

Lusitanian Church

At the desire of several English and Irish A bishops, Bishops, and others who sympathise with Lusitanian Church, Catholic, Apostolic, Evangel we again take up our pen to narrate as brief possible what passes here.

The congregation of "O Espirito Santo" at Set is under the pastoral care of the energetic Padre Pereira Martius, who not only is schoolmaster priest-in-charge, but also pays monthly visits to gr of individuals scattered in the large province Alentejo to hold services and administer the Sacram for we regret to say that this province is very supplied by the R.C. clergy, or any others, partly account of the poverty of the people, comparative sparse population, and also partly because of the spr of infidelity in this part of Portugal, so that man the R.C. churches are closed.

Divine Services have for very many years been at Setubal in a small hall, neatly and ecclesiastic fitted up as a church, but the landlord has turned congregation out, and there is no other suitable so they are reduced to hold their services in a pri house until a chapel is built.

This congregation is principally composed of fis men, and one of them gave the whole of his sav during many years for the purchase of ground very suitable place; others have contributed lar according to their means. The congregation of Juan Evangelista gave over £50, and others in pro tion; the Methodist congregation in Oporto con buted over 1,600 escudos, thus practically show their sympathy with the good work in Setubal, which we are grateful; but even so, building is now very expensive in Portugal that the chapel can't built without outside help.

A Christian Convention was held and densely crowded in the church of O Ban. Pastor, Gaia, on Sunday. 29th July last. The speeches were impressive, instructive, and helpful, all tending to promote Christian love and fraternity. The writer availed himself of the opportunity in reminding the congregation that while the Church is commanded by our Lord to preach the Gospel to all nations, we are also forbidden to endeavour to make proselytes amongst other branches of the Catholic Church, or criticise those with whom we cannot agree, remembering that all shall be judged according to their works of love, but judgment belongs to God alone.

We much regret that we are still unable to publish statistics of all the ten congregations of the Lusitanian Church C. A. E., especially as we know that several of our colleagues have been blessed of God, and are doing a good work.

We have great reason to praise and thank the Almighty for the many and great blessings given to the two churches of S. Juan Evangelista and Salvador do Mundo under our care as priest-in-charge; also for the sympathy shown us and support given by the municipal, military, and executive authorities of the town of Gaia, who, on special occasions, attend the services in the above churches.

During the first six months of the present year twenty-two new members were enrolled in these two congregations now composed of 515 members; exclusive of children, except a few who are already communicants.

The great majority of these members were not before connected with any other Communion or congregation.

The Schools are attended by upwards of 420 scholars, and this year no less than 148 passed an examination in primary, secondary or technical education.

During the last half year the members of these two congregations gave or collected for the support of Archdeacon Ko-ho-lin in				Escudos
China and Missions in Africa	...	...	...	4,395
For the relief of the Poor	...	...	...	2,432
For Parochial Expenses	...	...	...	5,052
For the Schools	...	...	...	2,654

Es. 14,533

which at a normal exchange would be £3,229, besides £50 for Setubal, but at the present disastrous exchange is only worth £328, even so a large sum to be given by a congregation principally composed of the labouring class and considerably less than half of what we expect to receive this year, as the greater part of the donations for the schools are only given towards the end of the year.

It is also a matter of thankfulness to God that we live on amicable terms with our Roman Catholic neighbours, including the priests, especially since the R.C. Church has had all her privileges and most of her property taken away. If time and space permitted we could give several instances of friendliness, generally each one working in his own sphere, and in some cases in co-operation.

In conclusion, we are glad to say that our Synod last year elected the Rev. Joaquim S. Figueiredo, Bishop, but the Lusitanian Church cannot be admitted into full communion with the Anglican, Oriental, Old Catholic or other Churches who are seeking for the reunion of Christendom and cannot greatly increase or extend her area until her Catholic formulæ and Catholic organisation be completed by the consecration of a Bishop with a loving, Christ-like spirit.

Praise God for His mercies past, and we trust His grace for more.

The Holy Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday, the whole of the congregation always remaining to the close of the service, and occasionally Roman Catholics, when away from their parish church, communicate with us as there is only one Lord, one Faith, and one Baptism.

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