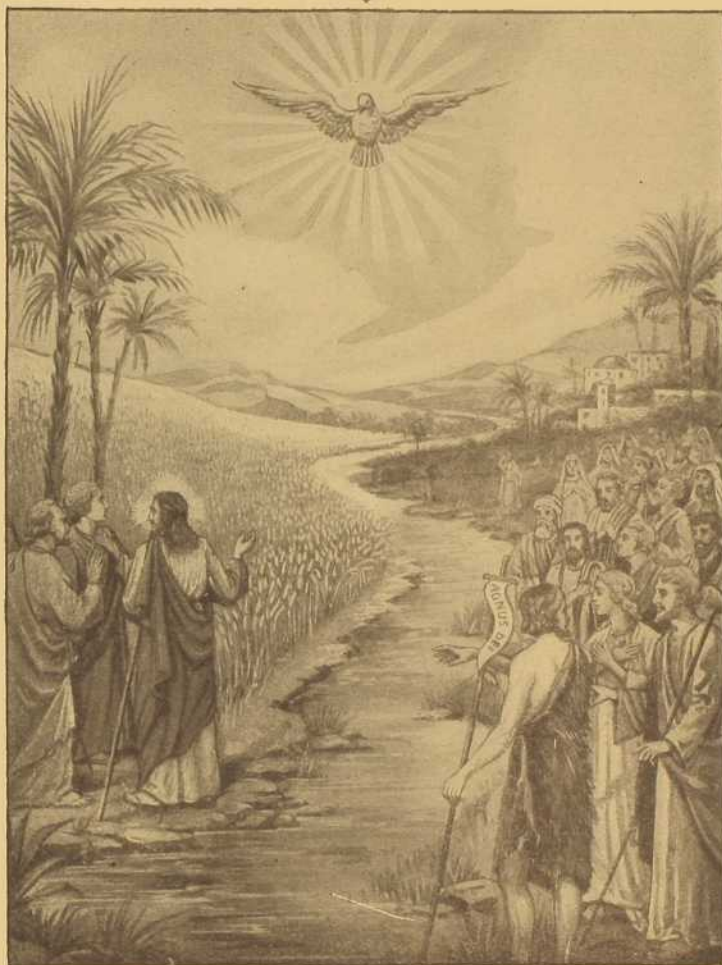


THE PRECURSOR



Vol. VII., 8th Year

MONTREAL, JULY-AUGUST, 1930

No. 4

Works of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

IN CANADA

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), Laval Co.

CHINESE WORKS IN MONTREAL, (Founded in 1913)

CHINESE SCHOOL, 106 Lagauchetiere St. West, Montreal (Founded in 1916)

Teaching of English, French and Chinese.

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.

NOMINING, P. Q. (Bethany) (Founded in 1914)

CITY OF RIMOUSKI, P. Q. (Founded in 1912)

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

CITY OF JOLIETTE, P. Q. (Founded in 1919)

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Work-room of Church Vestments.

CITY OF QUEBEC, 4 Simard St. (Founded in 1919)

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Closed Retreats for young girls. Work-room for our Missions.

CITY OF VANCOUVER, 236 Campbell Ave. (Founded in 1921)

Oriental Hospital. Refuge and Dispensary. Private Courses in Languages and Catechism for Chinese children and adults. Visiting of Chinese families.

CITY OF THREE RIVERS, 52 Bonaventure St. (Founded in 1926)

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Chinese Works. Work-room for the missions.

SILLERY, near Quebec, St. Cyrille St. (Founded in 1928)

Closed Retreats for ladies and young girls. Work-room for the missions.

GRANBY, P. Q. (Founded in 1930)

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Closed Retreats for ladies and young girls. Hostels for young ladies.

(Continued on page 3 of the cover)

Please Help the Missionary Sisters

of the Immaculate Conception

By procuring work for them.

