the ensuing year were elected and the banquet was set to be held on February 19th and the reception February 26th.

There was a large meeting of the Young Men's Society last Sunday. Officers were elected for the ensuing year and the society donated ten dollars to the Ladies' Aid. A committee was appointed to arrange for the annual banquet.

School will be reopened January 6th.

## St. Peter and Paul.

Solemn high mass was celebrated at midnight on Christmas by Rev. E. Y. Gefell, and solemn high mass by Rev. F. Scheidt at 9 o'clock.

A month's mind requiem mass was celebrated on Monday morning for Rev. Dr. Sinclair.

An anniversary requiem mass was said on Tuesday morning for Mrs. Ellen Amering.

On Thursday morning the feast of St. Stephen a high mass was celebrated for the members of the Altar Society.

The regular meeting of St. Peter's Society will be held Monday evening, December 30th, at 8 p. m.

Installation of officers of Branch 62, L. C. B. A., will take place Thursday evening, January 2d. The prizes at the last meeting were won by Hattie Bletty first and Josie Dentinger second.

The Pedro club met at the home of Miss Lena Erstein, on Ames St., last Friday evening. The prizes were won by Gertrude Mason, first; Elizabeth Dentinger, second; Margaret Mason, third; Anna Haubner, fourth. Next meeting will be held at the home of Miss Mason, on Maple St.

St. Michael's.  
Sunday morning at 7.30 o'clock the Young Ladies Sodality will receive communion.

The Christmas services were well attended.

A month's mind mass requiem mass was read for Mr. Gerhard Schaffer.

School will be closed until January 6th.

The funeral of Mr. George Kamb will take place Friday morning at 9 o'clock. He was a member of St. Anthony's Benevolent Society.

## Washington Letter.

Secretary William H. Taft and the Philippines.

There is perhaps no better time than the present to review the history of the Philippines since their occupation by the Americans, and to record the work of Governor Taft and his attitude toward the Church during the period of the political reconstruction of these islands.

In doing this it will be best to rely only on the official records, and on the statements of those whose authority cannot be questioned. Even those who have attacked Secretary Taft at different times for being hostile to the Church, have been compelled to silence by the overwhelming testimony against them, but there are still some charges to which they cling with unaccountable obstinacy. One of these charges is that Secretary Taft favored the expulsion of the friars, and the other is to the effect that he encouraged Aglipay in his efforts to establish the Independent Filipino Church.

As to the expulsion of the friars, the charges made at this late day seem almost ludicrous, for, in the words of Secretary Root:

"The veriest tyro in the law knows that there is no shadow of a constitutional pretext by which the friars, or any other body of men, can be expelled from American territory."

And the Secretary adds:

"I am well aware that the Filipinos are a Catholic people, who cherish their religious convictions very deeply and very tenderly. They depend upon the Church for which they have so profound a respect. As one who has at least some slight knowledge of the Filipino mind, gathered from the reports of observers, I am convinced that, beyond the shadow of a doubt, the Filipino is unalterably a Catholic. To speak of nothing else, the great beauty of your ceremonial attracts him. The austere bareness of the Quaker meeting-house or the average conventicle of the Protestant denomination would make no appeal to his nature and the drift of his sympathies. The Filipino is a Catholic and I am convinced that he will remain a Catholic. The Catholic Church is, and ought to remain, an important element in the life, peace, prosperity and progress of the Philippine Islands."

## The Schools.

"Now, with regard to the school question. You have again my unqualified assurance that the government is acting with absolute fairness and good faith. If you believe that the number of Catholic district superintendents is small, you must remember that we had difficulty in securing Catholic teachers qualified by experience for the positions. Neither must the fact be ignored that Father McKinnon is a member of the school board of Manila, whose work and whose influence are of very decisive importance. Then, too, in the heat of the discussion, the fact is sometimes pressed out of view that out of an aggregate of 5,000 teachers in the Philippine public schools, 3,500 are Catholics. This, to my mind, is one of the most significant facts in the situation."

These words of the Secretary of War are ratified and supplemented by Archbishop Ireland. It would seem almost a work of supererogation to quote the archbishop on this subject, but at this time, when Secretary Taft stands before the American people as a possible candidate for the presidency, it is not more than just and right to present his work in the Philippines exactly as it was carried out, and not as he was reported by his political enemies to have carried it out. For this purpose I shall quote Archbishop Ireland, and if anyone wishes a better authority I would be pleased to have it named. On the all-important mission of Mr. Taft to the Holy Father, the archbishop has this to say:

## Governor Taft at Rome.

"Yes, the news from Rome is quite satisfactory, and, I am sure, quite correct. Private advice coming to me from the most reliable source, confirm in all respects the dispatches given by the Associated Press. The sovereign Pontiff and other Roman authorities are delighted with Governor Taft personally, and with the negotiations in course of progress between him and the Vatican. Reports sent out by the correspondents of

certain London papers to the effect that the Pontiff was displeased with the manner of acting of the commission of cardinals appointed to treat with Governor Taft, were absolutely unfounded. The Pontiff assured Governor Taft that he was most satisfied and happy as to the results so far obtained, and that he was confident the negotiations begun in Rome would be the starting-point of a complete and satisfactory solution of the question under discussion."

