

# THE PRECURSOR



Vol. VI., 7th Year

MONTREAL, MARCH-APRIL, 1929

No. 2

## **WORKS ALREADY EXISTING** **of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception**

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### **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*

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### **HOLY CHILDHOOD HOME**

*P. O. BOX 93, CANTON, CHINA*

(Founded in 1909)

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

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### **SHEK-LUNG LAZARETTO**

*SHEK-LUNG, NEAR CANTON, CHINA*

(Founded in 1913)

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### **CHINESE WORKS IN MONTREAL**

*110 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.

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### **CHINESE HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY**

*112 LAGAUCHETIERE ST. WEST, MONTREAL*

(Founded in 1918)

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

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### **CITY OF RIMOUSKI, P. Q. (House dedicated to St. Francis Xavier)**

(Founded in 1918)

Apostolic School for aspirants to the missions. Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Closed Retreats for young girls. Work-room of Church Vestments.

*(Continued on page 3 of the cover)*

## Please Help the Missionary Sisters

of the Immaculate Conception

*By procuring work for them.*

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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.

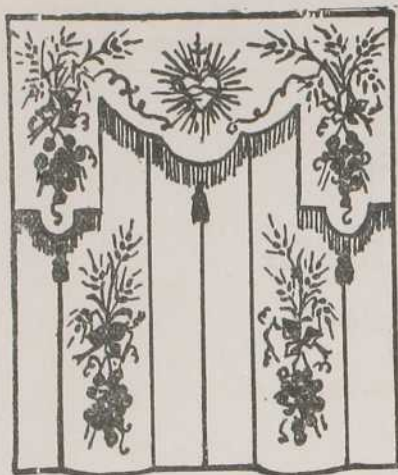
Missionaries must undergo several years' preparation before being able to commence their apostolic labors in foreign fields.

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.

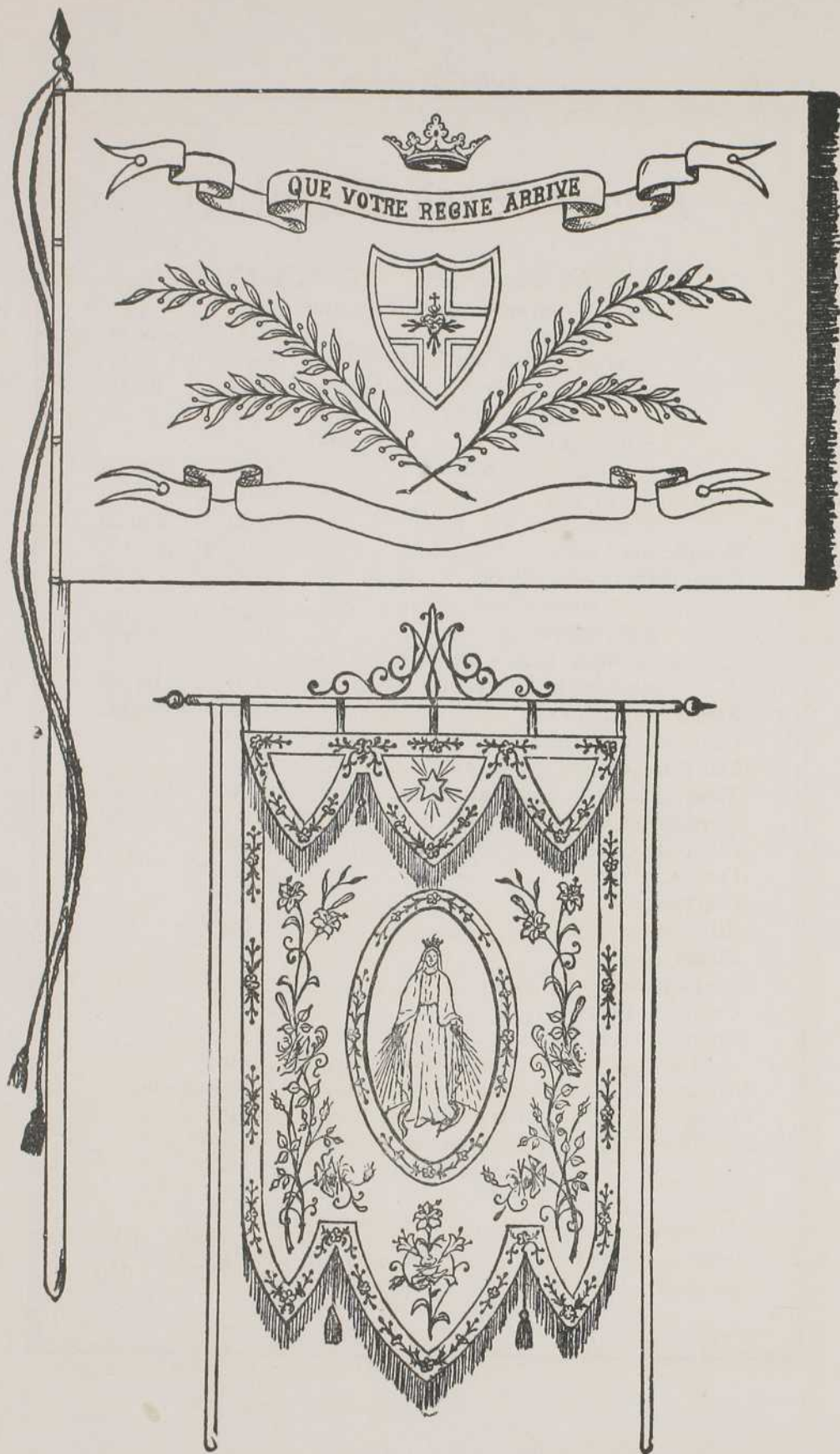


## Kindly Read Attentively

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 .....	0.37 “ 100



## Practical Means

of helping the Missionary Sisters of the  
Immaculate Conception

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*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—in 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

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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

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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.

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## Privileges Accorded to Benefactors

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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. VI, 7th Year

MONTREAL, March-April 1929

No. 2

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## His Holiness Pius XI

*To the millions who will kneel at the feet of His Holiness Pope Pius XI. during this year of the fiftieth anniversary of his Sacerdotal Ordination to offer their homages of respect, gratitude and devotedness, "THE PRECURSOR" unites its humble accents. With the most profound veneration it takes the liberty of offering to the supreme Head of the Church, to the "Pope of the Missions", its most ardent wishes.*



## A Congress in honor of Our Lady at Quebec

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Our readers will be pleased to learn, if they do not already know, that there will take place this year at Quebec, a diocesan Congress in honor of Mary, to which the greatest pomp and importance will be tended. It will be the realization of an idea dear to the heart of our Eminent Cardinal whose great devotion and profound love for the Blessed Virgin are so well known.

It was most appropriate that the first session in Canada be held at Quebec, the oldest city of the country, the see and cradle of Catholicity of the continent. The principal aim of this Congress, as our readers may well divine, will be to promote the devotion to the Blessed Virgin, in extolling her glories, in making her better known and loved by her children. Nothing is more fitting to revive the faith and piety, than popular demonstrations to which men, women, young people, children, are called upon to therein participate.

The Congress will commence on a Wednesday so as to close in a grand apotheosis, the following Sunday. There will be assemblies during which will be studied the great dogma of the universal Mediation of the Blessed Virgin, in the aim of making it better known, and more widespread. It will also be the doctrine that will be preached during the preparatory triduum which will take place in all the parishes of the diocese prior to the Congress. This doctrine infinitely consoling deserves close study that it may be better known, as there is nothing more proper than this to increase our confidence in Mary.

From the very first day will take place a pontifical Mass on the church grounds of Notre Dame des Victoires. This church, as we already know, was erected to thank our Lady for her manifest protection towards the little colony against Phipps and his troops in 1690 and those of Walker in 1711. Another pontifical Mass will be celebrated in the sanctuary of "Notre Dame de la Recouvrance", also in memory of an historical event. We are aware of the fact that during winter Cartier's second voyage to Canada, he was obliged to spend the winter at Quebec, as his ships were stranded in the St. Charles River at the mouth of the Lairet. His men having contracted scurvy, several being already dead, he made a vow to make a pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Roc-Amadour in France, if the Blessed Virgin would protect his remaining men against the terrible disease. His prayers were heard, and he fulfilled his promise.

There will also be a children's feast at the General Hospital. As we know, there is there a statue reputed miraculous and very old, known under the name of Our Lady of Protection, and it is to the Blessed Virgin under this title that all the children are consecrated.

Finally there will be a pontifical Mass at the Basilica. A historical remembrance is attached to this spot. In 1629 when Champlain with his men was forced to leave the colony, he then made a solemn promise to the Blessed Virgin that he would construct a chapel in her honor under the title of "Notre Dame de la Recouvrance", if they regained possession

of the colony. His request being granted in 1632, Champlain constructed his chapel the following year on the site of the presbytery of the present Basilica. The chapel was destroyed in 1640 and replaced by the Church, which is actually the Basilica. It is therefore evident, that the Congress will have as aim to revive and consecrate to a certain extent, the most ancient devotions to the Blessed Virgin in our country, which will hold for us, Canadians, exceptional interest. Our Lady has so often and so visibly protected us, our fathers have invoked her with such faith in all their difficulties, that it is a duty for their sons of Canada to publicly honor the very spots where she has manifested her power or where our ancestors have prayed.

There will be an hour of adoration in all the churches of the city where the relations between Mary and the Eucharist will be recalled. Men, women, young men, young girls will be united in groups during the different manifestations, and all will be asked to make at least one Communion during the Congress; general communions will be made in all the parishes. On Saturday night a pompous demonstration will take place at the University, presided over by the most distinguished representatives of religious and civil authority. Mary must needs bless us and help us to preserve the cordial relations that exist here between the Church and the State.

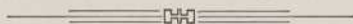
Finally on Sunday, grand procession through the city. It will be the apotheosis, the worthy coronation of this grand demonstration during three days in honor of the Virgin Mary.

Here in brief is a general idea of the great event which will take place in 1929 in honor of Mary.

Let us pray, dear readers, that it be a great success. Every day, from now until then, ask our Lady to bless the efforts of the organizers of this beautiful undertaking. Beg her to increase our love for her so that we shall all be there, each one to do what is asked of him, so that this Congress may be fruitful, that it may remain long in our memory, and do much good to our souls.

T. L. TREMBLAY, ptre

*Translated from the French*



## 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



## The Guardian of the Missions

A guardian kind hath ceaseless care  
O'er Mission Fields, their harvest rare;  
Holds wondrous sway, rich graces cast  
O'er pagan lands, dark regions vast;  
Oft wins for God obdurate souls  
To kiss the Cross, a host enrolls;  
Thus, flowers of Faith — firm-planted, true —  
Like Joseph's Rod, bursts fair to view.

Saint Joseph claims by right divine  
His tutelage in filial line;  
True Mother Church gives glad accord  
This foster-father of Our Lord  
Obedient bows to Joseph, Just,  
And fruitful grows that glorious trust;  
God's Missions thrive in every land  
Thro' noble zeal at His Command.

God's Guardian to the Holy Child!  
Chaste Shield to her — our Mother Mild!  
How humbly passed his years on earth  
Tho' lineage gave him royal birth!  
(O Nazareth, how bright you shine —  
Saint Joseph, Mary, Child Divine!  
Tho' humbly poor — so needy, bare —  
How rich your grace, how rapt your prayer!)

Obedient to the Godhead's Plan —  
He was the world's true gentle man!  
Bore each fatigue, and grief, and care,  
With fortitude surpassing rare!  
Now filled, his hands, with gifts divine  
To scatter down. A world, entwine  
In one sweet Whole, In God's embrace —  
To lead them Home! Bring Face to Face!

To Mary's Own — more kinder still —  
More loving grant, more richly fill  
With fruited years of golden deeds —  
Sweet hostels blest the Orient needs;  
Her Missions spread, endowments bring  
From gen'rous souls, while angels wing  
To tell their Queen, with glad acclaim:  
New jewels grace her dearest name!

RONALD STEPHEN MACDONALD

# A Few Roses Scattered

By the Little Sister of Missionaries...

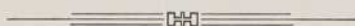
*"When I shall be in Heaven, Jesus, Thou wilt fill my hands with roses and I shall shower them upon earth."*

St. Therese of the Child Jesus



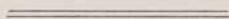
After having promised to give an offering towards the support of your missions and to have it published in "THE PRECURSOR" I have obtained the cure of a terrible headache, and another marked favor. Please accept my grateful thanks. A Subscriber, **Attleboro, Mass.** — Please find enclosed \$20.00 for your missions in gratitude for a favor obtained through the intercession of St. Therese. M. L., **Thetford West.** — Having been gratified with a great favor through the intercession of the Little Flower I herein enclose \$5.00 to prove my gratitude. W. B. — My heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin for a favor she obtained me through the intercession of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. Mrs. G. D. — Please find enclosed \$3.50 in token of gratitude to the Little Flower for a favor granted. Mrs. D. B., **Senneterre.** — Here is my modest offering towards the Little Flower Burse in gratitude for a cure obtained through her intercession. A. C., **Quebec.** — Herein I enclose \$5.00 for a Mass of thanksgiving in honor of St. Therese of the Child Jesus for favors granted. A Subscriber to "THE PRECURSOR", **Montreal.** — I am enclosing herein my modest offering of \$2.00 in fulfillment of a promise to the Little Flower for a cure obtained. Mrs. L. St. G. — I wish to ransom a Chinese baby in gratitude for a favor obtained through the intercession of the Little Sister of Missionaries. Mrs. J. E. B., **Outremont.** — I am happy to enclose herein \$10.00 for your missions in thanksgiving for the assistance St. Therese has given me. Mrs. X., **St. Anne de la Pocatiere.** — I am enclosing \$5.00 for a Mass of thanksgiving in honor of the little Saint of Carmel who has obtained a great favor for me. Mrs. A. B., **Central Falls.** — St. Therese of the Child Jesus has showered fragrant roses on my pathway! Please unite with me in thanking her, and accept the enclosed \$2.00 — A Subscriber. Find enclosed \$5.00 for the Little Flower Burse in gratitude for a financial success. Miss A. C., **Lachine.** — The Patroness of Missionaries has obtained the cure of my husband. In gratitude please accept the enclosed \$5.00. A Subscriber to "THE PRECURSOR" **Montreal.** — St. Therese of the Child Jesus has just heard my supplications and has cured my child of an earache. As promised I am sending my humble offering of \$0.50. A Subscriber, **St. B.** — I am sending \$3.00 for your needy missions in gratitude for favors obtained and I again promise another offering if my prayers are heard. W. B., **Verdun.** — I cannot find words to express my gratitude to the little Patroness of Missionaries who obtained for me the cure of my child. I herein enclose \$2.00. Mrs. D., **Loretteville.** — Please find enclosed \$1.00 for the ransom of dying babies in thanksgiving to the Little Flower for a favor obtained through her intercession. Mrs. J. E. B., **Outremont.** — I had promised \$5.00 to Saint Therese if I recovered my health. Having felt a great improvement I am now acquitting my debt. — Please find enclosed \$2.00 in honor of Saint Therese for the sale of a property. Mrs. J. A. C., **Montreal.** — I am sending the sum of \$5.00 in honor of the Little Sister of Missionaries, for your works; it is in fulfillment of a promise made to obtain a cure. M. J. L. F., **St. Vincent de Paul.** — My heartfelt gratitude to the Little Flower for relief from a severe attack of rheumatism. In thanksgiving accept the offering of \$1.00 for your missionary works. A Subscriber, **St. Blaise.** — Please have published in "THE PRECURSOR" thanksgiving to Saint Therese for a favor obtained and an offering of \$0.50 for your works. Mrs. A. B., **Beauceville.** — An offering of \$5.00 for the ransom of a Chinese baby, in thanksgiving for a position obtained after promising to have it published and to give this sum in honor of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. A. T., **St. Polycarpe.** — I am sending you \$1.00 for the renewal of my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" in fulfillment of a promise made to the little Saint of Lisieux for a favor obtained. Mrs. H. B., **St. Remi.** — To prove my gratitude to the good little Saint of Carmel, I am sending the offering of \$2.00 towards your most needy missions. A Subscriber, **Fabre.** — As a token of gratitude to the little Sister of Missionaries I am sending an offering of \$5.00 for your missions. M. A. L., **Mont-**

**real.** — Heartfelt thanksgiving to the Patroness of Missionaries and our offering of \$20.00 for your missions. **Mr. & Mrs. C. M., Montreal.** — Find enclosed a postal note for \$1.00 in thanksgiving for a favor obtained through the intercession of the little Saint of Lisieux. **Miss J. L., St. Adele.** — Offering of \$2.00 towards the Little Flower Burse, in thanksgiving for a favor obtained through her intercession. **Mrs. L. T., East Broughton.** — After having promised to give \$1.00 for your missions, I have obtained through the intercession of the little Sister of Missionaries the "rose" I desired. I am most happy to fulfil my promise. **M. J. C. S., Quebec.** — With lively gratitude do I send my offering of \$2.00 in honor of the little Saint of Carmel in thanksgiving, at the same time begging her to continue her powerful intercession in our behalf. **Mrs. A. D., Fabre.** — I am pleased to send you the modest sum of \$2.00 promised in honor of my dear protectress St. Therese of the Child Jesus, for a favor obtained. **Mrs. A. F., Kapuskasing.** — Enclosed find my offering of \$2.00 that I am sending in honor of the Patroness of Missionaries for your most needy missions in thanksgiving for a great favor obtained. **M. L. G., Pawtucket. R. I.** — My profound gratitude towards our Immaculate Mother and St. Therese of the Child Jesus for a position obtained and health recovered. In sending my offering of \$5.00 I ask you to unite your prayers with mine in order to obtain the conversion of a person dearly loved and health for myself. **Mrs. J., Montreal.** — My offering of \$2.00 as a token of gratitude towards the powerful little Carmelite. **Mrs. A. M., St. Dominique.** — To prove my gratitude to the Patroness of Missionaries, I am sending \$3.00 for the Burse founded in her honor. **Mrs. I. P., Boucherville.** — My offering of \$5.00 for your works as a homage of gratitude towards the powerful little Carmelite of Lisieux. **Mrs. A. L., Montreal.** — My sincere gratitude to the little Patroness of Missionaries for a favor obtained through her intercession. — After having promised \$1.00 in honor of the Little Flower if I obtained a position I am happy to say that she has granted my petition. It is with pleasure that I am fulfilling my promise. **A. B., Montreal.** — Enclosed please find a cheque for \$5.00 for the ransom of a Chinese baby likely to live. This is in thanksgiving to the Little Flower for help received. **Mrs. M. B., Montreal.** — Enclosed please find \$1.00 in honor of St. Therese that she may obtain a special favor for me. If my request is granted I promise to send \$5.00 for a novena of lights. **Mrs. J. L., Chandler.** — Please accept my "mite" in honor of St. Therese for a favor received. One who is unworthy. **Fitchburg, Mass.**



Love alone have I ever given to the good God, with love He will repay me.

