

Subscribe For
the only Catholic
Paper published
in the Diocese
\$1.00 a Year

The Catholic Journal

Twenty-sixth Year, No. 17

Rochester, N. Y., Friday, June 11, 1931

Priest Heads National Charities.

Rev. Francis Gavisk Elected President by Conference.

A Resume of His Work in Indiana.

For the first time in its history the National Conference of Charities and Corrections has elected a Catholic priest as its president. At its recent gathering in Baltimore Rev. Francis B. Gavisk, pastor of St. John's Church, Indianapolis, and chancellor of the diocese of which that city is the see, was chosen for that office by the conference. That the honor was well deserved in this case is well known to those who have been associated with Father Gavisk in his charitable work. As pastor of a large parish located in a central portion of the city, comprising within its confines many members of the poorer working classes, he has had much work of this nature to demand his attention and energies and has labored to accomplish it in a quiet way, which, however, has been so efficient as to receive undesired notice and publicity.

His zeal has not allowed him to merely confine his endeavors to the necessities of his parish. He is responsible for the introduction of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the city where he is stationed, and in 1907 Governor Hanley of Indiana appointed him as a member of the State Board of Charities and Corrections, which is recognized as the most efficient in its work in the United States. On this board, charged with the visitation and supervision of private charitable institutions as well as the direction of the charitable establishments of the state, Father Gavisk has made a splendid reputation. He has also for many years been active in the meetings of the National Conference of Charities and Corrections, having served on several occasions as chairman of one of its various departments. In addition he has devoted much time and thought to the effort to better organize the Catholic charitable agencies in his city, so as to enable them to carry on their undertakings in a more satisfactory manner.

During the now famous strikes of the teamsters and street car men in Indianapolis, Father Gavisk was called upon to play an important role. As a member of the citizens' committee which investigated the grievances of the teamsters, he did excellent service in showing to the public that the strikes were justified in their demands. He also, in his public addresses to the strikers, at several times performed a noteworthy task in counseling them to moderation and coolness, while showing his sympathy for them and their cause in the irritating crisis. His stand on these occasions has won him the love and appreciation of the working classes of the Indiana capital.

It is a noteworthy fact in connection with Father Gavisk's election that the state of Indiana, which is now acknowledged to be the leading state in social work, having produced such well known social workers as Ernest Biaknell, of the Red Cross; Alexander Johnson, the authority on feeble-mindedness; Amos W. Butler, and many others, was first represented at the meetings of the National Conference by the Very Rev. August Bessonnes, Father Gavisk's predecessor as pastor of St. John's, and as well known in his time for his charitable endeavors. These two priests will long be remembered for their zeal and ceaseless energies in their work for their fellow men.

C. B. of C. V.

Church Events For June.

June: Month of the Sacred Heart.
Thursday, 6, Corpus Christi; Saturday, 5, St. Boniface; Friday, 11, Feast of the Sacred Heart; Monday, 14, St. Basil; Monday, 21, St. Aloysius; Friday, 25, Nativity of St. John Baptist; Tuesday, 29, St. Peter and Paul; Wednesday, 30, Commemoration of St. Paul.

Some Things Missionaries Have Done.

The following list of the achievements of the foreign missionary was taken from a Protestant magazine, but those achievements are not restricted to the Protestant sect; the Catholic apostles' work is too well known to need comment here.

They have made the name of Christ the best known name in the world.

They are proclaiming the Gospel in over ten thousand different places.

They have created a great system of Christian schools and colleges.

They have been the principle agents of relief in famines, and have made scientific investigation of the causes which lie at their root.

They have taught people habits of cleanliness and the laws of health, thus lessening the spread of plague and pestilence.

They have upheld the idea of the dignity of labor among those who regard toil as menial.

They have established a multitude of trade schools in which development of Christian character keeps pace with growth in manual skill.

They have helped to abolish human slavery and shown the Christian way of caring for the aged, orphans, blind, deaf mutes, insane and lepers.

They have lifted women from a condition of unspeakable degradation and trained a new generation of Christian mothers, wives, and daughters, who are making homes and introducing new ideals of social life.

They have reduced many strange tongues to writing and have created a literature for whole races, producing annually a vast amount of good reading in the shape of books, hymnals, and papers for all ages.

They have transformed the people of the Fiji Islands, Melanesia and other island groups from cannibals to civilized beings.

