

## Church News of the Northwest.

### ST. JOSEPH NOVITIATE OPENED.

The new St. Joseph Novitiate erected on Randolph Street, adjoining the College of St. Catherine, was formally opened and blessed on Thursday, the first of August. On the previous day the eighty postulants and novices were transferred from St. Joseph's Academy to the new building which will henceforth be the novitiate of the Sisters of St. Joseph for the Province of St. Paul. On Friday morning the Most Reverend Archbishop Ireland celebrated the first Mass in the new Novitiate and afterwards blessed the institution, dedicating it to its sacred uses.

It is a remarkable coincidence that August 1, the date of the formal opening of the St. Joseph Novitiate, was the forty-ninth anniversary of the opening of St. Joseph's Academy in this city which has since been the Motherhouse of the Order in the Northwest. The golden jubilee of the St. Joseph's Academy will be celebrated next year.

In the new Novitiate, as in the old one at St. Joseph's Academy, the young women who aspire to membership in the Sisterhood of St. Joseph will be trained for their future work under the direction of the Mistress of Novices. It is a school wherein they are educated in the principles of the religious life, as well as prepared for the kind of work to which they will afterwards devote their lives. This training extends over a period of two years before they make their profession in the Order. Prior to that time they spend some months as postulants before they are clothed with the habit of the Sisterhood.

### BISHOP CARROLL'S VISIT.

The Right Reverend John P. Carroll, Bishop of Helena, spent a few days in St. Paul last week on his return from the annual Convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, of which he is National Chaplain. During his visit he was the guest of the Rev. Thomas J. Gibbons and on Sunday preached at the late Mass in the Church of St. Luke, of which Father Gibbons is pastor.

### NEW CHURCH AT ROGERS.

A new church at Rogers which will cost, when completed, about \$30,000 is now in course of construction under the direction of the Rev. P. M. Dorling, pastor of the Church of St. Walburga. The town of Rogers is on the railroad not far from the Church of St. Walburga, which its Catholic people now attend. The new church will be ready for dedication in the course of the autumn.

### PAROCHIAL RESIDENCE AT FOREST LAKE.

Plans have been prepared for a parochial residence to be erected at Forest Lake for the Rev. Thomas F. Gibbons, pastor of the parish. The new residence will cost about \$4,500, and will be located on the plot of ground adjoining the present brick church. Forest Lake was formerly a mission attended from Rush City, Father Gibbons being the first resident pastor. He expects to occupy his new residence early in the fall.

### PICNIC FOR ORPHANS.

The children of St. Joseph's German Catholic Orphan Asylum will have their annual picnic on the lawn of the orphanage on August 4. The occasion will also serve as a reunion for the older folks and the friends of the institution. The ladies of the six German Catholic parishes of St. Paul are making preparations to serve meals from noon until late in the evening.

Twelve hundred dolls will be given away to the lucky holders of numbered paddles. The fish pond and the booths for ice cream, candies and cake will be in charge of the young ladies; the young men will dispose of canes, dolls, etc.; while the older men will serve refreshments and cigars. Rihm's Union Band has donated its services to the orphans for the occasion. The grounds can be reached by the Randolph-Hope street car line.

### LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR.

The new convent for the Little Sisters of the Poor erected on a plot of ground adjoining the Home for the Aged in St. Paul is completed and will soon be occupied by the Sisters. The quarters which they now occupy in the Home will afford much needed accommodation for the inmates. For a long time the institution has been taxed to its capacity to accommodate the old people of both sexes who seek therein a home for their declining years.

### DEATH OF FRANCISCAN MISSIONARY.

The Rev. Silvester Buschkuehler, O. F. M., died at St. Joseph's Hospital last Sunday morning after a brief illness. He was taken ill the previous Thursday evening while conducting a retreat for the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Bright's disease followed by complications caused his death.

The funeral services were held last Tuesday morning from the Church of the Sacred Heart, St. Paul, which is in charge of the Franciscan Fathers. After the Office of the Dead had been chanted, the Solemn Mass of Requiem was celebrated by Father Hugolinus, O. F. M., Sub-Prior of the Order from St. Louis, who represented the Provincial, assisted by Father Bernard, O. F. M., of Jordan, as deacon, and Father Germain, O. F. M., of Chaska,

as sub-deacon. The responses were sung by the Franciscan Fathers in the sanctuary. The remains were interred at Calvary cemetery.