Ought to Silence Complainers.  
On this subject Archbishop Ireland says:

"And now it is to be hoped there will be among certain classes of Catholics in America a cessation of movements and declarations such as we have had recent occasion to hear of regarding religious matters in the Philippines. The Pope teaches these Catholics to trust the American government, which they seemingly have heretofore been unwilling to do. His words ought to signify something to those who profess to take him as their leader and guide. At any rate, the direction of Catholic affairs is his business, and not of irresponsible Church societies or newspaper editors; and when he informs Catholics that any one matter is in his hands, they ought to step aside promptly, and allow him to take charge of it."

## Father McKinnon on Taft.

The Rev. W. D. McKinnon, of Manila, a priest who lived at the time in the archiepiscopal palace at Manila, writes as follows regarding Governor Taft:

"I can assure you nothing could be more unjust than the criticism of Governor Taft appearing in some Catholic papers. Governor Taft has not a particle of bigotry in his makeup. In all his acts here I defy anyone to say that he has shown himself prejudiced in the least."

## Some Wrong-Doing.

All this does not mean that here and there individuals concerned in one way or another with the government in the islands did not say or do things unfair to Catholics. What should be emphasized is that such individuals did not, in what they were saying or doing, represent the government, and that if their wrong-doing had been duly reported to the government, it would have been summarily repressed.

Secretary Taft Before the Senate Committee.

While I have quoted Secretary Taft's official statement regarding the question of Church property in the Philippines on a former occasion, I will here repeat it briefly. When asked at a hearing of the Senate regarding the title of the Catholic Church to its property he said:

"I think that Congress might well vest in the Commission, with the supervision of the President and Secretary of War, power to make legal conveyances of the land which in equity belongs to the Catholic Church. When I say the churches and convents (priests' houses) stand upon public property, I ought to explain that under the Spanish rule the connection between the Church and the State was so close that it was not thought important to take the title out of the State and put it into the Church, before a church or convent was erected. My own judgment as a lawyer about the title is that the purpose in erecting these buildings was that they should be devoted to the uses of the Church, and therefore, whatever the title is in law, in equity they belong to the Church for the benefit of the Catholic people of the parish. I think that such conveyance would show that the United States has no desire to deprive the Church of properties that belong to it for its purposes. What we all wish to do, of course, is justice, and what the people of these islands have had the least of, is impartial justice."

"I think" (speaking of the title of the friar lands), "it may be said generally, as we said in our first report, that the title of the friars to those lands is, as a legal proposition, indisputable."

With this we can rest the case of Secretary Taft, and leave it to the judgment of the intelligent and impartial people of this country.

E. L. SCHARF, Ph. D.

## The Delights of the Dance

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While completing your list of New Year's Gifts, remember we have the most appropriate articles you can give, such as: Opera Glasses, Field Glasses, Gold Eyeglasses and Spectacles, Reading Glasses, Lorgnettes, fancy and plain Thermometers, Barometers, Magnifying and Shaving Mirrors, Kodaks and Brownie Cameras.

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## Report of the Comptroller of the Currency The National Bank of Commerce

At Rochester, in the State of New York.  
At the Close of Business, Dec. 31, 1907.

ASSETS	
Loans and discounts	\$3,000,000.00
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured	100,000.00
Premium on U. S. Bonds	100,000.00
Other bonds to secure U. S. Deposits	100,000.00
U. S. Bonds to secure circulation	100,000.00
Real estate, mortgages, etc.	100,000.00
Banking houses, furniture and fixtures	100,000.00
Due from national banks (not reserve agents)	100,000.00
Due from state banks and bankers	100,000.00
Due from approved reserve agents	100,000.00
Checks and other cash items	100,000.00
Exchanges for clearing houses	100,000.00
Notes of other national banks	100,000.00
Fractional paper currency, tickets and coins	100,000.00
Lawful money reserve in bank, viz:	
Specie	\$100,000.00
Legal tender notes	100,000.00
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer (5 per cent. of circulation)	100,000.00
Total	\$4,000,000.00
LIABILITIES	
Capital stock paid in	\$1,000,000.00
Surplus fund	100,000.00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid	100,000.00
National bank notes outstanding	100,000.00
Due to other national banks	100,000.00
Due to state banks and bankers	100,000.00
Due to trust companies and savings banks	100,000.00
Due to approved reserve agents	100,000.00
Dividends unpaid	100,000.00
Individual deposits subject to check	100,000.00
Demand certificates of deposit	100,000.00
Certified checks	100,000.00
Cashier's checks outstanding	100,000.00
United States deposits	100,000.00
Total	\$4,000,000.00

State of New York, County of Monroe, ss:  
I, Thomas J. Brennan, Cashier of the above-named bank, do hereby swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31st day of December, 1907.  
Correct—Attest:  
WILLIAM DEININGER  
HENRY B. HATHAWAY  
ALBERT J. BOLTON, Directors.

WE wish to thank the Catholic people of Rochester Diocese for the patronage bestowed upon us during the Christmas holidays. The largest in our history. We extend all our best wishes for a happy New Year.

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Weekly Payment Jewellers  
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\$6.00—Velvet Couch with back, pillow, and fringe all around.  
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