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SATURDAY, JAN. 1901

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, January 15.—Gospel, St. Luke, ii: 42-52.—St. Veronica, martyr.
Monday, 16.—St. Hilary, bishop, confessor, and doctor of the Church.
Tuesday, 17.—St. Paul, his hermit.
Wednesday, 18.—St. Maclus, Pope and martyr.
Thursday, 19.—St. Anselm, abbot.
Friday, 20.—St. Peter's chair, Rome.
Saturday, 21.—St. Caute, king and martyr.

TWO TRAGEDIES.

The city of Rochester was visited by a terrible catastrophe Monday. The Rochester Orphan Asylum caught fire in some unknown manner, and before all the little orphans and their guardians could be gotten out of the place twenty-seven were either suffocated or burned to death. Since then four more have been added to the list, making thirty-one dead in all. Children, or in fact any number of adult people should not be housed under one roof without the protection of a watchman who should be required to pass all through the building every hour of the night. Such a precaution would undoubtedly have saved many lives at the Hubbell Park Asylum.

Three of our bravest firemen are dead and several more ill from the effect of acid fumes inhaled at the fire at the Kodak works on Monday. It seems to us that the chief in charge of such fires should have some knowledge of dangerous acids and thereby prevent untimely deaths.

WHAT IS IT TO BE A CATHOLIC?

An admirable definition of a Catholic was given by Rev. Louis A. Tierman, of Cincinnati, state trustee of the Catholic Knights of Ohio, on the occasion of the annual convention of that organization, in the course of an eloquent sermon delivered to the delegates. It was as follows: "Now I ask, what is it to be a Catholic? Go read the answer in the lives of men and women who for 1900 years have trod the ways of heroic virtue in the footsteps of the Crucified. Go study it in the calm and peaceful heroism of the early Christian martyrs, who laughed at the threats of tyrants, and prayed for his executioners as his life went out beneath the horrors of the tortures which he bore with joy rather than betray his God. Seek it up and down the ages, in every rank and station, from the monarch on the throne to the peasant in the field. Seek it in the hearts of nature's noble men and women where it shines with a beauty and lustre all its own and elevates their hearts above the ties of kindred and country, even to the Eternal God Himself—the centre and source of true Catholicity. Seek it and find it in the supernatural lives of men and women living to-day, living not alone in cloistered solitude, not alone at the foot of God's altar in constant adoration, nor alone in priestly robes, but even in the busy world of noise and wild distraction, in the marts of trade and in domestic care, where the lots of most of you are cast."

What is it to be a Catholic? It is to rest secure in the possession of eternal truth, in the certainty of being right, in the priceless privilege of not being blown about by every wind of doctrine. It is to live with the sunbeams of divine hope warming the human heart, and enlightening the human soul; to be a Catholic is to love God above all things and your neighbor as yourself. It is to live in a disposition of the highest charity, charity toward our neighbor; charity that stops not at a mere word, nor a mere association or promise, but that works itself out in acts, like those Godlike works.

It is to be a Catholic, faith, hope, charity, these are the fac-

The late Roger Wolcott, whom Massachusetts is mourning with unfeigned grief, did one thing for which every Catholic in America should honor him. When he was yet only lieutenant-governor, with a future before him, he made bold to challenge the A. P. A. in the heat of a campaign and in the heyday of their menace. At an important rally in Holyoke during the memorable campaign of 1895, the future governor said: "It seems to me that no greater injury can be done to the American people than in attempting to bring into our elections the bitter feeling of race and religious animosity. And I believe that whoever undertakes to do that—and I care not who began it, nor from which side it springs—I believe that whoever does that, does an injury to the Commonwealth, which I suppose he professes to love, and does love." Words like these may seem conservative enough now, but five years ago there were few in his own party who would have dared to make use of them while seeking office in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. They were recognized at the time by men of fairness and discernment as the pronouncement of a just and fearless man.

Archbishop Ryan states concerning the new Protectors for boys in his diocese that "the expense of the property and the building and the maintenance of the institution for two years up to the present time has been \$388,648.90, all of which has been paid. There are now over 300 boys within its walls, and with the building of dormitories, there will be accommodations for 300 more."