Hist. d'une âme, ch. 12



## Burse of St. Therese 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**.

Our heartfelt thanks to the generous donors who have contributed to the formation of the second Burse in honor of the Little Flower, commenced in May 1927, and which was completed during the month of May last.

July	1928	153.10
September	"	55.75
November	"	192.00
January	1929	303.05

# *Echoes from our Missions*

## HONG KONG, CHINA

*Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Hong Kong*

### **Saturday, September 1, 1928**

We have just witnessed a superstitious scene which has greatly interested us. Our neighbor, a breeder of swine, had in his employ for a few years past, a faithful servant who fell sick lately. He was sent to the hospital, to a Charity Ward, and there died. When asked to pay the funeral expenses, he refused saying that the deceased was only an employee and that he himself was very poor. And to crown his misfortune, his swine for the past two months have been sick and some have died... Again this morning another was found dead. Naturally the poor pagan thinks that his servant wants to take revenge. To aggravate things a good old woman of the valley addresses him this reproach: "No wonder, you have not paid for his coffin." Immediately to become reconciled with his enemy, he buys besides Chinese candles, two cases covered with black paper decorated with red and yellow trimmings and bearing in large characters, wishes for happiness. It is brought to his house, examined, and offered to the buddha placed on the table. Then the two men go to a pond opposite our house. The cases are placed one beside the other and surrounded by candles. At three or four feet distant a fire is lighted, where incense is burned. The cases are then placed in the fire and while they are being slowly consumed the poor pagan makes before the two fires, three profound bows followed by three prostrations; then in each fire are burnt wishes for happiness... Lastly after having thrown a few handfuls of rice here and there, he thus addresses the deceased: "I did not give you your coffin, but here are two cases in which you can store your clothes; everywhere on your way, you will find rice; these candles, and these decorations are also in your honor etc., etc.," The bearer of the cases, choking with laughter, stepped aside so as not to be noticed by the superstitious pagan. If more deaths are counted among the swine the unhappy proprietor will sell them all and settle in a place unknown to his employee who died six months ago.

This scene has given to our dear orphans, the occasion of appreciating the beauties of our holy religion and of thanking God who has snatched them from the horrors and superstitions of paganism.

### **Sunday, September 2**

Our good Chinese, even after they have become Christians have not the most refined manners. On Sunday morning we generally arrive at church a short time before Mass for the recitation of prayers in common

and the Litany of the Blessed Virgin which precede the catechism lesson. If it happens that the mother has not had the time to comb her little one's hair before leaving home, both go to church just the same and there the good mother sees to the hair-dressing of the child while reciting the prayers; this is what occurred this morning. These good people have such good intentions, that I am sure Almighty God forgives these irreverences.

### **Tuesday, September 4**

Last night at about 7 o'clock a young woman aged twenty-four, employed as a maid on a neighboring farm had a quarrel with her mother who had come to take her home. The mother, after much coaxing and scolding, was finally obeyed by the daughter who at first refused to leave. The poor girl who had just been scrubbing the pig-sty and its inhabitants left, but very much discontented... Arrived home she just had time to see to her toilet, and at 8 o'clock she was celebrating her marriage. The mother, in need of money had sold her daughter. Poor child she had refused to marry, and had even gone so far as to put up her hair which is a sign that one wishes to remain a virgin... She had come to see us, a few times and had found so much happiness in hearing our orphans pray and sing that she asked if she could not also become a Catholic. We hope that her desire will soon be realized and it is to the Blessed Virgin that we confide this charge.

### **Saturday, September 15**

Not long ago a nice little serpent penetrated into the house during the night... We fortunately noticed it, but the reptile seeing that he was discovered crawled into a crack in the wall. In the course of the afternoon, one of the orphans (the little dumb-girl) saw it in a room. Like a flash she seized a tub nearby and threw it over him, then proud of her capture, hastened to call me... With the fire-tongs I held the reptile by the neck while the orphan crushed its head.

### **Sunday, September 16**

What consolations and true happiness does our holy religion procure for souls and especially for those who suffer here below! Among our orphans, two in particular are to be pitied: one is deaf and dumb, the other is so crippled that we can hardly see her head above her shoulders; her body is deformed and moreover she has tuberculosis of the bone. Both find happiness and consolation in the precincts of the convent, outside they are rejected, mocked and ridiculed by the pagans.

One day the poor little hunchback, having been laughed at, fell a prey to the deepest despair. I tried to encourage her as aimably as possible saying that if she was so miserable on earth God would give her great happiness in heaven if she bear these trials with patience. I then gave her a medal of the Blessed Virgin. From that day on she has become, for her companions



AT THE ORPHANAGE OF HONG KONG, CHINA

a model of meekness, she never utters a word of complaint and is always most cheerful. Her friends who have witnessed this change are astonished.

As to the deaf and dumb child, I have succeeded by means of signs to make her understand that in heaven she will be able to speak and hear like anyone else. A first she would not believe me, but when once convinced she was beside herself with joy, jumping and laughing alternatively.

Dear God, how numerous are the poor unfortunates in China who are capable of the most generous submission to the Will of God if but a spark of Faith and Hope be enkindled in their souls!

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## SHEK LUNG LAZARETTO

### Tuesday, September 11, 1928

We have just been to Hong Kong on business; we are very tired and all covered with a kind of prickly-heat. During our absence one of our leprous women left for heaven... It is only a month since she came to the lazaretto. As she was not well enough instructed in the Faith we were not yet able to have her christened, but she was baptized before dying.

### Wednesday, September 12

One of our Christians has just expired. She went to confession last night, and this morning we were just preparing her to receive Holy Viaticum when she took her flight to heaven. The priest entered as she was breathing her last. She had procured some money to have a Mass said after her death; we had the Holy Sacrifice offered immediately.

**Friday, September 14**

We have just been very unfortunate. During the noon recreation we hear screams, and immediately hasten to see what is the matter. It is one of the swine that has fallen into the well. Despite the efforts of our good lepers they were not able to save it. It is the seventh one that has perished this year. You may well imagine what a loss it is to us, especially in the extreme state of poverty in which we find ourselves... Several of our lepers even cried, and do not take any supper to-night.

As for us, knowing that everything that God does is for the best, we thank Him for having visited us by this trial.

**Saturday, September 15**

Twenty new patients come to claim relief from Sister Marie Bernadette, who is in charge of the dispensary. Among them is a man who has been blind for almost ten years, who would like Sister to cure him. The latter promises that he will become a Catholic if he obtains his cure. Together we beg the Blessed Virgin to intercede for him.

**Sunday, September 16**

From now on, our lepers will sing hymns during Mass every Wednesday and Saturday in honor of St. Joseph and of the Blessed Virgin. Consequently choir practice begins to-day. They seem very much pleased.

**Monday, September 17**

A few days ago, an old leper having heard about God in the christendom of Shek Lung, comes to us, saying: "I am coming for my passport for Heaven... I feel that everything is over for me, I am going to die, but I do not know if I shall be able to go to Heaven..." Poor creature! he is the most horrible sight... Even though we are accustomed to see the ravages caused by leprosy, yet every time we meet this man we shudder in spite of ourselves. We cared for him to the best of our ability; he was baptized and died this morning. How well must he have been received in heaven, he suffered so much!...

The head infirmarian is dying. This morning he asked to be brought to the chapel to receive Holy Communion and Extreme Unction, which was readily granted him. He is one of our best Christians, and for the past six or seven years belonged to the little association called the "Red Cross", during which time he certainly did not spare himself.

**Tuesday, September 18**

The head infirmarian gave up his pure soul to God this morning. Having earned a few dollars he distributed them among the patients of the infirmary before dying.

A pagan, who takes care of the infirmary relates how he acted with regard to one of his friends who died recently. "When Tun Tai arrived

at the infirmary," he tells us, "he suffered so much that he wanted to roll himself continually on the ground, but I said to myself, I am not going to let him do that, he is going to die properly... So, taking him in my arms, I made use of everything I knew about religion, and had him repeat: Holy Virgin Mary, have pity on me. I asked him if he believed in God, and he answered affirmatively. I gave him a miraculous medal of the Blessed Virgin and told him to say some Hail Marys..." The poor pagan was radiant with happiness while making this narration. He is very devoted to his patients, and we have confidence that he will ask to be baptized before long.

To-day we cut one of our stalks of bananas: it numbered 160... This fruit is a great treat for our patients who are in an advanced stage of leprosy.

#### **Thursday, September 20**

A little girl three years of age, living in the sampans, fell into an oven and burned her entire body. She comes here for treatment, but we have great difficulty in finding bandages for the dressings, as we do not dare use those given us for our lepers; still our dear Sister Marie Bernadette does her best with what she is able to find.

#### **Friday, September 21**

While I was visiting the patients this morning one of our good old women said to me: "Sister, I now have sore eyes; I cannot distinguish hardly anything... what am I going to do?... my feet, my hands, my lips and tongue are nearly finished, and now my eyes are going!... Please ask the Blessed Virgin to come for me before I lose my eyesight completely. Yes, I thank her for having preserved my eyes until now... but you have no idea how much I suffer. It seems as though someone were sticking pins into my head." Another speaks up right away: "Sister it is not that we do not love God or that we are less fervent, that we do not go oftener to the chapel, but now that our hands are lifeless and that we are blind it takes us too long to put on our wooden shoes. When we wish to go to Holy Communion, we are obliged to rise at 4 A. M., so as to be ready for Mass. Sometimes we have so much trouble to put on our shoes, that we become so discouraged that we throw them aside and make up our minds not to go; after having cried, we regain courage and recommence..."

#### **Tuesday, September 25**

One of the prisoners being very sick is brought to the infirmary, but the soldiers will not agree to relieve him of his chains. He asks us by signs, for he is no longer able to speak, to take them off, but we can do nothing. How heart-breaking it is for us!... We encourage him as best we can, speak to him about God and the Blessed Virgin, and he consents to be baptized before dying. What a surprise he must have had upon his arrival in Heaven! It was only when the body was placed in the coffin that the soldiers consented

to take off the chains. Ah! how sad and harsh is paganism! Two other lepers die after having been baptized, and a young girl also receives the sacrament of Baptism.

### **Saturday, September 29**

While visiting our patients this morning we find a leper who arrived but a short time ago, dead in his bed. Had he heard enough about God to desire Baptism? We hope so... the Blessed Virgin must have obtained this grace for him for he was a good pagan.

A young girl, baptized yesterday, died this morning in the most edifying manner.

### **Sunday, September 30**

Sister St. Raphael returns from Canton with good news: a large case has just arrived from the Mother-House. It is at Hong Kong, and we must wait a long week before receiving it. You may well imagine our impatience, but we offer this sacrifice for the intentions of our beloved Mother and to thank her for her kindness in our regard.

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## **Manila, Philippine Islands**

*Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters of the Chinese General Hospital*

### **Sunday, September 2, 1928**

Again in our humble chapel this morning takes place the consoling ceremony of a First Holy Communion. This privileged one is the son of one of our patients, a young man of nineteen, to whom Sister Mary of the Rosary gave Catechism lessons during the three months that he was here assisting his sick father. The latter having returned home, the brave young man filled for him the role of infirmarian. In return for the filial piety with which he accomplished this duty God now lavishes upon him the most precious graces. May the Blessed Virgin keep him ever as fervent as on the day of his First Holy Communion. Sister Superior gives him a large picture as a souvenir of the happiest day of his life.

Compared with our beautiful churches of Canada our humble chapel is by its rusticity another Bethlehem. Two of the wards transformed into one room form the quarters. Owing to lack of space we are obliged to remove the doors for the different exercises, the neighboring corridor serving as an addition, thus the passers-by may linger. The pagan patients attracted by the music and singing lend an attentive ear, and as in former years the shepherds listened to the hymns of the angels, in like manner do they listen,

rapt in admiration... and come to Bethlehem to see Jesus. Unconsciously they are captivated. Such is the case with a young pagan from the Provinces. At the time of Benediction he leaves his room to see what is going on in the chapel. Charmed by the sight, he eagerly seeks an explanation. A short account of the life of Our Lord in the Chinese language is given him. As he cannot read the characters he asks a similar book in Spanish. We find a little pamphlet entitled: "*Beneath the skies of Palestine*" with illustrations of the mysteries of Our Lord's life. He is overjoyed and begins to read it with so much ardor that he soon finds himself obliged to remain in bed, so violent a headache has he after such attentive reading. He wishes to study Christian Doctrine and to become a Catholic. In the Province of Zamboanga where he lives, he says that he is acquainted with the *Padres* who are very good. He also wishes to be one of their disciples. Yes a child of God and of His Church he will soon be, do we hope, for grace is working marvellously in this soul.

#### Thursday, September 6

Our aged child, Bernardo, baptized three weeks ago, has this morning the great happiness of receiving Holy Communion for the first time. His legs covered with ulcers hinder him from acting as did Zacheus, but he did not close an eye all night so eager was he to receive his God. Yesterday, his soul still new in grace was purified by the Sacrament of Penance, to-day his wishes are realized. He is certainly one of those of whom Our Lord spoke when He said that the last would be first. He has waited a long time before enjoying the tenderness of the Sovereign Master, but now what gratitude and love he bears towards Him. A few months more and the eternal Face to Face will be the supreme reward of this laborer of the last hour.

#### Thursday, September 20

Last night, the good pagan whom we have already mentioned, and whose soul was touched by grace on visiting the chapel, revealed with admirable resignation during a Catechism lesson, his plans for the future. The infirmarian asked him if he had studied since his last lesson. He replied affirmatively adding: *Mala mi cabeza*. My head is not at all well, I have much to think of, my mind is greatly preoccupied. — And why all this, let us see what is the matter? — I am trying to decide what is the best thing for me to do. The doctor proposes that I go to Baguio (a summer resort) to recover my health if there is any hope. The pus which fills my lungs may cause consumption and then all hope will be lost. I shall go to China and with a little money, I know of a place where I may receive hospitality for the rest of my days. The sooner I die the better; while awaiting death, how many a sacrifice I shall be obliged to make. — "Yes, in truth, the sacrifices will be numerous and painful, but they will procure for you the happiness of seeing God during all eternity. You will be baptized, God will reward you for all that you have done for Him; now your sacrifices may win for you the faith and the grace of Baptism, but then every instant

of your life will count for Heaven where you will receive the reward." His face brightened with happiness and hope. "Do not be uneasy," our Sister tells him, "to-morrow during Mass and at Holy Communion I am going to ask God to make His Holy Will known to you." He then said his night prayer which yet consists of but a beautiful Sign of the Cross and peacefully fell asleep. In the morning his first desire was to know what had been God's answer. Did God not say anything to you?" he anxiously asked the infirmarian. "Did you ask Him what I should do?" — "Yes," she replied, "I prayed for you and God will give you the answer. It is you who should decide and not I". The poor young man thought that God would speak. He nevertheless understood, and full of hope he ardently continued



NURSES OF THE CHINESE GENERAL HOSPITAL, MANILA, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS  
IN RECREATION

to study our holy religion. Grace had a strong influence over him and gave him spiritual knowledge. Without being able to read the explanations, he guessed, he understood by himself what the illustrations in the Catechism signify. A few words only are needed to complete that which he discovered by himself under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. How admirable is the work of grace in a diligent soul!

### **Wednesday, September 26**

A doctor coming to see an operated patient seriously ill, encourages him and on taking his leave he cheerfully speaks to him in these terms: "Have great confidence in the Blessed Virgin, she will surely cure you." It is the first time we have heard a like wish from a doctor in the Hospital

of Manila. Oh! how happy we would be if our Heavenly Mother could finally reign in this house.

#### **Thursday, September 27**

At last the long-awaited day has arrived. Sister Superior, Sister Assistant and a few pupils go to the harbor to meet our Sister arriving from Canada. A little later we greet our dear Sister St. Philippe. It is easier to imagine our joy than to define it. We believe ourselves to be again under Outremont skies; how happy we are to have news of our beloved Mother, of dear Sister Assistant and of all our Sisters of Canada. It is a feast which we enjoy to our heart's content.

In the trunks we find a little wax infant, new Mass cards and a beautiful red felt altar cover, also chocolates from home! It is ever the maternal heart overflowing with tenderness for her children, How good we must needs be to compensate our beloved Mother for the thousand solitudes which she lavishes upon each of her daughters! We shall redouble our efforts and our zeal so as to realize the ideal which she desires for us, that of being true Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception.

