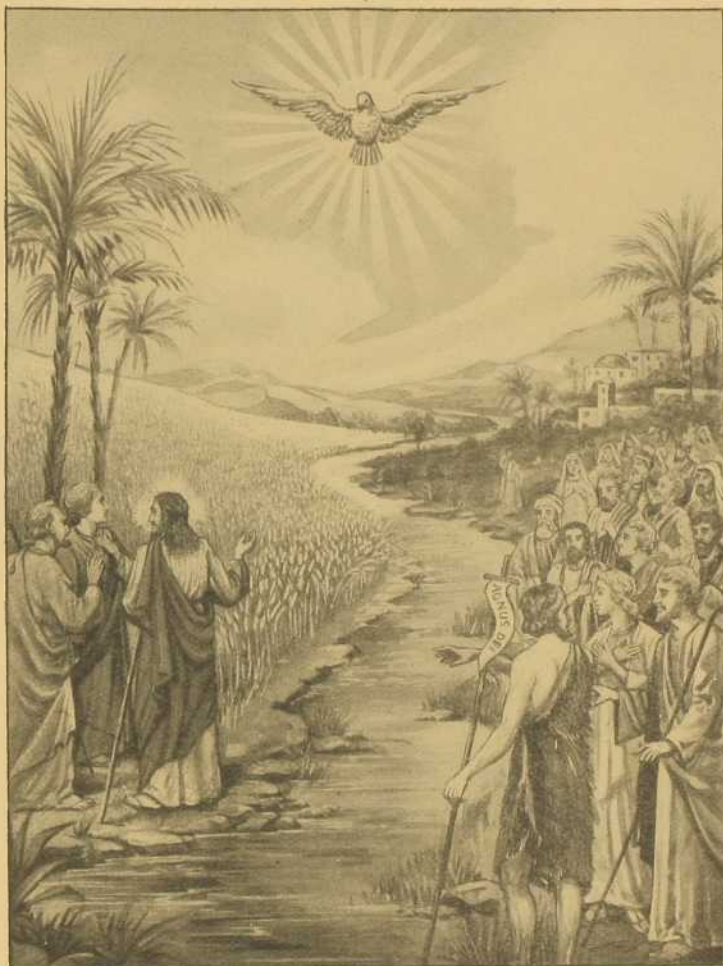


THE PRECURSOR



Vol. IV., 5th Year

MONTREAL, MARCH-APRIL 1927

No. 2



WORKS ALREADY EXISTING

of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

MOTHER-HOUSE

*314 ST. CATHERINE ROAD, OUTREMONT,
NEAR MONTREAL*

(Founded in 1902)

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Procure for the Missions. Work-room of Church Vestments, embroidery, lace and painting for the support of the Mother-House and Novitiate. School for the formation of Chinese catechists. Sewing-circles for ladies and young girls. Diffusion of a Missionary Review: THE PRECURSOR. Free missionary Library.

NOVITIATE

PONT VIAU, NEAR MONTREAL

HOLY CHILDHOOD HOME

P. O. BOX 93, CANTON, CHINA

(Founded in 1909)

School for catechists. Catechumenate. School for christian and pagan pupils. Orphanage. Founding-Home. Work-rooms.

SHEK-LUNG LAZARETTO

SHEK-LUNG, NEAR CANTON, CHINA

(Founded in 1913)

CHINESE WORKS IN MONTREAL

74 LAGAUCHETIERE ST. WEST, MONTREAL

(Founded in 1913)

Sunday school and language courses for Chinese adults, every Sunday afternoon, from 2.30 to 4.00.

CHINESE SCHOOL

(Founded in 1916)

Teaching of English, French and Chinese.

CHINESE HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY

76 LAGAUCHETIERE ST. WEST, MONTREAL

(Founded in 1918)

The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception also visit Chinese patients in Catholic or Protestant Hospitals.

(To be continued on page 3 of the cover)

Please Help the Missionary Sisters

of the Immaculate Conception

By procuring work for them

THE Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception have a work-room in which are made church-vestments and altar-linens, the profits of which are destined to support their Mother-House and Novitiate.

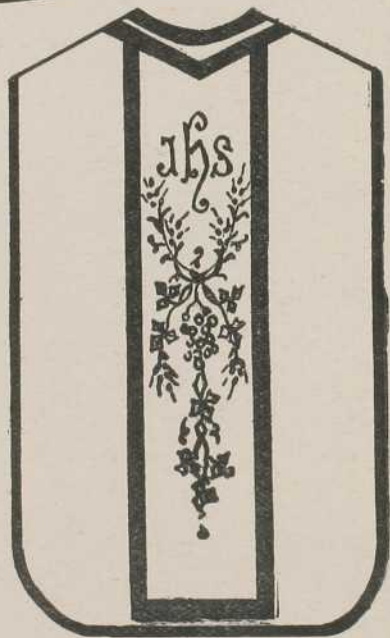
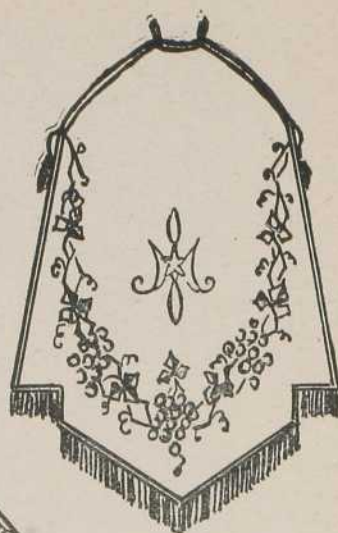
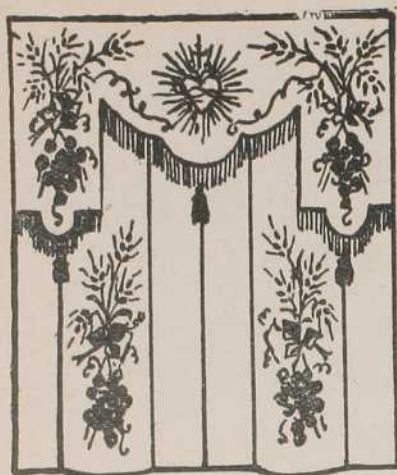
Missionaries must undergo several years' preparation before being able to commence their apostolic labors in foreign fields.

The articles mentioned on the following page may be procured, on reasonable terms, at the work-shop of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, 314 St. Catherine Road, Outremont, Montreal.

We paint, to order, spiritual bouquets, calendars with pictures of Our Lady, the Holy Family, the Little Flower, and mission scenes. First Communion and Confirmation badges, scapulars, *Agnus Dei*, cushions, etc.

Wax infants for Christmas cribs, are also made in all sizes.

Chinese embroideries and laces are offered for sale. They are made by our Chinese orphans. By encouraging these sales you co-operate in the salvation of many young pagan girls who, while earning their livelihood in Catholic work-shops, receive at the same time the light of Faith.

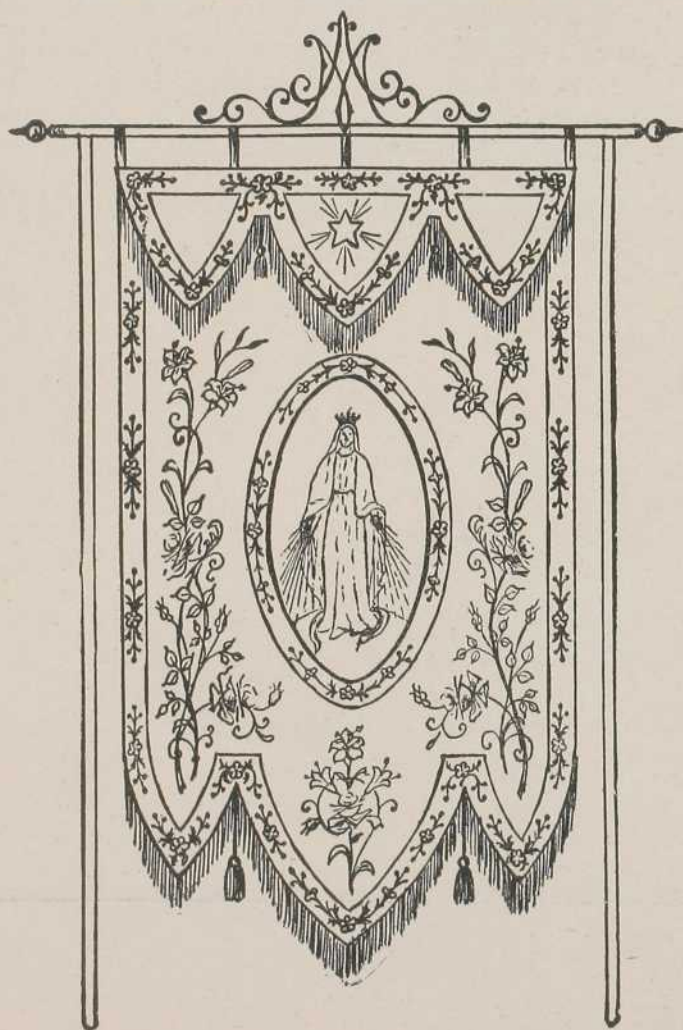
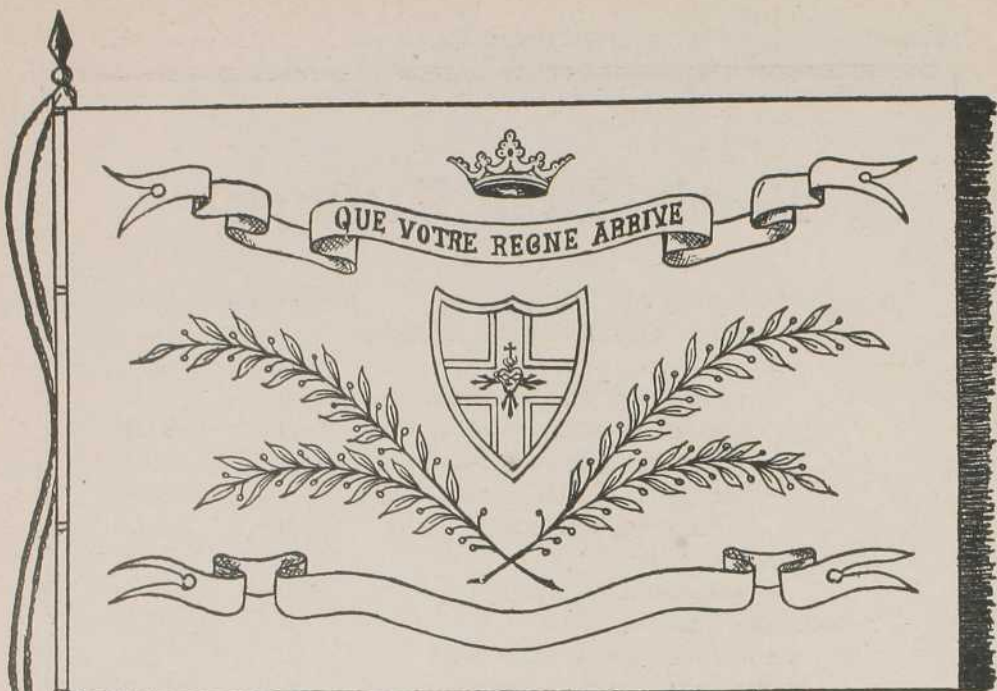


Kindly Read Attentively

Chasuble, damask silk, silk braid	\$ 18.00 and \$ 28.00		
“ moire - antique, with beautiful emblem	30.00	“	38.00
“ velvet, gold braid and emblem .	30.00	“	45.00
“ gold-embroidered moire-antique	75.00	“	100.00
“ gold-cloth, gold braid and emb.	50.00	“	75.00
“ fine gold - cloth, very richly hand embroidered	90.00	“	150.00
Dalmatics, per pair	50.00	“	80.00
“ gold-cloth, per pair	100.00	“	150.00
Benediction Veils	7.00	“	upwards
Cope, damask silk, silk or gold braid	30.00	“	50.00
“ gold - embroidered moire-antique, gold emblem	70.00	“	90.00
“ gold-cloth, gold - embroidered by hand with a beautiful emblem.	90.00	“	150.00
Albs, Antependiums	10.00	“	upwards
Linen Surplices, Monstrance Veils	3.00	“	“
Felt Altar-Covers, green or red	5.00	“	“
Tabernacle Veils, Sick Call Burses	5.00	“	“
Reversible Confession Stoles	5.00	“	“
Ciborium Covers	4.00	“	“
Preaching Stoles	10.00	“	“
Cinctures	2.00	“	“
Altar-bread Boxes	2.00	“	“
Missal Marks	1.75	“	“
Breviary Marks	1.00	“	“
Canopies, Flags	30.00	“	“
Banners	60.00	“	“
<i>Altar Linen</i>	Altar Cloths	6.00	“ “
	Amices	12.00	per doz.
	Corporals	8.50	“ “
	Finger-towels	4.50	“ “
	Purificators	5.00	“ “
	Palls	4.00	“ “

We supply Altar-breads at the following prices:

Small	\$1.00 per 1000
Large	0.37½ “ 100



Practical Means

of helping the Missionary Sisters of the
Immaculate Conception

By contributing alms to:

The erection of the Novitiate Chapel dedicated to
Our Lady of the Missions.....
The erection of Chapels in mission countries.....

By providing for the:

Annual supply for the upkeep of the sanctuary lamp in our houses of Canada and in mission countries	\$ 20.00
Foundation of a Burse for the support of a missionary sister.....	1,000.00
Annual support of a maiden-catechist.....	50.00
Annual support and education of an orphan.....	40.00
Foundation of a crib—at perpetuity.....	200.00
Annual care of a leper.....	60.00
Monthly upkeep of a crib.....	5.00
Ransom of a baby, likely to live.....	5.00
Ransom of a dying baby.....	.25
Monthly support of a missionary sister.....	10.00
Monthly support of a novice preparing for the mis- sions.....	10.00
Annual subscription to THE PRECURSOR.....	1.00

The alms that you will give to the missionaries, the help that you will bring them, will be employed for the greater glory of God, and will be for you the most certain and remuneratory investment, the "hundredfold" promised by Jesus Christ.

* * *

The missionary must not be alone to sacrifice himself. All Christians must unite and help him in his work by their prayers and alms.

Benefactors of the Society

1.—**Founders**, those who donate \$1,000.00 or more.

2.—**Protectors**, those who, by the donation of \$500.00, provide the dowry and trousseau of a poor novice. By combining their alms, a parish, community or family may have right to this title.

A Founder's or Protector's Diploma is awarded to persons making the above mentioned donations.

3.—**Subscribers**, those who give an annual offering of \$25.00.

4.—**Associates**, those who give the sum of \$2.00 per year.

The Society also considers as Benefactors, all persons who contribute to the maintenance of its works any offering whatever, in money or kind.

Privileges Accorded to Benefactors

While commending their Benefactors to God, that He Himself may reward them according to their generosity, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception assure them as large a share as possible in the merit of their apostolic labors, as also in the prayers and sufferings of all the unfortunates confided to their care.

Besides, Benefactors are entitled to the following spiritual advantages :

1.—A special intention in all the Masses heard and Communions received by the Sisters.

2.—A Mass offered every month for their intentions.