They have been the main agent in the extraordinary awakening of the people of China by which, turning their backs on the history of 4,000 years, they have adopted Western ideas in government, education, and commerce, and are showing an amazing readiness to receive the Gospel of Christ.

The victories of the past and the opportunities of the present constitute a sublime challenge to the Church for the conquest of the remaining strongholds of Islam and paganism. Such considerations as these should convince the people of our churches that we are indeed living in a new era of missionary work and that the hour of Christianity has struck for the non-Christian world.

The Undying Influence of St. Francis Xavier.

A Protestant woman missionary relating her experiences in Japan spoke of the wonderful influence St. Francis Xavier exercised over the country, and told the story which has so often appeared of late in our publications, regarding the preservation of the Faith by the early Catholics for three hundred years:

"The first question the Japanese put to our Protestant missionaries," she said, "is this: 'Are you a Catholic? Are you a disciple of Francis Xavier? Do your priests have wives? Do you believe in the Real Presence? Do you pray to the Blessed Virgin?' And being unable to receive satisfactory answers, they go away shaking their heads and will have none of us. The spirit of St. Francis Xavier lives. It is the greatest hindrance to our Protestant missionary effort," she said.

In a lecture at the French College, Rome, M. Rene Bazin, stated that France of last Autumn was a different country from the France of late years. The spirit of the whole country was changed; the religious spirit among the soldiers was amazing.

Women Missionaries Ask Help.

The Missionary Concessions of St. Augustine is a Belgian Sisterhood, having for its purpose the conversion of the pagans in various lands by various forms of good work.

Its members have schools in the West Indies, the Philippines and India. They also care for orphans, treat the sick poor in their homes and in hospitals and relieve distress under whatever form it may appear. A letter received from Sister D. Marie Louise, Superior General, who is now in Fredericksstad, St. Croix, Danish West Indies, tells in detail the present condition of some of the houses, and shows how Divine Providence comes to the aid of those who have faith, even at the eleventh hour.

At Fredericksstad, the Sisters had just ten cents left in the house and were wondering where the next meal was coming from, when a letter from Denmark arrived containing twenty-four dollars. This meant riches and lasted a long time, but not forever. Again the community looked upon its last few pennies, when the Danish people of New York sent an offering, and once more the wolf was chased from the door. It is on such days that daily bread is provided and the nuns are able to save a few more souls.

In Madura, India, the Sisters baptized 2,265 infants during 1914. They have a school there, but it is only a native structure covered with palm leaves, and threatens daily to collapse.

In Quilon the orphan asylum shelters four hundred children, but here again a new building is needed. Bishop Bessinger is not able to do much for the establishments in his diocese at present, and even a small amount would be appreciated by the nuns in Quilon or in their other missions.

Battling With an Army of White Ants.

When an army of white ants in Africa or India attack a dwelling (wooden) it surrenders at once. Many priests and nuns have written sad tales of how these pests had eaten their poor mission structures until they were no longer habitations. Not only do the ants eat the wood itself, but they devour furniture, clothing and everything in sight. They are said to be especially fond of boots and all articles made of leather.

Fr. J. M. Lamothe, P. F. M., is a poor apostle in Vikravandy, India, which place he describes as one of the vast districts of the Pondicherry archdiocese. It formerly had many Christians, but owing to numerous apostasies the number is reduced to about three thousand scattered in twenty-four villages. There is one chapel in the central station described by the Father as "quite beautiful in its youth," but it has become advanced in years and shows the ravages of time. In short, it now looks about mellow enough for the consumption of the white ants, so they have fallen upon it and will eat everything but the foundation and whatever iron may be about. What can Fr. Lamothe do, in the face of such odds, but ask for help to build a new church!

Weekly Church Calendar

Third Sunday after Pentecost.
Gospel, St. Luke xv., 1-10.
Sun. 13—St. Anthony of Padua, C.
Mon. 14—St. Basil the Great, B. C. D.
Tues. 15—St. Germaine Cousin, V.
Wed. 16—St. John Francis Regis, C.
Thurs. 17—St. Avitus, Pr. C.
Fri. 18—SS. Mark & Marcellianus, MM.
Sat. 19—St. Juliana Falconieri, V.



Rev. Leopold Hofschneider.

BISHOP LAYS CORNER-STONE

St. Mary's Church Edifice, at Danville, Will Cost \$50,000.