Father Silvester was fifty-six years of age, twenty-seven of which had been spent as a professed member of the Franciscan Order and twenty-one in the priesthood. For some years he was a missionary among the Chippewa Indians in northern Wisconsin and was located successively at Superior and Ashland. Later on he was professor in the Franciscan colleges at Quincy and Teutopolis, Ill., whence he was transferred to St. Peter's Church, Chicago. For some time he had been engaged in preaching retreats to religious.

### MINNEAPOLIS LEAGUE OF CATHOLIC WOMEN.

On August the first, a Woman's Boarding Home was opened under the direction of the Minneapolis League of Catholic Women at 1344 First Avenue South, Minneapolis.

This home will accommodate a limited number of girls at reasonable rates. In connection with it an Employment Bureau has been established for the purpose of securing positions for those who come to the city in search of employment. Day and evening classes will be formed in Domestic Science, Domestic Art, comprising millinery and dressmaking; Physical Culture; Expression; Language and the common branches. At all the depots matrons are stationed to furnish information to strangers in regard to the Home, its location, and the advantages it has to offer.

### CATHEDRAL USHERS' EXCURSION.

A moonlight excursion on the Mississippi River under the auspices of the Cathedral Ushers' Club will be given next Wednesday evening, August 7, for the benefit of the Cathedral parish. The steamer Frontenac and barge will leave the foot of Jackson Street, at 8 P. M. An interesting program is being prepared for the benefit of those who participate in the outing, and a pleasant time is assured to all.

### VENERABLE BEDE'S BIRTHPLACE

Not Known With Certainty—May Be Near Wearmouth Monastery, England—A Great Historian.

Those who take an interest in Catholic antiquarian matters are probably aware that certain excavations are about to be undertaken at the tower of the ancient monastery of St. Peter, in Wearmouth, which will, it is hoped, have the result of solving the mystery of the birthplace of the Venerable Bede, writes Sacerdos in the Catholic Transcript of Hartford.

In these days of blatant self-advertisement, when every pretentious nobody who happens to possess a larger share of wealth or impudence than the bulk of his fellow-beings has every little incident in his useless life chronicled day by day—almost minute by minute—in the newspapers and the "society" journals, it is refreshing to remember that self-effacement always has been, and always must be, a striking characteristic of men really great in any walk of life. The men who confer real and lasting benefits on the human race, who make for the spiritual as well as the material uplifting of their fellows, who leave the world the better for their having lived in it, and who, in spite of themselves, gain permanent name and fame, are always those who put self in the background, who pursue their labors in such retirement as circumstances and necessity will permit, and who, if forced to come before the footlights, keep their own personality as much obscured as possible.

Venerable Bede was one of these really great men. Had he been a manufacturer of problem novels, or Jingo "poetry," or blasphemy masquerading as religion, science, philosophy, or humor, or as any of the many other things which blasphemy professes to be, he would have taken care to make an admiring world familiar with every most minute and uninteresting detail of his progress from the cradle to the grave. But, as he was only a pious and scholarly monk, only a priest laboring zealously for the salvation of souls, only one of the most learned men of olden times, only the first, and—considering how limited were his opportunities of obtaining materials—the greatest of English historians, he has left on record practically nothing concerning himself.

### His Early Life.

It is true we know a good deal of him, but it is of his later life, about which those who knew him, or who lived in his day or soon after it, could write or hand down the tradition. Of his early life, the life which he alone could chronicle, our knowledge is extremely limited. He looked upon himself as a very unimportant unit in the scheme of creation, except in so far as he had a soul to be saved, and could help in saving the souls of others. He knew he had been sent into the world to do a certain work. He did that work to the best of his ability, cared so little what the world might think of it and of him, that, though he wrote close on forty books, the idea of penning an exhaustive autobiography does not

seem to have ever entered his mind. That is why the exact place of his birth is a mystery, why there is no definite certainty as to the year of his nativity.

As to the latter, he states, on bringing his "History of the Anglo-Saxon Church" down to the year 731, that he was then in his fifty-ninth year, which means that he might have been born either in 672 or 673; and that is as near as we can get to it, for we know not whether his fifty-ninth birthday had already come when he wrote, or was merely coming.