#### **Sunday, September 30**

After Benediction this evening a Chinese baby, seriously ill, is brought to us. We hasten to give it every care so as to soothe it, but with no success. The most urgent thing to do therefore is to procure for him his passport for Heaven. This happiness is reserved to Sister St. Philippe who for the first time pours the regenerating waters. She gives the little one the name of Joseph. It is the fourteenth inscribed in the baptismal register during the month of September.

#### **Thursday, October 4**

Last night a young Chinese, Mr. Gabriel Ty Choaco, took his flight to his heavenly home. As may be remembered this young man came to us last April after having suffered from a severe hemorrhage. He had just terminated his studies at the Jesuit College and his masters who had converted him to our holy religion had great hopes for his future. After five months of rest and care at the hospital he was taken to the country. It was with regret that he was there unable to receive Holy Communion daily. He told the nurse of this who in turn told Sister Superior. "Tell him to come back", replied the latter. The poor man was overjoyed and said it to the doctor, his face beaming with happiness: "The Sisters have sent for me." During his stay here he unceasingly edified us by his piety. Each time we entered his room, we were greatly struck by his kind, intelligent and modest expression. How impenetrable are God's holy designs. This young man could do so much good among his own countrymen and God calls him to Himself!

Towards 2 A. M., seeing his end close at hand we summoned one of his masters who hastened to give him Holy Viaticum and recited the prayers

for the dying. The moribund declared that he felt a little stronger since he had received Our Lord into his heart and that he had confidence that he would live until the morrow. The priest took his leave and two hours later the good Master received him into His loving embrace!

From heaven, do we hope, he will win his brothers towards our holy religion. May he also assist us in doing them all the good in our power.

### **Tuesday, October 9**

We to-day receive His Lordship, Bishop Renaud of Kiang-Si who is accompanied by Reverend Father Chabot, a Father of St. Vincent de Paul of the city. After having visited the Hospital, he repaired to the chapel where we were making our spiritual exercises. To hear prayers in French greatly charmed them and they asked to see the sisters who prayed thus in their own language. Reverend Father Chabot who comes from Bellechasse expressed to us his satisfaction in meeting Canadians so far away, asking us the name of our family, of our parish, etc.

His Lordship did not leave without expressing his congratulations for our work, for the organization of the Hospital. For his part, Reverend Father Chabot found it so peaceful, so much to his liking, that he promised to come for treatment if he happened to fall ill.

### **Wednesday, October 10**

This morning a poor aged Chinese of the Charity Ward leaves this land of exile fortified with the last rites of Holy Mother Church. For a long time past, did he tell us, he was a Catholic, however not very firm in his principles, for one day he received Holy Communion as preparation to his confession. Poor old man! he was so bent over by a curvature of the spine that his brow nearly touched the ground. To-day his sufferings have come to an end and we have the sweet confidence that his gaze forever rests upon the Beatific Vision.

### **Sunday, October 14**

As Sister Marie de la Visitation was making her rounds this morning one of our Chinese patients, Ang To By, exclaimed: "Sister, give me my medal of the Blessed Virgin quickly!" — "Certainly, but what is the matter?" she asked, on seeing the downcast expression on his face. "Oh! what a terrible dream I had last night!... I received blows upon my head, back and arms, my life was sought after, my left arm alone was spared, doubtlessly, because I have already worn our Blessed Lady's medal. Yesterday I broke the string (he wore it as a bracelet); certainly it is because I did not have it that I had such a dream for the first time. Needless to add that Sister Marie de la Visitation quickly favored this poor patient's confidence in Our Immaculate Mother by again carefully tying the little medal on his wrist. This good Chinese is not a Christian, but has a great desire to embrace the Faith. We feel that Our Lady is lovingly drawing him to her Divine Son... He drinks in with avidity everything that is told

him concerning our holy religion. We ourselves, are very anxious that he be sufficiently instructed to be baptized and to receive Holy Communion in order that Our Divine Lord coming to dwell in his soul will amply satisfy his thirst for justice.

### **Thursday, November 1**

As early as 7 o'clock this morning autos and carriages laden with palms, wreaths and flowers defile before the hospital. To-morrow is All Souls' Day and here it is the feast *par excellence*. The greater part of the Chinese and Philippine families spend their day in decorating the monuments; great sums of money have been spent to this effect. The crowd which comes to the cemetery is so dense that it is necessary to make a new roadway. It is an understood thing that this evening there is a splendid illumination and also an explosion of fireworks. As the hospital is situated just opposite the cemetery, we witness all this bustling back and forth. Such is the homage here rendered to the dead that the people even bring their beds to the cemetery so as to spend the night beside the graves of their relatives. To-day one of our Sisters asked a house-boy if he was going to the cemetery. — "Oh! yes, Sister, of course, my mother is dead and this is the only occasion I have to spend the day with her." Certainly these poor pagans think much of their departed ones, but do the poor suffering souls of Purgatory receive any benefit from the celebrations which take place on their graves and from the superb ornaments with which they are decorated?... During recreation this evening we make the comparison between what we see here and what is done at home. In Canada this evening feelings of sadness are in all hearts, and in several parishes, the tolling of the knell reminds the faithful to pray for the dead; we somewhat share the sufferings of our dear ones who are being cleansed in the purifying flames, we pray for them, we economize in every way so as to have the greatest possible number of Masses offered for their deliverance...How true it is that there where Christianity reigns, there also reigns true charity.

### **Tuesday, November 6**

Mr Ong Twing Lim, a young Chinese attacked with typhoid fever dies this morning after having in perfect consciousness, accepted to receive Holy Baptism. The father's inexpressible sorrow drew tears from many eyes; the poor man is nevertheless bemoaning his son's happiness since he has here found not death, but life, the only true life! May his happiness be also that of one of his compatriots, Go Sing Hay whose conversion we greatly desire. He is seriously ill, and speaks of returning to Amoy, his home town. If he reaches his country it will only be long enough to bid it a last farewell. We spoke to him of the only true Fatherland, that of Heaven, of Holy Baptism which will open for him its doors. In a sceptical tone he replied: "I have my own religion, I am a Protestant, and do not intend to change..." Still he joyfully accepted the miraculous medal, tying it around his wrist. Will not our Immaculate Mother soon make him one of her own children?

**Friday, November 9**

Mr. Go Sing Hay has decided to leave to-morrow to return to his people. Sister Marie de la Visitation again approaches him with the religious question. He, so staunch these last few days in his convictions of the Protestant religion, listens this morning with great interest. Oh! the powerful efficacy of the miraculous medal!... But he admits that he does not see the difference between the Catholic and the Protestant religion. We lend him religious books in the Chinese language and upon his consent, we send for Father Perez, O. P., who has special charge of the Chinese in Manila and who is acquainted with our patient's dialect. The good priest comes at once, speaks lengthily with him and when he leaves he is already a Christian by desire.

**Saturday, November 10**

At 9 o'clock Reverend Father Perez after having heard our young patient's confession, baptizes him in the chapel. Dr. Tantoco stands as godfather, and two pagan friends assist, following every movement of the priest. The name of Joseph is given to the newly-baptized. With paternal kindness Reverend Father explains to this new child of the Church the ceremonies which have just taken place, exhorting him to remain ever faithful, telling him of the heavenly bliss which will be his recompense. "Joseph", his large eyes beaming with happiness looks fixedly at him. One would think that he did not wish to lose even a single syllable of the revealing words addressed him. His face bears the expression of a pure and simple child who listens with avidity to all that is told him about God.

Before leaving at noon, Sister Marie de la Visitation returns to see him: "You will never forsake your miraculous medal, I am sure", does she say to him, "it is the image of your Mother that you are wearing on your wrist."—"No, Sister, never..." and casting a loving glance upon the picture of the Blessed Virgin: "Oh! I am suffering so much now, but when I shall be in Heaven with her, I shall not suffer any more..." and big tears filled his eyes.

**Sunday, November 25**

Yesterday, seven of our elder boys approached for the first time, the Holy Table, with the fervor and simplicity of little children. As early as five o'clock this morning they had assembled in one of the rooms, their faces beaming with joy, awaiting Sister Assistant who was to hear them recite their prayers and see to their immediate preparation. To the notes of the march of the *Volontaires* de Schmoll, they entered the chapel each carrying a candle, and took their places in the pews reserved for them. The rest of the chapel was occupied by their colleagues and the Sisters. They sang with their whole heart a pretty hymn imploring the Blessed Virgin to present them herself and to complete their preparation before Our Lord

came into their hearts, then the hymn: "My Jesus from Thy Throne above," and finally an act of consecration to our Blessed Lady asking her to keep their hearts as pure as her own. After Mass they renewed their Baptismal Vows, and prayed for some time. They were beaming with happiness. The following day after Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament they were received as members of the Sacred Heart League, Reverend Father Miguel presiding over the ceremony.

How much good remains to be done among these poor people! When we consider how much the Freemasons and other sects are doing, we cannot keep back our tears. This year we have received three infirmarians, two of whom have not yet made their First Communion. One of them is a Protestant, the other has been baptized, but is imbued with erroneous ideas. He says that it is only the Protestants that are prosperous and that the wealthy Americans are all Protestants. A certain senator had visited his school and affirmed his ideas in telling the scholars that he had once been a Catholic but had abandoned his religion in order to become a *somebody*. "All the Presidents of the United States," he said to keep up his conviction, "were Protestants. Of all the American senators one alone is Catholic, he is Alfred Smith who has just lost his election as President of the United States." The young man therefore concluded that in order to do good to his nation he should follow the Protestant religion. There was no means of permitting him to approach the Holy Table with such dispositions. We therefore decided to ask help from a good American priest and Reverend Father McLaughlin, S. J., with great zeal took these two lost sheep under his care. With the assistance of the Blessed Virgin I have confidence that he will make good Christians of them. They are both good and more to be pitied than blamed.

It is affirmed that if His Grace had been able to have priests in all the parishes there would be no Protestants in the Philippines. Reverend Father Billiet, the preacher of our retreat, told me that he had conducted one of the Fathers of their Society, a missionary in China, to one of the provinces. On the way they saw a hearse. "We shall have a funeral ceremony," he said to his companion. The latter quite surprised asked: "Is this one of our parishes!—No, but there has not been a priest here for several years and the inhabitants never fail to have their dead blessed when they are able to meet a priest no matter where he happens to come from. Let us go into the church." Quite true, hardly had they entered before the Christians hastened to ask the Father to kindly proceed with the burial. Father Billiet was asking who would sing the customary prayers when he heard the people begin them themselves and without the least omission. They say them even when there is no priest. It seems that a few days previous, another priest passing that way had administered the Last Sacraments to the deceased. "This man has surely said a few Hail Marys during his life", concluded the Father.

## NAZE, JAPAN

*Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Naze, Japan*

### Monday, September 10, 1928

Miss Ayakawa who works with us, having gone home a few days ago tells us, on her return, of a serious accident which occurred in her parish, but we cannot refrain from calling it a *fortunate* accident, since it opened heaven to a soul. A young man was working in his garden on the slope of a mountain, when an enormous snake, nine feet in length, stung him on the leg. The poor man uttered a loud cry and fell unconscious to the ground. One of his companions who was working nearby, heard him and hastened to his side, but the vile reptile had time to sting him six times before the man reached him. He was brought home, and before long his body had swollen



AT THE SCHOOL OF NAZE, JAPAN  
A LITTLE JAPANESE LEARNING THE ART OF COOKING

to a terrible size, while he suffered the most excruciating pain. Many another would have died at the first sting, but he, being very robust, regained consciousness. A good old Catholic who was present, asked him if he would not like to be baptized and go to Heaven. The young man replied that he desired it most ardently, and answered all the questions proposed by the Christian. Everybody tried to find a priest, they wanted the *Shimbu San*, but in this little village, the missionary passes only now and then, and he is not able to remain as long as he should. Seeing the

good dispositions of the patient, his devoted companion baptized him without delay, and soon after the young man died, his soul taking its flight to a better land. Let us hope that from heaven, he will pray for his brethren and obtain for them the grace of protection and of conversion.

#### Thursday, November 1

We are very grateful to good Father Calixte, O. F. M. to be able to celebrate All Saints' Day. In all the other schools there is class, while for us it is the day chosen as the particular holiday of *Kotojogakko*.

The Reverend Pastor honored us by a visit. He speaks about his good Christians who, at Naze, suffer a kind of persecution. The latter do not wish to give their "kifu" (contribution) towards the adornment of the Shintoiste Temple and for this reason they are accused of working against their own country. A Christian who held quite an important position at the Town Hall has just lost it on this account. Our pupils have been left free to act according to their conscience, while at the Lyceum, the Director imposed the obligation of contributing. The Pastor of the parish ever seeking the spiritual good of his children went to the Lyceum and pleaded for his Christians, but the Director, quite furious declared that all the pupils *without exception* would contribute. "There is no question of wanting to or not wanting to," he said, "they will *all contribute*." It seems that this man has very much influence, which extends beyond the school and even over our young girls of *Kotojogakko* who have one or two brothers at the Lyceum.

There is Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at the church, and the Baptism of an adult. My companions go thither while I remain to care for our little patient.

#### Sunday, November 4

Miss Koriyama, aspirant to the religious life, comes to visit us. She is accompanied by a maid. Her grave attitude and graceful manners prove that she is a cultured person.

#### Saturday, November 10

In all the churches of Japan there is solemn Mass for the Emperor.

This evening there is a grand procession made through the city with lanterns. Nothing is as pretty as this long line of red lights in the streets. Fireworks are exploded on all sides; from our Community-room, we suddenly see a beautiful lily and a large chrysanthemum burst forth not far the school. We cannot refrain from admiring these beauties of the Japanese. When, O God, will these artistic people of Japan make use of their talents to render Thee homage, Thou the unique King, worthy of all praise and glory!

#### Wednesday, November 21

The little Virgin of the Temple has sent us lovely letters... mail from Canada... *a letter from our dear Mother*... Happiness reigns supreme... We

read the missive in the Community-room. Never, does it seem, have we spent such happy moments in Japan... as though it were the first time that Our Mother had written to us!...

Our dear parents have also written. How lovingly has the little Virgin of the Temple favored each and every one of us!...

### Thursday, November 22

Repetition of a grand concert given by our pupils. The hall is filled to capacity. Following is the programme:

WELCOME SONG in four parts.....  
 Gymnastics.....LILIES AND ROSES  
 (twelve little girls are dressed in white, and twelve in pink.)  
 LIVING PICTURE.....JOAN OF ARC YET SHEPHERDESS  
 DRAMA in four acts:.....JOAN OF ARC  
 1st INTERMISSION: Song, Alto and Suprano....THE BEAUTIFUL DOVE  
 2nd " Monologue.....THE BIRTH OF THE FLOWERS  
 3rd " Gymnastics by three little girls.....KOCHO  
 PIANO SOLO.....THE SYLPS  
 PANTOMINE.....OLD GRANDMOTHERS  
 DIALOGUE in English.....  
 LIVING PICTURE.....JOAN OF ARC BEARING AN ARMOR  
 SONG OF THE SCHOOL.....KOKA

Everybody greatly enjoyed the drama of " Joan of Arc " and several proposed coming to hear it repeated. Good St. Cecilia under whose patronage we had placed the success of this entertainment has greatly interceded for us'



A MUSIC LESSON AT THE SCHOOL OF NAZE, JAPAN

**Friday, November 23**

Second repetition of the concert. The audience is almost as numerous as last night, the silence is perfect. The assembly which is composed of the upper class seem most interested.

**Saturday, November 24**

Third repetition of the concert. The hall is more completely filled than the previous evenings. We recognize a bonze in the midst of the crowd... Our actresses play their part with greater enthusiasm; many a time are they applauded! Finally all is over... the success has surpassed our expectations. The Fathers, professors, pupils, the people, all are satisfied. The image of Joan of Arc, I am sure, will remain engraved in the minds of many. How gratefully do we thank God and the Blessed Virgin for having responded to our confidence.

**Sunday, November 25**

Our little Christian boarders are beginning to become interested in the different exercises of the community. They also would be pleased to sing hymns to the Infant Jesus in their own language, the 25th of each month. We hope that one day we shall be able to procure them this happiness,

Sister Marie de Gethsemani makes us some good Canadian toffee!!!  
*All hail to St. Catherine's Day.*

**Friday, November 30**

Keiko's little sister comes from home bringing us some "mikens" sent by her father. She tells us that her parents are very grateful to the Sisters for the care they took of little Keiko when she was ill. This goes to say that they are now more sympathetic, for they greatly opposed that she should come to work for us: Keiko would like to become a Catholic, but her parents are staunch pagans. Perhaps Almighty God permitted this illness to facilitate Keiko's conversion.

We were very much pleased last Sunday to see our "Joan of Arc" at Mass. Another who had also abandoned the study of the Catholic Faith assisted at Mass the same day. May our dear relatives and friends of Canada pray fervently for the conversion of our Japanese. There are some who seem to see the light of Faith, but it appears that grace does not come their way. God perhaps is waiting for a more fervent prayer before bestowing this favor upon them.

The beautiful day of our "Feast of Gratitude, will not go by unnoticed in our dear mission since the good Fathers permit that we have Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The more we advance in our apostolic life the more we understand how much God has loved us. Ah! may our whole life be a continual Magnificat!