Danville, June 7.—The corner-stone of the new St. Mary's church here was laid at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon with impressive ceremonies conducted by Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas F. Hickey, of Rochester. The procession left the old rectory headed by the Board of Trade Band and marched to the site of the new church. In the line were St. Boniface Society; Danville Council, 785, K. of Columbus; St. Patrick's Council, 16, C. R. & B. A.; Branch 73, C. M. B. A., preceding the Bishop's carriage with Frank J. McNeill and Frank J. Blum as guard of honor.

The Bishop was assisted by 16 priests of the Rochester diocese, including Very Rev. Monsignor Meehan, of St. Bernard's Seminary, and the Revs. Joseph H. Geffel, of Wayland; M. Kraschell, A. Hughes, Edward J. Eschrich, Otto Geiger, M. J. Hargather, of Rochester; George E. Jones, Genesee; M. E. Wall, Danville; Father Veigen; Parkinville; Father Groden, Mt. Morris; Father Naughton, Father Shay, Hornell; Father Scheibe, Cohocton; Father Stemler, Elmira, and the pastor of the church, Rev. Leo Hofschneider.

The building, which will be completed early in the fall, will represent an expenditure of about \$50,000, a large part of which has already been collected. The rectory, a fine brick building in the Colonial style, will be ready for Father Hofschneider's occupancy in the fall, while the stately old brick White man home, just across the road, is being made over into a school, its spacious rooms lending themselves readily to the design of the architect. In the rear of the school a fine hall is to be erected.

Father M. J. Ward, of Beloit, Wis., President of the Catholic Prohibition League, 68 years old, six feet, six inches in height, died following a surgical operation.

In Cincinnati a "Fenwick Home" has been opened to provide the comforts of a home for Catholic young men deprived by death or otherwise of paternal roof.

Brooklyn's newest parochial school, that for the parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, has been completed at a cost of \$100,000 and opened. It has sixteen classrooms and accommodations for 960 pupils.

The new Bishop of St. Cloud, Minn., Mgr. Buech, has re-appointed all the old diocesan officials.

POPE WONT QUIT ROME.

Reports that Pope Benedict would leave Rome because of the entrance of Italy into the war have been formally denied at the Vatican. Premier Dato of Spain, acting for the Spanish government, placed at the Pope's disposal one of King Alfonso's palaces during the course of the war, but the Pontiff replied that he had no intention of leaving the Vatican.

Discussing the vexed question of the departure from Rome of representatives of belligerent countries accredited to the See, The Osservatore Romano, the Vatican organ, says:

"Admitting that the Italian government is under responsibility to the Holy See, such a step could not correspond to the dignity of their office. Their departure from Rome would be attributed merely to a new situation created by the participation of Italy in the war. The position of the Holy See is rendered so difficult that cannot easily be dealt with representatives of the belligerents, thus restricting the internationality which is so necessary for the Pope to carry out his mission to Christian Society."

Bishop Northrop of Charleston, S. C., is ill in Baltimore. On the 25th of June occurs his fifteenth anniversary of ordination. He has been Bishop of Charleston since January 27, 1888. In five years the See of Charleston will celebrate its centenary of establishment.

The new Sacred Heart Academy at Fargo, Minn., will be opened on June 15th, by Bishop O'Reilly. On the 21st of June the priests of that diocese will hold in it their annual retreat.

The new Church of the Holy Name at Racine, Wis., has been dedicated by Most Rev. E. G. Messinger, D. D. It cost \$95,000 and is a very handsome structure.

Philadelphia has a St. Ignatius House for unemployed men. They sleep there but do not eat there. The Archbishop pays the rent of \$40 a month.

Chicago is a city of parish churches. Within the memory of a lifetime Chicago has grown from one Catholic parish church to 216 parishes, each with churches, schools, halls and rectories, many of which are costly structures.

Work will start at once on the proposed new building for St. Ann's Home for the Aged on Old Bergen Road, Jersey City. The structure will cost about \$125,000 and will afford accommodations for 150 aged people.

Correspondents say that the popularity of priests in France is wonderful.

Very Rev. Charles J. ...
The Very Rev. ...
The Very Rev. ...
The Very Rev. ...

Very Rev. ...
The Very Rev. ...
The Very Rev. ...
The Very Rev. ...

Very Rev. ...
The Very Rev. ...
The Very Rev. ...
The Very Rev. ...

Very Rev. ...
The Very Rev. ...
The Very Rev. ...
The Very Rev. ...

Very Rev. ...
The Very Rev. ...
The Very Rev. ...
The Very Rev. ...

Very Rev. ...
The Very Rev. ...
The Very Rev. ...
The Very Rev. ...