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

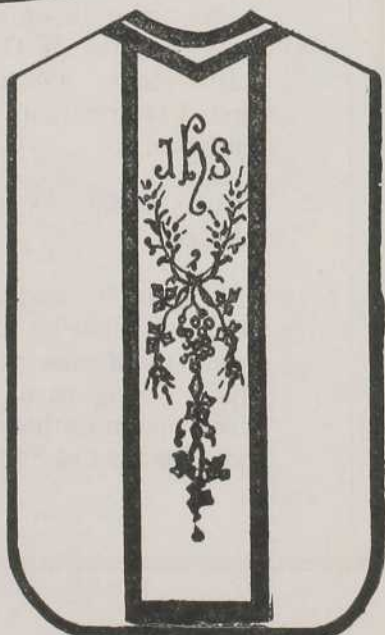
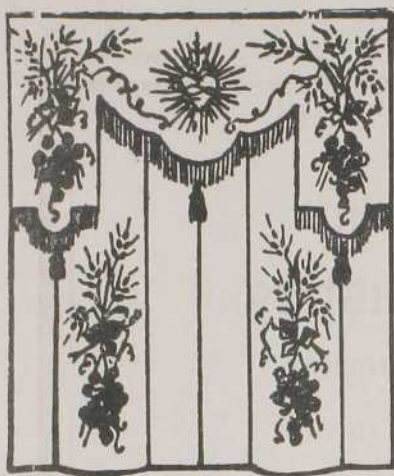
Missionaries must undergo several years' preparation before being able to commence their apostolic labors in foreign fields.

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

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

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

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



Kindly Read Attentively

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

We supply Altar-breads at the following prices:

Small	\$1.20 per 1000
Large	0.40 " 100

Practical Means

of helping the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

By contributing alms to:

The erection of the Novitiate Chapel dedicated to
Our Lady of the Missions
The erection of Chapels in missions 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

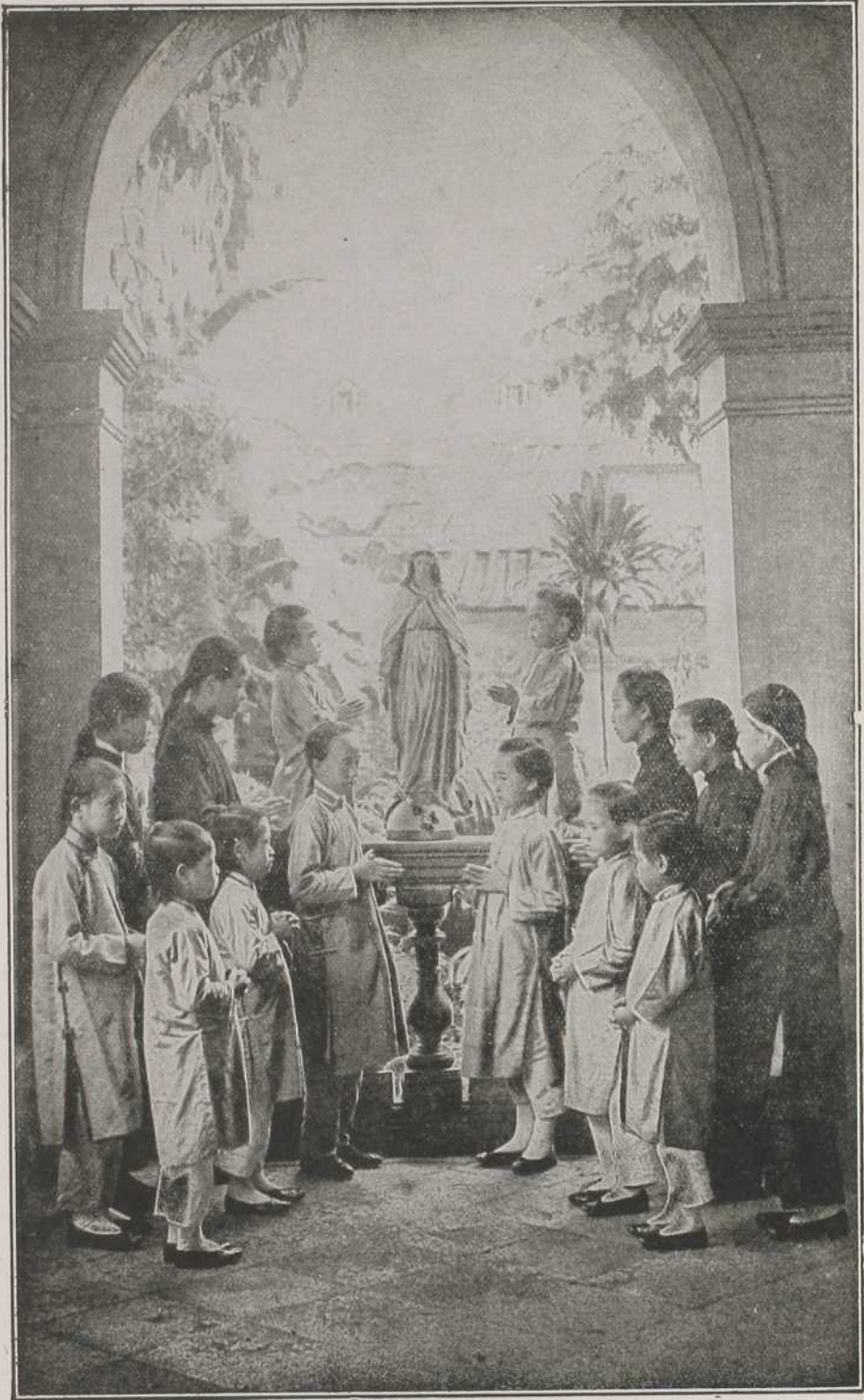
The alms that you will give to the missionaries, the help that you will bring them, will be employed for the greater glory of God, and will be for you the most certain and remuneratory investment, the "hundredfold" promised by Jesus Christ.