## MANCHURIA, CHINA

*Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Manchuria*

### Tuesday, August 7, 1928

At eight o'clock, this evening, Sister Superior is called to the orphanage: a dying baby about six or seven months old has just been brought there by a soldier. The poor little one is extremely delicate, its little body is stiff with the cold: it was found in the street. Sister Superior strives to revive it, but all in vain. Reverend Father Lapierre is summoned to administer the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. The soldier who brought us the baby is a pagan. We entreat our Immaculate Mother to give one day, to this good man, the same grace he unknowingly procured for this little soul.

### Wednesday, August 8

The baby whom we received yesterday died during the night: another little angel for Heaven! It is brought at eight o'clock in the morning to the chapel, where Reverend Father Lomme recites the Office of the Angels. It is then borne to the cemetery by two servants. Lao Heu, the servant who, each morning, drives the goats to pasture on the outskirts of the city often has, does it seem, the privilege of baptizing little waifs whom he finds in the fields.

Another aspirant, Lee Magdalena, twenty-one years of age arrives at the orphanage. She comes from Niou-tchouang.

### Wednesday, August 15

On this beautiful feast of the Assumption of our Lady, what consolation is ours to see, at the 6 o'clock Mass, so many of our good Chinese approach the Holy Table. Oh! dear God grant that one day the millions of pagan souls surrounding us may also share their happiness! It is with renewed fervor that we beg Our Immaculate Mother to hasten the establishment of the Kingdom of her Divine Son on Manchurian soil.

At High Mass we take our places with our little singers in the centre of the chapel so that these latter may not have too many distractions, for their mothers with the babies generally sit in the rear, and to-day they are more numerous than usual.

### Friday, August 17

A pagan woman, sixty-one years of age came to the dispensary just lately. She suffers from sore eyes and as we have relieved her a little she says that as a proof of her gratitude she is going to tell all her friends that the Sisters are good nurses. Her eleven-year-old grandson accompanies her daily. We suggest that he ask his mother to permit him to come to the mission school so as to learn to read and to write.

**Sunday, August 19**

Among the patients who come to the mission there are often many apostates. A few days ago a certain Mrs. Lee brought us her two-year-old baby in a dying condition. This woman was baptized a long time ago, but her little one had not yet had this happiness. The virgin reproaching her this negligence, she consents to bring the child to the chapel where baptism is administered. We place this new little Christian under the maternal protection of our Immaculate Mother.

**Wednesday, August 22**

Another apostate comes to-day. We are told that at Liao there are thousands of them. These poor people have been so forsaken!!! But they are gradually returning to the fold... The dispensary is ever more and more flourishing: to-day, fifteen patients. One of our virgins is ill, we go to take care of her bringing with us as few dainties.

Since Monday, little workers come to help with the sewing. They are Louisa Liao aged thirteen and Philomena Tchang aged ten. They sew fairly well. Madialita is helping to rip an alb.

**Sunday, August 26**

Both yesterday and to-day twenty-four patients came to the dispensary for treatment... They give Sister Superior the title of *Tae Fou* (doctor)...

The candies brought from Canada come in very handy for when the children cry during their treatment we give them some and immediately every tear is dried. A very intelligent little pagan girl eleven years of age came to the dispensary. The other day Sister Superior and I were speaking together. I was saying: "We are going to tell Our Mother that the candies are very handy..." and the little one inquires: "*Ne chouo che mo?*" (what is that you are saying)? We translate the words to her, but instead of saying "*Yuen tchang mou mou*" (our Mother) which she would not have understood, we said *mou tsin* (Mamma). I am going to tell Mamma that the candies are very useful... "Yes," she immediately added, "especially when the children cry." The poor little girl shed many a tear when the pain was too intense, but the candy soothed her..

**Wednesday, August 29**

For the past few weeks, little Madialita has been coming to choir practice with the other orphans. She knows the *Cor Jesu* fairly well and wishes to share her knowledge with Martha, aged four, who is just beginning to talk. It is amusing to see these two dear little tots sitting together on the *k'ang*, one teaching the other. For Martha it is a little difficult, but she endeavors to pronounce the words dictated to her by her *teacher*. The orphans and the aspirants call each other by the name of "Sister" and truly they live up to their title, instinctively showing to one another the marks of a real sisterly affection.

**Friday, August 31**

The month of August has come to a close and with it the extremely hot weather. We spent it well, 186 dressings were made during the last fortnight. All of these patients were pagans.

**Wednesday, October 17**

The father of a family comes to offer us his three little girls; they have scarcely any clothing, have nothing to eat, and their mother is very ill. Still he hesitates to give them to us, saying that perhaps his wife would



REVEREND FATHER LAPIERRE, SUP. AND THE FATHERS OF THE CANADIAN  
FOREIGN MISSION SEMINARY OF PONT VIAU, IN MANCHURIA

not consent. We suggest that he return home, hire a vehicle, and bring us his wife and three children; we shall take care of the patient as well as of the three little ones. He accepts the proposition.

**Saturday, October 20**

There takes place this morning the blessing of the new building which comprises the dispensary and the rooms reserved for our Chinese professors. The entire personnel of the mission is present. The Fathers sing the "Asperges" while Father Superior blesses the different apartments. In the dispensary we had placed a statue of the Blessed Virgin adorned with a modest light and a few flowers. During the ceremony how earnestly did we beg our Immaculate Mother to grant that much good be accomplished in this house. We ask her to make her sweet but irresistible influence felt in the souls of our patients, while we are caring for their bodies. The blessing of our dispensary is immediately followed by that of the boys' school, which counts but one class.

Here are some of the regulations established for the dispensary: women and children from 9 A. M. to 11 A. M., men from 3 P. M. to 4 P. M. Free treatment. The dispensary is closed on Sundays.

### **Tuesday, October 23**

Sister St. Luc operates for the first time; she opens an abcess on a shoulder. The little patient is only eight years of age, and Sister has nothing to deaden the nerves of the affected part. The child cries a little, especially when the wound has to be washed.

A man who is seriously ill comes to the dispensary this afternoon. Reverend Father Superior, fearing that he will die shortly, keeps him at the mission so as to instruct him in the Catholic religion.

### **Friday, October 26**

Reverend Father Barbeau at Liao Yuan for a short time comes to visit our new companions. He speaks to us of his Christians; he has about twelve missions to attend to. At Fakou, the Protestant mission is beside the Catholic one. They have a dispensary, hospital, High School, etc., still the minister complains of the large number of apostates. Father was speaking with a Chinese Protestant. The latter found the Catholic religion more sensible than the Protestant. For example, the Catholics go to confession to the priest, while the minister tells the Protestants "to kneel down at the foot of their bed and accuse themselves of their sins to God, and all is forgiven." In this way we are always ready to begin over again. The priest asked him why he did not become a convert. "It is because," he said, "that the Protestants give us many things that the Catholic priest cannot give." How pitiful it is that the Catholic priest is hindered through lack of resources or at least delayed in doing all the good he could to the poor pagans.

### **Saturday, October 27**

To-day, last Saturday of the Month of the Holy Rosary, Sister Superior and Sister St. Luc dress the wounds of fifty-four patients. Among the men who came here, there are already five catechumens. Tchang Sien Cheung, the man who sees to the business matters of the Fathers, gives Catechism lessons in the dispensary every afternoon, and a virgin instructs the women every forenoon.

### **Monday, October 29**

The three orphans from Kamping, whom we had heard about, arrive this afternoon. The trip has been so tiresome that they cry from fatigue. They are: Paula Tsu, aged sixteen; Suzanna Tchang, aged fourteen, and Theresa Tchang, aged thirteen. They appear to be very healthy.

**Tuesday, October 30**

Sister Superior has the happiness of baptizing a little girl three years of age who is stricken with diphtheria.

Since the beginning of October we have made one hundred and thirty dressings.

**Tuesday, November 7**

Sister Superior with a Chinese virgin, goes to visit Mrs. Lee Ou, sixteen years of age. On her return home she tells of the sad sight she witnessed. This young Christian has but a few more days to live, she is covered with sores, is alone in her room, and has nobody to care for her. Not even her mother goes to see her as a Chinese doctor said that if she did not go to see her daughter for a month the latter would be cured. It is her little brothers who bring her food, and you may well imagine the condition of the house. The virgin spoke to her about God, and taught her a few short prayers to help her to sanctify herself by her sufferings. She seemed quite resigned.

**Friday, November 9**

A pagan mother said to Sister St. Luc: "If my child is cured, I shall believe in God." The little girl is five years old and has infantile paralysis. The lady accepts the miraculous medal that Sister Superior offers her and Sister St. Luc places on her a little relic of Blessed Bernadette Soubirous. We shall begin a novena to-night in honor of the Blessed Virgin for the cure of the child and for the conversion of the mother.

This afternoon Sister Superior went to see young Mrs. Lee Ou who is growing weaker every day, so weak that she can no longer move. Father Lapierre sent her some potatoes and some fruit; the patient is too poor to buy these delicacies for herself.

Mrs. Pong (excommunicated Christian) comes to tell us that her little niece is dying and asks that we go to see her. We are already acquainted with this child. She is pagan, but has desired Baptism for the past two years; she is now fourteen years of age. Upon our arrival here last year, she came to meet us at the station accompanied by her aunt and her two cousins. Her candid expression greatly impressed us. Though a pagan, she often came to Mass during the winter. Her mother always remained firmly opposed to her great desire to become a Christian. One day the child begged the virgin to ask the mother in her stead, permission to be baptized, thinking that it would be more easily accorded; but instead of consenting, she fell into a rage, and forbade her daughter to return to the Catholic Mission. It was with regret that the child obeyed and many months elapsed before we saw her again. On All Saints' Day her aunt brought her to the Mission with the intention of having her baptized. Father P'ang went to the orphanage, questioned the child, and doubtlessly finding her not sufficiently instructed in the Faith delayed Baptism. Sister Superior asked

us to offer the fruits of the following day in honor of the Blessed Virgin that she might obtain that this child will not die before receiving the regenerating waters.

### **Saturday, November 10**

We learn this morning that Miss P'ong has been taken to the hospital. We fear that this soul will escape us, consequently we redouble the ardor of our prayers

### **Monday, November 12**

Mrs. Lee Ou whom Sister Superior has visited so often during the last few days, and whom we have mentioned above, died this morning. We hope that, clothed in her baptismal robe, she now possesses eternal happiness.

### **Tuesday, November 13**

Mrs. P'ong comes for Sister St. Luc to see if there is not any way of saving the life of her little niece who has returned home. Sister Superior, Sister St. Luc and a virgin leave immediately. It is quite evident that the disease, tuberculosis, is in its last stage. Sister St. Luc informs the virgin of the condition of the patient, who immediately asks the child if she still desires to become a Christian; upon her affirmative answer she solicits her mother's consent which she receives this time. Two young Christians, cousins of the child, go immediately to the Mission to inform the Fathers. Father Lapierre arrives without delay, questions the patient, then administers the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation; the little one is radiant with happiness. The mother closely follows every movement of the priest, while big tears roll down her cheeks. The child being in immediate danger of death, the priest deems it prudent to have her make her First Communion and returns immediately to the Mission for the Sacred Species. In the meantime, the virgin continues to instruct the newly-baptized, and strives to impress upon her the great happiness which will be hers ere long. How her features illuminate at the moment she receives her Savior for the first time. Before leaving, Sister Superior gives her two pictures of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary on which she never tires to gaze.

### **Monday, November 19**

Our little patient, Miss P'ong passed away this morning. Now that she is with her Divine Master, we beg her not to forget the humble Missionaries who have procured for her the happiness of receiving the Sacrament of Baptism. At 9 o'clock the mortal remains are brought to the church, and Father Turcotte recites the prayers while we intone the *Libera*. The family, though pagan, permit her to be buried in the Catholic cemetery. Several pagans assist at the funeral

**Thursday, November 22**

The postman brings us "Le Précurseur". While perusing its pages we feel our attachment increase for our dear Mother-House and all our Sisters of the missions.

The musicians and the "singers" do not forget that to-day is the feast of their holy Patroness. This day recalls to our memory our dear regretted Sister St. Cecile. We beg her to continue to be our protectress since we have already felt her sweet influence on the occasion of the illness of our dear Sister St. Gerard.

**Friday, November 23**

One of our little orphans, Tiadalina (Catherine) is suffering from an attack of appendicitis. We visit her during the recreation hour. While going into one of the adjoining rooms a very edifying spectacle attracts our attention. The two babies of the orphanage, Martha aged three, and Margaret aged five, are sleeping profoundly, and kneeling beside their beds is a virgin eighty-four years of age reciting her Rosary while watching over the objects of her tenderness. These dear little ones are very happy since they know God and are baptized. They fell asleep 'neath Mary's loving gaze, but how many others have not this great privilege.

Little children of Canada, before going to sleep, recite a short but fervent prayer for your little brothers of Manchuria who go to bed without giving their heart to their Creator.

**Saturday, November 24**

Sister Superior has the happiness of baptizing a little Chinese this morning and gives it the name of Marie Hermina. According to appearances the infant will soon take its flight to Paradise. *Bon voyage*, dear little one; from Heaven intercede for your unfortunate little pagan brothers!

**Sunday, November 25**

After the 8 o'clock Mass we go to visit a patient who lives a short distance from the Mission and who is not able to come to the dispensary. The poor woman is deeply touched by this act of charity and does not know how to express her thanks. Our Sisters feel an indescribable joy in seeing around her neck a miraculous medal of Our Lady, given to her a few months ago at the dispensary.

As we are terminating our mid-day meal, a Chinese chariot drawn by four oxen stops at the door. It is a poor woman who is coming for treatment. She is suffering from rheumatism and has not been able to move for the past two years. It is very cold; the poor invalid is shivering, as she has come a great distance. She hopes that we shall cure her. As her illness calls for special treatment, she consents to remain at the orphanage where she will share the food and *k'ang* of the orphans. She will also have a Catechism lesson every day. We have confidence that we shall win her to the knowledge and love of our good Master.

**Monday, November 26**

If we see heart-rending scenes at the dispensary we also see consoling ones. Some time ago a young girl, thirteen years of age, suffering from epileptic fits, was brought to us by her mother. We gave the patient a miraculous medal of the Blessed Virgin which she gladly accepted and pinned to her clothing. Since then she never misses a day without coming to see us, and thanks to the special protection of our Lady, whose livery she wears, the dear child has not had a single attack. How good and compassionate is our Immaculate Mother.

**Wednesday, November 28**

Another Baptism takes place at our dispensary to-day. An epileptic child is brought to us by her grandmother. The poor little one is so deformed from the sickness that she scarcely resembles a human being. The grandmother is a pagan and would willingly give us the child if we had place for her. If it is not possible for us to restore her to health, we can give her a treasure far more precious... While the Sister infirmarian pours the regenerating waters on her brow, one would think that the child was conscious of the act that was being accomplished: a beautiful smile illumines her pale face which assumes an expression of gratitude.

**Thursday, November 29**

Father Berichon has returned to Tung Liao after having visited Father Larochelle's mission. During his trip Father had the happiness of baptizing an infant found a few steps away from the missionaries' residence. The poor child was half frozen; one hour later robed in its baptismal garment it soared to its heavenly home. How gratefully must this little angel look down upon the missionary who opened for him the doors of the celestial abode!

**Friday, November 30**

Though every instant of our life is devoted to gratitude, to-day is particularly dedicated to thank God for the great graces that He has bestowed, and that He still bestows upon our humble Institute. We therefore enter into the spirit of our dear Community and devote this day to gratitude.

**Saturday, December 1**

Treatments given at our dispensary during the month of November: 1,046. Two pagan women come to make their home at the orphanage to be instructed in the Catholic Faith as they wish to become Christians.

It is with all possible fervor that we make the novena to Saint Francis Xavier, asking him to obtain numerous conversions and the restoration of health to our poor patients.

## TSONGMING, HAIMEN VICARIATE, CHINA

*Extract from a letter of Sister Marie de l'Epiphanie, Superior, to her  
Superior General*

*Tsongming, November 27, 1928*

VERY DEAR MOTHER,

"The time has come to send home wishes for the New Year. It is to you dear Mother that I offer the first-fruits, is it not right to give the first thought to one's mother? The wishes that I beg you to accept are not new ones. Like my heart, they do not vary, though from year to year they become more ardent, more affectionate, more grateful, age gives me to understand and to enjoy the great gift that God has bestowed upon me, that of being one of your children.

"May each one of your daughters, throughout the New Year, correspond with ardor, to the ardor of your zeal who wishes that they be holy apostles and valiant laborers. Your prayers, your examples and your words of advice are their strength and their support.

"Our little mission is yet in its cradle and very weak, but still it is full of hope. We are most happy, and try to be courageous and generous.

"To you, beloved Mother, to our dear Sister Assistant to my elder Sisters, and to all my Sisters, I offer my most sincere and affectionate wishes for the year 1929.

"Deign to bless your submissive, grateful and loving child,

Sister MARIE DE L'EPIPHANIE, M. I. C. (1)

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*Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Tsongming, China*

### Thursday, November 8, 1928

It has rained almost continuously for the last three days! What a hindrance when we must dry clothes for about thirty or forty babies, without a dryer! What will it be like when we have about a hundred to care for? There would be a way of remedying this matter if we had the means; we could have a dryer made, proper to the country, for the interior of the house. It is the second time since our arrival that we have had several days of rain, which is a cause of great inconvenience for our little ones! It takes up all our time, as our hired women and helpers do not disturb themselves for anything that does not interfere with them personally. The great capital "I" is the first preoccupation in China. Even with the most intelligent, forgetfulness of self is a thing almost incomprehensible.

