



His Grace the Metropolitan Archbishop blessing a painting of the Blessed Dominic Savio during the inauguration of the new primary school at Rabat. In the picture are Mr. A. Buhagiar, Mgr. M. Azzopardi, the Hon. Dr. G. Borg Olivier and Mr. J.P. Vassallo.

New School Inaugurated At Rabat

By A STAFF REPORTER

The 650 boy-pupils of Rabat, formerly accommodated in three different premises at Mdina, have now moved to a new school which was officially opened by Dr. Borg Olivier, the Prime Minister, and blessed by Mgr. Gonzi, the Metropolitan Archbishop, yesterday morning.

Earlier in the morning the pupils, led by Mr. J.P. Vassallo, Director of Education, and Mr. A. Buhagiar, Headmaster, heard Mass celebrated by Mgr. M. Azzopardi, Inspector of Religious Instruction, Government Schools, assisted by Father F. A. Veila, Spiritual Director of the School, in the new premises.

Distinguished Guests

Also present for the inauguration were Mrs. J. P. Vassallo, members of the Inspecting Staff, Father L. Spiteri, Parish Priest of Rabat; Brother Leo Barrington, Principal of St. Michael's Training College; Mr. C. Micallef, Director of Public Works; Dr. J. Jaccarini, School Medical Officer; Miss C. Pisani, Headmistress; Inspector of Police J. Spiteri, Dr. Nicholas and Mr. H. Borg Costanzi, Engineer in Charge, Government Schools.

On the arrival of Dr. Borg Olivier, a choir under Mr. C. Costa sang the Hymn of Malta. His Grace the Archbishop arrived shortly afterwards and the Prime Minister then unveiled a marble tablet and later cut the tape, thereby officially opening the new

school. Mgr. Gonzi blessed the school and also a painting of the Blessed Dominic Savio, Patron Saint of the school, executed by Mr. J. Borg Darmanin and Mr. C. Tonna, teacher and drawing master of the school respectively.

The pupils finally gathered in the spacious school yard and heard speeches made, by the Archbishop, the Prime Minister and the Director of Education. The Archbishop exhorted the pupils to live up to the Catholic principles being taught in schools. Instruction in schools, said His Grace, was always based on the teachings of Christ. Mgr. Gonzi felt glad that such harmony existed between Church and State.

Prime Minister's Speech

Dr. Borg Olivier assured his young listeners that as long as there was a Maltese Government in power, Malta's educational needs would not be forgotten. He was glad to say that a great portion of the money granted to Malta as a result of talks in London, would be devoted to the building of Primary and Secondary Schools, including the Lyceum.

Mr. Vassallo thanked both the Archbishop and the Prime Minister for attending the ceremony.

The pupils of Rabat Boys' School had been housed in three different premises at Mdina — two private houses and the old Jurors' Palace. No playground and other necessary amenities had been available. In the new school they have a large playground but it is not yet surfaced. There are 21 classes in Rabat school but the Authorities provided only 19 rooms and two classes have their lessons in the corridors. Another amenity, which is still lacking, is the provision of an assembly hall or chapel, which may be turned into classrooms when required. But the greatest shortcoming is the lack of electricity: in fact evening classes are compelled to use paraffin oil lamps.