Rev. James P. Foy, founder of the new parish at Leicestershire, N. Y., was born at Norwich, N. Y. spent six years at the Troy provincial seminary and was ordained September 21, 1882, at the Syracuse cathedral. For two years he studied at the Catholic University of America and in 1884, was assigned as assistant at St. Patrick's, Binghamton, N. Y.

A writer in the New York Observer laments the disposition of the nobles of Saxony to abandon the faith of Luther and return to the Catholic communion. He says defections in the noble families, always considerate, are alarmingly on the increase these late years; the old age of the King and his zeal to make converts to his faith, and the immense popularity of Prince Max, who has become a priest, and whose influence especially with the ladies, is immense.

The Sulpician Fathers of Paris, of whom has been entrusted the control of the Archconfraternity for the Conversion of England, have commenced a quarterly publication.

Archbishop Croke has followed the example of Archbishop Walsh and sent a check to John E. Redmond for the Irish Parliamentary Fund.

Notwithstanding the warnings of his physicians as to the effect of the unusually severe weather, the Pope attended the Epiphany Te Deum at St. Peter's Sunday evening, January 6th. Fifty thousand persons enthusiastically acclaimed him.

Rev. Walter Elliott, the Paulist, and Father Kress, of the Apostolate, will inaugurate a two weeks' mission at New Brighton, Pa., next Sunday, which will be followed by a non-Catholic mission, to be given by Fathers Kress and Michaels.

The Christian Brothers, Our Lady's Mount, Cork, are making arrangements for the starting of Irish classes for 400 of their pupils in addition to those under their charge already engaged in the study of the language.

About 40 persons, mostly adults—some converts, were confirmed by Archbishop Corrigan in St. John's, White Plains, Sunday of last week. John Duffy was sponsor for the men and boys, and Miss Helen Caulfield was sponsor for the women and girls.

Rev. Father John Werg, Catholic missionary, who went through the recent Boxer troubles in China, and escaped after a series of desperate experiences, is in San Francisco on the way to his former home in Bavaria.

It is stated that there is not a daily paper in Chicago that has not members of the alumni of Notre Dame University, Ind., on its staff, not only as reporters, but filling more important positions.

Mother Francis Xavier Cabrini, the foundress and superior of the Missionary Religious of the Sacred Heart, previous to her departure for America, had a private audience with the Holy Father, who sent his blessing to the houses of the Institute in this country.

Lady Eute has returned to London from her trip to Palestine, where, in accordance with his wishes, she buried her husband's heart in an unmarked resting-place on the Mount of Olives.

Mother Mary Seraphine Murphy of Ursuline Academy, Alton, Illinois, died December 19th.

Brother Francis John Kelly, who died at St. Joseph's monastery, Clonard, Dublin, Ireland, recently, was in the 80th year of his age and the 50th year of his religious profession.

A HOPEFUL YEAR

FOR THE APOSTOLATE OF NON-CATHOLIC MISSIONS

The Grand Niece of "The Father of Our Country" a Convert—Questions From Catholics and Non-Catholics Regarding Our Faith Answered.

Miss Eugenia Washington, a grand niece of George Washington, was buried with a Requiem Mass in Washington, D. C., where she died recently. Some years ago she visited a relative in Louisiana and while there attended a mission and was received into the Church.

The New Year is full of hope and promise for the mission work to non-Catholics. It was nothing less than an inspiration that led the Holy Father to point to Jesus Christ the Redeemer as the Saviour of men as well as the Healer of the nations.

There is in the deliverance of this message a situation at once sublime and intensely dramatic.

The Holy Father is the aged watchman on the tower of Israel. His outlook has been over the century. He sums up in his august person the ripenest experiences of men and things for the century agone. He speaks with the wisdom of a seer and the foresight of a prophet. His life seems to have been miraculously preserved unto this moment, with one hand parting the veil of eternity he turns back to speak to the children of men the words of wisdom and point to Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life and to emphasize the fact that there is only one name in the strength of which we may be saved. The circumstances of this letter as well as the powerful truths which it enforces will have the effect of bringing back many a wandering soul to the fountain of truth.