1. May Moquin, Eastman, P. Q.



CHINESE VIRGINS OF TSONGMING HAIMEN, CHINA

### **Monday, November 19**

Catherine and one of our helpers went to Haimen lately for the burial of her mother who died fifteen months ago. The Christians like the others have a great veneration for their dead. Those who have the means, place them in good wooden coffins, hermitically sealed which they keep in their houses for several months, and even for years. They are then buried in a field belonging to the family. This morning, while going from the Convent to the wharf, I met a man dressed in white cotton, his head wrapped in a large piece of the same material which fell on his shoulders. He was looking towards a field where, doubtlessly, a relative, father, mother, brother or sister had been buried.

### **Sunday, December 9**

At the approach of our patronal feast I thought of making that day especially, the reality of our devise: "May the Immaculate Virgin be known from Pole to Pole!" In China, December 8th is not a holy day of obligation, the Assumption is the greast feast of the Blessed Virgin. It is we who have the sweet obligation of making the Immaculate Virgin known and loved, since we have the honor of bearing her name and of belonging to her in a special manner.

To-day, the church is adorned as on festal occasions. There is solemn Mass followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. There is no High Mass here. A solemn Mass is one during which incense is offered at the usual parts, where several altar-boys carry torches from the Sanctus until after the Communion, when a sermon is delivered. The different parts of the Mass are always recited by the faithful. During the Communion, prayers are also said. Benediction is sung by the school children

Shortly after Mass, Marie Jeanne, Bishop Tsu's niece and Marguerite, her cousin, come to wish us a "Happy Feast" and tell us that the oldest among the babies will go with them to the hall where they have erected an altar to the Blessed Virgin; they invite us to assist. Sister Marie de Sion asks for one half-hour to see to the toilet of the big children confided to her care, their ages range from one to three years, and she has not seen them since morning. It is agreed upon that in one-half hour everybody will be present in the hall. I repair thither at 9.30; all our little folks are placed around the Immaculate Virgin, as well as Marguerite, Jeanne, our five older pupils, our five hired women, in fact our entire personnel. A dear little tot, two years old, led by Marguerite, comes to offer us a festal bouquet. The older ones sing a prayer to the Immaculate, (in Chinese of course). A large dish of candy, thanks to the thoughtfulness of Marguerite, is offered to the children. Fireworks are also on the programme... Noise must take its part in every celebration in China!...

This little entertainment cannot last very long; the babies in the cradles call us, the dinners reclaim the cooks. We give a *rendez-vous* for 2 P. M. and take our leave.

At 11 o'clock the Directress of the Presentandines come to profer wishes and offer us some *Agnus Deis*, and pen-wipers embroidered by herself and by her Sisters, Chinese biscuits, and two big baskets of earth-nuts and dried beans.

As for us, our treat is to recall the beautiful feasts of the Immaculate Conception that we spent near you, dear Mother.

At 2 o'clock, after our visit to the Blessed Sacrament we again repair to the feet of the Immaculate Virgin accompanied by our little ones. We recite the beads together in Chinese, sing the hymns in honor of our Queen that are sung at the Mother-House. An organ of three octaves loaned us by the Presentandines, accompanies the singing rendering it more harmonious, especially for us who have not heard the hymns that are sung at home, since our arrival here. Our hearts and voices sing in unison.—The babies are very good. In the middle of the *Magnificat* the organ loses its *breath* and while trying to restore it I also lose mine!... Sister Marie de Sion continues singing just the same... The prayer over, distribution of the earth-nuts and dried beans take place. We again take up our hymns to the Blessed Virgin, while the children amuse themselves until the time for our meditation.

After supper, Marguerite asks us to sing more hymns to our Immaculate Mother. It is such an agreeable request, that we cannot refuse. We again have to accompany our singing, the organ out of breath. Our little house is full of cheerfulness.

At 8 o'clock, we separate. Since long, have the little orphans been sleeping in their cribs. They certainly will not remember this first feast of the Immaculate Conception, spent with us, they are too young. As for us, it can never be forgotten.

Before going to sleep, I went over the different episodes of the day and I felt my heart filled with happiness. Is it our Immaculate Patroness who

gives me such joy? It is really too much for the little I have given her, still in all sincerity I can say: "Good Mother, I have done my best, supply for what is wanting and make yourself known and loved so as to hasten the reign of your Divine Son in every heart!..."

To-day we were to make a pilgrimage to the Blessed Virgin to a church situated on an island; from the convent it would take us about one hour and a half to reach there, but the unfavorable weather renders the movement of the wheel-barrows impossible, so we are obliged to remain at home.

### Tuesday, December 11

The cold weather set in at the end of October. Last week the thermometer ranged from 36° to 40°. This morning all the children were crying with the cold. They are so scantily dressed, the poor little tots! We have lighted the heaters and taken all possible means to give them a little heat. What hard times! They say that the last part of December and the month of January are very cold. However, when the sun shines the air becomes a little warmer towards noon. On the southern side the houses are open while on the northern they are protected by a gallery. To-day we placed in the rooms occupied by the older and young pupils two very small stoves. They have to be *very small* because we have only two baskets of coal left. We count the pieces each time and invoke the saints to make them last as long as possible. I think it was Bishop Tsu who asked his mother to buy both the stoves and the coal. How happy I am to-night, our dear little ones will not cry with the cold. Their hands, their feet will not swell any more, as round as loaves, as the Chinese women say. Oh! dear Mother how we wish you could see our dear little ones who are so clever and whom we so dearly love. They cannot speak but can understand. If you could only see their tricks! When they first saw the Sisters they were afraid, cried and would not even look at them, but it was only for a short time. Sister Marie de Sion and they were soon great friends. Now all these little ones follow her closely, but as she walks very fast she makes many turns before they can make one. There was one especially, who was sick, never smiled, and would not dare look at us, who now feels perfectly at home and never leaves Sister. The gloomy and the sick are the special objects of Sister's attention and she succeeds very well in her role.

Often I go to the Foundling-Home and my visits there are always prolonged. One cries, but on seeing me, she stretches out her hands. What does she want? A few minutes go by before I have found the cause of her sorrow and a means of consoling her. For the younger ones I carry with me a small box of candies which was given me by Mrs Tsu. I give her one. All these little tots have seen me and run to meet me; those who are not yet able to walk stretch out their hands, some laughing others crying. When near, they pull me on all sides. Even those that are in the adjoining room have noticed the scene and I am again assailed by them. I surrender, and each receives a candy. How well I am rewarded by their grateful smiles. A candy is sufficient to make them so happy. For a few minutes

not a sound is heard so occupied are they in relishing their treat . They keep a sweet souvenir, for on a second occasion on seeing me they smile and think of the candy, that perhaps is coming.

Yesterday while examining the installation of the stoves I noticed a little girl, two or three years old, beckoning a younger one to come with her. Their first steps were not steady, they were tottering... I could easily foretell the inevitable catastrophe. Before I could reach them, the two were on the floor, one on top of the other, and you may imagine, screams followed. One of them is very mischievous and always contrives to play her tricks unnoticed; often we catch her pinching the nose of one, stealing the biscuit of a younger one, pinching the cheek of a little companion who occupies too much space on the bench, etc. Another of them amuses herself in carrying a little bench in her arms pretending that it is a doll, another cries, is determined to have this bench and so a quarrel begins. We must re-establish peace by mutually having the two little ones "make up with one another."

A few are beginning to make the Sign of the Cross; for the others we are obliged to take their little hand and try to make them pronounce: *In Po ta le, dje Filia, dje Sipeletou se tou, meng tse, ya mang.*

Placed before the picture of the Holy Family we ask them to show us little Jesus. They point to Him with their little finger. Say Good-morning to little Jesus; in Chinese, Good-morning is translated *Mong Mong*. With their little hands they throw Him a kiss. Our hired women look at us quite surprised to see how much we love these little ones. At first especially, we must show them great devotedness and affection. Example will do its own work, do we hope, and the prayers said for us in our dear home in Outremont will cause to germinate the seeds which we are now planting. Oh! yes dear Mother we are charged with the sowing, but we shall probably never see the fruits, but what matter the same workers will still labor, since those of to-day will live in their sisters of to-morrow. How I wish, dear Mother, to sow naught else but good seed! your prayers will obtain me this grace, I am sure.

We have made the necessary clothing for the children so as to protect them from the cold. Mother St. Agnes, a religious of the Helpers of the Holy Souls, the Bishop's niece, sent us five big packages of samples which little by little are transformed into bed coverings, bonnets, sweaters, undervests, handkerchiefs, bibs, shoes, etc... How pleased we were to accept this package. I laughed and cried at the same time so overjoyed was I to think that with these pieces we could clothe our poor little ones. I asked the Ladies of the Sacred Heart of Shanghai who have a magnificent boarding-school attended by two or three hundred European girls, to have their pupils make tuques, little stockings, etc., etc. They gladly accepted to do so; this will be a great help to us. The sixty babies who have been confided to different nurses in the district will soon arrive and of these sixty I do not count those of the neighboring christendoms whom His Lordship wishes to confide to our care. We shall need clothing for all these little people.

**Thursday, December 13**

Last night we received *Le Precurseur*. What happiness to live, through our review, for a few hours at our dear Mother-House, and in our missions of early and of recent date. As everything else from home, our review fills our hearts and souls with joy and gives us fresh courage.

*Tsongming, December 11, 1928*

BELOVED MOTHER,

"As the mail is leaving this evening for Outremont I come to tell you with my best love, how happy I am on mission. Thanks, thanks, dear Mother, it is to you that I owe this happiness

"I am always at the Foundling-Home and like my work very well, the little ones are so cunning. I thank God every day for having called me to the missionary life. If the novices and postulants could see the bright side of China, I am sure that not one would be unfaithful to her vocation.

"Oh! how much work there is to be done among these poor pagans. On the 8th of December, eight of our children left this earth to sing the praises of the Immaculate in heaven, while seven others were received into the Foundling-Home. These poor little ones are nearly all ailing when they come to us,

"A short while ago a basket was brought to us and we were told that it contained six babies. I had the children taken out and then sent one of our Chinese helpers to shake the basket by the side of the river; but what a surprise. I saw a seventh roll out upon the ground! Hastening to the spot I noticed that it was still breathing. I quickly drew some water and baptized the little one who expired upon entering the Foundling-Home; its little head was crushed. Some come to us covered with horrible wounds, others crippled, etc.

"Last week I vaccinated the children of the Foundling-Home and the servants, to-day our Sisters and the Misses Tsu. I attend to all the patients who come to the Foundling-Home. I act as nurse when the occasion presents itself. Sister Superior is kept very busy, she sees to the pupils and does all the sewing for the children.

"I am beginning to say a few words in Chinese; the great trial on mission is to be unable to make oneself understood.

"My thoughts often carry me back to Outremont. Every day I pray with my whole heart and offer my work for your intentions, dear Mother. In my daily *Aves* I think of Sister Assistant and of all our Sisters of the Mother-House.

"Sister Marie de Jesus and Sister St. Rose de Lima are well and happy; being unable to write to you to-day they bid me send you their most affectionate and filial love. I thought that I had only the time to write you a few words, but I notice that my pen has glided quickly and wishes to still continue.

"Good-bye dear Mother,

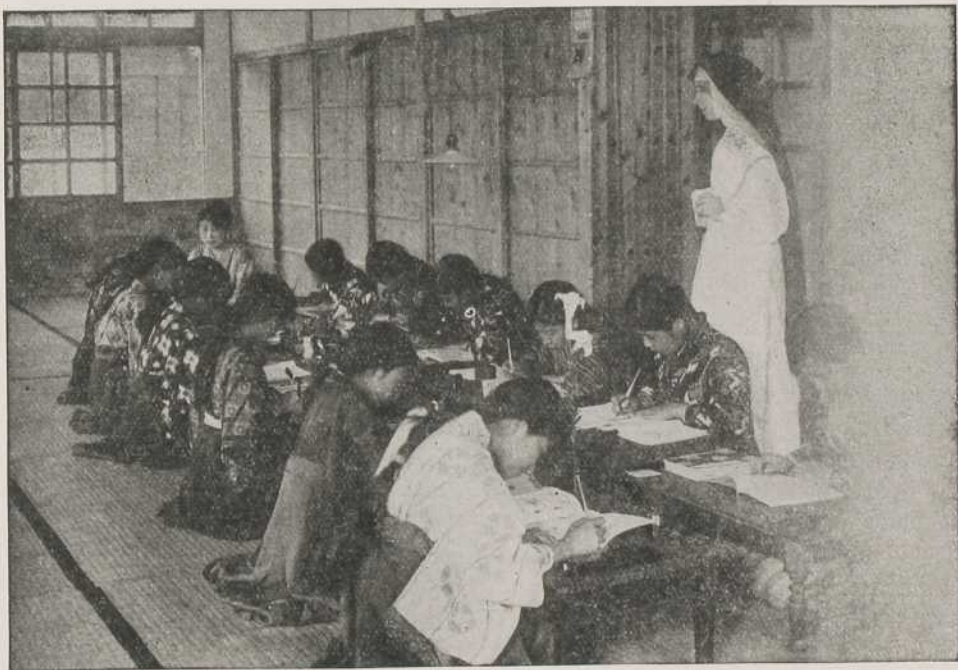
"Your child who loves you with her whole heart."

## KAGOSHIMA, JAPAN

*Gleanings from the diary of our Sisters , Missionaries to Kagoshima*

### Monday, October 7, 1928

On my way home from Mass this morning I notice four or five young girls about thirteen or fourteen years of age sitting on the bank of a little river, situated not far from the Convent. (I say little river because it is not deep, we can see the bottom of it, but it is quite wide, wider than Assumption River at Joliette). They are making a sketch of the houses on the opposite shore. We draw near, which seems to please them, and glance at their work, which certainly is worthy of admiration. Doubtlessly, it is not perfect, but I am sure that there are many young girls of their age, in our convents, who would not be able to do as well. One of them says to Sister de l'Enfant Jésus: " You came to visit our school upon your arrival here from Canada, we thank you for it." It seems that whenever the Japanese meet a person, through politeness, they try to find something to thank them for. As to the schools, they are ever increasing here, as in all the other cities of Japan. There are High Schools, (Kotojogakko) like those of Naze, Colleges, Normal Schools, etc... Every morning, noon and night the streets are thronged with scholars.



JAPANESE STUDENTS

**Saturday, October 13**

Father Calixte, O. F. M., sees to the pruning of the trees on the property. It seems that it is quite a task to prune trees after Japanese fashion. All the branches are examined one by one, I should say all the leaves, for they are all examined and those that are not very pretty or have turned yellow are cast aside. This morning I stopped for a moment to watch the men working. One of them noticed me and from the top of his tree, bowed profoundly... imagine my surprise...

This afternoon I was giving an organ lesson to a young Christian girl, when I noticed *my man* of the morning standing on the gallery. It was now his turn to interest himself in what I was doing. As you already know that the walls being made like sliding doors once the panels are drawn back, it is the same as being in the open air, that is to say the whole house is open. I told Sister de l'Enfant Jésus to ask this good Japanese if he wished for anything. He answers very simply: "kembutsu" which means "visiting through curiosity" and continues to examine me. Sister then explains that it is permitted in this country, to enter a building, a store, a school, etc. just to see around... All one need say is simply "kembutsu" and the aim of the visit is immediately understood.

**Tuesday, October 23**

It is the great "soji" (cleaning, sweeping). Everybody is making a fire to burn the dried leaves and dead branches, etc. Father Gabriel who is much better goes out to take a little air, but everybody is busy cleaning!.. For our part, the priest's little servant has made two fires in the yard. The men have taken out all the *tatamis*, we have twenty-six of them. While this is going on we see to the sweeping; as soon as we are finished they will place them again. These *tatamis* are about two and one-half inches thick, and are very heavy. Needless to say that we have securely placed all our statues in the cupboard after having wrapped them up carefully. The hired woman sweeps the yard and feeds the fire with the rubbish... This big "soji" does good to the whereabouts *but whether there be need of it or not* it must be gone through once a year...

**Saturday, November 24**

Miss Finlay, Methodist missionary to Japan for over twenty years, comes to visit us. She has been in Kagoshima for the past eighteen years, where she is Directress of a Kindergarten that we visited lately. On entering the parlor I found her kneeling in Japanese fashion, that is sitting on her heels and profoundly inclined before the statue of the Blessed Virgin. She did not hear me approaching. I invited her to be seated and acted as though I had not noticed anything. During the conversation I expressed to her my admiration for the courageous way that she labors, all alone. There are two other Protestants in the city but they are not of the same denomination. She is the only one of her sect among the Japanese. The minister is Japanese, his assistants Japanese, etc. I told her that such abnegation de-

mands a great love of God, and that one must needs work for *Him alone* so as to have the courage to resist under such conditions. I added that for our part we find exile anything but trying, as we believe in the Real Presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, that with Him nothing is hard, one may go even to the very extremities of the earth... She said that she has never studied the difference between her religion and ours, and as regards the Real Presence, she would be pleased that we explain it to her upon her next visit here. We invite her to come again. Father Gabriel says that he would not be at all surprised if she be converted, for she is a very upright person. She is greatly esteemed in Kagoshima, and in winning her we shall win many others... During the novena preparatory to the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, we shall beg this great saint to obtain the conversion of this soul.

#### Tuesday, November 27

Having to speak to His Lordship to-day, I try to use the telephone... But I must speak in Japanese and it is the first time that I take the risk. I make myself understood, but... I say: "Give me Mr. Salt". There is very little difference between *shio* and *shikyo*, but the meaning is much different, the first means salt and the second, His Lordship. I will never forget this first telephone call... I noticed that the little boy who answered was laughing at the other end of the line, but I did not know why. In coming back from the telephone, which is next door, I saw that Father Gabriel was also smiling... He told me that I asked for Mr. Salt, instead of His Lordship.

