

WEEDS

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FATHER HILDEBRAND RETURNS

Rector of St. John's Catholic Church Home From Five Months' Visit.

The Rev. Father Hildebrand arrived home Thanksgiving eve from a five months' visit to his old home in Germany and to other points of interest in Europe. He was welcomed home by many members of his congregation who received him at the depot station and accompanied him to the rectory. Father Hildebrand is equally glad to return to his "beloved and adopted land" as he expressed himself to the Enterprise reporter, as are the members of his congregation glad to have him in their midst once again.

Father Hildebrand left Oregon City July 6, last. He went direct to New York city via the Canadian Pacific and sailed from the latter point July 16, by the steamer Prince Bismarck. Nine days were consumed in making the ocean voyage and the traveler reached Hamburg on the 25th of the same month. He proceeded thence to Berlin and Munster, visiting at the latter place the University of Munster, which he formerly attended and from which institution he was graduated. While there he renewed the acquaintance of many old school mates and that of other friends whom he had not seen for years. Father Hildebrand did not tarry any length of time in his wanderings after reaching Germany but hastened at once to Brilon, Westphalia, Germany, the city of his birth where his father, who is now 87 years old, and other relatives reside. He received a joyous welcome from his aged father and dear relatives upon his arrival and brought home with him a photo of the former who is enjoying remarkable health. After a three week's visit at Westphalia, Father Hildebrand departed on an extended tour of Germany, Austria, Italy and Switzerland.

He attended the German Catholic Congress at Cologne and then departed on a trip through Southern Germany that included all points of interest along the Rhine, among them being the leading universities and centers of music and art. Institutions of learning at Heidelberg, Tubinger and Constance were visited. Some of the most beautiful cities in Switzerland next engaged the attention and admiration of the tourist. Among them were Schaffhausen, Zurich, Zug and Luzern. The St. Gotthard Mountains with their 29 tunnels, were also included in the itinerary. It required 18 minutes for a fast train to pass through the longest tunnel in these mountains. Milan with its magnificent cathedral and cemetery was next visited. The cemetery at Milan, reports Father Hildebrand, undoubtedly surpasses any other cemetery in the world as regards the grandeur of the monuments that are erected to the memory of the departed. Three hours were consumed in making only a partial inspection of this city of the dead. Genoa, the beautiful city situated on the mountains and Pisa were in turn visited and then Rome was reached.

It would require at least a half year to visit and gain anything of an understanding of the buildings and sights to be seen at Rome, says Father Hildebrand, but he made the most of the ten days that he could spare for a sojourn at this interesting point. St. Peter's Dome, Maria Maggiore, and St. Paul, were among the points without the city that were visited. Among other places of interest visited, were: The Lateran, Church of Croce, built by St. Helena; St. Peter Carcere, where St. Peter was imprisoned and known as Mamertine prison in history; all of the celebrated buildings of the Vatican with the art gallery; The Sixtine Chapel, noted for the beautiful paintings by Raphael that it contains; a number of the museums of art and ethnology, amongst the latter being the celebrated museum, Kircherianum, established by a German Jesuit in 1600 and containing a collection of articles of warfare and curiosity, telling as it were the history of all Pagan Nations, amongst which the Jesuits were especially laboring; (This building and all it contains was annexed by the Italian government in 1871.)

Of the Catacombs, the most noteworthy and the best preserved of all is that of St. Domitilla, which to this day contains the remains of many who died during the first three centuries of the Christian era. The Jewish and Pagan Catacombs were also visited. The ruins of ancient Rome were perhaps among the most interesting that it was the pleasure of the tourist to observe. The most attractive was that of the Forum, in which have been uncovered, under the surveillance of the Italian government, the remains of many undoubtedly once beautiful palaces, like that of Caesar, Augustus, Tiberius and Caligula. The celebrated baths of Caligula, Nero and the different circus Maxime, among them Maxentius and others, proved interesting to the visitor. The ruins of the Coliseum, which is said to have seated from 70,000 to 80,000 people, are to be seen showing the tiers of terraces that were occupied by the spectators.

Father Hildebrand had the pleasure and honor while in Rome of being received by Pope Pius IX, who granted him an audience with about 150 other people on October 2 at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. "My impression of the Pope is that he is a most affable, simple and kind man and I was particularly impressed by his decidedly Democratic characteristics," said the local rector. "While before the Pope I addressed him in Latin telling him my name and mentioned the place of my residence. He bestowed upon me the apostolic blessing and granted me the permission to invoke the same on my friends and relatives and also upon my congregation in Oregon City. He also presented me with a medal bearing a picture of his face on one side and that of the Blessed Virgin on the reverse side. The Pope is growing in popularity with the people of Rome who are not as ignorant, illiterate and impious as they are described but are most polite and affable. The Pope has appointed one Sunday of each month when he receives in audience the people of Rome. Amongst the other prominent personages whom I met were Cardinals Martinelli, Rompolia and Vanutelli. While in Rome I lodged alongside St. Peter's Dome in the so-called CampoSanto, founded by Charlemagne in 800 and at the present time under the protection of the Emperor of Austria. Its present rector, Monsignor DeWaal, is one of the greatest authorities on Christian archeology."

After leaving home, Father Hildebrand visited Florence, Bologna, Padua, the beautiful city of Venice, whose

streets require no street-cleaning department to insure their presentable appearance. Trieste, Vienna, the beautiful capital of Austria, with inhabitants whom congeniality, says Father Hildebrand, surpasses that of any other city in the world; Innsbruck, of the Tyrol, noted for the celebrated battle that took place between her brave mountain people, under the leadership of Andreas Hofer, against the French and Bulgarian intruders in the early part of the last century. After visiting Munich, the city of music, art and science, Father Hildebrand returned to Westphalia for a longer visit with his relatives. He started for Oregon on November 3, sailing to New York City on the steamer Kaiser William II. From New York City he proceeded via St. Louis and Kansas City and the Santa Fe route to San Francisco, where he visited for a time with an uncle, who resides there. En route to San Francisco, Father Hildebrand left the train at Williams, Arizona, and went to Grand Canyon, Arizona, some 64 miles distant. At that point the canyon, which is about 600 miles in length, is the widest, it being about fourteen miles from one crest of the canyon to that on the opposite side. At the edge of this great chasm is a hotel that is largely under the management of the railroad company. The country surrounding the canyon is a desert and the water that is used is brought to the hotel in tanks on the trains. The rim of the Grand Canyon is about 7000 feet above the level of the sea, and its depth to the river is judged to be about 5500 feet. With its irregularly shaped walls of beautiful colored earth formations, Father Hildebrand says, the scenery at the canyon is indescribably beautiful.

Father Hildebrand is delighted to be again in Oregon and has taken up his work with increased vigor after his extended absence. Since his return home two incidents have taken place that unmistakably remind the popular rector that his return is an occasion for rejoicing. Last Sunday evening about fifty of the gentlemen members of the congregation, together with a number of non-Catholic friends, assembled at the rectory and tendered Father Hildebrand a very delightful but informal welcome. Monday morning the rector was summoned to the St. John's parochial school, where a delightful surprise that had been planned was successfully carried out. Miss Elsie Jordan, in a clever speech of presentation, delivered to the astonished rector a beautiful hall-seat as a token of the children's appreciation of his services, and particularly their pleasure of having him safely home again after so long an absence. Father Hildebrand responded briefly, thanking the young people for their gift, and assuring them that he was more than glad of the opportunity to be among them once more.

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