It is not unnatural to expect that there will be a revival of the religious interest during the coming months. The Evangelical churches have taken hold of the matter and are arousing a great deal of interest and spending thousands of dollars to call their people back to the fold. The effort on their part will serve to intensify the religious interest and prepare the harvest for the reaping that is to be done by our missionaries—Father Doyle C. S. P.

The following from the Buffalo Catholic Union and Times Question Box will prove interesting and instructive to both Catholic and non-Catholic: Why do you Catholics say your prayers from a prayer book, we Protestants make our own prayers? Catholics make their own prayers in many instances, but they also use a prayer book in order to help the mind to think of God with more faith and love, as those saints did whose prayers they recite.

Can a mass be offered for the dead on Christmas day?

The mass on Christmas day must be said in the white color and in the joyful prayers of that day, but the fruits of the mass can be offered on Christmas day either for the living or for the dead. It will be therefore nice Christmas gift to assist at a mass and offer it up for a departed friend.

My mother died when I was three days old my father when I was seven years old, and friends tell me that I was given to a Protestant family to be taken care of after my mother died. Should I be baptized now, as I can find no records of my baptism?

If no proof can be obtained, you had better be instructed and baptized before receiving any other sacrament.

My friend told me lately that Luther was a Protestant and not a Catholic; will you please give me some information about it?

Luther was born and baptized in 1483 a Catholic, his parents were Catholics. Luther joined the order of Augustinians, a Catholic order, where he vowed to God to observe all his life long, poverty, chastity and obedience. He violated all the three vows, he disobeyed every ecclesiastical authority and married a nun like himself under vows.

He gave a direct draft to the child; that very night its temperature rose to 100—and before the physician arrived the child was dead. In the excitement no one thought of baptizing the child, neither of sending for a priest, and the child died without baptism.

Why do people give presents to one another at Christmas?

They do so in remembrance of the great gift we received from God the Father in the infant Jesus who brought us means to save ourselves from sin and hell.

Why are three masses said on Christmas day?

The three masses are a threefold act of thanksgiving and praise to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, who participated in our redemption.

Rev. Joseph Meehan, pastor of All Saints' church, Jersey City, on December 27th, paid off the remainder of a mortgage of \$36,000 on the church. The work of erecting the church and clearing the debt took three years.

The New York State council of the Knights of Columbus meets in Buffalo, February 6th and 7th. The national convention will be held in New Haven, Conn., March 6th.

FIVE MINUTE SERMON.

SHORT INSTRUCTIONS ON THE GOSPEL BY A REVEREND FATHER.

Gospel, St. Luke ii: 42-52—

St. Luke tells us that Our Lord at twelve years went with His holy Mother and St. Joseph to Jerusalem to be present at the festival, which was solemnized for seven days, in the Temple, and the feast of the Pasch or Passover; that these days being over, He was lost from their sight and remained in Jerusalem in the Temple while they set out for their home believing that he was in the company of His relatives.

Mary and Joseph after having lost their son were in great affliction, and hastened to seek for him among their friends and relatives, and not finding Him, they returned to Jerusalem and found Him in the temple where he went with them.

From this we should learn that if Jesus Christ, King of kings, and Lord of lords, did not refuse to obey Mary and Joseph, we should not refuse to obey humbly and voluntarily our parents, superiors, and all who are charged with our care and education. What a consolation to think when obeying that we imitate Jesus Christ, Who by His submission to Mary and Joseph sanctified and made obedience meritorious.

It is stated that Jesus increased in age, in wisdom and in grace. From this we should learn that we also as we advance in years should increase in the knowledge of religion, in Christian virtue, and in the observance of our duties of our state in life. As Jesus increased in grace before men and in merit before God, so we as we grow older should make ourselves beloved of men by our charity, and beloved of God by abounding in merit, by the exercises of piety, and above all by frequenting the holy sacraments.

O. R. & B. A.

The next meeting of the Central Council of the C. R. & B. A. will be held next Monday evening Jan. 14th, at the rooms of Corpus Christi council No 40. All members of the council are urgently requested to be present. The election of permanent officers for the year will take place and questions relating to C. R. & B. A. throughout the city will be discussed. At this meeting the newly elected officers of Council 40, will be installed. Supreme Trustee Henry has been invited to be present and speak for the Supreme Council.

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