#### Tuesday, December 4

Kikue San, a little one of the Father Urbain Marie's flock, whom I have already mentioned, has come to see us with two of her little pagan companions. They gazed lengthily at the statue of the Blessed Virgin, and found her very beautiful. They asked Sister de l'Enfant Jesus if we were sisters. Sister told them that we were not sisters but that we lived together to do good; they seemed to be very much impressed. They then asked if we wished to return to Canada and upon our answer that having come to Japan in the sole aim of doing good consequently we did not wish to leave, they were filled with admiration. We could see that they drank in each word, everything was so new. It is in like circumstances that we long to be able to speak the Japanese language. These young girls will perhaps come to choir practice; we extend them an invitation.

#### Sunday, December 9

The little girls who live next door have come to Mass at the Prefecture for three consecutive Sundays. At first there were only three, but to-day there are four. After Mass they assist at the Catechism lesson which Kikue San explains to the children. The little girls having come into the yard one day we gave them some candy. It seems that now that they have

become acquainted with the Sisters, it is only right that they go to church with them, so much the more since they are their neighbors and that it will greatly please His Lordship whom they had often seen when he resided here. This morning, somebody asked them on the way where they were going, and they answered: "We are going to church..." Their parents will certainly not object as two of them had the catechisms given them last Sunday by Kikue San. The Bishop says that since the children come to us it is a sign that the parents speak favorably of the Sisters in the house. If this were not the case the children would be afraid and would not approach us.

### **Wednesday, December 12**

Two little boys seven or eight years of age spent the afternoon playing near the house. Towards four o'clock their little nine-year-old sister came to join them. She had two little balls with her and began playing with me. While I threw her one ball, she threw me the other, in such a way that they kept crossing one another. Sister de l'Enfant Jésus who is acquainted with the way the Japanese children play, having seen them at the school of Naze, tells her to throw the balls in the air singing at the same time. Then the child holding one ball in her hand throws up the other so that there is always one in the air. But she soon takes a third one from her pocket and this one follows the two others, in such a manner that while holding a ball in each hand, the third is in the air; while she throws up the one in her right hand, she changes the one from the left hand to the right and with the left catches the first that had been thrown into the air so that the three balls form a circle. I could never have believed that a child of nine years could be so skilful. Some time after, another little girl ten years of age also arrives. The first one who had grown a little familiar asked: "May we go to church on Sunday?" You may be sure that we answered affirmatively. We told her at what time we were to leave, and that the two of them might come with us, etc.... The little one added: "We would like to go so much." We hope that the parents will permit them.

The father of this little girl and of the two little boys is a professor.

While we are thus conversing we hear a bell ringing quite near us; we ask Sister de l'Enfant Jésus to go and see what it is. She returns accompanied by a little beggar ten years old. The latter while ringing a bell sings a complaint to attract attention and sympathy. She wears a large Japanese straw hat, without a crown, tied under the chin. A bag supported by a strap and passed over the shoulder contains the fruit of her beggings. She says that she is begging for her mother. Her beautiful large eyes seem to speak and her expression is really angelical. Her features are so delicate and so well proportioned that she could easily be taken as a model. We give her some rice, not forgetting a miraculous medal for herself and for her mother. In telling her that is for her mother the little one's face radiates with happiness. We are sorry to see her leave and hope that she will return before long.

# Extracts FROM THE Novitiate Chronicles

*Dedicated to the Parents of our dear Sister Novices*

**Monday, November 12, 1928**



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

Mary in the Temple. In truth, does not the life of the little Virgin in the solitude of the holy precincts greatly resemble our life as novices? There she prays, labors in silence, joyfully practising self-denial... in a word we may say that all that we do here during the day, the Blessed Virgin did in the Temple, but how fervently!...

That which her example teaches us especially is her great spirit of detachment and sacrifice. At the age of three, to leave her father, her mother, what a cause of suffering this must have been for little Mary who already possessed the use of reason, and her love for her parents was the more solid since her heart was more tender and more like unto God's own than that of all other creatures. For love of God does not suppress legitimate affections, on the contrary it increases and purifies them. The more closely united a soul is to God, the purer it is, and the more tender and faithful is it also in its affections.

For these reasons, Mary must have felt in her soul the bitter pangs of separation. But the heroic and saintly child accepted with joy every sacrifice, since she had consecrated herself forever to the Lord from the very dawn of life.

Is not this admirable example a matter of reflection and should it not encourage us in the practice of the virtues which our holy vocation demands of us!..

Most holy Virgin intercede for us before God that He may grant us the grace of constantly following in thy footsteps.

**Tuesday, November 20**

The little Queen of the Temple being the patroness of our white dove-cot, the beautiful feast of the Presentation gives rise in our souls to an ef-

florescence of sweet and pious happiness. On this occasion our little sister postulants always reserve many little surprises for us, among others, the carrying out of a pretty little play... This no doubt accounts for the mystery which envelopes our Novitiate to-day... The novices are not admitted to the music room... The bell calls us as usual to recreation this evening for it is a novice who has this charge. We assemble as is our custom but the deepest silence still prevails. Neither our Mistress, our Sisters-in-charge nor the postulants come to the assembly hall... The youngest of our companions who have not yet spent the feast of the Presentation at the Novitiate anxiously wonder what all this can mean.

In fine, we are invited to repair to the music room; on entering our eyes rest on the beautiful statue of the little Virgin of the Temple robed in the white costume of the Missionary Novice of the Immaculate Conception, and surrounded by palms, lilies and lights. How eloquently does her modest and recollected appearance speak to our hearts!...

As prelude, an inviting piano duet is played, then is sung the hymn entitled: "The Virgin in the Temple", in which allusion is made to the occupations, joys, desires and aspirations of the holy child during her hidden sojourn in the blessed sanctuary. Then follows a pretty little play: "The Culture of the Lily 'neath Mary's Gaze." Everything bears its signification in this charming play. Each thought may be to us as a spiritual bouquet which we strive to impress upon our minds. During the second act, a terrible storm arises... We are suddenly left in complete darkness, the rain falls in torrents, the lightning blinds us, the wind howls, all the windows seem as if they are about to smash, loud peals of thunder shake the building... It is terrifying... But gradually all becomes calm and the lights flash on.

The so beautiful lilies which we were contemplating just a short while ago and which are now quite drooped, are, do we believe, lost forever... But such is not the case, for gradually they raise their heads and open anew their spotless corollas... They have been confided to Mary and what this Immaculate Mother protects is well protected!...

The programme is completed by an interesting recitation: "The Sower of Lilies and Roses," then follows two cheerful piano selections, an amusing dialogue, and lastly the song: "The Humble Virtues," in which we learn how we may imitate our loving little Patroness.

The entertainment over, with all our hearts do we thank our beloved Mistress, our devoted Sisters and our little Sister postulants for the great pleasure they have given us in preparing this little play, we then entone the Magnificat.

After such a pleasant evening it may be expected that we are soon in beautiful dreamland, still hidden 'neath the blue mantle of the Immaculate.

### **Tuesday, November 21**

From early dawn a chorus of praise is voiced to our loving little Patroness. In the chapel flowers and lights surround her graceful statue. How admirable does this tiny child in whom the Creator takes such delight

appear to us. At her feet we renew the consecration of our lives to God's holy service forever.

After the first part of our Rosary, that is at 9.30, our holiday commences. Our little Sister Postulants fill all our charges of the day leaving us but the sweet occupation of making the Guard of Honor to the Blessed Virgin, and amusing ourselves. We thank our little sisters and take advantage of their kindness without the least after-thought.

Towards noon we have the great happiness of a visit from our beloved Mother. She comes to have dinner with us and to spend the afternoon in our midst. Joy reigns supreme: how delicious are the agapes taken beneath her motherly gaze!... Despite her numerous occupations this loving Mother has had the extreme thoughtfulness of preparing surprises for us. She brings us from the Mother-House pretty little nests of pink candy dotted with tiny flags of various colors each bearing in golden letters, "a bequest from Mary" to her novice. Oh! how much is contained in these few lines wherein we find traced our programme of perfection for the year.

The afternoon is cheerfully spent in charades, concerts, etc. etc. The time passes so quickly that when our beloved Mother comes to speak to us for a few moments before taking her leave, we are quite astonished to realize that it is already evening!

We piously receive her maternal words of advice, then with a joy which cannot be described we repair to the chapel to there express with heartfelt gratitude our happiness in being children of our Immaculate Mother.

To crown our day, our dear Sister Marie Immaculée comes from the Mother-House for the sole purpose of giving us lantern slides of our missions in China, which we greatly enjoy.

The remembrance of the feast of the Presentation of 1928 will long remain impressed upon our minds. Still we have one regret this evening: to be unable to express as we desire our gratitude towards our beloved Superiors, for the happiness which they unceasingly procure us. Fortunately they know that our hearts are more capable of feeling than of expressing their sentiments.

### **Friday, November 30**

"*Quid retribuam Domino!*... Ah! yes what shall I render to the Lord for all He hath rendered unto me... The entire life of the religious missionary of the Immaculate Conception is dedicated to God as a holocaust of perpetual thanksgiving. Moreover, our beloved Mother conceived the idea of consecrating a special day to thank our Divine Lord for the particular favors showered upon our humble and dear religious family. That of November 30th was chosen, for it was the date that our Institute received the first blessing of the Head of the Church. On this feast called in the community "Feast of Gratitude" no pains are spared in order that at every instant of the day our hearts breathe forth their grateful thanks.

So as to enter the more into the spirit of the day, we requested our beloved Mistress last night to give us a short account of the history of our religious family...

Oh good Master! how prodigal Thou hast been towards our humble cradle! what delicate and continual care Thou hast lavished upon it!... If Thou hast permitted that it be sometimes tossed by storms, Thou hast confided it to the ever-watchful care of our Immaculate Mother... and how maternally has she not watched over it... How powerful and gentle has been her guiding hand!... In heaven alone, while singing our eternal canticle shall we be able to gratify the needs of our grateful hearts, but in waiting, dear God, deign to accept our humble prelude here below.

The noon recreation is spent in mission lands. Our Mistress tells us that she has thought of making us all "godmothers"... yes, godmothers of our different missions!... Immediately each one of us assumes an air of importance... just think what a great responsibility to accept: we shall be obliged to pray, labor and sacrifice ourselves for our missions. They must be supported by our own spiritual resources and for that we must needs acquire some. It will be sometimes even necessary to suffer many a heart-pang so that souls will not escape us... But what matter!... the aim is well worth while!... and everyone without the least hesitation hastens to give a real enthusiastic assent. All together we recite a fervent *Ave Maria* requesting the Blessed Virgin to choose the child whom we are to stand for, then from a little blue box we each draw a ticket upon which is written the name of a mission. It is almost like sharing anew the promised land! Beginning by our elder sisters each in turn advances to take a draw. We are greatly tempted to unfold our ticket at once to know without delay who we are to have as "godchild". it would be a very legitimate curiosity do we think, but we have the occasion of offering our first sacrifice for... "our Mission"... When all the tickets are distributed, we open them, and each of us greets her *protegee* with happiness, promising to give her little charge her entire devotedness. Do you know that this little proceeding appears quite important, even somewhat solemn.

You are pleased, are you not, dear sisters of the Missions, with the stratagem which your younger sisters will use to assist you in the conquest of souls? and we are confident that you will help by your prayers the poor little "godmothers" that they may remain firm in their resolutions and faithfully fulfil their so important obligations...

#### Tuesday, December 4

We learn to-day with regret of the death of Reverend Father Sarrazin of the Society of the White Fathers. This noble missionary, a close relative of our dear Mistress, devoted himself for many years in the difficult missions of Africa. But his strength not being equal to his zeal he was obliged to return to Canada where for some time past he took every means to recover his health, but in vain.

Several times since his return we have had the privilege of hearing this zealous apostle speak of the distant missions which he had so joyfully evangelized and which he hoped to see again ere long. And several times also have we admired his strong and beautiful virtues, characteristic of a true missionary. It is with a profound feeling of sadness that we learn that he

has already quitted the arena. But if we regret the disappearance of this valiant laborer who so arduously traced the furrows in the field of the Father of the Household, we also think of the happiness which he now enjoys. How great must have been the reception given to the apostle by the phalange of souls to whom he had opened heaven and how magnificent must have been the recompense awarded this untiring sower, whose whole life of devotedness had but one aim: make God and His holy Mother known and loved everywhere. Oh! how happy he must now be to have spent his life in labor, poverty and self-sacrifice.

If we reflected more frequently on the price of souls, on the immortal crown given at the close of life, we would certainly not hear so often this bitter lamentation on the lips of so many apostolic souls: "The harvest indeed is great, but the laborers are few."

### **Saturday, December 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

Oh! the most cherished of all feasts for our filial hearts!... We wonder what must be in heaven the joy of the angelical choirs and of the elect when they celebrate the greatness of their Queen, since on earth, such poor little creatures as we experience such happiness in repeating to her our love and in contemplating her privileges and graces.

On entering the chapel at the dawn of this beautiful day we feel ourselves overcome by the sweetest emotions; everything is adorned in Mary's own colors, white and sky blue, and even the electric bulbs have, while we were sleeping, taken a bluish tint... our good angels have doubtlessly performed this operation to prepare a little surprise for us. Our sanctuary thus resembles a little corner of the firmament, and we imagine ourselves to be in a little niche of Paradise... From her grotto the Immaculate Virgin beaming with light, lovingly smiles upon us. We untiringly contemplate her beautiful statue. How pure and charming Thou art, O Virgin Mother!...

We execute to the best of our ability the harmonized Mass which we have prepared, and sing our Rosary as melodiously as possible. We then joyfully amuse ourselves and the hours glide by as speedily as all fleeting pleasures, however pure and holy they may be. At every moment one or the other of us slip from the room to repair to Mary's feet to there contemplate anew her ravishing beauty.

And when the last stars appear in the heavens, it is with a heart overflowing with joy, that we take our rest beneath the gaze of the Immaculate, the radiant star of our life.

### **Christmas 1928**

To portray to you how beautiful is Christmas at the Novitiate of the Immaculate, pens other than those of humble novices are required... and convinced of our powerlessness, we wish but to briefly note the different causes which procure us such happiness. Firstly the solemn preparation in the silence and recollection of the evening the pious murmur at the close of day of the "thousand Hail Marys" echoed throughout the happy

dovecot... Then the early bed-time, charming prelude to the pleasant expectation which recalls the childish joys of former years... then the awakening in the middle of the night to the sound of pious melodies and angelical hymns. This invitation given by the shepherds to come to the stable, and the white cortege singing while repairing to the blessed grotto... the touching vision of the Divine little Child lying on the straw lovingly stretching forth His little arms to us, the three Masses and their solemn and touching hymns... the particular sweetness of receiving the Christmas "Host"... the fervent colloquy wherein we repeat the names of all who are dear to us... then the family revel... the second awaking at the dawn of day... the nice holiday with its surprises which fall as avalanches from the beautiful Christmas tree, so gracefully adorned. Finally the pretty little concert which comes to crown our day and which permits us to prove a little of our gratitude towards our dear Sister Economist who untiringly labors for us... is not all this a cause of great joy!... Oh! yes, it is lovely and many a time to-day do we hear these words repeated, —how beautiful is Christmas in Mary's dovecot!...

### Tuesday, January 1, 1929

No less emotional than Christmas night is that of the first of the year.

All assembled at the foot of the tabernacle, we consecrate to our loving Master, the last moments of the fleeting year, we beg forgiveness for the offences and negligences which may have tarnished its course, we thank Him for the graces he has bestowed upon us, we then intone our last hymn of love.

Then follows the imposing silence of the most profound recollection. The only sound that breaks the silence is the ticking of the clock which seems to accelerate its course: seemingly it is anxious to plunge the dying year into fathomless eternity... Our hearts also beat rapidly, but with emotion... We would wish to impede the flight of these precious moments so as to make them the more fruitful but what can we do, poor atoms as we are!... As they and in company with them we are rapidly advancing towards the same supreme goal!...

Midnight!... the twelve strokes resound as solemnly as a knell in our souls... 1928 has just expired!...

Instantly 1929 appears!... Dear God in this first hour of the New Year, bless, we beseech Thee, the Church and its pastors: Our Holy Father the Pope, the Bishops and the Priests of the entire world, bless in a special manner His Grace our Archbishop and all our superiors, spiritual and temporal; our little Society, its missions, its works, and all the souls confided to it; bless our benefactors and all who take interest in our works; bless our parents, our relatives and friends, and all who are dear to us in this world; bless those who suffer: the poor, the sick, the prisoners, the travellers, all poor infidels, bless the defenders of great and holy causes. To sinners deign to accord the grace of sincere conversion and bless their re-

pentance and resolutions. Give, we beseech Thee, eternal rest to the suffering souls in Purgatory.

O Jesus, on this blessed night bestow upon us all Thy holy blessing and may it ever remain with us. Amen

Such is the prayer which from the depths of our souls ascends to our divine Lord and King. It flowed from the heart of our venerated Mother from the very first years of the foundation, and since, it is always with renewed ardor that it is repeated in all the houses of the Institute at this solemn moment of the dawning year.