* * *

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



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS



"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. VII, 8th Year

MONTREAL, July-August 1930

No. 4

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Our Lady's Assumption

Earth's sojourn soft severed, and soon with thy Son —
Borne Homeward by angels — Assumption's Blest One!
Thy form, fair and fragrant, is wafted Above
Immaculate in beauty to litanies of love;
O Person Most Spotless — so sinless from birth —
Art shielded and saved from defilement of earth;
Resplendant in glory, to paens of song
Transported in triumph by Heaven's bright throng.

O Vision the fairest Earth's orb ever seen,
Thou reignest so regal, so gracious our Queen;
Thy word or thy wish at the instant obeyed
As tender thank-token, thou humble Handmaid!
O cherished co-agent, how poignant thine heart
In unison throbbed in Redemption's grim part;
God gave us His Mother to whom we may go.
Can tell you our yearnings, our worries, our woe.

Then Mary, our Mother, assist us to rise
To Heaven's bright portals where day never dies;
Feast onward forever on blisses so rare
That naught can diminish, imperil, impair!
O gain us the graces to conquer each sin
To merit God's guerdon — this Heaven to win;
From pitfalls that wait, to entrap and ensnare,
O Mary, our Mother, we crave for thy care.

Save nations that know not the need of thy name,
Still bow unto idols of glorified shame;
Have pity on these and converted thro' you
As Jesus' just children — and Heaven bestrew.
Rude realms unlearned in the School of thy Son —
Of the Price for them Paid and the Wealth for them Won
Thro' the Tree of the Cross! O its potential Peace —
All ills of the world can commingle — and cease

Ronald Stephen MacDonald

Programme of the Montreal Missionary Exposition

21-28 SEPTEMBER 1930

THE Missionary Union of the Clergy of the diocese of Montreal aided by the missionary Congregations and Societies is organizing a series of celebrations in favor of the Missions which will take place during the week of the 21st to the 28th of next September. There will be days of prayer, conferences and demonstrations in aid of the work of the Missions and to make it better known.

1. — Previous to the Missionary Exposition, a committee has been organized to receive all gifts to the missionaries — these gifts may be left with the Reverend Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, 5054 St. Dominic St., Montreal — and from the 10th to the 15th of August the public will be welcome to come to see the objects donated as well as the Committee in behalf of the Missions.

2. — Opening of the Missionary Exposition on September 21st by Pontifical High Mass and a sermon for the occasion at the cathedral.

Closing of the Week on September 28th at Notre Dame Church by Pontifical High Mass and a sermon on the Propagation of the Faith, and in the afternoon a demonstration in favor of the Holy Childhood.

