

MOST REV. JAMES C. McGUIGAN

A new honor has come to St. Dunstan's in the recent appointment of one of her graduates, Right Reverend James C. McGuigan, to the exalted position of Archbishop of Regina.

This appointment occasioned much pleasure but no surprise to the new Archbishop's many friends and former associates in this Province. Those who had the opportunity and the good fortune of knowing Archbishop McGuigan as a student, a teacher, and a Priest, and of observing the man and his work, could not fail to discern in him exceptional endowments of spirit, intellect and scholarship; endowments which at an early age, set him apart from his fellows and marked him out as a man destined for the accomplishment of great things.

Archbishop McGuigan is a young man, the youngest Archbishop in the world. His career has been one of unusual brilliance and his scholastic triumphs in College and Seminary are yet fresh in our minds.

At the early age of thirteen years he passed his Matriculation Examinations and entered Prince of Wales College. Here he studied three years and graduated with high honors, the winner of the Governor-General's Medal. After a year devoted to teaching in a public school he entered St. Dunstan's in the Autumn of 1912. Here he spent two years, his latter year as a member of the Faculty, and graduated in 1914, leading his class and attaining his B. A. Degree Cum Laude.

Archbishop McGuigan loved St. Dunstan's and from his first day here as a student entered intimately and enthusiastically into the life of the College. He was a keen student, careful, painstaking and assiduous; but he found time to read widely outside his course, was interested and active in every department of College life, took a leading part in athletics, was a hardworking and a redoubtable forward on the senior football team and enjoyed the admiration and warm friendship of his fellow students without exception.

After graduating from St. Dunstan's he entered the Grand Seminary at Quebec. Here his brilliance of intellect and habits of study enabled him to maintain his accustomed position of prominence and, after leading his class in Theology, he graduated in 1918 with the Degree of Doctor of Theology.

He was ordained to the Holy Priesthood at Rustico on May 26th, 1918, by Bishop O'Leary, now Archbishop of Edmonton. After his ordination he served in the Diocese successively as Professor of Science at St. Dunstan's, Assistant Secretary of the Diocesan Curia of Charlottetown and Chancellor of the Diocese.

In 1920, upon the appointment of Bishop Henry O'Leary as Archbishop of Edmonton, he accompanied the new Archbishop to his new Archdiocese. In Edmonton he has filled various posts of great responsibility. He has been Prothonotary Apostolic, Archdiocesan Chancellor and Consultor, Vicar General and Administrator of the Diocese and Rector of the Cathedral Parish of St. Joseph's. In 1927 he entered the Catholic University at Washington, D. C., and there obtained the Degree of D. C. L. Afterwards he was appointed Rector of St. Joseph's Seminary at Edmonton, which position he continued to occupy until his recent appointment to the Archdiocese of Regina.

It is a great honor which has come to this young Archbishop, but it is a very grave responsibility also. In this young western country, which his Archdiocese embraces, many problems present themselves which are not met elsewhere, many difficulties hamper and impede the work of the zealous churchman, many agencies operate to imperil the faith of the scattered Catholic population. We feel that it is because this is a post of unusual difficulty that this man of unusual talent has been assigned to it. We believe that Archbishop McGuigan is peculiarly fitted by nature and training for this great work which he is about to undertake. His splendid natural talents, his scholarship, his wide experience, his tact, his fine personality and above all his untiring zeal for the service of God; all these will lend him aid in his high mission and be the means by which he shall accomplish great things for Holy Mother Church and for this Canada of ours.

Archbishop McGuigan's friends at home will watch his future career with an interest even more deep and sympathetic than before and will lend their prayers to his cause, that he may accomplish things, even more splendid than we may imagine, in the service of Him whose banner he carries.

H. F. M.