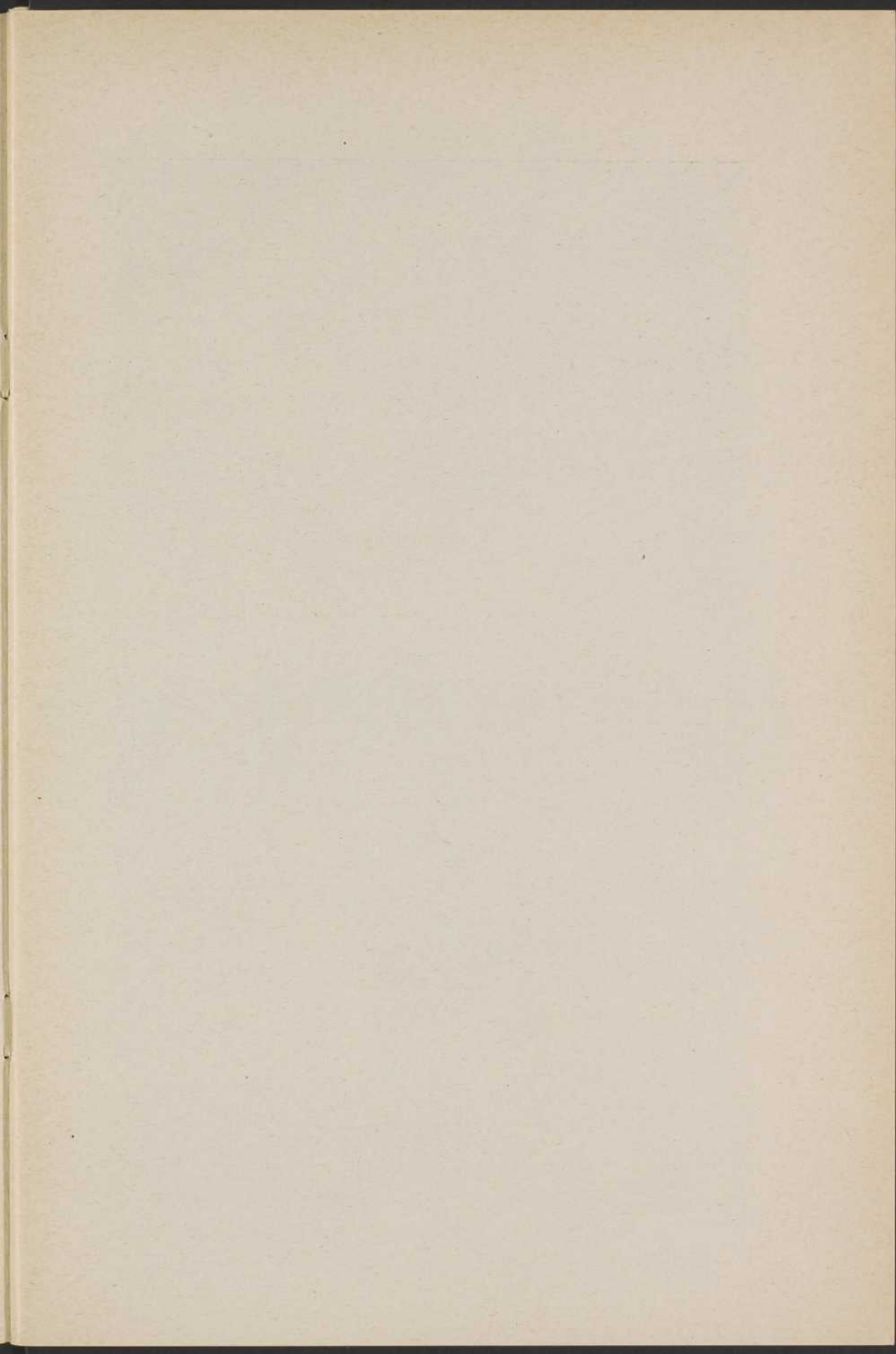
3.—Every Friday in the year, the Sisters offer, for their Benefactors' intentions, their hours of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the chapel of the Mother-House. (The names of Founders and Protectors are deposited on the Altar of Exposition).

4.—For the same intentions, the members of the Community make, every day, the Guard of Honor to Mary, which consists in the continual recitation of the Rosary before the altar of the Blessed Virgin. The evening hours of Canada corresponding with the morning hours of China, as the Guard is closing here, it commences at the Lazaretto of Shek-Lung, where the poor lepers, in succeeding groups of fifteen, continue the Perpetual Rosary for the intentions of the Society's Benefactors.

5.—A Requiem High Mass is sung every year for deceased Benefactors.

6.—A share in the merits of the Way of the Cross, made daily by the Sisters, is also accorded to deceased Benefactors.

7.—In the Novitiate Chapel of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, two Masses are celebrated every week for all Subscribers to "The Precursor" and for all living and deceased Benefactors.





"O IMMACULATE MOTHER, PROTECT OUR BENEFACTORS!"

THE PRECURSOR

Published by the
Missionary Sisters
of the Immaculate Conception

with the approbation of the Archbishop of Montreal

VOL. IV. 5th Year

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No. 2

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ST. JOSEPH'S WORK-SHOP

St. Joseph's Work-shop



THE spirit of the Gospel has sprung from Joseph's work-shop. The Holy Family has, by its labour, merited for christians the grace of their state.

Joseph is the honour and model of working men. He who is of an illustrious race spends his life labouring in a work-shop. It is there that God will seek him to entrust him with His Son made man. Without leaving his obscure condition, he rears the Divine Child. Jesus grows in his shop and shares his labours.

When Our Lord begins to preach to the country people of Judea, His first words are: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven". Who are they who are poor in spirit? Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and all who resemble them. Jesus is poor in spirit. He loves poverty because of the riches it yields. "I am poor", does He say to His Father, "and in labours from my youth."

The spirit of poverty will lay the foundation of christianism. A disciple of Christ should, at the least, keep his heart detached from the goods of this world. The true christian, according to the Gospel, is one who is satisfied with food and raiment; moreover, he is not uneasy to procure them. He has a Father in heaven Who knows all he needs: it is He Who feeds the birds of the air without their having to sow nor reap; He clothes the lilies of the fields, that neither labour nor spin: He will provide for those who serve Him. The christian seeks only the kingdom of God, and His justice; all these things shall be added unto him. (St. Matth. VI.)

Such is the spirit that makes the christian workman: craftsmen are prepared by their profession to receive this new spirit which, almost naturally so to say, penetrates them. The workman who believes in Jesus Christ knows that in Heaven is a Father Who loves and protects him. He serves Him to the best of his ability, expecting from Him his daily bread on earth and in Heaven the eternal reward. He works without murmuring: to procure food for himself and his family is his only ambition. Why should he envy those who have more than he? Do they not, also, at a heavy interest, pay their quota of suffering and sorrow?... The Christian workman is satisfied with his condition. He has contracted humble and modest habits; he loves his habitation, his work-shop where he enters with joy and which he leaves with regret. His life is spent in working.

DAY OF THANKSGIVING

in honor of

OUR BLESSED FATHER SAINT JOSEPH



The tenth day of January has been chosen by the Association of Perpetual Worship in honour of Saint Joseph to be our day of prayer and gratitude towards the glorious Patron of Universal Church.

We cannot refrain from a certain emotion when this date approaches: it will be the occasion when our hearts, in an official manner would we dare say, will unite with that of the chaste spouse of the Immaculate Virgin. Ah! it is good to draw near to Saint Joseph and tell him we love him!

"How the soul of our beloved Father Saint Joseph must have overflowed with the liveliest tenderness and the most burning love when he held in his arms the Child Jesus Whom Heaven had confided to his care! What untold jubilation his just soul must have experienced at the thought that his Child was He Whom Jehovah had announced, on so many occasions, to his ancestors, the patriarchs and prophets, and Whom these had so ardently desired to see before descending into the grave! He now gazed upon this Saviour expected for centuries; his spotless hands could touch Him and his heart possessed Him Whom he loved!"

These thoughts come naturally to our mind during a meditation made at the foot of the Crib and on the day dedicated in our Institute to gratitude towards our Father and Protector Saint Joseph.

From dawn, everything breathes joy: our sanctuary has become a little paradise of verdure, lights and flowers. The altar of the glorious spouse of Mary disappears under the decoration where luminous rays and perfumed corollas intermingle their beauty and grace. His statue rises above this throne which lacks not majesty and the holy Patriarch seems to smile upon the humble missionaries who desire, by these symbolical demonstrations, to unveil a little the sentiments which fill their souls.

During Mass, harmony of the voices and harmony of the hearts—both express prayer and praise—sing the kindnesses, virtues and prerogatives of our beloved Protector; and at the Communion, we beg the foster-father of Jesus to prepare our hearts, to make of them "little dwellings of Nazareth", where the Saviour will be pleased to descend for there He will find those whom He cherished most here below: Mary and Joseph! The colloquies are prolonged when Jesus has come, and Saint Joseph is instituted the kind and powerful mediator in these touching conversations between the great God of Heaven and His little creature.

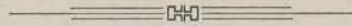
The Guard of Honour to Saint Joseph — a tradition on this day — begins at 8 A.M. and lasts till late in the evening: all must have the advantage of coming to the feet of the great Benefactor and tender Father whom we celebrate. There, in intimacy, how many secrets are confided to his heart! The humble missionary of the Immaculate Conception exposes to him whose power and bounty she knows from experience, her needs,

desires and ambitions, and in a particular manner, the intentions of the Perpetual Worship Association. She begs, supplicates, implores and thanks; oh! above all else, she proffers thanks. This debt of gratitude, how sweet it is to her heart! To say again and again: Thanks! to sing this hymn on each day which the Lord gives us, ah! yes, it is sweet!! And who, more than our beloved Father Saint Joseph, after Jesus and Mary, favours our humble Institute? Is it not this tender Protector who provides for our needs? is it not he who inspires our generous benefactors and friends? If we cast a look on the year just elapsed, we witness an endless series of privileges and benefits; and this spectacle presented by this recent past is for us a presage and a guarantee for the future; no! our tender Father will not cease to protect and bless us!

Through his virginal hands and most charitable heart are wafted towards the Most High our grateful thanks and praises; and as the imitation of our celestial benefactors is one of the best means of expressing our gratitude, each sister in the course of her prayer at the feet of Saint Joseph, begs from this peerless master of interior life the graces and virtues that will render her a missionary, an apostle according to the heart of God, fashioned as she will be by this just man to whom God the Father Himself gave the custody of His Only Son.

The entire day is permeated with the piety and jubilation which are deposited in every soul by the thought of our beloved Father: mysteries of the Rosary in song, hymns and prayers, the recreations even, every act is impregnated with an atmosphere of celestial bliss. Are they not a glimpse of Heaven these hours of rejoicing and this greater intimacy between one or another of the Blessed and our poor hearts?...

On the decline of this beautiful day, recollecting ourselves in a more fervent prayer, we renew the expression of our filial gratitude towards our so kind Father and beg him to continue to protect us during the dawning year; we also instantly ask him to bless those who bear us interest and who do us good: may all feel the effects of the paternal love of Saint Joseph!



Votive lights in honor of the Blessed Virgin

*In the Chapel of the Missionary Sisters
of the Immaculate Conception.*

To comply with the desire of several pious persons devoted to the Blessed Virgin, we are pleased to quote the prices of lamps and candles that may be burned at Mary's shrine in our modest chapel, in thanksgiving or to obtain some favor from this tender Mother.

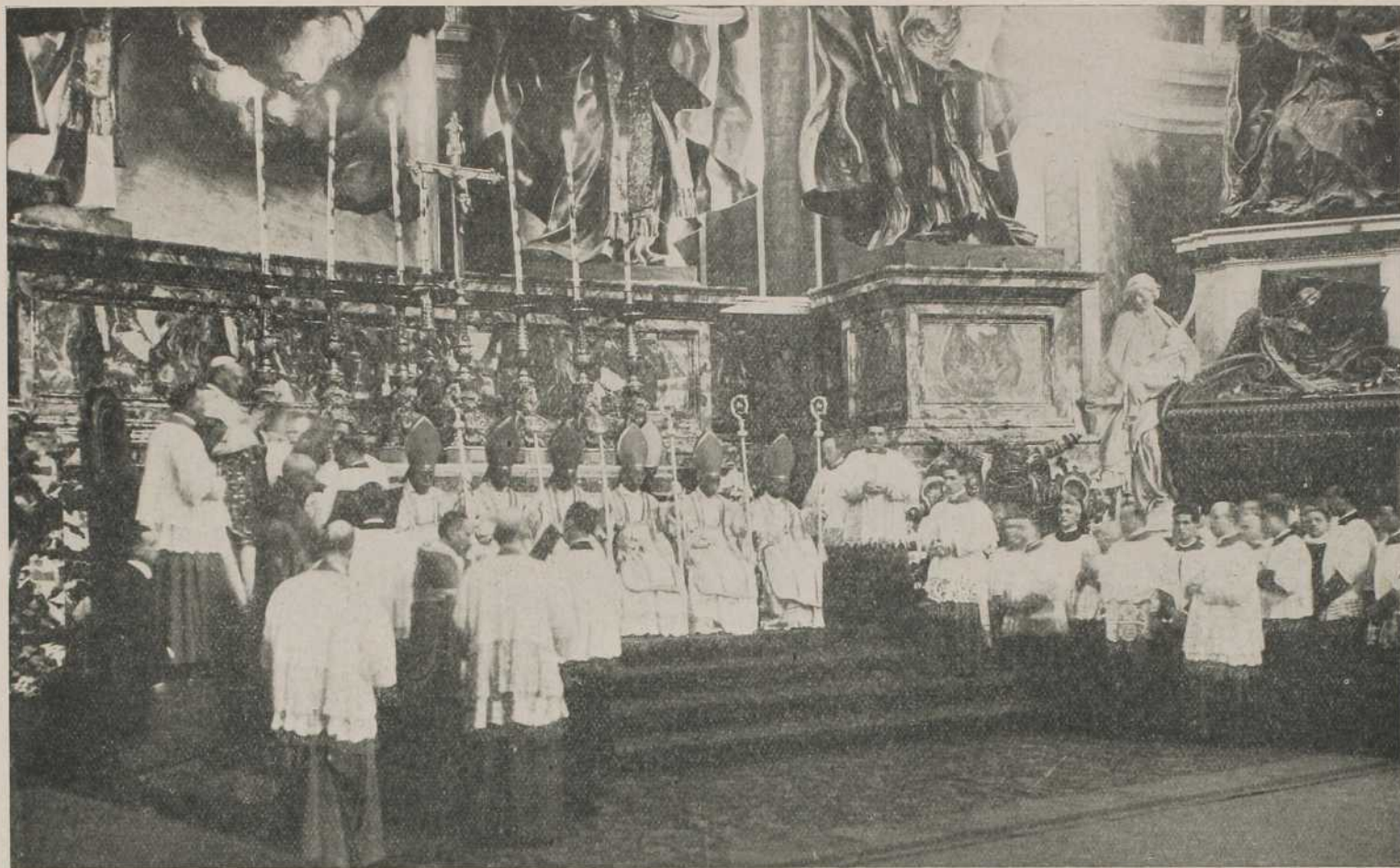
A lamp or candle	{	10 cents each.
		75 cents for a novena.
		\$20.00 for one year.



His Holiness Pope Pius XI. kneeling at the altar; the six Chinese bishops prostrated during the chant of the Litany.



Celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass by His Holiness Pope Pius XI. and the six Chinese bishops.



After having given the mitre and crozier to the new Chinese bishops, His Holiness addresses them an eloquent Latin homily.



His Eminence Cardinal Van Rossum, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda, Mgr. Marchetti, President of the Vatican Missionary Exposition; Mgr. Constantini, Apostolic Delegate for China, and the six new Chinese bishops consecrated at St. Peter's, Rome, on the 28th of October 1926, by His Holiness Pius XI.



Visit of His Lordship Bishop Simon Tsu, S. J., to the Chinese Colony of Montreal

The Chinese Colony of Montreal was in great jubilation Sunday, January 30: on that day, it welcomed one of its most illustrious compatriots in the person of His Lordship Bishop Simon Tsu, S.J., Vicar Apostolic of Haimen, China, one of the six Chinese pontiffs consecrated at Rome on the 28th of October 1926 by His Holiness Pope Pius XI. The Church of Canada was represented on this memorable occasion by His Grace Archbishop Gauthier, administrator of Montreal, Archbishop Mathieu of Regina; their Lordships Bishops Brunault of Nicolet, Forbes of Joliette, Langlois of Valleyfield, Deschamps, auxiliary of Montreal, as well as by several members of the secular and regular clergy. His Honor the Mayor of Montreal, the medical staff of the Chinese Hospital, the Directors and members of the Catholic School Board and many distinguished personages were also present.

The Chinese had made demonstrations in honour of their noble visitor: bunting and flags of their national colours waved in the breeze, and repeated rounds of pyrotechnic projections greeted his appearance in the streets and at the church.