3. — Every day of the Week, Holy Mass and Communion with singing suited to Missions, in one of the following churches: St. Henri, St. Edouard, Notre Dame des Sept Douleurs (Verdun) St. Jacques, St. Michael's, Immaculée Conception.

4. — Every day, a conference with lantern slides of the Missions and our Missionary Congregations, and in the Sulpician Fathers' Hall, every evening, a series of conferences on the Pope and the Missions (Encyclical "*Rerum Ecclesiæ*").

5. — Thursday, in the Sulpician Fathers' Hall, at 10 A. M. and at 2 P. M. Mission Day for the Clergy.

6. — Missionary Exposition in the Drill Hall, 153 Craig St., East, from the 21st to the 28th of September: at 9 A. M. for the children, at 2.30 P. M. and at 7.30 P. M. for adults. Each day will be reserved in a more special manner for the people living in a particular part of the city or country as will be indicated later on.

7. — Every evening, a talk by radio.

8. — As it is a question of having a league of prayer in favor of the Missions, the Parishes, Educational Houses and Institutions of Charity, will be invited, according to the directions of the Ordinary, to set aside a Mission Day.

The Pontifical Works of the Propagation of the Faith, of St. Peter the Apostle, of the Holy Childhood and of the Missionary Union of the Clergy have a particular right to take part in the Missionary Exposition, since it is especially to develop these Works that the Exposition has been organized.

All the Societies or religious Congregations in the Province of Quebec which have or have had Canadian subjects in the Missions, that is to say in the territories dependent on the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda, — in Canada and elsewhere, have been invited. Thirty-six have accepted the invitation.

The Organizing Committee of the Montreal Missionary Exposition is composed of the following members:

Honorable President: His Grace Archbishop Gauthier, Coadjutor-Archbishop of Montreal; *Honorable Vice-President*: His Lordship Bishop Deschamps, Auxiliary-Bishop of Montreal; *President*: Reverend Father Joseph Geoffroy, President of the Diocesan Council of the Missionary Union of the Clergy; *Vice-presidents*: Very Reverend Canon J. A. Mousseau, Director of the Associations of the Propagation of the Faith and of the Holy Childhood; Reverend Father Payette, Pastor of Longueuil, Councillor of the Missionary Union of the Clergy; *Secretary*: Reverend Father Henri Jeannotte, P. S. S., Director of the Association of St. Peter the Apostle; *Treasurer*: Reverend Father Clovis Rondeau, Treasurer of the Missionary Union of the Clergy; *Councillors*: Very Reverend Canon Luke Callaghan, Pastor of St. Michael's Parish, Councillor of the Missionary Union of the Clergy; Reverend Father Charles Decaries, Pastor of St. Charles' Parish, Councillor of the Missionary Union of the Clergy; Reverend Father Urgel Demers, Pastor of St. Rose, Councillor of the Missionary Union of the Clergy; Reverend Father Martin, O. F. M., Reverend Father Rosario Leclerc, O. M. I., Reverend Father Louis Lavoie, S. J.; Reverend Father Albert Montplaisir, C. S. C.

Secretary's Office: 308 St. Catherine St., East, Montreal.

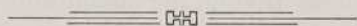
The devotions we practise in honor of the glorious Virgin Mary, however trifling they be, are very pleasing to her divine Son, and he rewards them with eternal glory.

St. Teresa.

There is nothing which is more profitable and more consoling to the mind than to frequently remember the Blessed Virgin.

St. Teresa.

Unreached



We take pride in the Church's army of missionaries, we speak in enthralling periods of the far-flung line of fighters who hold their posts in every land and in every clime. We note the recently published figures of the Holy See's mission headquarters, the Congregation of the Propaganda, which reveal a body of 163,615 priests, brothers, sisters, and lay workers engaged in the apostolate and we are properly impressed with the tremendousness of the task of spreading the gospel. But, without discouraging ourselves, it is advisable to bear in mind that there is an immense part of the world to which the Church is not extending her influence.