Then we offer our wishes and homages to our Heavenly Father and to Our Immaculate Mother, and in like manner solicit from them our favors while commenting upon the *Pater* and the *Ave*,

The holy hour is terminated by the singing of the *Magnificat*. We then reunite in the assembly hall where our dear Mistress communicates to us our venerated Mother's wishes. Like all other mothers she forms beautiful hopes over the cradle of her little children... Her ideal is that we be courageous and dutiful women. Rather, let us read textually what she tells us:

#### MY DEARLY BELOVED DAUGHTERS,

My New Year wishes are those which daily flow from my heart: they are that you be courageous and dutiful women. If you are dutiful women you will be at the same time holy religious, true missionaries, and real helpers in the divine work of evangelization. But in order to realize this sublime ideal you must begin by exercising active vigilance over self, to think, say or do nothing which may in the least soil the purity of your soul. Yes, avoid even the appearance of evil. Moreover you should have a great respect for each of your rules, but for that of silence and of charity you should be even more respectful. Also, cultivate arduously love of the hidden life, and of spiritual joy, virtues which will increase in you a real family spirit.

"Beg with me from the dear little Jesus of the Crib the realization of these wishes, and promise Him your entire co-operation. Offer Him as presents, the efforts you will be obliged to make in order to attain this aim.

"You may say that probably many obstacles arising in your way will hinder you from performing your part in the realization of my dreams for your sanctification. This would indeed be too sublime an ideal if we counted solely on our own strength, but we have our Immaculate Mother to help us! Take her by the hand, ask her to inspire your every thought, word and action. Practise with great fervor, as is taught you, the true devotion to the Blessed Virgin, and be assured that she will help you to overcome all your enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil.

"With the tenderness of my maternal heart accept the wishes of our dear Sister Assistant and of all your Sisters of the Mother-House who wish you a most holy and happy New Year.

"May the divine Infant Jesus shower upon you, beloved Daughters, His choicest blessings!

"Your Mother who loves you with all her heart."

We fraternally embrace one another as is our custom and then mount to the dormitory meditating on the thoughts which fill our hearts, and upon the rapidity of the years which lead us to the day of "The Year Eternal".

.....

After having spent a most happy day, we beg the favor this evening of wishing our Mother a happy New Year by telephone, which is at once joyfully accorded us. Assembled in the corridors and stairs adjoining the little telephone room, we all exclaim in one voice, while our Mistress holds the receiver: "Good-night, Mother!... Happy New Year, Mother!... Come to see us, Mother!... And our Mother answers, Happy New Year, dear children!... According as our Mistress transmits our Mother's words to us, our hearts overflow with gratitude. And when she announces her near visit to us we all exclaim; "Alright, Mother!... come soon.. we are very anxious... Good-night!..."

We hasten to come down stairs to continue our holiday with the most animated joy. Dear good Mother! what happiness you give us!

### **Sunday, January 6, Feast of the Epiphany**

One feast follows the other, hardly giving us the time to think that the name has been changed. The one which we to-day celebrate is most dear to our missionary hearts since it recalls to us the heavenly invitation given the pagan people to follow the true light. And to add to our joy we have the privilege of having our Mother in our midst since Friday evening. Oh, if you could have only heard the joyful notes re-echoed throughout the dovecot!... We give ourselves up entirely to pleasure.

Last night, after having thanked us for a little recreative and pious play executed in her honor, our Mother says: "Dear children, a little while ago when I saw you all beaming with joy, I thought of the beautiful part God has given you in calling you to live for Himself alone, I also thought of the many young girls who at this very moment amuse themselves in a very different way. I imagined that I saw them in the theatres and ball-rooms dressed in more or less decent costumes, and exposed to offend God... They think that they have real happiness but how far are they from enjoying the happiness which is yours... You have peace of soul... You are tasting the purest of innocent joys which nothing can equal. Oh! dear children thank God for His goodness.

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The will of the Heavenly Father is that every soul here below may know His Divine Son Jesus, who was born for all in the stable, and who also died for all on the cross.

# Pauline Marie Jaricot

Foundress of the Association of the Propagation of the Faith.

(Continued)

His arrival at Loretto, his suave cheerfulness, his words inflamed with love for suffering, soon dilated every heart. In his enthusiasm for the cross he made some himself and after having placed them on the shoulders of the daughters of *Mary*, organized a little indoor procession during which was sung the hymn: *O crux ave*, the hymn of tears, whose notes Pauline's beautiful voice translated into vibrating sighs of resignation and love.

O delicious naivety of the saints, to what degree you exceed the trifling music of this world!

In paraphrasing Monica's parting words to her son at Ostie would be to relate to you the last meeting here below of these two servants of God.

As the day drew near for the seraphim of the desert to leave this earth, it happened, by a loving intervention of Providence, that he and his sister in Christ were sitting alone at a window from which they could see from the hill of Fourviere to the lofty summits of the Alps bathed in the fiery rays of the setting sun.

There, conversing with ineffable tenderness, and their souls aspiring to the sublime waters of the *Fountain of life*, the plenitude of which resides in the *Word made flesh*, their thoughts soared high above the things of this world, attaining the regions of never failing abundance, where God eternally gives to Israel the nourishment of the Truth.

There, gazing with the eyes of hope on the boundless horizon of the future, they asked one another what would be for those who, with great love will have suffered and labored, this *eternal life* which the eye of man hath never seen, nor his ear heard, nor his most ardent aspirations of happiness ever attained...

If the answer to this question was not given them they at least enjoyed in a fleeting extasy, the first fruits of *this life*, abandoning its supreme secrets to the generous Heart of their divine Master, Jesus, their unique hope!

When the hour of separation obliged them to descend from these celestial heights: *O crux ave!* was the last farewell of the angel of human weakness.

*May Jesus Christ be known, loved and honored everywhere and by all men,* replied the angel of Catholic organizations.

A few months later, in December 1852, *eternal life* was no longer an enigma for the *father* of unfortunate maniacs for he then possessed it and the throngs, moved by his heroic virtues hastened to come to pray before his mortal remains in the chapel at Cros, near Caunes (Aude).

## LITTLE AND GREAT

They had but one heart  
and one soul.  
Act of the Apostles IV- 32

On her first visit to Italy, Pauline received at Naples a magnificent white marble statue representing Mary at the foot of the cross. The history of this master-piece of a holy religious whose untimely death did not permit him to entirely complete it, is as marvellous as it is touching.

Placed in the inner chapel of Loretto, Our Lady of Bon Secours there works divers miracles.

In her moments of anguish, Pauline would come to this Mother of Sorrows to whom she confided in all the simplicity of her soul that which she had received or had written, consulting the Mother to learn if her Son permitted His spouse to speak or to act in such and such a manner. In gazing on this countenance which bore such marks of sorrow mingled with love, on these hands joined with such resignation, she felt nature's revolts against suffering imperceptibly subside.

More than ever before did she need assistance, for inwardly as exteriorly tribulations arose as do the waves of the sea tossed by the wind. Her soul remained as in a barren desert where God seemingly withdrew His grace so as to leave her the merit and honor of having recourse to Him, for Himself alone.

"I feel and see nothing but pain and sorrow," she wrote. "My soul is plunged into a darkness so dense that I can render no account of my will, though in its most sublime regions there exists an invariable desire of enduring the greatest suffering rather than offend God in the least way."

Up until the present a little consolation had from a distance illumined this night, henceforth until death, the obscurity will become more and more profound.

We have seen that from 1843, in face of the multiplied and inconceivable trials of Pauline, even those who were acquainted with her past were now in *doubt*. These trials ever increasing in number and in violence, poor human reasoning already in *doubt* now was overcome by the certitude that the *rod* of justice *chastized* there where in reality the work of *divine election* was being accomplished. So much so that a persecution, at first underhand and circumspect, was little by little organized against the victim and as the greater majority of her persecutors were men of note and much esteemed the public, madly agreeing, concluded that their rigorous conduct was merited, adding thereto, theirs also. Some urged on by jealousy, others by ingratitude, the crowds were moved by a vague instinct of a disagreeable nature which rendered them most pitiless towards the unfortunate.

It is well to remark that the soul of this persecuted virgin did not superabound with a secret joy, which caused certain holy men to exclaim, "Still more tribulations!" "Forever to suffer, and never to die." etc. No, more within the reach of our feeble nature, and we dare add, more like until the feebleness of our Savior, asking that the bitter chalice pass from his lips, the holiness of "His faithful disciple" consisted in an absolute

submission to the Holy Will of her adorable Master, and in a boundless charity towards those whom He made use of to immolate her. And that despite the inexpressible and continued rebuffs of a terrible nature, which seemed to revive under the incessant blows of pain and humiliation.

In reading these sad pages and those sadder still which are yet to be written one must dwell in spirit on the summits of Calvary for *there alone* one may estimate at their real value the trials of this life and perceive in its true light the intervention so often unconscious on the part of creatures in the erection of the *city of the elect*... Still more degraded, human insight, disturbed by earthly sentiments and illusions is capable no longer of recognizing the divine hand, which makes use equally of the errors and malice of men to form saints, these "living jewels" of the eternal city.

The venerable priest who for the past twenty years had been the chaplain of the little colony of Loretto misunderstood Pauline's intentions and became for her a harsh and pitiless judge.

Terrified by the sombre prospects that he foresaw, he felt it his duty to oblige the remaining members of the Society of Mary to leave the solitude beset by injustice and affliction, but where their devotedness was so necessary.

Ceding to this advice and to the terror naturally occasioned by poverty, twelve of these pious daughters abandoned their unfortunate Mother, several without having notified her of their departure and without having bid her even a word of farewell.

Three only remained firm in their affection and resolved to work day and night to help her, who, after God, had made them what they were. Their names deserve to ever remain engraved in the memory of the Christians. They are the following: Marie Melquiond, Maria Dubouis, Sophie Germain. Humble Christians whose biography would console the *lowly* and *induce* them to follow the beautiful examples of virtue and devotedness which they would there find!

The disloyalty which we have just mentioned only tended to add fresh grief to the already broken heart of this now solitary mother. Never did she utter a word of complaint or of blame; rather did she assist many by her words of advice and was even so courageous as to bless the Divine Will, which permitted such hands to enlarge the wound already in her maternal heart. A little note addressed to Reverend Father Rousselon reveals to us the extreme distress which reigned at Loretto and of Pauline's respect for the worthy priest, the involuntary instrument of these cruel trials: Reverend Father,

The personnel of the house reduced to *four persons*, demands, according to poverty, that the prayers be simplified as much as possible.

This year we cannot make a fire, save the foot-warmers allowed each one. The days being so short, work is reduced to almost nothing, and the oil for lighting the house is so expensive that we are obliged to reduce the number of lamps to that of the sanctuary, and to that of the kitchen.

I thought, then, that the prayers recited during the day could be transferred, during this hard season, from sunset until the end of the evening.

Kindly give your answer to Maria, that I may know if I may arrange things thus.

I follow with profound respect etc..

At a short distance from Lyons a holy man who knew, he also, *at what price* souls must be redeemed, the good Curé of Ars, speaking from the pulpit on resignation, exclaimed in an outburst of his naive eloquence:

"Ah! brethren, I know a person who knows how to accept crosses, most heavy crosses, and who bears them with great love!... 'Tis Miss Jaricot.

Of these *most heavy crosses* which the venerable Curé of Ars signalized with compassion, two especially tended to touch his so compassionate soul. The reader may well surmise them, himself! One was the sacrifice of the beautiful and sublime design of regeneration; the other the loss of the incomparable support of a father.

Forced to cede to the violence of threats, Pauline was obliged to consent in 1852, to the judiciary sale of the property of Our Lady of the Angels, a sale which was one of the greatest trials to which her faith and confidence in God were to be submitted, for she had written: "Our Lady of the Angels, this work of so many prayers and tears, will one day be fully realized."

And behold! the land on which she wished to establish this work is delivered into foreign hands... She experiences most bitter grief! But if all human means for its realization be deprived her, the Heart of Jesus still remains! And with an invincible love does she adjure Him to be true to the promise which He made her, to save the *lowly*, and on this point, doubt does not even reach her soul.

We shall see later this Heart which never deceives, reply to this confidence in permitting that the predestined domain pass into hands worthy of receiving it.

On May 12, 1854, God who had always appeared jealous of the help which *His servant* found in creatures took from her His Eminence Cardinal Lambruschini.

Witness and inheritor of the paternal kindness which Gregory XVI. had always borne towards the foundress of the two great Catholic associations, this illustrious prelate showed himself ingenious in seizing every occasion of replacing the august Pontiff with regard to his beloved daughter.

During the long sojourn of the latter in the Holy City, a perfect union already spoken of, took place between these two souls and the few pages found in their correspondence show the strength, elevation and delicious simplicity of this intimacy. And how the present circumstances added to the weight of this cross!...

Beneath the crushing hand of sorrow, Pauline wrote to Cardinal Ferretti:

Following in the footsteps of our Divine Lord, I mount Calvary, dragging as I can the heavy weight of a cross, and I learn that Cardinal Lambruschini, my protector, my father, my tutelar angel has left this land of exile for a better life. This death which leaves so many associations orphan, particularly that of the Living Rosary, seems to be an irreparable loss, if faith did not look beyond this world and await from God a favorable assistance.

Whilst the rich creditors continued pitilessly to employ inhuman proceedings — it would be more exact to say iniquitous — towards Pauline, her little creditors continued to lavish upon her the least suspicious marks of their veneration and devotedness. She, for her part, never ceased to seek by what means and in what manner would finally be given to her to acquit herself towards these humble and noble hearts.

One night as she was praying for this intention the idea came to her of opening in the enclosure of Loretto, a flight of stairs by which the pilgrims might go directly to Fourvière, for the moderate fee of one cent.

She welcomed this inspiration as coming from Heaven, and hastened to submit it to whom it might concern.

The excellent Cardinal de Bonald praised it, and the Prefect of Rhone authorised its execution. But the greatest difficulty yet remained. Pauline had hardly the bread necessary for her nourishment and for that of her companions.

In her ardent desire of acquitting herself towards these generous friends, the creditors who were not mortgagees, she did not withdraw before the humiliations and fatigues of a daily collection in the city, and thus paid, each evening, the work of the laborers.

The stairs were constructed with as much care as promptitude, thanks to the skill and devotedness of the contractor.

The stairs, called after St. Philomena, were accessible to the public, December 8, 1855, Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the feast of Lyons. There the lukewarm, the indifferent themselves, won over by the fervor of those who had a true devotion to Mary, climbed with emotion the blessed rock, to at least cast a look on the miraculous image.

Thousands of pilgrims mounted the new stairs singing the praises of the dearly beloved Virgin, whilst from one of her windows Pauline gazed upon them imploring Heaven's blessings in their behalf: their haste in pursuing this path gave rise to hope in her desolate heart.

From the first year (1856) the receipts of the passage were 14,000 francs all expenses paid. A so favorable result added much to the value of Loretto and gave to Pauline, who so dearly loved this beautiful solitude, the right of opposing, with still greater energy, that it be sold at a price as low as that of Our Lady of the Angels.

Unfortunately this estate was under sequestration: the revenue from the stairs was also seized and shared among the mortgagees, the others not receiving even a farthing. This proceeding doubtlessly legal, but of an extreme harshness, deeply grieved the unfortunate woman, who had conceived an altogether different hope.

From 1856, it became more difficult and even almost impossible for us to follow the steps of Pauline; for on one side, Maria Dubouis, witness of everything, absolutely refused to tell us what appeared to be included in the secrets which she had promised her holy Mother to never reveal, and on the other hand Pauline knowing our affection for her and the impossibility in which we were to efficaciously help her, concealed from us many of her trials.

However we could not make up our minds to pass by in silence, the last stages of a life of which the merits must have increased at the approach of eternity.

But, "He who hears the sighs of the wounded heart of the humble", visibly intervened at the very hour when the pen of friendship was about to be paralysed.

A lady, distinguished as much by virtue as by rank, the Countess of Brémond then sent us nearly three hundred letters of different writings, either from Pauline herself, from her friends or from her enemies.

The beauty, the clearness of these documents, and especially their value, greatly surpassed all that our ambition of biography could desire. And thanks to this gift of Providence, we have been able to follow "the true disciple of Jesus Christ" in the supreme combats so valiantly sustained by her to the glory of her divine Master.

After Cardinal Villecourt, Marie Melquiond and Maria Dubouis, the humble maiden of the mountain, nobody had ever been more devoted to the despised maiden, than the Count and Countess of Brémond and Mother Saint Laurent) of the Ursulines of Chavagnes, Vendée). Since long the two former had known Pauline only by her letters; in spite of this they bestowed up on her the title of "sister", and in return they merited from this noble soul an ineffable tenderness which no human tongue can utter and which Christians name among themselves *charity*.

Count Arthur de Brémond had devoted to his king and to his country, his whole strength, the entire enthusiasm of his youth, and all the resources of his intelligence and of his heart. After having seen royalty condemned to exile, and France threatened for her faith, as much as for her honor and glory, he devoted himself to propagate the Penitential Association of which the aim was to appease God's justice with regard to the *eldest daughter of the Church*, leaguings with the sworn enemies of her Mother.

But, to have one accept penance in an era when sensuality reigned supreme was not an easy matter. Also did the brother confide to his sister how sadness and indignation sometimes gained over him, in presence of the obstacles which thwarted the chivalrous ardor of his zeal for national expiation...

