

S. F. CHURCHES GIVE SERVICES IN OPEN AIR

Catholic Masses Said in Picturesque Setting Under Spreading Oaks of Calvary Cemetery

At Episcopal Cathedral Worshipers Assemble on Lawn of Divinity School to Hear Pastor

San Franciscans went up upon the mountains yesterday to worship.

Far above the hum of the city streets in the quietness of the cemeteries and the seclusion of the cloisters of their cathedrals the devout, led by their priests and bishops, knelt and prayed that the epidemic of influenza which had caused the closing of their houses of worship and had spread death and sickness upon the inhabitants might cease.

Catholic masses were said in a picturesque setting under the spreading oak trees of Calvary Cemetery at Ellis and Divisadero streets.

About three hundred members of the Holy Cross parish gathered where an altar had been constructed under a tree whose branches shaded the colorful vestments of the priest. Mass only was said. There was no sermon in order that the meeting might not be too prolonged.

Up on Nob Hill, overlooking the bay and with the skyscrapers hidden in a haze, Bishop Nichols ordained a student from the Divinity College, amid the devout prayers of the worshipers.

As part of the service, Paul Ito, a Japanese student, was ordained a minister by Bishop Nichols and Dean Gresham.

In the short sermon preceding the ordination ceremony, Bishop Nichols said: "The ordination service brings belief in the human organization of the church, and the knowledge that there must be order and organization from the beginning. This order is to be not merely of our own priests, but those from the race which is one of our allies at the present time—the great Japanese race.

"It is not ~~to~~ to carry Christianity to the oriental races—a fact that is proved by their desire to carry the same civilization brought them by the people of our country to Berlin, where the barbarous acts of the Germans have shown the need for a higher civilization than they now possess.

"Preparing stewards to be faithful is most important—a new valuation is given to patriotism and to religion; for there can be slackers in religion as well as in patriotism, and the fact of going to church on Sunday makes a Christian of no one. The government is after slackers now, and it may well be that the church will have to look out for them later on. In this ordination, the contact which already has been made between these two faces in armies and states is now being made in religion."

At St. Mary's Cathedral, on Van Ness avenue and O'Farrell street, a thousand worshipers gathered on the broad steps of the building to hear mass and to pray.

WORSHIP LIKE PIONEERS.

At the Mission Dolores, where in the early days the padres led the Indians to prayer and told them the story of the living God, they gathered for their worship out of doors, in close imitation of the pioneers.

At Octavia and Market streets the congregation of the First Baptist Church held an open-air song service, followed by a short sermon on the influenza as the last of the plagues.

The Presidio, also, saw its men gathered on the verandas of the barracks for the company Bible classes, while at the Letterman Hospital and at the guard house there were short services.

SPEAKS ON INFLUENZA.

Speaking on the influenza epidemic, the Rev. John Quincy Adams Henry, the pastor of the First Baptist Church, said in part:

No one can say definitely that the present influenza scourge constitutes one of the final forms of judgment to be visited upon the world; but it is significant that it comes in the hour of the world's most awful crisis.

We know from the Bible that plagues are a divine visitation upon the children of men because of their sins. From the beginning until now an irrepressible conflict has been waged between Satan and God as to who should control mankind. Men have been slow to recognize their dependence upon God for life, health, happiness and hope, and even more slow in their expressions of gratitude to God for works toward the children of man. Even this awful war has failed to impress the rank and file of men with any sense of the presence and power of God in human affairs.

When the people repent, the plagues will cease, but as long as men rebel against God and run upon the bosses of the buckler of the Almighty, they must expect to be wounded and, beyond a certain point, wounded to death. The call of the hour is for a reconsecration of our citizenship, our churches and our civilization—to God, who holds in his own hand the issues of both individual and national life.