In Table VII of the eight tables which the Propaganda volume of statistics, "Missiones Catholicae", provides for each region of the mission world there are two columns of entries which throw light on this more sombre side of the mission question. One is headed "Percentage of territory to which missionary activity does not yet extend" and the other, "Percentage of population to which missionary activity does not yet extend." The rulers of each mission were given criteria by Rome for judging in each case when territory or population could be calculated as outside the pale of missionary influence.

A study of these replies is very enlightening. Not all of the mission heads felt prepared to fix a figure but from those who have answered we find that there are great areas in almost every mission territory which are not being reached. We give a little summary below of the more important of the two items, the number of people still beyond mission influence.

Missions in which at least 60% of Population is unreached

India	13	out of 22	missions replying		
Indochina	2	" "	4	"	"
China	17	" "	36	"	"
Japan	8	" "	14	"	"
North Africa	3	" "	5	"	"
West Africa	15	" "	33	"	"
East Africa	3	" "	10	"	"
South Africa	8	" "	18	"	"
Oceania	12	" "	13	"	"
Total	81	" "	155	"	"

These 155 bishops and prefects who replied are less than half the rulers of mission territories in the mission world but it is striking to note that over one half of these, 81 in 155, state that 60% of the people in their areas

are completely beyond the influence of their missionaries. An examination of the tables mission by mission reveals that there are not half a dozen mission bishops in the whole world who state that their territory is occupied sufficiently to permit them to say that all the inhabitants have a least the theoretical opportunity to hear the Gospel. It is clear that several hundreds of millions of the billion non-Christians in the world live outside the theoretical sphere of influence attributed by the Propaganda statistics to each station in the mission field.

Glancing at a map we can quickly convince ourselves of the vastness of that proportion of the earth's surface where Christianity is not making itself known. In Asia, for instance, there are countries such as Tibet, Afghanistan, Nepal, Baluchistan, Kurdistan, with tens of millions of inhabitants, with not a solitary missionary, and within the confines of which a priest of Christ could not hope to preach. There are areas such as the great Arabian of which the Christian is permitted only timidly to touch the fringe. Of Arabia's 5,000,000 inhabitants, a million and a half live in the unknown reaches of the hinterland where strangers of whatever religion or profession seldom are allowed to enter. The Church maintains a station at Aden but must limit all other Arabian activity to occasional missionary calls at Persian Gulf ports.

The great Moslem world of the Mediterranean littoral likewise counts few regions where the missionary can set up his standard. However, it appears almost ludicrous to speak of the areas where the missionary cannot go when we witness the enormous territories quite easily entered where hosts are unapproached. The Propaganda statistics, for instance, give quite complete returns from the Dutch and British East Indies and a study of the bishops' statements shows that of the 50,000,000 inhabitants of this field 43,000,000 souls are entirely outside the present missionary expansion. Likewise almost complete data from Japan establishes that of the 59,000,000 population almost 42,000,000 are beyond the range of the Catholic message. Were figures more complete for China and India the total of untouched millions in these countries would also be impressive.

Important it is to remember that mission activity is essentially dynamic; it is measured in terms of movement. A great portion of mission forces may be required to hold conquests already achieved but the soul of the apostolate is advanced. It is clear from the above that there is a vast field yet awaiting missionary pioneers. (*Fides Cor.*)

O most Blessed Virgin, who declarest in thy Canticle that it is owing to thy humility that God hath done great things in thee, obtain for me the grace to imitate thee, that is, to be obedient; because to obey is to practise humility.

St. Vincent de Paul.

A Shanghai Layman

Hu Li-tsong was born in Canton but came to Shanghai as a very young man and became one of the outstanding pupils of Doctor Paulun, for 30 years now dean of the School of Medicine of the University of Aurora. While at medical school Hu Li-tsong made the acquaintance of the celebrated founder of the Catholic University of Aurora, Ma Siang-pe, was prompted to study Catholic teachings, and entered the Church. Thus began the distinguished career of this able Catholic doctor.

Dr. Hu completed his studies and took up his practice in the pagan city of Shanghai but from the earliest days his faith was a part of his life. He was a doctor, he became known as a clever doctor, but he became famed also as a Catholic doctor, a soul deeply devoted to his profession and devoted as well to his religion. The passing decades have led him from young manhood to maturity and during these years many are the incidents of his service to souls.

