

"AVE MARIA"

PRESENTED TO ST. JOSEPH CONVENT
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
THE MEMBERS WHO PERISHED
IN THE DECEMBER DISASTER

MRS. ELIZABETH FLINN MISS MARY FLAVIN
MRS. JAMES STOCKALL MRS. PATRICK MURPHY
MRS. MARTIN MURPHY MRS. MARY PENDERGAST

MRS. MAURICE SHEA	MRS. THOMAS SHEA	MISS MARY SHEA
MRS. JOHN FARRELL	MRS. FRANCES CASH	MISS MARY WALSH
MRS. FRANCIS MCGILL	MRS. JAMES JACKSON	MRS. JAMES ELLIOTT
MRS. JOHN FLAVIN	MRS. CHARLES O'GRADY	MRS. VINCENT SHEA
MRS. JOSEPH LANGWITH	MRS. ROBERT ELLIS	MISS FLORENCE YOUNG
MISS MARY ELLIOTT	MISS ANNIE JACKSON	MISS EDNA WALSH
MISS MARGARET PURCELL	MISS BERNADETTE THOMAS	
MISS KATHLEEN CHISHOLM	MISS MARY PURCELL	MISS SUSIE MOONEY
MISS STELLA CRAWLEY	MISS AILEEN STOKES	MISS FLORENCE MURRAY

*The "new" St. Joseph's Convent
opened in May, 1920.*

Blessing of the Memorial Bell of the New St. Joseph's Convent, by Rev. C. E. McManus

IN the treasure house of memory, oft be gems of priceless value. Precious, even among these, will be to many of the beholders, the wealth fraught at the new St. Joseph's Convent. Here in response to the invitation of the Children of Mary, assembled to witness the baptism of the Memorial Bell, were the parishioners of St. Joseph's, many of whose hearts were united by the strong and holy bond of a common sorrow.

Rev. C. E. McManus, their loved, revered and devoted pastor, had been delegated by His Grace, Most Reverend E. J. McCarthy to officiate. Was it not most fitting that he who had been their companion, friend, support and Father in their time of death and affliction, should preside? He was assisted by the Reverend Dr. C. F. Curran and Reverend T. J. Buchanan.

The name given to this bell, donated to the convent by the Children of Mary in loving memory of those of their number who had perished in the fearful disaster of December 6th 1917, was "Ave Maria."

THE sponsors were Rev. T. J. Buchanan, Director of the Children of Mary, and Mrs. Mary Brown, a Golden Jubilarian and much valued member of the Sodality.

The bell itself is one of the world-renowned Meneely Bells. With the mountings, it weighs approximately 500 pounds. Cast upon its surface in raised letters of bronze, appear the name "Ave Maria" and the names of the thirty-two members of the Children of Mary lost in the fearful catastrophe. This lettering has been pronounced by competent judges to be of exceptional workmanship.

In view of the approaching event, the bell had been raised on a stand which was appropriately draped in pale blue and white, the Sodality colors. The christening robe of white silk veiling trimmed with blue, fell in soft, diaphanous folds over the polished metal. About the lower circumference of the bell was a garland of maiden-hair fern, on which at equal distances were seven bows of pure white, indicating the points for the seven unctions.

At the appointed hour, 4 P. M. the ceremony began with a seven-fold supplication to God for mercy

on His children. Psalms 50, 53, 56, 66, 69, 85, 129 with their oft repeated "Miserere" were most solemn, the words of the Royal Psalmist being rendered in melodious sequence by the choir, accompanied by the organ. As the De profundis was intoned many an unbidden tear fell softly as memories of dear departed ones became more vivid. At the close of the psalm, the ceremony of the Washing was performed.

THEN the "Lauda avima meo Dominum," bespeaking the character of the six following psalms 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, exhorted to the praise of their Maker, all His creatures—"Fire, hail, snow, ice, stormy winds" and "every spirit." Hereupon the several anointings took place. Psalms 28 and 76 followed. A portion of the Gospel of St. Luke and final blessing completed the rite proper.

Then without noise of words another voice spoke as at the thrice three strokes the Angelus pealed forth its message, not to listening ears only but to listening hearts also reminding all Mary's Children of their "Mother of fair love, of fear, of knowledge and of holy hope."

This sound the Reverend C. E. McManus referred to in his eloquent words on the significance, in life, of sound, especially extraordinary sounds. Even these, whether pleasing or affrighting, are but slight manifestations of the power of God. When the Almighty, with voice of thunder called Moses, the latter was prostrated. At the Nativity, on the contrary, it was the songs of angels that invited the listening shepherds to the worship of their Maker. The sound of the newly consecrated bell, he said, would gently invite all its hearers to praise God. Its soft accents would also recall the memory of their loved ones who had met an untimely death, a memory sweetened by the thought that they were Children of Mary.

As if in spontaneous response to the words of the reverend speaker arose from the assembled multitude the fervent hymn of praise "Holy God". And the afternoon's ceremony was at an end; yet who will say it has ended? Will not faint echoes in the hearts of those who listened, "sing, and make melody to the Lord, the Most High?"