

SEPTEMBER 28, 1896.

## AT ST. JOSEPH'S.

### The Pastor's Parting Words to His People.

### Sketch of Successes Achieved by His Twelve Years' Labors.

During the past ten days a report has been current that Father Coyle, pastor of St. Joseph's church, would be appointed pastor of St. Mary's church in Taunton, but as this rumor lacked official confirmation it was not mentioned in print.

On Saturday, at noon, the HERALD received from Providence an authoritative statement that Father Coyle had been appointed the pastor of St. Mary's church in Taunton by Rt. Rev. Bishop Harkins. This is one of the largest parishes in this diocese, and was recently bereft of its pastor by the death of Father Sheridan. The appointment is looked upon as a most important one, and it is a very flattering compliment to Rev. Mr. Coyle.

The HERALD announced the news by a bulletin and in a short time the whole city was apprised of the fact of Rev. Father Coyle's approaching departure from this city; and the intelligence was a source of general regret. Many indeed, called forthwith at the rectory to personally express their sorrow at his departure.



REV. JAMES COYLE,  
Appointed Pastor of St. Mary's Church in Taunton.

#### HISTORY OF FATHER COYLE'S WORK.

On the 18th of January, 1885, Rev. Dr. Grace, of St. Mary's, announced that Bishop Hendricken had decided to form a new parish in Newport. The lines of the new parish were to extend through the centre of Long wharf to Thames street, up Thames to Marlborough and through West Broadway to and out Broadway. By this division the entire First Ward, and a large share of the Second, was set off from St. Mary's for the new church. Later the southern limit was extended farther to the south, to be marked by a line running from the bay up Church street and Catherine to Easton's pond. A second and equally important announcement was that Father Coyle was to be the pastor of the new parish, and that he would be present on the following Sunday to hold the first service of the new church in the old Unitarian church on Mill street. The appointment of Father Coyle was greeted with great satisfaction.

He was not unknown to Newport Catholics, at least by reputation. His five year's work in the Providence Cathedral had made his name familiar throughout the state, and his reputation for eloquence, earnestness and activity, and especially for his interest in the temperance cause, led everyone to believe that the parish was to be congratulated upon securing his services. As it was anticipated, Father Coyle has easily won the esteem and affection of his people and the confidence and sympathy of the entire community.

Thus was the new parish formed and started upon its mission among the Catholics of the northern section of the city. The old Catholic church which stood on Mount Vernon street, the first in the city and the predecessor of St. Mary's, was named St. Joseph's, and from this the new church received its title, and was and is known as St. Joseph's. The first services were held in the old Unitarian church, temporarily engaged for the purpose, on Sunday, Jan. 25th, and the structure was crowded to excess and to overflowing, with eager, expectant worshippers.

The pastor created an excellent impression and the people went home satisfied that their interests were in good hands, that their spiritual leader had been chosen wisely and well. The church was, however, yet bare of altar furnishings, but generous friends came speedily to the front and soon stations of the Cross, sanctuary lamp, remonstrance, ciborium, altar chairs and vestments, all the gifts of liberal hearted friends, testified to the interest and affection thus early formed and displayed for the new sanctuary, church and pastor. The next important step in the establishment of the parish was the organization of the Sunday school on the first day of February. The number who presented themselves on that first

(Continued on 5th page.)

## AT ST. JOSEPH'S.

(Continued from 1st Page.)

day's session was surprisingly large, especially so to the new pastor. The Sunday school was organized, with Mr. P. J. O'Sullivan as superintendent and a corps of volunteer young men and ladies as teachers, under whose direction and services the school was placed in working order at the first session.

The old Unitarian Church was not, however, what was desired, and the people were on the watch for some more favorable and suitable location, and further north, so as to come within the bounds of their parish. The Zion Church edifice seemed to answer all these requirements, and to be adapted to their needs as a temporary place of worship.

It so happened, too, that just at this time the Zion people were considering the advisability of selling their church, and building a new chapel still further north to meet the wants of the community growing up along Broadway and its vicinity. This fact becoming known to the people of St. Joseph's, an offer was made the Zion corporation for the purchase of their structure. The overture was finally accepted, the price agreed upon, the papers passed, and on the 8th of March, the new Catholic parish of St. Joseph's occupied the Zion Church on Touro street for the first time. This was felt to be an improvement upon the old place, but now for the second time the people of the parish were obliged to refit and furnish another place of worship. New and former decorations, however, soon transformed the edifice, and gave it a home-like appearance to the wandering worshippers. Here, then, the new church was finally established, and here it will probably remain until sufficient status and material shall have been made to warrant the erection of a new, more modern and more pretentious edifice.