One example among thousands was the conversion of the Chief of Police of Shanghai some three years ago. Some short time previous the favorite of this pagan was converted by Dr. Hu on her death-bed. In a gun fight with Shanghai criminals the Chief was mortally wounded by three deadly revolver shots and Dr. Hu called to him found him beyond hope of life. The doctor leaned over the gasping man and said, "My dear friend, do you wish to join in Heaven the one you loved so much and whom last year I baptized before your eyes and who now is happy with God?" "Yes, yes." "Do you wish to become a Christian like her?" "Yes, Yes." "Do you believe in God?" "Yes." Then followed an instruction, the truths a doctor knows how to present to a man whose life has been a battle and lies struck down by a felon's blow. As death cast her shadow the waters of baptism fell and the police chief passed away in the arms of his friend.

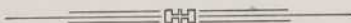
Dr Hu gives his services generously to the inmates of St. Joseph's Hospital, founded by his companion in charity, Loh Pa-hong, and every week goes to the great Jesuit compound at Zikawei where he passes from one to another of the numerous institutions for the destitute, young, old, and maimed who total 2,500. He also gives his services to the large orphanage at Tusewe and to the 500 students at St. Ignatius' College, Shanghai.

When, two years ago, Doctor Hu's wife died, the rumors spread that the zealous gentleman contemplated entering religion. The rumors were false

but reflected his reputation among Shanghai Catholics. The Holy Father has honored the doctor by making him a Knight of St. Gregory.

Doctor Hu is the best known of the Catholic Chinese medical men about Shanghai but he is not the only one. It is important to know that the faculty of Aurora University prepares every year a choice body of young doctors who bring honor on both Church and their professors, most of whom are from Europe.

And that which is said of the medical gentry applies to the Aurora graduates in other professions. Catholic laymen about Shanghai are in numerous cases of a spiritual and intellectual stature that their lives are a precious complement to the apostolate of the missionaries. (Fides.)



China Chaos Continues

Irish and Spanish Missionaries captured



Rome — Chaotic conditions continue in parts of China as telegrams from Shanghai announce the capture of three missioners and possible murder of two more. The three captured, of whom one has been released, are Spanish Jesuits. The two reported killed are Irish priests of the Saint Columban Society.

The capture and possible death of Father Patrick Laffan and Father James Linehan, of Shientaochen in the Vicariate Apostolic of Hanyang, Hupeh Province, was announced April 30. His Lordship Bishop Edward Galvin, Vicar Apostolic of Hanyang, has started negotiations for the release of the priests on the supposition that they are still living. Both belong to the Irish Missionaries of St. Columban, a member of which society, Fr. Timothy Leonard, was killed by bandits July 17, 1929.

Father Avito and Father Hidalgo, Spanish Jesuits, disappeared when brigands burned the Catholic Church of the town of Hochau, near Nanking, capital of China. All efforts to trace the missionaries have failed. A confrere, Father Joseph Herrera, of Taihu, southwest of the city of Anking, Anhwei Province, was captured by the bandits but later released. (Fides).

The Culling of a Chinese Lily

ON Sunday, May 18th, at 9.35 A. M. one of our Chinese catechists, Sister Lucy, nee Agatha Yip, died at the Hotel Dieu Hospital, Montreal, at the age of forty-five.

She was born at Homan, a city facing Canton, in the Apostolic Vicariate of Hong Kong, China. As a very young child falling dangerously ill, her parents, still pagan, decided according to a wide-spread superstitious custom in China, to rid themselves of their baby. Her father, Mr. Yip Ping carried her to the Foundling-Home of Canton then entrusted to the Catechists of Mary Immaculate.⁽¹⁾ Shortly after, thanks to the assiduous care given her, the child regained her health, and her parents who often visited her seeing her so well asked the religious to permit them to take her home. No sooner had the little one reached the house than she began to fade away so rapidly that these poor people fearing to draw misfortune on the family brought her back to the Foundling-Home. The Sisters willingly accepted her and this time as before their care for the child was not without success. Contrary to so many other pagan fathers, Mr. Yip had a tender love for his little daughter. On seeing her a second time so full of life he wished to make a last attempt bringing her back home with him. But this tender flower did not seem to be able to thrive in a pagan atmosphere and not long after, with the mother's consent, the father was obliged to bring his little one back to the religious saying to them: "You alone know how to take care of her, keep her always, I leave her to you."