At 4 o'clock, His Lordship the Vicar Apostolic entered the sanctuary and took place on a throne near that of our venerated archbishop's. The latter was assisted by Very Reverend Canon A. Roch, Superior of the Quebec Foreign Mission Seminary and Reverend T. Filiatrault, S.J., whilst His

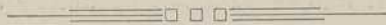
Lordship Bishop Tsu had by his side Reverend Fathers Gagnon and Marin S.J., Canadian missionaries from China.

An address in Chinese and two bouquets were presented by pupils of the Holy Ghost School, after which His Grace Archbishop Gauthier, with the eloquence and delicate tact which characterize him, extended words of greeting to the worthy visitor from China and expressed at the same time his joy in welcoming him in his archiepiscopal city and his personal solicitude for his dear compatriots. In touching terms, His Lordship Bishop Tsu thanked His Grace and, in terminating, asked for prayers for his country, his vicariate and works. He also spoke to the Chinese, telling them how happy he was in seeing so many Catholics among them and he urged them to be earnest and faithful Christians. Reverend Father Caillé, so devoted to the Chinese Colony of which he is in charge, then presented his homages and that of his flock.

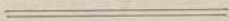
Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given by His Lordship the Chinese bishop himself, and the singing was rendered by the Reverend Brothers of the Christian Schools and their pupils. After the ceremony, the Mayor of the City, the Directors of the School Board, the doctors and benefactors of the Chinese Hospital and works of Montreal came to His Lordship to offer their wishes. The members of the Chinese Colony also surrounded the august prelate to express their veneration and joy.

Before leaving, His Lordship had the extreme kindness of coming to the Chinese Hospital with our good auxiliary Bishop to address a few words to the Sisters and bless them.

THE MISSIONARY SISTERS
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.



— He that winneth souls is wise. — SOLOMON.



"The nations that spread Faith abroad never lose it at home. When the Catholic Church in any nations has sons and daughters of that nation in the mission field, when the people at home read about foreign missions, talk about them, pray for them, help them financially, the faith is safe. — AMERICA



Three of our Canadian Missionaries at Mukden Seminary

Catholic Mission, Mukden, China, October 30, 1926.

Reverend and dear Father Superior,

"There was great rejoicing in the Canadian colony of the Mission this morning, for the mail contained quite a number of most interesting letters.

"What can I tell you about China: I do not yet know the language of the country! At the most can I repeat what I hear around me.

"You already know the situation I suppose, for the press must be filled with more or less reassuring news on China. It is true on the whole, but we are at peace in this region. Do not be uneasy about us.

"Revolution and anarchy sweep over China. Peace is not yet on the horizon. Hatred for foreigners increases. Prejudice against missionaries is implanted in every place, probably because missionaries are the advocates of real freedom and harmony: that which does not suit the bolchevists. The slogan throughout China is: "A stranger is an enemy." These two words are one to the Chinese.

"But in Manchuria, we have yet as nothing to fear. A man whom all call "The Prince" and who well deserves the appellation, rules over the northern part of the country. He is China's most capable man. Universally feared by the Chinese, he is also universally obeyed; through fear, it is true, but still all goes well and woe to him who would dare resist: he would immediately be done away with!

"The governor of Manchuria, Tchang Tso Lin, is not the enemy of Catholics. He is even in friendly terms with the Vicar Apostolic and on civic occasions the bishop is a guest at the Palace. Everything is done

with the utmost courtesy. We enjoy peace but it is precarious. Were the army of the North to be defeated, things would change entirely. But let us live in the present!

"We are told that conversions are difficult to effectuate because of almost universal anarchy. There are two regions which give great consolations. They are not in China proper: Tonquin and Corea where the blood of martyrs has flowed in such abundance. "The blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians" can we still say to-day. As to the other parts of China, the missionaries think that labor and blood will be necessary to obtain their conversion. It must not frighten future missionaries to learn that conversions will not be easily achieved. We shall be what God wills: that is the best.

"Five of our companions are at the Bishop's house; Father Berger and I are staying at the Seminary. We assemble every evening under the presidency of Father Bérichon. Fathers Lapierre and Lomme have been sent to different missions; one to Leaoyang and the other to Niou Chouang. All are very joyful. I do not feel at all lonesome. I try to accustom myself as quickly as possible to missionary life. Bygones must be bygones and one must adapt himself to the customs of the country. I am studying the Chinese language; but the beginning is more difficult for I cannot study as much as I would like to: it is impossible to practise alone; a teacher must always be near to take us up and make us pronounce the same sound again and again.

"We are also advised to take much exercise. On holidays, I go hunting; it is an excellent means of recreation. We have brought home yesterday three nice hares and two ducks... not counting those we missed, the best I presume.

"I enclose a photograph of the pupils of the Lesser Seminary where I reside. The oldest priest has been thirty-three years in the missions; I am his companion. He says he owes his good health to his firearm which he has used regularly since his arrival in China. That encourages me! This veteran missionary walks, or rides on his bicycle, a distance from 8 to 10 miles twice a week to go hunting. When we leave together for these excursions, I wonder who enjoys it the more, Father Beaulieu or his "Angel" (name he gives me in Chinese).

"You can easily recognize on the photo: Fathers Larochelle, and Barbeau and myself. Reverend Father Beaulieu, superior of the Grand Seminary, is between Fathers Larochelle and Barbeau; the other is a French priest, Reverend Father D'Arles, superior of the Lesser Seminary; and his assistant, a Chinese priest, sits to the right.

"I beg you, Reverend Father, to remember us in your numerous prayers, not only concerning our physical welfare, but especially for the intention that we worthily prepare for our future apostolate.

"I send my best regards to all, professors and seminarians, friends and benefactors, and to you, Reverend Father, my most respectful homages."

Emile Charest, M.E.

Echæa from our Missions

Diary of our three Sisters gone to Japan November last.

On board "The Empress of Russia"

Friday, November 12, 1926.

On the stroke of twelve (noon), our steamer weighs anchor. A band of Philippino musicians immediately begin a gay concert. It is probably to make a diversion from the sad thoughts which farewells have occasioned. For several, it is doubtlessly the hour of struggle; it is certainly for your daughters! The sacrifice had been accepted and was at its height when we had left you, dear Mother, our dear Sister Assistant, our spiritual and natural families; but at that time, we were still on Canadian soil... Now every move of our steamer takes us away from our dear homeland! We loved our country, but not until to-day did we know how intensely we loved it!! God alone is worthy of such a sacrifice and it is for love of Him, to win souls for Him, that we make it: may this kind Master render us docile instruments of His holy Will! We rivet our eyes on the shore, exchanging farewells with our dear Sisters of Vancouver; and when we can no longer see these dear Sisters we remain on deck to admire to the last our Canadian scenery.

When dinner is over, we repair to our cabin and prepare for a good week's work.

In the course of the afternoon, Sister M. du Perpétuel-Secours takes a little rest for she feels tired, but she assures us it is not sea-sickness. Towards evening, we go on deck. The foamy waves, the rocking of the ship, the flight of gulls that escort us, remind Sr. de l'Enfant-Jésus of her youthful excursions on the St. Lawrence. —Sr. M. du Perpétuel-Secours also delights in the briny air, so much so that she finds it a good substitute for her first supper.

Saturday, November 13.

We all rise at 6.30 a.m., and feel perfectly well. But a quarter of an hour has not elapsed when Sr. du St. Cœur de Marie and M. du Perpétuel-Secours must return to their beds; the third becomes their nurse. The sea is so rough that nearly all the passengers are laid up. Reverend Father Calixte is also sea-sick and deems it wiser not to say Mass. We take our meals in our room; the two "invalids" do not view the tray favourably...

United with the members of our Community, we recite each night the Ave Maris Stella to beg our Immaculate Mother to watch over our skiff, and we abandon ourselves to Divine Providence.

Sunday, November 14.

We have no Mass this morning as the sea is not milder than yesterday. Our two patients do not improve: we try to go on deck this forenoon but have to reintegrate immediately.

Monday, November 15.

Reverend Father Calixte came yesterday afternoon to give us our first lesson in Japanese. It is very interesting and not as difficult as we had thought. We learn how to make the Sign of the Cross and a few ordinary words; after a second lesson taken to-day we can count up to 1000.

Tuesday, November 16.

Our dear Sister M. du Perpétuel-Secours was not better; she could even sit up! The nurse who is very kind to us gave our two sick sisters a medicine that seems to do them a world of good; they both have been able to sleep and rest. Sister de l'Enfant-Jésus is in turn infirmarian, door-keeper, spiritual reader, etc., etc. In her spare moments, she practises on the typewriter.

Wednesday, November 17.

We had hoped to have Mass this morning but the rough sea keeps everyone in bed. We continue the study of Japanese and learn the Ave Maria this afternoon.

For the first time in five days, we perceive land! it is the mountains —rock-built— of the Aleutian Islands.

Friday, November 19.

We have our first Mass on board this morning! Our room is the sanctuary where the Almighty deigns to descend. We three receive the Bread of travellers. Oh! what a compensation for our long fast!! And Jesus leaves trace of His passage: our two sisters are much better!...

Reverend Father Calixte tells us that there is a large garden on the convent grounds at Naze and that the Mission may be able to acquire a lot adjoining the school. There we shall have the advantage of eating fresh fish without leaving the property! Besides teaching, we shall probably take up other works later on: the raising of silk-worms, weaving, etc.

Saturday, November 20.

The Franciscan Fathers have the privilege of saying the Mass of the Immaculate Conception every Saturday. We rejoice in hearing the praises of the Church in honour of our Immaculate Mother.

Sunday, November 21.

We witnessed yesterday morning a very beautiful sight: a snow-storm on the ocean!... Really we would not tire admiring it; but alas! it was of

short duration: wind followed and from 3 p.m. till this morning, we were rocked and shaken recklessly. Despite sea-sickness mirth reigns in berth 344; we must acknowledge that joy is almost the only appetizer for our invalids.

We shall soon land at Yokohama. So that this may reach you sooner, we now close, begging you, dear Mother, to accept the assurance of the filial love and most lively gratitude of

Your three little Japanese.



MOUNT FUGI, JAPAN

En route to Japan, November 22, 1926

We shall soon meet our friends the Japanese; our steamer will land at Yokohama towards three to-morrow afternoon. Needless to say how anxious we are! There will be a stop of a few hours and Reverend Father Calixte wishes us to profit by it to visit the Apostolic Delegate at Tokio. We have still a good week's travelling before reaching Naze; we shall probably enter the port of Nagasaki on the 3rd of December.

On landing, we shall say a hearty Magnificat to thank the sweet Star of the Sea for her protection.

Tuesday, November 23.

We are at Yokohama, our first Japanese seaport. We go on deck while waiting for permission to leave the ship to go to Tokio. Crowds are on the wharf and we leisurely observe the people's dress: although queer, it is very modest. The shades are well-matched; they wear wooden shoes. We see the rich mount their *pousse* (*koroma*). There are some who bow

very low three times, making a deeper inclination each time. A few mothers carry on their backs babies wrapped in gay-coloured cloaks. The women wear a very high head-dress but no hat.

The boat must wait here until to-morrow. We immediately pay the intended visit to the Apostolic Delegate in Tokio. On our way, we stop at a Mission. We reach the Palace at 6.15 P.m., where His Excellency greets us very paternally and deigns to offer us to take tea with him. Father Calixte mentions to the Delegate that Cardinal Van Rossum is our Protector and His Excellency replies that His Eminence is a great friend of his. He then blesses us saying, "I bless your entire Community and especially your work in Japan." His Excellency advises us to go to Nagasaki for a visit to the Administrator of the Diocese.

We receive hospitality from the Ladies of the Sacred Heart.

Wednesday, November 24.

The weather is ideal when we leave Yokohama for Kobe. Nature is beautiful: the sea is calm, the sun is radiant! In the distance, we see volcanoes and Mount Fugi with its perpetual snow-covered peak. It is almost adored by the Japanese, they are so proud of its magnificence! We take a photograph of it.

Thursday, November 25.

We reached Kobe at 8.00 a.m. The Reverend Sisters of the Child Jesus gave us shelter. We have had to pass the customs: it seemed quite an event for there were many spectators. Reverend Father Fage of Paris Foreign Missions had the list of our valises' contents so as to translate all in Japanese. As for us, we busied ourselves refilling our trunks according as they were upset. The statues drew the attention of the customs officers, especially that of the Infant Jesus which went from hand to hand. I fear its little silk dress still bears marks of such solicitude. The apples given by our sisters of Vancouver did not reach their destination for they were burned *whole* at the city entrance. A law of the country forbids the importation of fruit, vegetables and nuts.

Friday, November 26.

Returning from the city this afternoon, we stopped near the great Buddhist temple. It is very rich: the roof is gold-plate and there are "sacred doves" over it. The pagans assemble for prayer in the first part of the temple; the high-priest alone has the right to enter the second section where the *tabernacle* stands. Nobody can enter at the present time because the tabernacle has been placed in the first section whilst repairs are being made in its own.

Saturday, November 27.

You doubtlessly think that we are now in Naze, but we are only on the way... We are actually on the train from Kobe to Nagasaki and enjoy



BUDDHIST TEMPLE, JAPAN

the most charming scenery! God has sown very beautiful things on His children's path: can we ever be thankful enough?

I must now explain, dear Mother, how it is that we are still travelling. Our steamer stopped at Yokohama much longer than it should have. We could have gone on to Nagasaki on the *Empress*, but it was better to stop at Kobe to buy our furniture. From Nagasaki, the Express Company sees to our goods but offers no guarantee whilst from Kobe transportation is safe and made by boat. I enclose a list of what we have bought. Reverend Father Fage has been most obliging on this occasion.

Sunday, November 28.

We can hear Mass at 8 o'clock at Urakami. The church is large and beautifully situated on a hill which overlooks the city and can be seen from afar. The mission counts 8000 christians. Three masses are said every Sunday and the church is filled to capacity each time. The men stand on the left side of the church and the women, on the right. The latter wear a white veil over their heads. All recite aloud the prayers for Mass.

We visited during the day the Seminary, the relic Museum of the ancient christians, the Administrator of the Diocese of Nagasaki and the Church of Discovery.

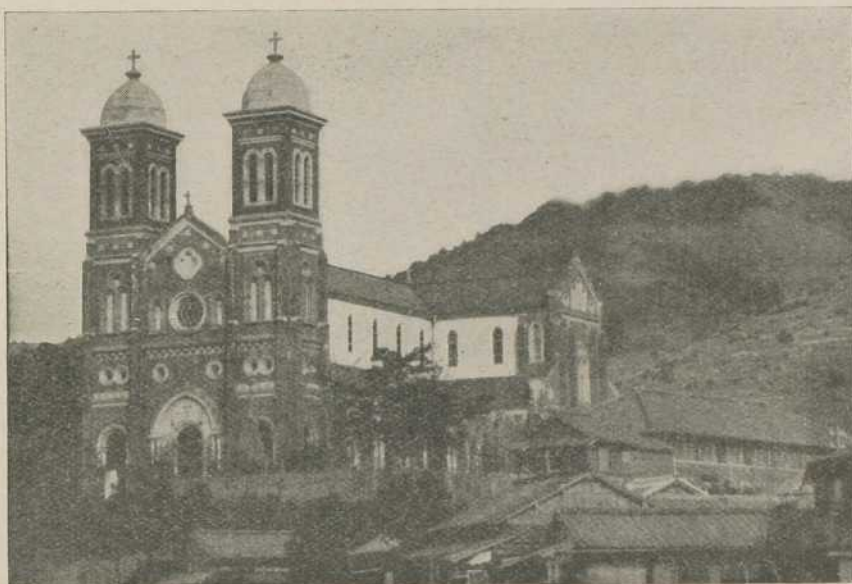
We have made our first visit to a Japanese house in Motobari, a suburb of Nagasaki. It is the dwelling of virgins who live in common and devote themselves to the teaching of Catechism; they do not make the vows nor wear any special costume. Very few pieces of furniture can be seen in their house, and there are no tables nor chairs. The floors are covered with mats and it is impossible to enter with shoes on.

Monday, November 29.

We make a pilgrimage to the Mount of Martyrs where Blessed Pierre Baptiste and his companions shed their blood for the Faith.

Tuesday, November 30.

