

INFLUENZA FEAR CLOSES ALL PHILADELPHIA CHURCHES

Many Thousand Cases Are Reported—A Quiet Day—The Advent Call

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EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA" is the official name Dr. Krusen, director of public health, has given to the disease now spreading so rapidly over the country. About 6,000 cases have been reported to the Board of Health, and it is conservatively estimated that 40,000 to 45,000 persons are suffering from influenza in Philadelphia. South Philadelphia and the Northeast are particularly affected. One priest in Kensington is reported as having had three funerals in one day, and another officiated at seven funerals in one week where death was due directly or indirectly to influenza. Health authorities of city and state have combined to fight the disease. All schools, churches, and places of public amusement, including the theaters, saloons, and moving picture houses, are closed until further notice. Sunday, October 6th, therefore was unique in the religious history of Philadelphia. Not a church door was open for public services, but in a number of parishes where there is a staff of clergy the Holy Communion was celebrated with prayers for the sick and dying and special intercessions for the city and state.

QUIET DAY AT ST. MARK'S

The annual retreat of the Prayer Guild for the Teaching Office of the Church, on Wednesday, October 3rd, at St. Mark's Church, was marked by deep devotion and consecration. The Rev. K. L. Tiedemann,

O. H. C., the leader, gave four meditations based on the opening words of the collect for St. Michael and All Angels' Day. The first meditation dealt with the love of God in His creation of the angels to worship and cooperate in doing His will, and the creation of man to take the place of fallen angels in loving and serving God. In the second address the sin of the fallen angels was defined as a failure to trust the love of God. The next address dealt with the work of angels, especially in prayer, which was called the language of heaven. On earth Christians learn the grammar of this language, which is spoken with perfect fluency by the angels of God. The characteristic service of angels was the topic of the closing meditation. Angels serve God by turning the faces of men to God, and men serve God best by carrying His Presence into the life of others.

About seventy-five members were present. The rules of the guild require its members to use daily the collect for St. Simon and St. Jude's Day and to pray at the Holy Communion for the educational work of the Church.

THE ADVENT CALL

The Bishop has sent out a letter to the clergy asking for their interest and support in the movement started under the leadership of the Woman's Auxiliary to unite the women of the Church during the first week of Advent in a definite and sustained prayer "offensive" for "victory in the war and a righteous and permanent peace."

The women of the Church are doing their part. Mrs. Henry A. Pilsbry has completed a course of four lectures to twenty-five women who are to instruct a larger group of carefully chosen women as "messengers"