



"SAN CLEMENTE" DOMINICAN CONVENT, MAYFIELD.

*San Clemente, Mayfield*, founded in 1916 with three religious and a school of thirty, has grown in 1927 to a community of ten with three hundred pupils. A new property was purchased in 1919, the school is registered to Intermediate standard, the boarding school accommodation is scarcely adequate to the growing demand and the influence of the school in the midst of a vast industrial centre promises to be great indeed. The work of the Sisters in this busy neighbourhood has been singularly

blessed in conversions and in vocations. Two postulants have gone from this school to the novitiate at Maitland, and others, both boys and girls, have answered the Divine Call to other fields of labour. The distinction of *San Clemente* is that within close call of a pulsing industrial centre it preserves the most monastic calm, raised by its height above the smoke and din, secured by its extensive grounds from the onrush of advancing industrialism.

From *Siena Convent, Melbourne*, founded last year, grateful notices reach the Motherhouse of the kindness and thought of the Victorian people who have taken the little Convent to their active protection. His Grace, Archbishop Mannix, made the blessing of their Convent home his first public act on his return from the Eucharistic Congress at Chicago and since then he has not ceased to show his fatherly solicitude for the little band. Superiors and communities of the various religious institutes have been most kind, extending the right hand of friendship and of practical assistance. The foundation was due to the repeated request of the Friars Preachers, particularly of the Very Rev. F. J. Powell, O.P., and they consider no effort too great, no detail too insignificant if it will further the work of the Sisters or contribute to their comfort and well-being.

It is a happy omen that our record closes with the establishment of a new foundation in a new State. The extension of the Maitland branch of the Order throughout New South Wales and recently into Victoria is manifest proof of the blessing of Almighty God and an eloquent tribute to St. Mary's Convent, Kingstown, Ireland, which in 1867 gave of its best in nuns and material help and which from time to time has sent out subjects whose faith, wisdom and devotion have consolidated and extended the work. In this extension God has used many instruments but first and foremost the Friend and Father of all Maitland Communities, His Lordship, the late James Murray, Bishop of Maitland. It will be a joy even in Heaven to admit that debt. Secondly there is the successor of Dr. Murray, the Right Rev.

P. V. Dwyer, whose kindness and vigilance are united to a respect for the integrity of community spirit which only the truly great possess. The co-operation of the Clergy, Secular and Regular, has also rendered easier the work of Catholic Education. Advance is assured when the treasures of the Church are so lavishly dispensed and when her ministers display the most scrupulous respect for the autonomy of the Order together with the utmost readiness to further its interests and to afford advice and personal assistance.

Brief as this review has been, it will supplement the record published on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of St. Mary's in 1917 and will show what development has taken place since that blessed day, sixty years ago, when the band of eight Dominicans after weary months on the sailing vessel, "The Martha Birnie," landed on Australian soil. Dignity and grace was in their bearing, the calm of Christ in their resolute souls, the perfection of courtesy in their quiet old world manner. The eight had come bearing the torch of Dominic. They found the field which Dominic would have found, "the battleground of the faith in Australia—the schools."

"By their works you shall know them."

This record is being sent to press in November, 1927, the third year of office of Mother Mary Philippa Byrne, who was elected Prioress in December, 1924. The other Prioresses during the interval under review were Mother Mary Joseph de Laurent (1912-1918), and Mother Mary Gonsalvo Byrne (1918-1924).