We are now at Buwasaki where live the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. They afforded us the pleasure of visiting their lazaretto, foundling-home, etc. We were expected for dinner at the Sisters of the Child Jesus. They have a large boarding-school for Japanese girls. We went through it and there are many details that I noticed and that would interest you: I shall speak about them later. The Superior of the Boarding-school has been in Japan since 49 years! We may indeed well say that mission life does not shorten one's existence!!



CHURCH AT URAKAMI, JAPAN]

Wednesday, December 1.

Since we are on Japan's soil, our time has been pretty well taken up: we have made several unforeseen trips which we have appreciated. Father had traced the programme: visits of the churches, schools, lazarettoes, foundling-homes, etc. We already have a fairly good idea of Japanese customs. A detail embarrasses us: we must not enter churches nor houses with our shoes on; we have gone to several stores at Kobe, trying to procure black slippers, but have not found any. Shall we have to use the Japanese foot-gear?

We reached Kagoshima at 7.30 last evening. The missionary priests were at the station; several ladies and young girls were also there to welcome us. Our first visit was to Our Lord in a pretty Japanese church. This

church contains two paintings that attract us: those of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Francis Xavier. After a few short but fervent prayers, we repair to the rectory where a great number of Christians are assembled. We are also tendered a reception by the Ladies' Circle of Kagoshima. Here is a copy of the address:

REVEREND MOTHERS,

On the very evening of your arrival in our city, on your way to Oshima future field of your apostolic works, regardless of fatigues and occupations, in coming in our midst you give rise to feelings of deepest gratitude to us, members of the Ladies' Circle of Kagoshima, organizers of this entertainment, and to all the Catholics of our city.



INTERIOR OF A JAPANESE HOUSE

Reverend Mothers, in thus seeing you traverse the immensity of the seas to come to devote yourselves to teaching in the island of Oshima, words fail to express our happiness and joy.

The work of education is doubtlessly a difficult task; however your profound knowledge and the distinction of your persons will assure you untold success.

Reverend Mothers, you who have consecrated yourselves to the sole service of God, doubtlessly possess this kindness so necessary to educators and without which, as the proverb says, "Humanity gropes in darkness". Consequently, how easy it will be for you to teach that we must, according to Our Lord's command, love the neighbour as ourselves.

You are yourselves living proofs of it: you have left home, relatives and country; truly, how can we fitly glorify the sublimity of such a sacrifice!

You are now wending your way towards the distant island of Oshima where you will give a new lustre to civilization; the inhabitants of Oshima who expect you are assuredly privileged.

It is true that on this solitary island difficulties of all sorts also await you, that of the language most particularly. But, despite this, you manifest an indomitable courage which adds to our admiration and makes us conjecture for you every success.

Go forth then, Reverend Mothers, to the land which God has reserved for your zeal; go, sow the benefits of Christian education. We shall follow you by thought, affection and prayer so that God may grant health to your persons and consolation and prosperity to your works.

THE LADIES' CIRCLE

AND ALL THE CATHOLICS OF KAGOSHIMA.

November 30, 1926.

The boat that is to take us to Naze will leave only at three o'clock tomorrow afternoon. We are to be sheltered until then in a well-to-do Japanese family. The house we occupy is very neat and the meals are prepared in European fashion.

For the last week we have been travelling from one city to another. We have been received by the Sisters of the Child Jesus, the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, and the Ladies of the Sacred Heart: all have been most kind to your daughters. We have met the brother and sister of our dear Sister Marie du Bon-Conseil: Reverend Father Urbain-Marie and Sister St. Longin du Sacré-Cœur; both are in perfect health. They were pleased to receive the messages of fraternal affection and the souvenirs of their sister, missionary of the Immaculate Conception.

Thursday, December 2.

Reverend Fathers Calixte and Urbain-Marie take us to a school in Kagoshima. There is first a reception given by the lady teachers: tea and Japanese cakes are served. We visit the classes; the pupils crowd around us, we can scarcely move: all wish to have a look at us. I am asked to say a few words in English to the 4000 pupils. I comply with this invitation but not without being somewhat embarrassed...

Friday, December 3.—Feast of St. Francis Xavier.

Striking coincidence: we are at Kagoshima, the very place where St. Francis Xavier landed when arriving in Japan.

The missionary priests executed beautiful singing at Mass. Immediately after dinner, we leave for Naze. The Reverend Franciscan Fathers and the christians see us to the boat. We make the trip with Reverend Fathers Egide and Calixte.

Saturday, December 4.

At last! we have reached Naze! It is already late and very dark. We notice crowds of men and children on the shore carrying lighted lanterns;

some come in row-boats to meet us. The pupils are lined on each side of the street where we are to pass. The Fathers have hired poussets and oblige us to mount. We are taken to the house that has been prepared for us, not far from the church.

Wednesday, December 8.—Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

God, always so delicate towards the humble missionaries of His Immaculate Mother, permits that we take possession of our house in Japan on this beautiful day. Magnificat! Magnificat!! We three unite our voices to praise our heavenly Patroness. For the first time since we have left our Mother-House, we don our white habit and blue girdle. To-day is not a holyday of obligation in Japan; still, owing to the solemnity, Father Calixte deigns to sing High Mass. This good Father has made all preparations for the official visits and wishes that our legal papers bear the date of December 8. Here is our visiting programme: to the Mayor, the Chief of Police, to the Bank, the Post Office, the Prefecture, the Registry Office. The Assistant Prefect and the Director of Schools of Naze tell us that if we should open a kindergarten, they would be the first to send us their children.

It was nearly twelve o'clock when we stopped at the grocer's to get something for our dinner. We could not find bread, meat or European canned goods; we bought eggs and the Fathers sent us a loaf of bread. This is our first meal at home.

Towards two o'clock, Father Calixte comes for us. We go in his company to the school where the Professors tender us a word of welcome and the pupils greet us in song and verse. It goes without saying that we were offered the traditional tea-cup and the national cake!



A STREET OF NAZE, JAPAN

On our return home, we renew our consecration to the Blessed Virgin before a very modest improvised altar: a table and two small boxes covered with a white sheet. Our statues of the Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph brought from the Mother-House are placed upon it and decorated with pretty roses made by our dear Sisters of Outremont. We sing with all fervour the beautiful hymn: "Daughter of the King!" Reverend Father Calixte, come to give us a lesson of Japanese, has preceded it by a touching allocution on to-day's solemnity.

Friday, December 10.

We shall have High Mass every day throughout the Octave to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. A brother brings us a loaf of bread and two bottles of milk, and the pupils give a basket of "mikans", small mountain oranges.

Henceforth we shall have our lesson of Japanese every day at nine o'clock; and from 2 to 4, we shall study the language.

Sunday, December 11.

When we had gone to the School for the first time, two professors were absent; they come to-day to see us. We go down to the parlor with them and as there are no chairs we sit on the "tatamis" (mats).

We shall probably have Mass here before long... Father Calixte told us yesterday that he was looking for an altar-stone. And we... rely on kind Providence to furnish us with altar linens, vestments, etc., and we are certain that we shall not be disappointed.

Beloved Mother, there remains for me to fulfill a very consoling duty: that of offering you our wishes of health, happiness and joy for the New Year; more than ever do we feel the need of repeating what feelings of filial love and gratitude ceaselessly rise from our hearts for you, dear Mother. May we prove the sincerity of our words in being the religious you desire us to be: true missionaries of the Immaculate Conception!

We would be almost tempted, at this time of the year, to envy our dear Sisters of the Mother-House who will, on the first day of 1927, group around you to hear your kind words and receive the large share of maternal affection which you will bestow upon them. But since God, through your means, has directed us towards the land of Japan for the sublime work of apostolate, we accomplish with joy his Holy Will, happy to make such a sacrifice and offer it for your intentions.

Very dear Mother, kindly accept the respectful homage of our ardent wishes which we place in our Immaculate Mother's hands.

YOUR VERY LOVING AND GRATEFUL CHILDREN,

Missionaries to Japan.



Isle de Shek Lung, near Canton, China ~

ISLE OF SHEK-LUNG, NEAR CANTON, CHINA — HO

Visit of our sisters arrived from Canada

Saturday, September 11.

We shall enjoy the pleasure of seeing again our dear sisters of the Lazzaretto, devoted to the work since 1913! How far these sisters are on this island of Shek-Lung! Our boat is steered by two old Chinese women, professionals are we told; one tugs at the oar with one hand whilst, with her chopsticks in the other, she eats her daily ration of rice and small salted fish called *soung*. We have to look for a clean corner to place ourselves, but the space wherein to choose is limited.

These oarswomen know their profession and, to avoid sand-banks, they take a roundabout way and stop us in front of the barracks where we must climb a hill to reach the place.

Shek-Lung is surrounded by villages of pirates, that is the reason why 24 Chinese soldiers are night and day on duty on the island. Like for every oriental habitation, the doors and windows of the sister's house are constantly open; so our dear sisters see us approaching: "Sisters from Canada! Sisters from Canada!" do they exclaim. Joy overflows; think! to see each other again after ten, thirteen years' separation!

We spend with these dear sisters four very agreeable days during which we speak of the affection of our beloved Mother, the kindnesses of our dear sisters of the Mother-House, of every one of our houses in Canada, of the development of the Novitiate, in a word, of all whom they know at home. A new source of joy is in store for them for we have with us, coming from Our Mother, quite a number of useful articles and even agreeable ones, viz: Canadian maple sugar!...

We pay a visit to Our Lord in the Tabernacle and then go to see Reverend Father Deswazieres who unreservedly devotes himself for this, the efuse of human society.



HOME OF OUR POOR LEPROUS MEN AND WOMEN

la, to the Lazaretto of Shek-Lung, China

Sunday, September 12.

We discover a two-foot baby snake on the steps of the lepers' chapel. It is rather timid for on hearing us it steals into a nearby shrubbery.

We hear Mass in the chapel of the lepers. When the Holy Sacrifice is terminated, a group of patients remain to recite the Rosary in a loud voice. All day, we shall hear the salutation to Mary; the fervent prayer of these simple souls intercedes for the missionaries, for all their benefactors and compensates for the powerlessness of these unfortunates to express their gratitude.

At Benediction, Master Gustave whom you already know, swings the censer, not before an idol, but before Our Divine Lord in the Blessed Eucharist. His deportment is that of a real beadle! He has grown in height and wisdom and is no more the little imp of a few years ago.

Tuesday, September 14.

A boat nears the island: it is filled with lepers who come to seek shelter. They are fifteen in all, men, women and children. Very slight and meagre is their baggage: a small parcel and, for the greater number, nothing at all, save the clothes they wear; consequently nothing to enrich the lazaretto's linen-room.

The new island is much larger than that where the sisters lived before. The house is not, like the previous one, surrounded by a wall. At the side is a small garden with a few fruit trees and plants for the decoration of the chapel... the whole is periodically flooded. In those days, the inhabitants go from one house to another in a boat. The sisters keep hens, chickens, wild ducks, a dog and a cat, or rather, the bones of a cat! The lepers work diligently at the growing of rice: the rice-fields cultivated by

them yield provisions for three weeks. With rice, the usual food is salted fish seasoned with oil. Their food is generally very scanty and poor.

We see the lepers in the chapel: a few come with their children on the walk opposite the sisters' house, to talk with us. You know how well the houses of the Sisters are isolated from the lepers', and what precautions are taken to prevent contagion: sterilization of clothing, etc. There is a great number of dogs on the island. We wonder if they are as many guardians: but no, these dogs are fattened to furnish the Christmas dinner! The lepers will then feast and each one will receive a larger ration. These poor people sometimes deprive themselves for several months and share their food with their dog in order to render the victim more tasty; this meat is a rare treat to them.

After having said good-bye to our dear Sisters of the Leper Colony, we board the "Star of the Sea", in company with Father Deswazieres who is going to Canton. As we must hurry to catch the train, an oarsman goes on the beach and pulls our boat with a rope. We buy a few bananas and take third-class tickets on the train. The neighbourhood is quite interesting; there are four rows of seats along the car and, on several of these, are men resting with their feet in the windows: why not take it easy in one's own country?... Our near neighbours have better deportment but, from time to time, men and women send us puffs of smoke from their cigarettes. Sitting by us is a Chinese woman who carries three large baskets of fat buns, and over one of these baskets, a young couple, rooster and spring chicken, cackle away in a net that keeps them safe. The whole is a present destined to a future bride and groom. The poor little animals are hungry; so, once in a while, they very coolly and gravely stretch out their necks and a mouthful is stolen from the future guests at the betrothal feast. It is really amusing to watch them! but Sr. St. Viateur is in continual apprehension for the couple have succeeded in extricating themselves from their bonds and they threaten to parade on her cloak! They seem to have particular affection for strangers... Sr. St. Viateur looks very much astonished, and what she witnesses makes her think that the people are very much "at home" on the train.. Do not forget that we are in China, Sister!

On the way from Shek-Lung to Canton, we traverse beautiful rice-fields. The rice is one foot high and, as usual, floats in water. On the edge of a muddy pool, we notice a Chinese who scatters the high grass with a hook: he is looking for serpents. Once the reptiles are caught, he pulls off the poisonous section of the jaw and takes them to the city to sell them as food or medicament. Live reptiles are also sold in the stores; they are usually set in cages.

Unheeding neither us nor the mistress, my neighbour's dear chicken has devoured a whole big bun! I am glad of it; the poor thing had not had a bite since morning!! — We stop at Nam Kong station. There is great noise: would the train be held up by bandits? ...It is only a crowd of urchins who shriek: "*Yat tiek tsiou leung ka sen!* Two cents for a banana!" So much chattering for so little!

We at last reach Canton where we mount a *pousse* that will take us to the house in twenty minutes. We greet there, on arriving, our dear Sisters M. du St. Sacrement and St. Patrick come the preceding day from our Manila Hospital; they will remain at Canton.

To-day being the fifteenth day of the eighth moon, the entire pagan city is jubilating, for it is the feast of the moon. Nearly every house is decorated with flags, colored papers and lanterns. All have done their best and some are still making preparations: placing the censer, poking the fire, etc. Every one is astir: the feast will begin as soon as the moon shall have risen. The soldiers will salute its appearance by cannonade and there will be for every family a revel by moonlight after the offering of incense to the planet. Before sitting at table will be presented to the moon as sacrifice: mooncakes, water-chestnuts and fruit.

The day after the feast.

As last night was so warm that I could not sleep, I had the advantage of witnessing scenes on our neighbour's roof: pagans dancing before lighted sticks of incense, remains of the feast to the moon. One of them lit a Chinese lantern which he attached to a long bamboo stick and lifted it as high as he could. Then, raising his hands in a supplicating manner while he fixed the lantern, he shrieked: *Tang-loung, tang-loung*, to which another answered in as loud a tone: *Fat-tchoy, fat-tchoy*; the prayer continued like a litany:

Tang-loung — lat-tchoy

Tang-loung — fat-tchoy

Tang-loung — fat-tchoy

which means: Chinese lantern — give riches!

This lantern has been used yesterday to honour the moon; it is an object of worship. Poor pagans! their heart and mind are filled with thirst for riches, and they beg those riches from a lantern! What folly! When you see the moon glide in the heavens, please think of our unfortunates and whisper a prayer for them who honour it and do not know its Creator. Still, to see them give honour to the moon breaks the missionaries' heart much less than to see them incline before a monstrous idol of wood or bronze.

Above the houses, above these poor ignorant people, I could also see from my window the beautiful blue sky strewn with stars, and for these children of China, I said to Jesus Whom they do not know: "Lord, convert them; grant them the light of Faith;" and to the sweet Star, Mary our Mother: "Our Lady of Apostolate, Our Lady of the Missions, pray for them, save them!"

Sr. MARIE DE ST GEORGES, M.I.C. (1)

¹ Corinne Crevier, Montreal.

*Letter of Sister St. François d'Assise, Infirmarian at Shek-Lung Lazaretto
to her Superior General*

September 21, 1926.

VENERATED AND DEAR MOTHER,

What a beautiful surprise we have had on receiving the visit of our sisters recently arrived from Canada! To see them again made us live a while at the dear "home"! They spent four days with us, have spoken of you, dear Mother, of our different houses, of all whom we love yonder. They also have brought the useful and good things that you sent us. How we thank you, kind Mother?... The candies were distributed among the sixteen smaller lepers. One of them said, "I have never eaten anything as good yet; I thank you very much!" And he only passed the candy on his tongue to make it last longer. Dear Mother, I would like you to see them, how you would love my little ones!