This fortunate illness gave a new little Christian to the house. She was baptized without delay and placed under the protection of St. Agatha.

Up until the age of six, little Agatha remained lame and sickly. The Sisters, remarking the splendid qualities of this young child thought that God had not gifted this beautiful soul in vain, and that He must have exceptional designs on her. They decided to ask the Blessed Virgin to cure her. Together with the orphans, the virgins and the entire personnel of the house at Canton, they began a novena going in procession every day to the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in the Convent garden. The novena was not finished before the Mother of God, once again manifesting her power, completely cured the little one. A marble slab is still to be seen in the grotto, a souvenir of this favor considered miraculous by all witnesses.

Such great graces were not received with ingratitude. After having been so privileged, this grateful child wished to prove her gratitude to God by giving herself entirely to Him by the vow of chastity in the little Society of Chinese virgins which had just been formed at Canton. Her name, Agatha was then changed to that of Sister Lucy.

1. These good religious were obliged to leave the mission at Canton in 1909 owing to the lack of subjects. They were replaced by the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception of Montreal.

Ever faithful to duty, forgetful of self, most zealous for the salvation of her compatriots she devoted herself to God's service as a soul which has but Him alone in view, that is silently and with earnestness and strength which triumphed over all obstacles. She had the ineffable happiness of catechizing and preparing her father for baptism which he received a year before his death. During the last two years of his life he was given shelter by the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception in a little house adjoining the Convent. He was thus able to profit by the religious instruction given him by his beloved daughter and was free to practise his religion. Three other members of his family and several families of Canton and the surrounding districts are indebted to her for the true faith which they to-day possess and keep a remembrance of respect and gratitude for this so kind and modest apostle.

Employed for a few years as one of the helpers of the Directress of the Orphanage at Canton, she gave the most devoted and valuable assistance. Her supernatural judgment, her great uprightness and tact won her the entire confidence of the Sisters and the esteem and affection of the young orphans to whom she did much good as much by her holy example as by her firm instructions in religious matters.

In 1927 Sister Lucy consented to leave her country to come to Canada to catechize her compatriots in their own language. She arrived at the Mother House of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception in the month of September.

She ever betrayed the same qualities which caused her to be so appreciated in China. In her work among the Chinese of Montreal as catechist and in the little Colony at Three Rivers she clearly manifested that she labored for God alone.

But her career was nearing its end. Sickness stealthily sapped away her strength and the doctors declared that her days were numbered. As a last attempt she underwent a serious operation from which she never recovered. From the first day that she showed symptoms of the sickness which carried her off, we earnestly implored God to spare her to us, but He chose to reward His faithful servant without delay.

In her last Catechism lesson to her little compatriots, the few little lace-makers at the Mother House, she repeated to them in convincing accents inspired by the thought of an eternity perhaps very close at hand, these words of advice which she had so often before spoken to them: "Dear children, love, help and forgive one another. Be good to the Sisters who take care of you and always be extremely grateful to our Mother: she has done so much for us."

At the moment of her departure for the hospital from which she felt that perhaps she would never return, she said to one of our Sisters: "If I die, tell our Mother that in heaven I shall help her much more than I was ever able to do on earth, and you, Sister, I shall not forget you." Before her operation, she expressed the desire of telling our beloved Mother for whom she had a most filial love, how she felt. "Tell her," she said, "that I am happy and do not worry in the least, I place myself in all confidence

in God's hands, He may do what He wills with me. I offer my sufferings for our dear Mother's intentions and I thank her with my whole heart for her kindness to me."

During the night following her operation, our dear sick catechist fell into a coma and never regained consciousness.