Many prominent priests were present from abroad, and assisted in the dedicatory services. After the 8 o'clock service the bishop confirmed 268 persons and addressed them at length on their duties as Christians. The collection for the new Cathedral on that occasion was \$900.

Since its establishment, the church has held steadily on the road to success. Large congregations have attended the services, flourishing societies have been formed, and enthusiasm has prevailed in every department of the church life and work. The St. Joseph's Total Abstinence society was formed on March 31, with Dr. H. R. Storer, as president, and with a membership of 150, which has been augmented since that time. The society is very vigorous and flourishing. The St. Aloysius and St. Cyr sodalities for boys, were formed about this time. Sunday, May 24, the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin was established, about 100 young ladies receiving the medals of the society, and pledging themselves to the objects of the organization. A week later, May 31, some 150 young girls were admitted into the society of the Children of Mary, and those under the protection of the Infant Jesus and the Holy Angels.

On December 8th, 1885, Rev. William I. Simmons came as assistant to aid Father Coyle in his ever increasing labors, remaining until October, 1888.

On January 15, 1887, the Young property was purchased for the sum of \$28,500. In May of the same year, the new rectory was commenced. The architect was J. D. Johnson, and the builder, M. A. McCormick. On October 13, the new structure was taken possession of, and the day following thrown open for inspection. Besides the work of the parish



Father Downing came to the church October 27, 1888. The sisters came July 4, 1889, occupying the old Young estate. At first there were four sisters, but the number has constantly increased until today there are twelve.

The contract for the Hazard Memorial school was made in May, 1890, the corner stone laid by Bishop Harkins on Aug. 3, same year, and the building solemnly dedicated on Aug. 2, 1891, by the bishop. On this occasion Bishop Kane, of the University of Washington, preached, and a large number of prelates and priests was present. The school was opened in September, 1891, with 486 pupils. The school is modern in every particular; besides the teaching of the branches common to the public schools, there is taught telegraphy, typewriting and stenography. The corps of teachers numbers ten, and the building not proving adequate, the high school children are taught in one of the large rooms in the convent.

#### THE FAREWELL SERVICES.

St. Joseph's church, yesterday, at the services, was crowded with worshippers desirous of listening to the final admonitions of their beloved pastor.

During the 8 o'clock mass, when the children were present, Father Coyle bade them farewell and all were deeply moved by the Father's words, revealing as they did, his loving interest in them all, and his keen regret at the necessity of parting from them. He himself was visibly affected.

At the other masses, Father Coyle spoke very briefly in reference to his departure.

At vespers, as far back at the doors leading to the entrance the church was crowded with men and women. There was no sermon or address as many expected but simply a few eloquent words of comfort, of cheer, of admonition, of advice, that touched all hearts and showed plainly how dear to the speaker were the people of St. Joseph's church and the citizens of Newport.

Father Coyle's farewell was as follows:

"And now you ask me why I leave Newport. It is the bishop's wish, the bishop's desire, hence, pain as it may, I go freely, willingly. His word to me is law and is obeyed without questioning. Nay, had I a single fibre of rebellion in my heart, I would tear it out and stamp

it under foot; for even grumbling in a priest is nigh akin to treason. No murmurings, then; no meetings, no petitions and no presents. Quietly I came among you, quietly let me depart to begin again at the bottom of the ladder and work prayerfully upward. I carry away with me more than treasure—the love and respect of the community, of Catholic and non-Catholic alike. Sustain my successor—God bless him!—as you sustained me in season and out of season. There must be no abatement in your zeal where the interests of Christ's spouse and the salvation of immortal souls are in question. Let your conduct merit eulogy in the future as in the past that I may never have cause to blush for you! Few if any clouds now darken your horizon, but still much remains to be done. If the new pastor be spared the trying up-hill work of our twelve years existence, he will still find sufficient to tax his every energy. He knows not yet the love, loyalty and generous devotedness in store for him at your and the hands of the citizens at large. Yes, there is one thing you can do for me without infringing on the rights or prerogatives of any one. Enable the children of the parish to erect a suitable monument over the grave of their and your benefactor, Mr. Hazard. This I fondly thought would be my prerogative, but Heaven has decreed otherwise. Begin tomorrow and begin in earnest. 'Tis a debt of justice, of gratitude, and as such merits your heartiest co-operation. Let it be done by you in the name of the children—the little ones who kneel so often over his remains and pray for his repose. Give all you can spare to the children tomorrow, and the sister in each room will be more than willing to act as treasurer. Do this for my sake, as well as for your own, and heaven and earth must needs applaud the movement. This, dear people, is my dearest wish, my parting request, the only favor, except your prayers, I ask at your hands."

Before the week has passed Father Coyle will have left for his new field of labor.

*Did They?*