We actually receive every morning, at 8.00 A.M., the sick who come to our dispensary from the neighbouring villages. A woman came this morning with her little girl of eight years who has a cataract; the poor mother wanted me to cure her! Noticing the statue of the Blessed Virgin in a room, she asked who it was. I told her it was the image of Our Blessed Mother. She went before the statue and made her child pray in this manner: "Holy Virgin, I am only eight years and nearly blind; cure my eyes, help sister to cure me... I am unfortunate... cure me!" Both prostrated to the ground. It was so very touching to hear them, that it seems to me that our kind heavenly Mother will not resist their prayer. I firmly trust that even were she not to accord the corporal cure demanded she will open the eyes of their soul to the celestial light of faith.

This will also interest you, no doubt. Father Director went the other day to Canton to try to get a little money from the authorities. He was treated like a coolie. The leprous women wished to avenge him. They spent part of the night seeking means to do so and in the morning they said to me, "Sister, we cannot let the Father be treated that way; we must defend him... ask him to find a boat for us and we shall go to the authorities: they will be afraid of us and will give us subsidies. We have done that once before and have succeeded." I answered that they run the risk of being shot. "We shall go to confession and communion before leaving, and if we are shot we shall go to Heaven!"

They would certainly have gone had we let them.

Sunday, November 21.

I have begun to exercise the singing for Christmas. If you witnessed the joy of the lepers! And they are quite anxious about it! One said to me, "Sister, I have no time to study the hymn you gave me to learn, I make shoes all day." His neighbour answered, "You can sing while you work; your work would be done much more quickly; God would help you." These two lepers are still pagan. Before and after the rehearsal, I say a

Hail Mary, trusting that all will become christians soon. Some of the late arrivals said in the presence of old residents that they would be better elsewhere; that they would have more rice and could go visiting. One of our boarders quickly answered, "If you wish to go, you may. As for me, I would rather eat less rice and remain here!" It is true that they are in need here and that very often they cannot sleep from hunger. Is it not a pity?...

One more trait, it is the last. A leprous man lately broke the regulations. The chief of his department reported the fact to the missionary who punished him. Out of revenge, he asked a soldier friend to beat his accuser. On the following day, whilst the latter was watering his garden, the soldier broke a cane on his back. The poor man was half-dead. Two or three days later, through the imprudence of a soldier all that belonged to him who had beaten the leper was burned: his clothes, his bed, etc. As this soldier was the only one to suffer any loss from the fire, all the others loudly said that it was our God Who thus revenged the christian leper. As to the chief, he is now in better health and is very fervent.

Sr. ST. FRANCOIS D'ASSISE, M.I.C. (1)

CANTON, CHINA

*Letter of Sister Marie de Lorette, missionary in Canton, China,
to her former Novice Mistress.*

Canton, China, December 12, 1926

DEAR AND KIND MISTRESS,

I am really very much confused to have tarried so long in writing you, but do you see, I wished to write a long letter! I had so much to tell you!!... I have not forgotten you, dear Sister; I often picture myself being still a novice and enjoying the manna of the children of the Novitiate. I recall to mind and try to put into practice your good advice and those of our beloved Mother. I would not like to lose the little virtue I have acquired in the Novitiate and at the Mother-House; more than elsewhere do we need such a treasure, surrounded by pagans as we are here. Oh! how I value time; the days are always too short! I try to make up for it by not losing a minute. I now well understand what Sister Marie Celina told us one day, when speaking on the missions: "We are in China like misers in a place where there would be more pieces of gold than could be taken..." If you could see all the good there is to be done in this city of Canton alone! Beggars go about the streets in such numbers that they make one think of an ant's nest... Miserable-looking women are harnessed to wagons and pull heavy loads... How sad!!

(1) Clara Hebert, Napierville, Que.

I shall now tell you what I am doing: on my arrival, Sister Superior has given me the 2nd Year English Class to teach; I also give drawing-lessons in the other grades. Need I tell you that I do my work with all heart and science?... I never fail, when occasion offers, to say a few words about God. My pupils understand English a little; that is fortunate for me, for I am not yet skilled in Chinese. They are sometimes disagreeable:



HA SING

I then say to myself: "Good for you! what you imposed on your school teachers is paid back to you!" and I offer this annoyance for the conversion of our pagans girls. What is also matter of great sacrifice and which I offer for the same intention, is not to assist at the beautiful ceremonies of the Mother-House. But we try to compensate by doing our best. I was happy at the thought that I would perhaps have a chance, the Sisters being so few, to exercise my *harmonious voice* to sing the praises of God and of our Immaculate Mother. My hope was of ephemeral duration: I tried, once, to sing a solo: it was enough. I was thanked for my obligingness... I am sorry for it; but it is now too late, my reputation is lost!...

On the 8th, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, I had a slight attack of fever which laid me up for a few days. It is while recuperating that I pen these lines. Sr. St. Viateur, our infirmarian, has given me leave to do so on condition that I put in a word for her; for, did she add when she allowed me to write, we have spent such fine days together!... Sister often speaks of the time when you and she were at Nominique and she tells of the expeditions you then made. Nothing sad, to be sure!! She sends you her best regards.

You would believe yourself in Summer if you could peep in our garden: it must be in its prettiest. Flowers of every shape and colour charm the eye and lift our hearts in gratitude towards God Who created them for us. There are also thick ferns and palms: such beauty makes us infer what the terrestrial Paradise must have been... I gaze on it untiringly... And the sky is so beautiful!...

Dear Mistress, we already expect to greet sisters from Canada. We often make nominations and your name is always on the list. How happy we would be if it came true! But how would this please the little novices of Pont Viau?...

The ceremony of Baptism of a dear little girl of five by the name of Ha Sing has taken place this morning. Her father is one of the drawing-masters at our school. Both he and his wife are pagans. The mother is not in favour of Catholicism; but the father has given his consent. The child is very precocious. One day she said to us: "When I go home, I kick the

idols; I do not like them!... Mamma believes that the Sisters tell me to do that, but I say: No! they dont!" The little one had a lively desire for Baptism; she said that she wanted to become a child of God and would not remain the devil's child. She often goes to sing with the older pupils at Benediction. We can hear her voice above the others, and she sings in *Latin if you please!*... She likes playing, skipping and romping, but does not like to study.

The other day, Sister called me to the nursery to show me two baskets of babies just arrived. What a sad sight to witness! Ants had eaten the eyes of one of them and two others had but a breath of life left! they were greenish and in such a pitiful condition! They had been cast away a few days previously.

Sister Assistant who went to Hong Kong yesterday tells us that the situation is very critical at the present time; the Chinese intend driving foreigners away: "China for the Chinese," do they say. We must fervently pray for help.

Very dear Mistress, I shall now close my missive. Of course I shall write again if you do not come to China; in case you do come, I wish you *bon voyage!* Kindly accept my humble wishes for the New Year. I beg the Child Jesus to grant every blessing to you, dear Sister, to Sister Marie Eugénie who also holds a large share in my affections: she has done so much for your former little novice! To all our dear *little ones* of the Novitiate, I wish fervour, wisdom and a speedy trip to China!

Your grateful and loving sister,

Sr. MARIE DE LORETTE, M.I.C. (1)

Chinese General Hospital, Manila, P.I.

Friday, July 2, 1926.

There were this year among our personnel six young girls and two boys belonging to a schismatic church, also two young girls, six boys, an infirmarian and his uncle who had either not made their First Communion or had not been confirmed. From their very arrival, they all set ardently to the study of our Holy Religion and to-day, from the hands of His Excellency Mgr. Piani, Apostolic Delegate, they received one or the other of the Sacraments for which they had made preparation.

Our modest oratory not being large enough for such a ceremony, we obtained permission to transform one of the class-rooms into a temporary chapel. The altar was transported there and decorated with palms and lilies; the pews, the organ, all the furniture of our own chapel were brought; so we had a chapel three times larger than ordinary.

At 7.30 a.m., His Excellency solemnly entered our sanctuary while a pontifical march accompanied by the violin was executed. Then, two of our boys, with our young girls who were dressed in white with black veils, presented themselves to the Delegate to be made children of God and of the Church. After the usual interrogations and exorcisms, to which they

1 Eva Leger, Leger Corner, N.B.



His Excellency Mgr. G. Piani, Apostolic Delegate in the Philippines
after the ceremony of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation
at the Chinese General Hospital, Manila. P. I., July 2, 1926

answered with firmness, the regenerating waters were poured on their brow, making them all heirs to the kingdom of Heaven. The black veils were replaced by white ones and the choir intoned the hymn "I am Christian".

The Apostolic Delegate commenced the Holy Sacrifice during which our pupils sang appropriate hymns. At the Communion the eighteen elect, holding a lighted candle according to the custom of the country, approached for the first time the Eucharistic Banquet. Mass terminated, His Excellency again donned the cope and administered the sacrament of Confirmation to twelve of the First Communicants. Nothing was more edifying than to see the piety and recollection of these new Christians, who until now had not known the tenderness and love of our Holy Mother the Church.

There is much to be done in the Philippines... religion is not taught in schools... This explains why pupils, nurses and hired help come here in complete ignorance of the obligations and truths of our Faith. May our Immaculate Mother grant us that all who come to our hospital for health or science also receive the gift, a thousand times more precious, of spiritual light and health!!!

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LATEST NEWS FROM CHINA.

As we go to press, a cablegram arrives from China and makes known the critical situation of our dear missionaries of Canton and Shek-Lung. It reads thus:

"Situation becoming serious: Sisters Lazaretto Shek-Lung at Canton. Father Deswazières asks risk return Shek-Lung. If Sisters obliged leave, who will support our works of Canton?"

"(Signed) Superior, Ryub, Hong-Kong."

Our Superiors have immediately answered by the following cablegram:

"If lives in danger, seek shelter in Hong-Kong with orphans and babies. Do not worry, Mother-House will support you. If you leave, send new address immediately."

"(Signed) Superior General of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception."

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The daily papers have, for sometime past, related the political events which cause alarming perturbations in the Chinese Republic. This cablegram coming from our Sisters of Canton tells us what dangers threaten them and gives us to divine the innumerable difficulties they have to surmount.

We most earnestly beg our charitable readers to lend them, on this occasion, the help of their fervent prayers, so that the Immaculate Queen of the Missions deign to protect her missionaries and all the unfortunates confided to their care: and we do not think to go beyond discretion by also asking for material help to aid our dear missionaries in their distress. Every offering will be accepted with the most lively gratitude. Address: Mother-House of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, 314 St. Catherine Road, Outremont, Montreal.

Extracts from the Novitiate Chronicles



To love Mary, what consolation here below, to make her loved, what assurance for the hour of death!

St. Bernard.

Wednesday, November 10, 1926

The sad news reached us that our dear Sister Pauline Marie, who is sick at our house of Quebec where she is Superior is growing weaker every day. The doctor has even deemed it prudent that she be anointed. Our poor mother has immediately hastened to her dear daughter's bedside as she has done several times already, since the beginning of this illness, and she asked us to redouble in fervour in our prayers for our beloved Sister. Oh! how we would like to have faith in the measure of the Centurion or the woman from Canaan to obtain from Heaven a miracle which would keep to our young Society a subject so precious, so impregnated with the spirit which must animate a true missionary sister of the Immaculate Conception! Still, O Lord, if it be for Thy glory, we believe that Thou wilt cure her... But we also know that Thy ways are inscrutable as well as abounding in mercy, we know that the priceless favours that Thou showerest upon our dear Society call for returns and that every grace flows from the Cross... Moreover, we full well know that those of our Sisters whom Thou hast already called to Thy beautiful Home do not remain idle: they continue to devote themselves for the religious family which they deeply loved here below, for the service and defence of which they would gladly have consecrated a long existence. In this painful occurrence of a dreaded departure, we shall repeat with the greatest submission: "O God, if Thou wilt not let this chalice pass from us, Thy will, not ours, be done... Better than we dost Thou know what is more proper..." Such is our venerated Mother's usual prayer in the divers events of this life: let us repeat it after her.

Sunday, November 20.

"Let us go out for recreation!" is the invitation made this noon, and it is followed by these words: "Who will be out first?" The novices immediately put on their overstockings and cloaks, but the postulants *hasten slowly!* so much so that when all the "doves" have taken their flight towards the grove not a single little "crow" is outside yet(1). What can the matter be? Our babies do not usually require coaxing when there is question of frolic. There is certainly a mystery underhand! But let the afternoon glide on, the solution will perhaps come of itself.

The bell rings for recreation after supper and, second mystery, not a postulant appears. Our Mistress and Sisters-in-charge do not come to say "Deo Gratias". The oldest among the novices look rather sly... One would think they suspect something very pleasant. They have their ex-

(1) The novices who wear the white veil are the doves while the dear postulants who have a black veil are the crows.

perience of life, of course! Anyhow, their smiles shed hopeful rays in the souls of the youngest. To-morrow is the feast-day of the novices...who knows?...and we await in silence. The large hand of the clock finishes the half of its circumference when we are amiably asked to the Novitiate... Without waiting for a second invitation, we set forth, the eldest first. When the first novice appears in the hall, the chords of a lively duet vibrate under the fingers of some of the younger group, whilst our Mistress greets us smilingly and places us on each side of the statue of our amiable Patroness, the little Virgin of the Temple. How her immaculate whiteness, her modest and recollected attitude speak to our hearts! We gaze on her untiringly... At the close of the duet, a charming program is rendered: a play, songs, violin and piano selections, monologues, etc.; every number is so well chosen! The practical part mingles with the agreeable, the serious with the merry... At the feet of the Virgin a tray contains a white envelope addressed to the happy novices of the Immaculate Conception. It is certainly a heavenly missive for the gilded stamp at its right-hand corner bears the effigy of the Queen of Heaven. We readily guess that it comes from our Divine Mother. With what respect do we listen to her precious advice as well as to the expression of her maternal desires! Among other things, she asks us, in order to please her Divine Son, to form in the dear Novitiate of Pont Viau a court of "terrestrial angels". She addresses accordingly to each one of us a note on which is written a special virtue that will become a characteristic. Thus, each "angel" of the new court will bear the name of the virtue that must distinguish her; there shall be the angel of humility, the angel of obedience, the angel of charity, the angel of amiability, etc., etc... Moreover, each will carefully keep secrecy concerning the note received, but she will have to let it be divined by her acts, her conduct... When we have voiced our gratitude, begged the blessing and help of our admirable Patroness, we have all resolved to ardently set to work. Who will be the first to divulge her secret? O Mary, render us fervent, fervent as you were at the time of your *novitiate* in the Temple of Jerusalem.

Sunday, November 21.

Our feast, begun last evening, proceeds in piety, animation and mirth. Every tradition is kept: in our chapel solemn hymns and pretty decorations, Guard of Honour to the Blessed Virgin reserved for the novices, — for the best things are for them to-day. — Our youngsters are all delicateness and care for their elders: they take charge of every obedience and with such an air of importance! They replace us in the kitchen, at the reader's desk, wait on the table, etc., etc., and as we know that it would be very impolite to refuse such kind attentions, we thank them very gratefully and enjoy these privileges in company with our Mistress who spares nothing to amuse us. Our beloved Mother has not forgotten her little ones: she expresses by phone her maternal wishes, adding her regret of not being able to come to see us.

There is, in the evening, an improvised concert where all talents have occasion of being displayed. The celebration is closed by missionary songs

and an agreeable chat on the missions; then, filled with enthusiasm, we repair to the chapel where we proffer our thankfulness to God and His Immaculate Mother for having called us to the so beautiful vocation of apostolate under the white banner of the spotless Virgin.

Sunday, December 5.

We open today the Triduum preparatory to our patronal feast, the Immaculate Conception. In recollection and silence, we meditate on the great privileges granted our Blessed Mother: we rejoice in seeing her so much loved by God, and we beg her to continue to love her missionaries with the same maternal love she has borne them since our Holy Father Pope Pius X. has particularly placed them under the potent vocable of her Immaculate Conception.