(To be continued)

### Notice to our Subscribers

*In order to render our modest review "The Precursor" more interesting to our readers we are adding thereto eight new pages.*

*It is to the Immaculate Queen of the Missions that we confide the charge of defraying this extra expense. May she inspire generous and zealous souls to lend their aid by obtaining new subscribers from among their friends and acquaintances.*

*We are confident that in return she will not fail to obtain special graces for those who will thus help in the extension of the kingdom of her Divine Son on pagan soil.*

N. B. A premium is offered to those procuring Ten New Subscribers to "The Precursor".

# Thanksgivings to the Blessed Virgin

## for favors obtained

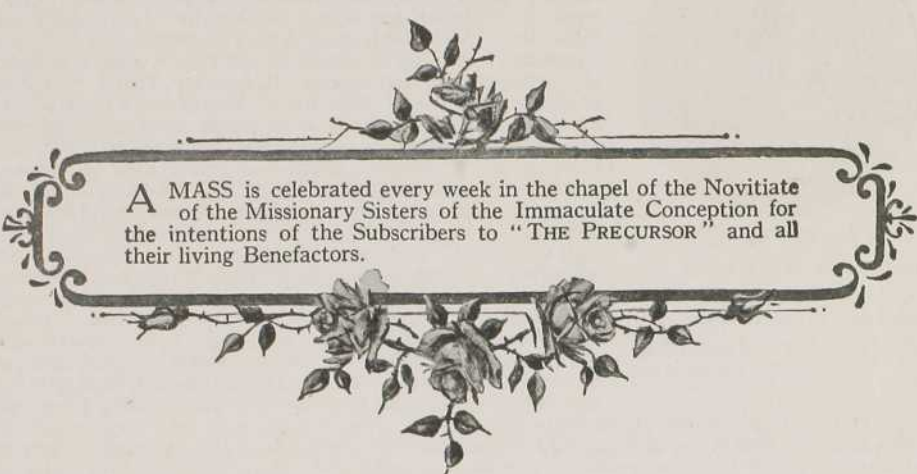


*"O MARY, the entire universe would perish before you refuse your assistance to those who, with all their heart, implore your help and protection."*

BL. HENRY SUZO.

It is with great pleasure that I am sending you this offering of \$1.00 in honor of the Blessed Virgin for favors granted and that I may obtain others still more important. If my requests are granted I shall send a certain amount every week to complete the sum of \$25.00 for your works. A Subscriber, **Montreal**. — Accept my offering of \$0.75 for a novena of vigil lights and \$0.25 for your works, in thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin. **L. C., Ste. Paula**. — Please accept my offering of \$5.00 for the ransom of a little pagan, in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. My husband and my son have both found a position. To prove my gratitude towards our Immaculate Mother, I am sending an offering of \$2.00 for your missions. **Mrs. C. C., Dalhousie, N. B.** — In thanksgiving for favors obtained enclosed please find a cheque for \$5.00: \$1.00 is for my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" and the balance is for your missions. **I. P., Montreal**. — I am sending \$0.75 for vigil lights to be burned at the altar of the Blessed Virgin, in token of gratitude towards this good Mother. **Miss A. C., Baie St. Paul**. — Please accept my offering of \$2.00 and unite your prayers with mine in order to thank the Blessed Virgin who has deigned to hear my prayers. **Mrs. J. D., L'Orignal, Ont.** — Find enclosed \$5.00 for the ransom of a Chinese baby to express my lively gratitude to our Immaculate Mother, for having been so generous towards me. A Subscriber. — Accept my offering of \$1.50 for your works in China in thanksgiving for a favor obtained through the intercession of our Heavenly Mother. **Miss G. B., Montreal**. — I am sending you the sum of \$5.00 to help in the upkeep of the Foudling-Home in Canton, in fulfilment of a promise. **J. L. F., Marieville**. — My offering of \$5.00 for your works, in thanksgiving for a favor obtained through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. **Mrs. M. C., Montreal**. — As a pledge of gratitude for a favor obtained, I am forwarding you the sum of \$5.00 in honor of Our Lady. **Mrs. G., St. Felicien**. — I am renewing my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" in token of gratitude towards my heavenly Benefactresses: the Blessed Virgin and the Little Flower. **Mr. L. Beaulieu, Lauzon**. — A cure obtained through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin: in thanksgiving I renew my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR". **Mrs. V. V., Lauzon**. — A special favor obtained after having promised an offering of 3.00 for your missions. A Subscriber. **St. Felicien**. — I renew my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" because I have obtained a favor requested. — I am forwarding you \$5.00 as promised for your missionary works as a thank-offering for a favor granted me. My most heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin Mary for having obtained my favor. **Mrs. A. P., Montreal**. — My offering of \$4.00 in thanksgiving for the recovery of my niece. **Mrs. J. W.** — Find enclosed an offering in thanksgiving for favors obtained. Please pray that my family may be preserved from sickness. **M. D., Pabos**. — In honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and our Immaculate Mother, I am sending \$2.00 in thanksgiving for special favors received. **Mrs. L. J., Lakewood, Ohio**. — The enclosed \$1.00 is in fulfilment of a promise made to obtain a favor. **Mrs. S. H., McMaren's Dam, P. Q.** — Thank you dear Sisters for your prayers; I have obtained my requests and am sending \$1.00 for your missions in thanksgiving. **Mrs. D., North Bay, Ont.** — I am forwarding \$1.00 in thanksgiving to our Blessed Mother, the Little Flower and St. Gerard for a favor obtained. **Mrs. J. Boyle, Indian Orchard**. — Please find enclosed \$1.00 in thanksgiving for a favor received. **Montreal**. — \$1.00 enclosed for a Novena of lights to our Lady, as I have promised one dollar every month for twelve months. **Mrs. M. W., Montreal**. — Kindly have two Masses said in honor of the Blessed Virgin and Saint Joseph for a great favor obtained. Find enclosed \$2.00. **A. G., Riviere au Renard**. — Enclosed find \$1.00 for a Mass to be said for the Souls in Purgatory in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. **J. T. C., Worcester, Mass.** — Please accept this offering \$1.00 as a token of gratitude towards our Heavenly Mother, for a relief in a nervous breakdown. **Mrs. J. L., Ottawa, Ont.** — I am enclosing a money-order for \$5.00 in fulfilment of a promise made to our Heavenly Queen to obtain a position for my son. **Mrs. T. P., So. Porcupine**. — Enclosed find \$10.00 for the upkeep of a crib as a thank-offering for a favor obtained. May I ask the help of your prayers for the conversion of my daughter? A desolate mother. — It is as a token of my profound gratitude to our Heavenly Mother that I send you the sum of \$5.00 for the ransom of a Chinese baby. **M. R. F., New Haven, Conn.** — For your missions I offer the sum of \$5.00, certain that I cannot better prove my gratitude towards my Heavenly Benefactress, than by making a sacrifice to help her missionaries who labor

for the propagation of Faith among infidels. Mrs. M., **Danielson, Conn.** — Enclosed find the sum of \$1.00 in gratitude to the Blessed Virgin for the obtention of a favor I owe, without doubt, to her powerful intercession. A Subscriber to "THE PRECURSOR". **Montreal.** — Accept my offering of \$2.00; it is my thank-offering to the Blessed Virgin. — Please accept my offering of \$10.00 for the Lazaretto of Shek Lung; my heartfelt gratitude to my Heavenly Benefactress, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mrs. J. J., **Montreal.** — The enclosed money-order \$5.00 is in fulfilment of a promise made in honor of the Blessed Virgin for your most needy missions. Mrs. H. P., **Fall River.** — I have received a special favor through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin; in thanksgiving I am sending the price of a novena of vigil lights to be burned at her altar. A. M., **Montreal.**



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".

I am sending you Five Dollars, hoping it will help your missions a little. Please remember me in your prayers. A. C., **Waterbury, Conn.** — Please join with me in making a novena to our Immaculate Mother for the health of my brother. I enclose One Dollar and promise to send a subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" and an offering of Five Dollars if my request is granted. R. Montcalm, **Holyoke, Mass.** — Will you please ask the Little Flower to obtain a cure for me? Mrs. V., **Leominster, Mass.** — May I solicit your fervent prayers for my husband who is a Protestant. W. E. W., **Cleveland, Ohio.** — Kindly accept this offering for a novena of lights to be burned at the Shrine of our Blessed Mother for the improvement of my son's health, and for other special favors. Mrs. C. McN., **Cleveland, Ohio.** — I am sending \$1.00 for a Mass in honor of the Little Flower in order to obtain a better position. Miss M. D., **Cleveland, Ohio.** — Please find enclosed \$2.00 for the renewal of my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" and an offering in honor of the Blessed Virgin and the Little Flower, that I may obtain a special favor. Mrs. E. J., **Lakewood, Ohio.** — May I solicit your fervent prayers for a special intention. If it be granted I shall send you \$3.00 for your missions. Mrs. Ed. B., **Waterbury, Conn.** — I am enclosing \$10.00 in honor of the little Saint of Lisieux, in return I beg the help of your prayers. Mr O. Savoie, **Easthampton, Mass.** — I am sending you another dollar and in return kindly pray to the Little Flower that my son be cured. If my request is granted I will send you \$1.00 every week until I have completed the sum of \$25.00. Mrs. J. Langevin, **Indian Orchard, Mass.** — Please find enclosed \$2.00: one is for the renewal of my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR", and the other is an offering for your missions. In return may I ask the help of your prayers for a very special request: if granted I shall send \$5.00 for your needy works. S. M., **Bronxville, N. Y.** — Enclosed find \$1.00 for the renewal of my subscription. Would you kindly pray to the Blessed

Virgin that I may sell my property. If this request is granted I will not forget your missionaries. Mrs. A. St. R., **Arctic, R. I.**—Enclosed please find \$2.00 in payment of my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" and for a novena of lights. Please ask our Immaculate Mother to cure me. Mrs. C. B., **Napierville, P. Q.**—I beg your prayers for a very special request, and if granted within two months I will send \$5.00 as a donation to your great work. L. W., **Douglastown.**—I am sending a small offering in honor of our Blessed Lady to help you in your works. Kindly send me a miraculous medal. L. L.—I am going to ask you to please make a novena to our Immaculate Mother that health be restored to my children. I am enclosing an offering to have lights burned. Mrs. A. G., **Temiscaming, P. Q.**—Will you kindly make a novena that my daughter may obtain a good position as soon as possible. Please accept the enclosed offering for your works.—I ask your prayers for my son's return to the Faith. Please pray that I may regain my health. J. L., **Disraeli, P. Q.**—The enclosed cheque is for votive lights to be burned at Mary's Shrine, that a special grace be granted me. K. S., **St. Anicet, P. Q.**—I am enclosing \$5.00 as promised for charitable purposes. Kindly pray to our Blessed Mother and St. Therese for two very special favors, and if obtained I shall send a good offering. Mrs. W. R., **Hemmingford, P. Q.**—I desire to have two novenas of lights burned for my intentions. I am sending an offering for same. If I obtain the favor I am asking I shall renew my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" and shall also send \$10.00 towards your worthy cause. Mrs. A. C., **Pokemouch.**—I am sending \$1.00 in honor of the Holy Family for special favors. A Subscriber, **Dorval, P. Q.**—May I ask you to pray to the dear Sacred Heart and his Blessed Mother that I may regain my position. Mrs. C. S., **Verdun, P. Q.**—I wish to tell you that after asking prayers for my mother she has been greatly relieved from neuralgia. Please continue your prayers and I promise to fulfil my promise which I made a short while ago. Mrs. H. R. de C., **Verdun, P. Q.**—My brother is deciding upon a very important business transaction. Please pray that he be successful. M. M.—I am asking for two special favors. May I ask the help of your prayers that they be granted me. H. McD.,—Find enclosed cheque for the renewal of my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" and an offering for the ransom of a dying baby. May I ask for a little prayer? C. N.—I herewith enclose \$1.00 for a novena of lights in honor of the Little Flower that I may obtain a special favor. If same is granted me I promise a substantial donation to your missions. Miss J. G.—I would ask you to kindly make a novena for my daughter that she may regain her health. J. F., **Montreal.**—The enclosed offering is for a Mass for the most lonely soul in Purgatory that I may obtain a special favor. M. M.—Please pray to the Blessed Virgin and St. Therese that they obtain for me a speedy and complete cure from a distressing affliction. I am enclosing \$1.00 for vigil lights. J. J., **Montreal.**—Please find enclosed a postal-note for \$3.00 for the ransom of twelve dying babies in honor of the Little Flower as promised. Please pray for me and mine. Mrs. M. W., **Toronto.**—I am sending an offering in honor of the Infant Jesus to help your good work. Please pray for us. M. S., **Toronto.**—The enclosed offering \$2.00 is in honor of St. Therese that my children may have better health. Mrs. O. H., **Ottawa.**—May I beg your fervent prayers for a very dear friend and her daughter who are seriously ill. Mrs. K. **Loretto, Ontario.**—Herein I enclose \$3.00 for my renewal subscription as also an offering for your needy missions. I recommend to your fervent prayers the vocation of my four sons and my three daughters. Mrs. X., **Toronto, Ont.**—Please find enclosed \$1.00 for a novena of lights in honor of the Blessed Virgin that I may recover my health. Anonymous.—I am herein enclosing \$1.00 for a Mass in honor of the Holy Souls. Anonymous.—May I beg the assistance of your prayers that I may be successful in obtaining work as my help is much needed at home. I shall send an offering for your needy missions if my favor is obtained. Miss A. M. G. F., **Ottawa.**—Please pray to the Blessed Virgin that I may recover my health. If my prayers are granted I promise an offering for your missions. Mrs. H. F.—Your fervent prayers are asked that our Immaculate Mother may obtain steady work for my husband, and also the conversion of my daughter. Mrs. A. M., **Valleyfield.**—Kindly unite with me in making a novena at Mary's Shrine that I may obtain a good position. I shall send an offering for your missions if my request is granted. Mrs. R. F., **Ottawa, Ont.**—May I come once again to place my petitions at Our Dear Lady's feet through your charitable prayers. Do recommend me to the Immaculate Virgin and St. Joseph. Mrs. A. K., **Toronto.**—Special prayers are asked that we may rent our rooms shortly. If this request is granted I will renew my subscription and send an offering. Mrs. J. A. K., **Cleveland, Ohio.**—Please make a novena at our Blessed Lady's Shrine that she may remove all obstacles from our business; or give us another means of earning our living. Miss M. E. H., **Northampton.**—I am a subscriber to your review and have read of the wonderful cures obtained through the miraculous medal. I would be very grateful if you could send me one, I feel confident that Our Immaculate Mother will grant me the restoration of my health. Mrs. L. M., **Ottawa.**—Please find enclosed \$2.00. \$1.00 is for the renewal of my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR"; the other is for a novena of lights to be burned at Mary's Shrine. Kindly remember me in your prayers. Mrs. J. O'D., **Verdun.**—May I solicit your fervent prayers to the Immaculate Virgin that I may obtain a steady position. G. V., **Montreal.**—I am enclosing \$0.75 for a novena of lights. Kindly intercede with Our Lady that my husband be restored to health. Mrs. L. M., **Hull, P. Q.**—Enclosed you will find \$2.00; one for the renewal of my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" and the other as a donation towards your missionary works. In

return I solicit your prayers for a special favor. If granted I shall send another contribution in thanksgiving. T. C., **Three Rivers, P. Q.** — I am sending a money-order (\$3.00) for a novena of lights and for Masses to be said in honor of the Blessed Virgin, that we may obtain health and success. F. C. M. K., **Limoges, Ont.** — Your fervent prayers are asked that Our Immaculate Mother may obtain a good position for my son. Mrs. D. E. — Will you kindly ask the Blessed Virgin and the Little Flower to beg of God a special grace of which we stand greatly in need. If this is granted us I shall send a generous donation. E. V., **Smooth Rock Falls, Ont.** — Please pray to the Little Flower that I may sell my property. If my request is granted I promise a donation for your missions. Mr. T. E., **Cleveland, Ohio.** — Enclosed find \$2.00 for a subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" and for a novena of lights to be burned in honor of Our Immaculate Mother. Kindly pray that my three-year-old son may be cured without having to undergo an operation. Mrs. E. M., **Brennan Hill, P. Q.** — May I ask you to join with me in making a novena to the Blessed Virgin, that my son may be cured. Enclosed please find \$5.00: \$1.00 for lights to be burned during the novena, and \$1.00 for a Mass to be said, the balance may be used as you think best. If my request is granted I will donate \$5.00 for your great work. Mrs. McG., **Montreal.** — Please find enclosed \$2.00: one for a Mass of thanksgiving in honor of St. Joseph and the other for a novena in honor of Our Lady that we may obtain the favor we ask. Mrs. B., — Kindly intercede with the Little Flower that I may succeed in selling my property. K. M. **Oil City, Ont.** — May I ask the help of your prayers that I may obtain a steady position. If granted I shall make a generous donation in favor of your missions. L. M. M., **Richmond Hill, Ont.** — I am giving \$2.00 in honor of the Blessed Virgin to obtain two special favors. Mrs. J. W., **Montreal.** — Your fervent prayers are solicited that we may obtain health and success in our business. M. R. W., **Cleveland, Ohio.** — I am writing to ask your prayers to obtain the recovery of my son dangerously ill at the hospital. Anonymous.



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



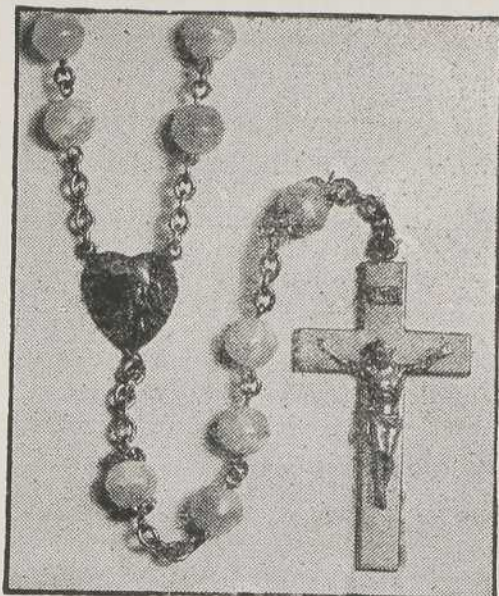
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