### Place of Birth Uncertain.

The same uncertainty prevails as to the place in which he was born. All he says on the matter himself is that he first saw the light in the territory, now part of the county of Durham, which, a year or so later, Egfrid, King of Northumberland, gave to the celebrated Benedict Biscop for the foundation of a Benedictine monastery. But the territory, instead of being a comparatively small piece of ground, was of pretty generous extent—so generous that Benedict built on it two monasteries—that of St. Peter at Monkwearmouth, on the north bank of the Tyne, and that of St. Paul, at Jarrow, on the south bank. Bede may have been born anywhere within its borders, and his own statement is too indefinite to allow us to accept unquestioningly the views of those writers who make Monkton, or Monkwearmouth, the scene of the event. That is why the mystery which the antiquarians hope to solve by excavating the foundations to the west of the tower of the old monastery, the remains of which are incorporated in the now Protestant church, has remained a mystery for twelve long centuries.

There are other matters in connection with Bede's early life to which he makes very little reference, and a fuller knowledge of which may come to us with the unearthing of the ancient church crypt and the tablets and memorials it is supposed to contain.

We know that, being left an orphan at a very tender age, his education was undertaken by Benedict Biscop, who had begun in the year 674 the erection of St. Peter's Monastery, where, at the age of seven, young Bede entered on the course of study which ended only with his life. We know, too, that, on the completion of St. Paul's Monastery at Jarrow, in 682, he was transferred there with its first abbot, Ceolfrid, and that for the remainder of his life he was a member of its community. Indeed, it is asserted that at one time—a pestilence having destroyed all the other monks—he and Ceolfrid were the entire community.

### His Priestly Career.

We have, further, certain knowledge that Bede decided to enter the Benedictine Order; that, owing to his great progress, he was raised to the diaconate at the age of nineteen, which was six years before the usual time; that when he reached the canonical age of thirty he was ordained priest by St. John of Beverley, then Bishop of Hexham; that the thirty-two or thirty-three years that intervened before his death on May 26, 735, were spent in the celebration of Mass, in preaching and administering the Sacraments, in studying and writing histories and biographies, and in teaching grammar, rhetoric, mathematics and physical science.

We know also that he was a sturdy, independent character, who did not hesitate to stand up for the right regardless of consequences, as witness his fearless condemnation of an unjust war against the Irish Scots, even though it was levied by a king who was a generous benefactor of his Order and monastery.

All this, and more, we have on reliable authority, but much has been written concerning him which is matter of controversy. Some historians assert, and others deny, that he studied at the school founded at Cambridge by Sigebert, the seventh century king of East Anglia; that he visited Rome at the invitation of Pope Sergius; that he was offered the abbacy of Jarrow, but refused it because acceptance would mean interference with his studies.

In his writings he makes no reference to these, or to other assertions which do not seem to rest on any very substantial basis, and which are not now—if they ever were—of vital importance. From many points of view, however, they are interesting, and it would be satisfactory to have the proposed explorations of Monkwearmouth.

### CARMELITE GENERAL RESIGNS

The Holy Father has been pleased to accept the resignation of the Very Reverend Pius R. Mayer, O. C. C., General of the Carmelite Order whose continued ill-health prevented him from performing the duties of his office. The Rev. Joseph Lovera, O. C. C., has been appointed Vicar General and will administer the affairs of the Order until a new General is elected. Father Mayer is a native of Wurttemberg in Germany, where he was born in 1848. He made his ecclesiastical studies at St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, and was ordained in June, 1871. Three years later he joined the Carmelite Order. He occupied different positions of responsibility in the Order in the United States and when the American Province was erected in 1890 he was appointed its first Provincial. Ten years later he was summoned to Rome to assist the General, Very Reverend Simon Bernardine, O. C. C., whom he succeeded in 1902. He was re-elected General in 1908.

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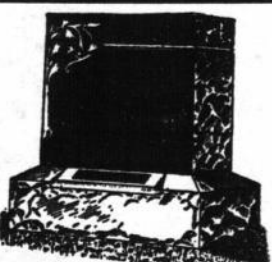
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