Wednesday, December 8. Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

We are powerless to describe the holy joy of the missionaries of the Immaculate Conception on this beautiful day... Is not, in every family, the feast of the mother the most cherished of all? These are feelings that God Himself has instilled in our hearts, and when it is a question of His Immaculate Mother, not only does He permit but He wishes that we let our souls expand in childlike tenderness towards her whom He desires to be so highly honoured.

We like to picture to our minds with what filial love Our Blessed Lord, while on earth, must have celebrated each year the feast of the Immaculate Conception of His Mother, with what affectionate transports He must have repeated to her this glorious praise: "Thou art all fair, O my Mother, and my divine and scrutinizing regard finds not a spot in Thee." The most pure, humble and modest Virgin must have answered in an ecstasy of gratitude and love: "My soul doth magnify the Lord... He hath done great things to me... He hath regarded the humility of his handmaid; for behold all generations shall call me blessed."

O Jesus, Son of Mary, in order that all nations proclaim the greatness of Thy incomparable Mother, grant that she may soon "be known from pole to pole!" and that her humble missionaries be privileged to largely share in the extension of this knowledge of Mary. This is the desire which our souls ardently express in hymn and prayer.

After the High Mass, celebrated at 8.15 A.M. by Reverend Father Geoffroy, M.E., the general holiday begins and we give ourselves up to the holy joy of the children of God, for such is our only calling to-day (with that of prayer, of course) and we fulfill it to perfection!

A toboggan party is organized in the afternoon. It is cold, but it will only do us good to take a little exercise in the open air... Mittens, stockings, capes, hoods, toboggan... and here we are! The glittering snow grinds under our feet. We try to go down the hill, but we are too numerous for a single toboggan... So, leaving the childish games to the younger ones, the elders walk and chat under the winter skies; they speak of the beauty

and charm that each season holds and, with poetry-filled soul, acknowledging God's bounty in His works, they praise Him and make Him loved. But it is not less pleasing to look on the young sisters: they are so animated! one would take them for ten-year-old children playing "house"...

We reintegrate for the third part of the Rosary. This spiritual exercise is followed by Vespers, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and a touching allocution on to-day's feast by our reverend Chaplain.

The evening is as well employed as the day; so, after having enjoyed the smile of the Immaculate Virgin during every hour, it is under her azure mantle that we retire.

Thursday, December 9.

We learn of the demise of Reverend Father Garant, C. SS. R., who preached our last Retreat in September. This religious yielded his soul after a few days' illness. The news surprises and moves us. We recall his practical and profound reflections on death. We also recall that he was an apostle of confidence, of a limitless confidence in the mercy and kindness of our Saviour, that he also was a devoted client of Our Blessed Mother. How he became enthused, all fire, when he spoke of her! It is on the first day of the octave of her Immaculate Conception that this good Mother has come for him to crown his existence. These words of a pious writer come to our minds and with full precision, do we think, they may be applied to the regretted decedent: "Happy is he who, at the terrible instant of Judgment, shall be able to say with confidence to the Mother of his Judge: "I have spoken in your favour, O Mary, speak for me; I have pleaded your cause, plead mine; I have loved you, I have desired to make you loved; save me!"

Saturday, December 25.

Christmas! what a joyful Feast! However, our dear mammas might think that their little girls at the Novitiate *carry* a tearful eye with them all day long... that they ceaselessly strive to repress sobs that suffocate them. Poor dear mothers! if you only knew what a large share of happiness is the lot of the privileged children whom God has chosen, how pure and sweet are the joys with which He inundates their heart and soul, you would never think of pitying your "little nuns"... Ah! your children think of you and of all the dear ones, yea, especially on this day; for in consecrating themselves to God, they have not narrowed their hearts. But can the remembrance of what is good grieve a person? No, such a remembrance rejoices and expands. Moreover, your children know full well that the separation is only for a time; is not life but a flash compared with the eternal centuries when, reunited and forever, we shall rejoice to our heart's content? — But you would like to know how we passed the day? Here are all the details.

After having spent yesterday in prayer, recollection and preparations of the material and spiritual Cribbs for the coming of our Divine little Brother,

we went early to our cells to take a good rest before the holy wake. Is it not in silence and solitude that the soul more easily fills itself with the tender and pious sentiments which such a touching mystery as that of a God become a little Child for love of us inspires? So, while sleep closes all eyelids, the lively impressions left in every mind invite the choicest dreams... Is it astonishing, then, if Bethlehem receives our escort? The humble shepherds of yore were not happier than we...

But what is the matter? A sudden flash of light invades the dormitory... distant voices are heard, accompanied by divers instruments: violins, mandolins, chimes, bells, etc... they draw near... Our eyes are now wide open. Through the aisles of our dormitory marches a white *cortège*: our elder sisters of the Novitiate, the angels of this Christmas, ask us to join them to adore the Infant God. We unite our voices to the angelical choir and hasten to answer the suave invitation.

It is midnight... Kneeling at the foot of the poor Crib, like unto the modest shepherds of Bethlehem, we offer our hearts to the Divine Babe, we thank Him for having so much loved us! We speak to Him of all those who are dear to us, of all what we prize most... The three Masses are celebrated and all the old favorite hymns are joyfully and piously sung within the modest precincts of our chapel, and the Child Jesus comes to occupy the cradle that, aided by His Immaculate Mother, we have prepared in our heart. What colloquy then takes place between the soul and her God, at the same time so great and so little!...

The traditional Christmas revel follows, and the joyful dreams of the preceding evening are taken up anew.

The sun already plays hide and seek on the white walls of our dormitory when the angelical troupe of the night voices new concerts, telling us "He is born..." Still eager to answer the call of the "angels", we go to the chapel for the morning prayer and meditation. Once breakfast and the little charges are over, we recite the first part of the Rosary and then proceed to the Novitiate where stands a large Christmas-tree in the shade of which a beautiful Infant Jesus smiles, holding out His arms and seemingly inviting us to draw from the *treasures* that surround Him. I speak rightly in saying: *treasures*, for it is as such that we appreciate all that comes from our beloved Mother and our dear parents. Our Mistress then commences the distribution of parcels and letters. There are so many that the forenoon does not suffice to open and unpack every box and parcel... We continue in the afternoon to empty the Christmas stockings and then start games, just like children! We have no scruples in doing so, since Our Lord asks even from those who have grown old to become as children, so much the less must He reprove it in young novices.

An entertainment in honour of our dear Sister-in-charge whose patronal feast we celebrate to-day, fills the evening with interest; then, before taking our rest, we repair to our sanctuary to say good-night to the Child Jesus and His kind Mother, also express our thankful gratitude for the regard of predilection they have favoured us with in calling us to a life so rich and

fecund in happiness. — Now, dear mammas, do tell us, has there been room for tears? If you had heard our gay laughter, would you still doubt it?...

Saturday, January 1, 1927.

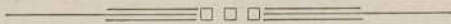
A new year has just dawned. O my God, deign to bless it; bless every moment that will mark its course; may it be all for Thy glory and our sanctification!

Our beautiful traditions have been kept in their every detail: the last half-hour of the year that has just been engulfed into Eternity has found us at the feet of God reposing in the Sacrament of His love, to make reparation for all that might have grieved His Sacred Heart during 1926. Our sincere contrition must have soon drowned in the ocean of His Mercy our slight and grievous offenses, so we did not tarry at reparation, remembering that God would rather see us view His benefits than our drawbacks; and as the spirit of gratitude is that which must be the first to animate us, we devote ourselves to thankfulness whilst recalling the divine bounties towards us and the whole world.

When, in the silence of the night, the twelve strokes of the clock announce the New Year, our first impulse is to beg our Heavenly Father to bless us, bless our Pastors, our Community, our parents, all whom we love, all who suffer on earth or in the expiating flames of Purgatory, all who have any right to our prayers, that is to say, all those for whom the redeeming Blood has been shed. Then, as of yore, after having received the paternal blessing we offered our wishes, we do likewise with our Heavenly Father. We also, then, eagerly desired to fall into the maternal arms and fill with our love the heart which understood us so well; in like manner do we act towards our divine and Immaculate Mother. This precious hour is closed by the chant of the Magnificat.

We now go to the Novitiate where Sister Superior transmits to us the wishes of our beloved Mother to which she adds her own; we then embrace one another. While, according to our custom, we respect the great silence of night, we deposit in this salutation of the New Year all the affection which unites us, and then repair to the dormitory to take our rest.

The whole day is spent in the same jubilation as the Feast of Christmas.



— The missionary's kingdom and reward are not of this world.

—When the Virgin Mary's heart is touched happy is he who has touched it. He has found grace before God.

REV. TITUS JOSLIN

A Few Roses Scattered

By the Little Sister of Missionaries...

"When I shall be in Heaven, Jesus, Thou wilt fill my hands with roses and I shall shower them upon earth."

St. Teresa of the Child Jesus



To help the missionaries, sisters of the Little Flower, I enclose One Dollar. It is very little, but it voices the gratitude of a very poor woman. Mrs. A. C., **Villeray, Montreal**. — I am enclosing Two Dollars, an offering for the "Little Flower Burse", in thanksgiving for a great favor received through the intercession of the dear Little Saint. Please publish. M. A. M., **Thetford Mines, Que.** — The Little Flower of Jesus has been for me a real protectress in a dire peril. How can I thank her more fitly than by showering roses on her sisters when she has showered roses upon me? The enclosed is for your noble works. Mr. J. C., **Montreal**. — Herewith are Mass Stipends in honour of the Little Flower to thank her for her kindnesses in my regard. She seems to love everyone and scatters her flowers in every home! May she be blessed in ours, now and ever! Mrs. M., **Waterbury, Conn.** — I am enclosing Two Dollars for your missionary works which I admire very much. This offering is made in gratitude for favors granted through the medium of powerful St. Therese of the Child Jesus. A Subscriber, **Williamansett, Mass.** — Our family has been more than ever this last year protected by your dear heavenly sister, the Little Flower. In thankful gratitude, we send you the enclosed petals (Ten Dollars). May the dear Saint remain our friend and we shall remain yours! Mrs. A. C., **Montreal**. — May I ask you to begin at once a novena to Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus and Our Immaculate Mother to obtain a very special favor? The sweet little Carmelite has already favored me often and I trust in her powerful intercession. Mrs. A. L., **Verdun, Montreal**. — I send you the enclosed offering and promise to help your charitable missions if I obtain a particular grace I am now imploring from the Little Flower. The Dollar I send to-day is to thank her for having protected me during the past year. Miss M. K., **Ansonia, Conn.** — Enclosed please find offering in thanksgiving for a favor obtained through the Little Flower of Jesus. A Subscriber, **Patos**. — The Five Dollars which I forward you to-day is offered in honour of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. Would you kindly pray for my son? He needs work and also heavenly protection. Mrs. C. O., **Leominster, Mass.** — Please apply the enclosed Three Dollars for Masses to be said in thankful gratitude to Saint Teresa, for favours received through her intercession and that of the Souls in Purgatory. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Queen of the Missions bless you! A. G., **Montreal**. — Kindly accept the enclosed Money Order for Five Dollars for your missions, in thanksgiving for a very great favor received from the Little Flower. Mrs. H. M., **Toronto, Ont.** — Would these Three Dollars be of any help to you? I send them to thank the Little Flower who pleaded for me near the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. F. M., **Fall River, Mass.** — The enclosed "petals" are from a "rose" which the Little Flower scattered upon us some time ago. May it please you to receive them as a token of thanksgiving towards the dear little sister of missionaries. Mrs. A. H., **Montreal**. — Here is my monthly gift of One Dollar towards the Little Flower Burse. I shall continue to send thus each month a little something to help your poor novices. Mrs. G. L., **Montreal**. — Enclosed you will find One Dollar the first payment on Five Dollars which I promised in aid of your missions, in gratitude towards the Little Flower for a great favor which she bestowed upon us. Mrs. E. A. G., **Montreal**. — Please accept this Dollar as an offering for favor received from St. Teresa. Miss M. K., **Ansonia, Conn.** — I desire to know my vocation; would you please pray to the Little Flower to shower this "rose" of light upon me? Mr. P. H. C., **Proulxville, Que.** — The enclosed petals are to perfume the pathway of a little novice of the Immaculate Conception. Would that I could send a thousand times more! A client of the Little Flower. — Please pray that God may grant me my request! I also ask the intercession of the Little Flower. Mrs. C. M., **Toronto, Ont.** — A Subscriber sends a Dollar in honour of the Little Flower of Jesus who has greatly favored her. W. J. J., **Montreal**. — I enclose Mass Stipends in honour of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus as a thank offering for a favour received. M. B., **North Bay, Ont.** — This my monthly offering in honour of the Little Flower. May the dear Saint be thanked a thousand times! Mrs. J. A. L., **Fitchburg, Mass.** — A friend of St. Teresa sends the enclosed sum to thank her protectress for benefits. **Naug-tuck, Conn.** — I had promised the enclosed Two Dollars if I received a very particular grace. The Little

Flower has answered my request and I am pleased to forward the sum for your missions. Mrs. D.M., **Providence, R.I.** — Enclosed please find Two Dollars which I promised the dear Little Flower of Jesus. Mrs. A.B., **Bridgeport, Conn.** — Some kind person has been sending me The Precursor where I read the wonderful work your dear sisters are doing in China. Kindly accept the enclosed sum of \$2.00 which is to go towards the Burse of the Little Flower for the support of a Novice of Our Immaculate Mother. R. S., **Haileybury, Ont.** — A great favour has been bestowed upon my family. To thank the Little Flower for that "flower", I send my mite for your missions. B.M., **New Bedford, Mass.** — My requests are still pending; yet, in many ways I am favoured. So kindly receive the enclosed "petal" as a thank offering to the Little Sister of Missionaries. M.S., **Montreal.** — Am enclosing Money Order to fulfill a promise I made St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. Mrs. H.F.McC., **North Dighton, Mass.** — The Little Flower has helped me to secure a good position. Here is my thankful gift in her honour. Miss R.M., **Waterbury, Conn.**

Burse of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for the adoption of a missionary.

A **Burse** is a sum of money the interest of which forms a perpetual income for the support of a Missionary. **Burses** are founded in honor of a Saint whose name they bear. The religious whose support is thus assured becomes for life the missionary of the donor and takes his place near the poor infidels. The Founders of Burses participate in all the spiritual advantages of the Community. The sum of \$1,000.00 given in one or several payments by one or many persons forms a complete **Burse**.

We shall then receive with gratitude, any offering, ever trifling, (thanksgiving for favors obtained or requests for new ones) for the complete formation of the Burse on honor of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. May the Little Sister of Missionaries inspire generous souls with the thought of adopting a Missionary and let fall on them a shower of roses!

OFFERINGS FOR THE "LITTLE FLOWER" BURSE.

December	1925	\$	50.00
January	1926		28.00
March	"		21.00
May	"		43.00
July	"		85.00
September	"		196.00
November	"		364.03
January	1927		204.00

— Like the Prophets and the Doctors I would fain enlighten souls. Fain would I travel the earth, O my Well-Beloved, to preach Thy Name and to set up Thy glorious Cross in Pagan lands. But one mission only would not suffice for me; would that I could at one and the same time proclaim the Gospel all the world over, even to the remotest of its islands. I would desire to be a Missionary not only for a few years, but to have been one from the creation of the world, and so to continue to the end of time.

HIST. D'UNE AME, CHAP. XI

Death the Mantle of Our Lady

It was on Wednesday, January 19th last, that the Immaculate received under her virginal mantle, do we hope, our beloved Sister Pauline Marie.

This dear sister was born at St. Dominique de Jonquières April 3, 1892, and was given in Baptism the names of Marie Antoinette Lumina. Her good parents (Joseph Hippolyte Brassard and Eugenie Letourneau) watched over her childhood days with the most tender solicitude and confided her education to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd of Chicoutimi, then to the Ursulines of Roberval where she terminated her studies. On her return home she helped her mother with the different household duties.

The call of the Master then made itself heard to her soul: it was for the work of the foreign missions. The dear child entered our postulate in the beginning of February 1917, leaving at home a family heart-broken at this unexpected departure—fearing her own heart, she had kept to the end the secret of her vocation.

On the beautiful feast of the Assumption of Our Lady 1917, Sister Brassard donned the livery of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception and received the name of Sister Pauline Marie in honour of the foundress of the Association of the Propagation of the Faith. This spiritual relationship with such an apostolic soul gave our sister whose heart was overflowing with holy enthusiasm the hope of receiving special protection and favours. This protection was certainly granted her, for we see our dear sister, after her profession which took place on August 15, 1919, manifest her zeal by unreservedly devoting herself to missionary works, in particular to that of the Holy Childhood.

August 15, 1925, in a final engagement she vowed herself forever to the Spouse of virgins under the banner of the Immaculate Conception. Her valiant soul doubtlessly offered itself on that occasion for a long career; for she delighted in recalling the limitless task set before the missionaries: the conquests effectuated, the ground to be gained, the numberless souls to be led to the fold; all, in the apostolic vocation, electrified and inflamed her courage! Whilst thus exercising her zeal, she unwaveringly pursued the work of her perfection, little doubting that the Master had already chosen her for the Heavenly Home.

During the month of March 1926, she was attacked by the illness which was to be the last. With the same magnanimity with which she had, during her life's short journey, welcomed the divers gifts from on High did she receive this new gift which gave to her way a more direct course towards Heaven.

From her bed of suffering, the dear patient saw to everything: she guarded with the most scrupulous attention the treasure of the Rule and was solicitous for the needs of each and everyone of her sisters, for obedience had confided her the charge of superior at our house of Quebec. She followed with lively interest the Chinese Home, a work that she held greatly at heart. How many words of advice, enriched by the conviction which the perspective of approaching departure gives, how many recommendations and profound reflections fell from the lips of this dear Sister!

At several intervals during the course of her illness, our beloved Mother left her numerous occupations to bring to her dear child the consolations that the heart of a mother alone can give. During one of these visits, as our Mother was telling her to ask her cure, she answered, "I will do it, but oh! how I feel drawn above!..."

On November 10, seeing that she was rapidly declining, the physician thought it prudent that she be administered the last Sacraments. This dear sister received them with that spirit of faith and piety which characterized her, and the sacred unctions seemed to give fresh vigour to her poor frame shattered by cruel sufferings. But it was only momentary. Our beloved and tender Mother again hastened to the bedside of her dear child. If kindness and devotedness could snatch from the tomb, the assiduous marks of tenderness and care of our dear Mother would have certainly succeeded. But God Whose designs are immutable had decided otherwise. His spouse was being fashioned in His adorable hand, and was soon to appear, in the brightness of her mystical beauty, at the foot of His throne and receive from the same hand that to-day crucified her the diadem of virgins and apostles..

On January 12, she received Extreme-Unction for the second time and henceforth prepared with greater care for her departure for Heaven.

On the 19th, at 5.30 p.m., the bell calling the sisters for supper, our dear patient made a sign to her younger sister, Sister Ste. Eugénie, to go to the refectory. As the latter tarried a little in leaving her, she raised herself and said: "But, go down-stairs; the bell has rung!" She then fell back on her pillows. Her last word was an exhortation for the observance of the Rule!...

A few minutes later, one of the infirmarians came quietly into the room and saw from the great alteration on the invalid's features that the supreme hour had arrived; she suggested a few pious invocations and immediately called the priest who responded in haste and gave the dear sister an ultimate absolution.

When the bell rang the evening Angelus, our sister was no more. She had left forever this valley of suffering and toil, after having given to her religious family examples of perfect obedience, devotedness oftentimes heroic, and an intense love for her Superiors, her Sisters and her Community; and what say of her devotion to the Blessed Virgin? it was as strong as it was tender; how many proofs could we not give of it!

The funeral took place on Saturday, January 22, at 8.15 a.m., at the church of Notre Dame du Chemin. Very Reverend Canon Gignac, President of the National Council of the Propagation of the Faith officiated; Reverend E. Côté, chaplain of our Community of Quebec, acted as deacon; and as sub-deacon, Rev. A. Gravel, S. J., who had assisted our beloved sister during her illness and at her last moments. A few of her relatives were present and also several priests, religious and friends of the Community.

May our cherished Sister soon possess, if she does not already enjoy it, the happiness that she prepared for herself by an existence that was truly religious, apostolic, and totally impregnated with the spirit of her Community. 'Tis the wish of all her sisters who tenderly loved her; 'tis, above all, the object of their fraternal prayers!

A Missionary Sister of the Immaculate Conception.

Pauline Marie Jaricot

Foundress of the Association of the Propagation of the Faith.

THE MESSENGER OF THE SAINT

(Continued)

Gregory XVI. was to canonize several saints. Thanks to this august protector, Pauline assisted on the 2nd day of May at all the beautiful ceremonies which she recalled with enraptured soul.

The Holy City which she has so often seen and admired seems to hold greater charms. The Coliseum especially attracts her in an irresistible manner. She contemplates each section with an emotion and enthusiasm she has never so strongly experienced. She returns every day, spends there hours and hours, steeping her heart and faith in the immortal remembrances that the heroes of Christ have stamped in this hallowed place. She feels revive her ardent aspirations for martyrdom. A laurel and olive branch which have grown on the top of these sacred ruins inspire pages of divine poetry.

She is happy!... Let us hasten to say it: trial and pain are not far away.

Despite his untold preoccupations and the considerable affluence of strangers of every degree come to Rome for the feasts, the Holy Father granted several particular audiences to his *daughter of Lyons*; so it is with heart overflowing with gratitude that this daughter depicts these ultimate hours of joy.

It was also given her to open her soul to Venerable Cardinal Lambruschini, her terrestrial angel.

The overtures and the paternal audiences of Gregory XVI. were, in reality, the supreme farewell for the *Foundress of the Propagation of the Faith*, who was no more to see here below neither of these august protectors.

It is thus she spends six weeks at the Sacred Heart of Trinité-du-Mont, preparing, without any cognizance on her part, for the struggles she was to encounter with Satan, the enemy of her works. She afterwards returned to the *City of Mary*.

On May 16, 1842, a young girl, modest and delicate-looking, came to Loretto to stay. No baggage accompanied the stranger who brought only a note saying something similar to this:

"Miss Jaricot, I send you a soul whom God has certainly made for Him and for you... the Blessed Virgin has preserved her until now from all evil; keep her in turn and teach her to love more and more Jesus and Mary.

"Vianney, Curé of Ars."

Pauline received the messenger of the saint as a mother receives her child and, without any delay, Maria Dubouis was given a charge where, from the very first day, she found herself so well, did she say, that she felt as if she had been born there.

I do not know how the mother and this new daughter understood one another so well despite the different paths they had trodden: but from this moment, their souls united forever in God with identical desires and charity.

Maria Dubouis, born at Belmont (Loire), had had for parents two christians whose faith, nine children and a little plot of ground were the only joy and riches.

Maria, the eldest of this numerous family, prepared early for the life of devotedness which Providence held in store for her. She was not yet six years of age when she already helped her mother, either in the housework or in cotton weaving, which added to the meagre resources of the family. The sweet and intelligent Maria soon became the second mother, the guardian angel of her brothers and sisters in teaching them from childhood to love God and work.

Still, the dear one felt in her inmost soul aspirations that she feared she would never be able to satiate; it was to study a little, to have more spare time to spend in church and to go, later on, in the foreign missions, to teach the idolaters to serve God. But, seeing her mother weighing under the burden of labor, she kept these desires to herself and continued to help her parents whilst the Saviour made her taste the suavity of His presence.

She made her First Communion with angelic piety, and from that time, in order to answer in the best manner possible the Divine Calling which she heard in her soul, she increased in devotedness and left to her dear Master the care of doing with her whatever He pleased.

She lived thus till the age of twenty-three years, giving to youth examples of virtue that are still remembered at Belmont.

Heaven blessed this family whose sons, hard-working and good Christians like their father, won the esteem, confidence and affection of the people. As to the young girls, their modesty and virtue inspired such respect that if it happened that men singing profane songs saw them approaching, they would step aside and say, "Let us be quiet and let these maidens of God pass by!"

Maria's mother had divined her daughter's aspirations and suffered from the prolonged sacrifice of the dear child. So, as soon as she felt that she could suffice to the task, she offered Maria, as a means of answering her desire for instruction, to go for a year to the Little Providence of Ars, under the direction of Abbé Vianney.

The proposition was greeted with joy, the more so as Maria no longer believed herself necessary to the family. She left her mountains and was taken by her mother to the house where so many wonders were to take place.

Very attentive and intelligent, the new boarder soon knew the entire programme of education of Little Providence, where one learnt to read *a little*, to write and figure *a little*, *much more* to sew and spin, but *very much* to love God and the neighbour. This latter science, taught by a peerless master, was soon understood and appreciated by the pupil who already

unconsciously possessed it. The lessons were simple, touching, sublime! and the soul who received them was endowed with wonderful aptitude for putting them into practice.

As she desired to know her vocation, Maria obtained from the venerable pastor permission to make a general confession. Father Vianney devoted an hour every day for a whole week to the examination, with the regard of holiness, of this conscience that evil had never soiled. After this attentive examen, the friend of the Lord, dominated by the irresistible emotion which his beautiful soul so often communicated to others, said in shedding abundant tears,

"Ah! my child, bless with me the dear Master for the graces He has showered upon you and for the happiness you will experience of not keeping on your conscience even a speck of dust that could alter its purity! Be faithful to Jesus through Mary! love them and make them loved!"

Then coming to the point with regard to her future he added:

"I shall give you to a Mother who will make you progress in humility and charity."

And Maria Dubouis was sent to Loretto where she was to fully realize the ideal expressed by this holy Mother with reference to the laborious preparations of the *Company of Mary*, when she said,

"I shall not despair, were I to form to this *absolute devotedness* but *one single soul*, because this soul would give more glory to the Divine Master and would be more useful to the neighbour than an infinitude of others, attached to their will and deprived of divine light."

Maria Dubouis was the true friend and the consoling angel whom, at the approach of great tribulations, God was placing near His generous servant to love, follow and console her to her last day.

To a meek, timid, and even a little unsociable temperament, Maria united a mind which was righteous, penetrating, and characterized by a certain quaintness which gave to the expression of her thoughts and feelings particular charm. With that, her heart was noble and generous, her soul, above all human interests.

Such an assemblage of natural and supernatural gifts made of this primitive nature a being of its own kind, difficult to be appreciated at first sight but singularly clever in seizing every opportunity of devoting herself and hiding her devotedness under apparent rudeness.

When this humble mountaineer was admitted at Loretto, everything was calm and prosperous: "That was the *good time*", would she tell us, "when all came to our Mother as we go to God, to ask and receive what is needed..."

Three months later (July 1842), a bishop banished from his diocese by the government (1830), came to Loretto, as if led by Providence, to deal on questions much more important than those which then preoccupied the Council of State.

He was Bishop de Forbin Janson who, from his entry at St. Sulpice, thirty-four years previously, had in his heart the double passionate love of children's salvation and foreign apostolate. Retained in France by

organizations and important works, he ever envied the happiness of missionaries in pagan lands. So, with more enthusiasm and sympathy than anyone else, had he applauded the successes of the Propagation of the Faith, and had he hastened to become united by relations of thought and action with the foundress of this Work.

The first issue of the *Annals of the Holy Childhood* say "that he spared neither prayers nor alms, preaching nor charges, for this Association" — he acted likewise for the Living Rosary. On her part, Pauline helped him according to her means in all his holy undertakings.

On this occasion, he was returning from Rome where he had gone to render to His Holiness Gregory XVI. an account of his labours in North America.

Constantly dreaming of infidel countries and of an Association for the redemption of children in these countries, he nevertheless had not yet found the *mode* that would satisfy his heart's two-fold ambition.

Lyons was on his route and he already knew Loretto, *this home of every apostle*... He saw there the sister of his thoughts, Pauline, whose soul, ever overflowing with charity had, from the outset, foreseen with inexpressible joy the salvation of children through *his* apostolic work, and who neglected no occasion of impressing christian mothers with a high opinion of their mission.

While listening to her brother in Christ, the *mother of apostles* felt one of these divine thrills that always brought from her soul some new inspiration of charity.

Sympathy and good understanding are easy when hearts beat in unison.

They soon agreed on the details of the new foundation: leave to the Work of the Propagation of the Faith its associates, resources, and free and distinct field of action; ask christian children to consecrate their spending money to the salvation of their little pagan brothers and sisters, victims of cruel parents, and make them live for heaven and apostolate. Such was the first regulation made between the bishop-apostle and the apostolic virgin who wished to be the *first of the children associates* and liberally gave towards the work.

We know what sympathy welcomed the Holy Childhood; but what is not known is the large share which Pauline took in it and the gratitude which, for that account, Bishop de Forbin Janson and his worthy successor, Abbé Jammes, constantly bore her. We must add that on this occasion, as on every other, she was seconded by her sister Sophie whose ardent and generous soul seized every opportunity of doing good.

These two sisters' correspondence is as admirable as it is delightful to read; every page is filled with what imagination holds most charming, and friendship, most tender; what christian patriotism possesses of greatest elevation and fortitude. Sophie and Pauline mutually urged each other to unreservedly consume and immolate themselves for the triumph of the Church, their supreme love, and for the salvation of France, "the dear home-land!"

(To be continued)

Thanksgivings to the Blessed Virgin

for favors obtained




"O MARY, the entire universe would perish before you refuse your assistance to those who, with all their heart, implore your help and protection."

BL. HENRY SUZO.

Blessings have been bestowed on our family; would you kindly offer up prayers in grateful thankfulness? M. A. S., **Toronto, Ont.**—The enclosed Three Dollars is a thank offering to the Blessed Virgin for requests granted. Mrs. W. F. M., **Fall River, Mass.**—The offering I am sending to-day will arrive too late for Christmas, but I hope it will be of some help during the new year. May I rely on your prayers for my intentions? We have very much to be thankful for and it seems as if this world of ours did not know how to appreciate God's bounties. Mrs. A. V., **Montreal.**—Our Immaculate Mother has been so kind to us! She has showered so many benefits upon my little ones that I shall feel indebted to her till my last day. The enclosed mite is to express my gratitude by helping a little her devoted missionaries. Mrs. H. C., **Montreal.**—My request was granted. Enclosed please find Two Dollars as token of gratitude. It will serve for your works. Mrs. E. J. B., **Waterbury, Conn.**—Enclosed please find Two Dollars in thanksgiving for a temporal favour I received from the Blessed Virgin after promising to send an offering to your convent. Kindly say some prayers for my intention that my son may be good and do well at school. Mrs. K. D. M., **Montreal.**—My cheque for Ten Dollars as a donation to your works as promised in the event of a certain cure. D. P. F., **Montreal.**—I am forwarding the enclosed amount of Two Dollars as a thank offering for the intentions of my living friends. Mrs. D. M., **Waterville, Conn.**—I had the best results from the last novena made in honour of Our Lady; kindly make another that this Blessed and generous Mother continue her protection. Mrs. G. L. M., **Fitchburg, Mass.**—Herewith is my offering of One Dollar as a token of gratitude to Our Blessed Mother who helped me in my position. Mr. J. C. B., **Douglstown, Que.**—Kindly accept the enclosed Ten Dollars, a percentage I promised to send to your Community if I succeeded in a business undertaking. Mr. A. H., **Montreal.**—The enclosed amount, to thank Our Immaculate Mother, by helping her missionaries; she has greatly protected us! Mrs. O. V., **Montreal.**—This is to thank you for having remembered me; I desire in turn to remember your poor and dear charges. Mrs. A. M. S.—In thankful gratitude for request answered, I send you this Dollar, with promise of sending same amount each month for some time. May God and Our Blessed and Immaculate Mother bless your admirable works! Mr. A. J. C., **Montreal.**—The powerful Queen of Heaven has favored me. In thanksgiving, I send you the enclosed Dollar and shall repeat the offering monthly. Miss E. R., **South Hadley, Mass.**—Am sending a small offering for your missions. Our dear heavenly Mother has been so kind to me, it seems I should be kind to her children. Mrs. F. J. S., **Ansonia, Conn.**—Kindly accept a small offering I promised to give for a favour I received through the intercession of your Immaculate Patroness. Mrs. E. J. H., **Montreal.**—Enclosed please find a little offering which I promised for your good work, in return for a favor received. This is the second favor I have been granted and I wish to thank you and your good sisters for all the prayers I know that they have said for me. I recommend a very special intention. Mrs. R. J. McF., **Bristol, Conn.**—I forward my donation for a novena of lights to be burned in thanksgiving for a request answered by Our Divine Mother. V. W., **Fort William, Ont.**—I wish to thank the Blessed Virgin for having showered upon my family the treasure of her graces. The enclosed mite is for that purpose. Mrs. J. J. K., **Springfield, Mass.**—I enclose Ten Dollars for the monthly support of a missionary sister; I wish I could send much more. Would you please ask the sister to pray for my brother who is addicted to drink? I know that her prayers will be all-powerful near Our Lord and His Mother. **Holyoke, Mass.**—Please accept the enclosed offering in thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a favor received. L. B., **Joliette, Que.**—Enclosed find One Dollar for lights to be burned in thanksgiving for my son who has been privileged by Our Immaculate Mother. Mrs. P. H., **Notre Dame de Grace, Montreal.**—Dear Sisters, I enclose One Dollar in thanksgiving to Our Blessed Mother for a favour she has gratified me with. Please pray for my complete recovery. Mrs. G. R. B., **New Bedford, Mass.**—Would you kindly accept the enclosed amount which I forward for your works as a token of grateful thankfulness towards the Immaculate Queen of the Missions. Mrs. E. D., **Snake Creek, Ont.**—It affords me great pleasure to pay my debt of gratitude towards Our Lady who has shown herself a real mother to me and my child. Herewith

a small sum for your missions. Mrs. A.L., **Central Falls, R.I.** — Please find enclosed the modest sum of Five Dollars for subscriptions to THE PRECURSOR and as a thanksgiving offering to our Blessed Mother for two favours granted. One is by the use of her Miraculous Medal. Mrs. H.L.W., **Outremont.** — Am sending a small amount for the upkeep of your sanctuary lamp in gratitude to our dear Mother Mary. May I recommend to the prayers of your community a very special intention? Mrs. J.A.M., **Percé, Que.** — Thanks to the Blessed Virgin and her Miraculous Medal my sore leg has greatly improved. I am in hopes of a complete cure. Mrs. N.K., **Worcester, Mass.** — I am pleased to send you Eight Dollars for your works in China. I would like very much to ransom a baby likely to live and also open Heaven to dying infants. Miss M.C., **Gardner, Mass.** — Enclosed please find this mite for vigil lights to be burned on our Blessed Mother's altar, in gratefulness to her and the Little Flower for all the favours I have received. T.E.S., **Niagara Falls, Ont.** — After I had promised to have lights burn during a novena, I was gratified by Our Lady. I herewith enclose One Dollar for said purpose. Mrs. F.B., **Toronto, Ont.** — The Little Flower of Jesus and Our Blessed Mother have been so kind to me that I feel deeply indebted towards them. I send you just a little; my gratitude is a thousandfold! Mrs. A.B., **Bridgeport, Conn.** — Enclosed my mite for a favour received. Your Chinese babies are real good intercessors near the Blessed Virgin! Miss E.R., **Hadley, Mass.** —



A MASS is celebrated every week in the chapel of the Novitiate of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception for the intentions of the Subscribers to "THE PRECURSOR" and all their living Benefactors.

Petitions

"O Mary conceived without sin
pray for us who have recourse to
Thee".

Will you please make a Novena to Our Blessed Mother that I obtain two very special favours? I rely very much on your fervent prayers. L. L., **New Carlisle, Que.** — Nearing Our dear Lady's feast, may I not ask her through you, her faithful daughters, to again beg and plead for many favours and more especially for a conversion? F. A. K., **Ste. Agathe, Que.** — Please remember me near the Immaculate Queen of Heaven; I need her protection so very much! Mrs. J. B., **Port Colborne, Ont.** — I would be very grateful if you would offer a few prayers for my sick sister. The doctor has very little hopes, but still we hope in Our Lady; she is so kind! **Toronto, Ont.** — May I ask you to insert in your publication that I have been privileged by Our Lady of Lourdes? I desire the realization of another quest; kindly pray with me. K. K., **Springfield, Mass.** — The enclosed postal note is for lights to be burned at Mary's Shrine. My husband is a heavy drinker and I dread the holiday season; please intercede for me with Our Divine Mother. Mrs. E. T., **Montreal.** — Kindly be my medium near the Immaculate Queen of the Missions that I may be successful in my undertakings and a more faithful Catholic; also for protection of my family. If these requests are pleasing to Our Divine Lord and His Mother I promise to make suitable donations to you in their honour and to always pray to them. I. M., **Montreal.** — Enclosed you will find One Dollar for your mission works; please ask the orphans of China to pray for my intentions. Miss E.G., **Holyoke, Mass.** — I am actually praying for something we need very much. The enclosed Dollar is for a Mass in honour of the Sacred Heart, trusting

that His Divine merits will help me. **E. G. C., Webster, Mass.** — Will you please pray to the Blessed Virgin that I obtain a better position? I shall not forget your needy works if my request is granted. **I. A. L., Turner Falls, Mass.** — Would you please pray with all your heart that I be favoured by St. Therese of the Child Jesus and Our Blessed Lady? If my petition is granted, I shall send you Five Dollars for the little Flower Burse. **Mrs. L., Verdun.** — The enclosed mite, Five Dollars, for your missions. I am going into the hospital Sunday night and I have great confidence in your prayers. **Mrs. J. L., Montreal.** — My boy is to pass his examinations. I send One Dollar for a novena of lights to be burnt for his intentions. **Mrs. T. J. D., Ansonia, Conn.** — I shall need Our Blessed Mother's help on a special occasion; may she accord her protection to her humble child! **B. J. M., North Adams, Mass.** — I am enclosing one Dollar for your missions, in honour of Our Immaculate Mother and dear Saint Joseph for two special favours. I shall send another donation if my requests are answered. **M. N., St. Henry, Montreal.** — I place my confidence in the Immaculate Virgin to obtain a particular grace. Kindly help me with your prayers. **Mrs. P. C. M., Douglstown, Que.** — Herewith you will find the sum of Two Dollars which I promised to send every month. Will you please plead with me near our Blessed Mother that I may know my vocation? **A. V., Goodyear, Conn.** — Kindly ask the help of God, through the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin and St. Therese, for the following requests: conversion of my son addicted to drink; the sale of a property; successful business for three sons in home town; restored strength, energy and courage for myself. **Mrs. W. M., New Brunswick.** — A very great favour is desired through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother. If obtained, I shall send an offering of Three Dollars for your missions. **M. M., Douglstown, Que.** — I beg your kind prayers and the intercession of the little Flower for the cure of my little girl who is in a weakened condition from a severe attack of bronchitis. If God sees fit to grant her cure, I promise to send for your good works the money I would have to pay to the Doctors. **Mrs. C. T., Bristol, Conn.** — My mite for your missions. A position has been promised to me and I beg you would help me by your prayers. **Mrs. J. J. D., Worcester, Mass.** — Our Lady's assistance is desired for the 1°: solution of a difficult problem; 2°: conversion of a very dear friend; 3°: betterment of a position. **H. B. D., Chatham, N. B.** — Will you please make a novena to the Blessed Virgin that I may obtain employment? We are subscribers and enjoy reading the "Precursor". Your works are so beautiful and so needy also: we shall do our utmost to help them. **S. D., Lachine.** — My husband is addicted to drink. I made several novenas and so far my prayers have not been answered. I am confident that through the Immaculate Virgin and the Little Flower our requests will be more favourably received, as it is most urgent that a change be effected. **F. J. McG., Webster, Mass.** — I have been in very poor health for the last two years. May I beg your kind prayers for this intention? The enclosed offering is for your works. **K. W., North Temiskaming.** — I am sending Two Dollars for a novena of lights in honour of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for my brother who is afflicted with a serious mental and nervous breakdown. If his mind and health are restored to him I shall send a liberal offering for your Novitiate. **M. E. F., Fall River, Mass.** — I come to ask your prayers for a particular favour, which is that I may be successful in finding a good position in the United States. In return for this favour, I shall become a subscriber to the "Precursor" and shall be eager to assist your missions in every way possible. A grateful friend, **Renfrew, Ont.** — Enclosed is a small sum in honour of the Little Flower for a particular intention. **Mrs. A. S., Pembroke.** — Would you kindly remember my mother in your prayers; she is suffering from rheumatism and has not walked for three years. **Mrs. R. A. H., Rosemount.** — Enclosed find One Dollar for a novena of lights in honour of Our Blessed Mother that I may obtain a position. **Mrs. M. P. M.** — Tenants are requested. **Niagara Falls, Ont.** — A very special request is presented to Our Immaculate Mother. **Mrs. K., Chippawa, Ont.** — The enclosed offering is for a novena of lights in honour of the Little Flower. **Mrs. J. C., Holyoke, Mass.** — Would you please remember my mother in your prayers, she suffers from a cancer on her tongue. **A. C., Bonaventure.** — My baby is suffering from a sore eye; kindly send me a Miraculous Medal for her. Her afflicted Mother, **Snake Creek, Ont.** — Please pray for me and these petitions: a very sick niece, my dead relatives, persecuted Mexico and Russia, poor missionaries in China. **M. J. McG., Timmins, Ont.** — May I share in your prayers and good works to obtain some special favors I stand in need of? I would be so grateful if the "Lily of Carmel" deigned to scatter roses in my pathway! **J. G. O., St. John, N.B.** — Enclosed please find One Dollar for a novena of lights in honour of our Blessed Mother for my health and that I may soon obtain a good position. **Mrs. Van F., Bronx, N. Y.** — The enclosed Two Dollars is for your works; please continue to help me with your prayers for my boy. **Mrs. J. W., New Bedford, Mass.** — My husband has been idle for some time; would you please a novena to Our Blessed Mother that he may soon obtain employment? If he resumes his position, I promise to send an offering and renew my subscription. **Mrs. C. M., Pembroke.** — I see in the "Precursor" how the Blessed Virgin's clients are favoured. May I place myself under her patronage and ask you to plead with me? My husband has been out of work and although I have a little store, it is not sufficient to keep us as we lost all we had in the fire a few years ago. **Mrs. M. M., Haileybury.** — Please pray for me that my children may not neglect their religious duties.

and that they keep their position. Mrs. F.X.D., **Pottersville, Mass.** — Am enclosing One Dollar for a novena of lights to the Blessed Virgin that I may be granted a special favour. B. V., **Montreal.** — I would be most grateful if you would remember me in your prayers to Our Blessed Mother for a special favor for which I am most in need of. Assuring you that I shall show my appreciation and contribute towards your good work. A. R. Q., **New Britain, Conn.** — I have a very special intention at heart and have been praying for the last two years for its obtention. May I beg you to help me? Mrs. W. P., **Outremont.** — Enclosed please find Postal Money Order for a novena of lights to be burned at Our Blessed Lady's Shrine that I may receive a special favor. H. D., **Bristol, Conn.** — May I beg your fervent prayers for a particular request? Herewith is One Dollar for your good works. M. R., **Montreal.** — Employment requested. **Bristol, Conn.** — Enclosed please find One Dollar as renewal subscription to the "Precursor". If I obtain the cure I desire I shall subscribe for five more years and publish this favour in your missionary review. Mrs. H. W. C., **Waterbury.** — Just a little to remember you at Christmas, hoping you will remember me in your prayers. Mrs. F. S., **Waterbury, Conn.** — Success in a business undertaking and good health are requested through Our Blessed Lady's intercession. W. H., **Worcester, Mass.** — Here is for vigil lights for the Christmas holidays. My intentions are for my son and myself. Mrs. M., **Waterbury, Conn.** — I come to ask the help of your prayers for my health. May the little Flower intercede for me. Mrs. P. Q., **Fitchburg, Mass.** — I am calling on your kindness again, dear Sisters. It is for my health that I come this time. Will not our dear Blessed Mother hear your prayers? Mrs. E. J. B., **Waterbury, Conn.** I fear that I shall have to undergo an operation, and as I have a very weak heart and am the mother of a large family, I would like to be spared. I confide myself to Our Blessed Mother and St. Therese. If they spare me to my dear children, I shall show my gratitude by helping your missions and subscribing to the "Precursor" as long as I live. **Douglas-town, Que.** — The enclosed Two Dollars are for renewal subscription to the "Precursor" and novena of lights to the Blessed Virgin to obtain a new position. If this request is granted I promise to send an offering to the Chinese Missions. Mrs. J. P., **Montreal.** — A special favor is requested through the intercession of Mary Immaculate. A Subscriber, **St. Odilon, Que.** — Please find renewal subscription to the "Precursor"; also a small offering for the Holy Souls for November. Please pray for me to Our Lady for a special intention; if it is granted I shall send donation of Five Dollars for your good works. M. M., **Montreal.** — I dare request special prayers for my children and myself. Mrs. J. A. W., **Chandler.** — Very particular favours are desired for my father and my brother-in-law. M.O.C., **Wilimansett, Mass.** — Cure from heart and nervous trouble. Mrs. R.T., **Pembroke, Ont.** — Location of two houses. A Subscriber, **Holyoke, Mass.** — Would you kindly pray to the Blessed Virgin and St. Teresa for a very particular intention? Mrs. P. V., **Fall River, Mass.** — Would you please remember me near our Immaculate Mother? I suffer from hard hearing and would like, if it be God's holy will, to find relief. Mrs. C.H., **Attleboro, Mass.** — A subscriber begs for your prayers to St. Teresa and the Blessed Virgin that her mother be cured of a serious illness. **Tracadie, N.B.** — Position requested through the Queen of Heaven's intercession. Mr. E.B., **Leominster, Mass.** — A mother begs for prayers for the repose of her dear son gone to his reward a few months ago. Mrs. M.S., **Shelton, Conn.** — Am sending One Dollar for a Mass in honour of Our Blessed Mother and the Little Flower so that my baby's health keep good. Mrs. J. S. J., **Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.** — An old man begs your prayers for the return of dear relatives to religious practise. The enclosed is for a Mass for them. **Toronto, Ont.** — The conversion of a young girl. M. E., **Montreal.** — Would you kindly place my request before the shrine of the Blessed Virgin: I need a position as school teacher. Miss K.S. — I have been praying for years to obtain a certain favour; kindly help me. B.P., **Montreal.** — I am trying some University Exams and need the help of our Holy Mother. I shall send a larger offering if success is achieved. L.S., **Toronto, Ont.** — Positions for my husband and son. My children's future. Mrs. R.C., **Pembroke, Ont.** — Enclosed a small offering for a special intention. G.A.M., **Westmount, Que.** — Would you please pray to the Little Flower for a particular favour I desire: a good position? Mrs. A.M., **Chicope Falls, Mass.** — A girl's vocation. Miss W.A., **Chapleau, Ont.** — Kindly make a novena to Our Blessed Lady that my husband come back to the Church. **Warren, Ont.** — The sale of a mining claim. A.W., **Timmins, Ont.** — A friend in need begs prayers to the Sacred Heart and the Queen of Apostles for a special request. **Port Daniel Centre, Que.** — My husband has been out of work for quite a while. Would you please intercede near Our Blessed Mother that he may find employment, as we are in need of his salary. Mrs. E.P., **Fall River, Mass.** — Special intentions. Mrs. T.C., **Waterbury, Conn.** — May I ask the help of your prayers for a very particular grace? Mr. M.J.H., **Sudbury, Ont.** — Am suffering very greatly from an open sore on my leg; I beg Our Divine Mother's help for resignation and cure if it be Her Son's holy Will. W.A.P., **Montreal** — An invalid relative. Mrs. M.C., **Redmondville, N.B.** — Offerings of One Dollar have been made for different intentions by: L.B., **Webster, Mass.**; C.M., **Montreal**; R.M., **Mansfield, Mass.**; M.T., **Chicope Falls, Mass.**; M.G.C., **Fitchburg, Mass.**; J.H., **Notre Dame de Grace**; G.D., **Bathurst, N.B.**; E. K., **Killaloe, Ont.**; M.M., **Toronto, Ont.**; F. H.,

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