We feel greatly obliged to the devoted Sisters of the Hotel Dieu Hospital who spared no pains in order to save her life. The affection they bestowed on their humble patient gives us to believe that they could not have done more for one of their own Sisters. We greatly thank the devoted doctors whose efforts did not meet with the hoped for success but who nevertheless gave her the most delicate care.

Our regretted catechist was brought to the Chinese Hospital, 112 La-gauchetiere St., West, where she was exposed for the satisfaction of the Chinese of Montreal who had the greatest of affection for her. It was in their chapel that her funeral service took place at 9 o'clock on Tuesday, May 20th.

We are also most grateful to Reverend Father Caillé, Pastor of the Montreal Chinese Colony who for this occasion had all possible pomp displayed in the modest Chinese church.

We were no less touched by the sympathy shown by Mrs. Berthiaume and several other ladies who assisted at the funeral Mass and offered prayers and flowers.

This manifest attention for their compatriot will certainly be appreciated by the Chinese of Montreal and will contribute, do we hope, to win them to our holy religion.

Sister Lucy's remains rest in the cemetery at Cote des Neiges in the part set aside for the Catholic Chinese of Montreal.

May this apostolic virgin who accomplished and desired so much good for her pagan compatriots during her short life, in heaven realize for them her sublime desires.

Let us have recourse to Mary; for of all creatures she is the highest, the purest, the most beautiful and the most loving.

Bl. Henri Suzo.

Each of our days is marked with the protection of Mary who is exceedingly anxious to be our Mother, when we desire to be her children.

St. Vincent de Paul.

A Jewel of Modern Times

MANKIND in this century of ease and pleasure seemed ready to sink carried away as it was by the joys and love of the things of this earth. It regarded holiness as something very difficult if not impossible to attain in the midst of rigorous fasting and the harshest of exterior mortification. Thus it began to despair of heaven.

But Divine Providence watching over His creatures suddenly, in this same century, raised up in their midst a most sweet and beautiful type of holiness betraying all the charm which attracts souls. The Little Flower is a child of our times. She was born and brought up in the same conditions as we. Through her God recalled to mankind the true principles of holiness: that it does not consist in difficult exterior works, but rather in the development of the interior life in us, in the little sacrifices of each moment, in self-denial, in the perfection of our ordinary actions and in the realization of our own weakness, in the continual commendment of ourselves into the hands of God, our Father. This abandonment and filial confidence is the real secret of true holiness and it is in this that the doctrine of the spiritual childhood of the Little Flower is resumed. Did she not consider herself as a tiny child incapable of ascending to the heights of perfection but obliged to be carried there or, according to her own expression, to ascend in an elevator.

She has shown us that heaven is not as far away as we think, that it is within everyone's reach and that one may become a great saint without performing anything wonderful... What works, extraordinary in appearance, did the Holy Family, Our Lord, the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph perform at Nazareth?... All difficulties are solved, timid souls are encouraged and attracted by divine grace, no longer does virtue terrify them.

In order to urge us on in the path of holiness, God deigned to grant extraordinary favors to the Little Flower. It is a real shower of roses that she lets fall upon earth. Devotion to her, based on wondrous miracles, has become in a very short time as profound as it is universal.

Our Holy Father Pope Pius XI who canonized this little Saint and who has a special devotion to her, was inspired when he proclaimed her "the Patroness of Missionaries." She is a missionary not only on account of the interest she took in missionaries during her life and her ardent desire of going to convert the pagan world, but after her death she is still a missionary. Never has a preacher softened hardened hearts better; how many souls owe their conversion to her!

I had the privilege of paying a visit to her shrine at Lisieux and witnessed the silent tears that filled the eyes of the numerous pilgrims. What fervor and recollection! How many communions!

The dear little Saint is known, loved and invoked as much in other countries as she is in France. The filial respect which she had for her dear

father was as the beginning of her love for her Heavenly Father. Grace assisting her loving nature filled her with an intense love for God.

GREGORIOS HAGGEAR,
Archbishop of Galilee.

(Translated—Annales de Ste Therese de Lisieux.)

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



her for a special grace granted to a very dear friend. Please pray with me that this little Saint may keep him in the right way of life. S. A., **North Adams, Mass.** — A thousand thanks to the Little Flower. From the heights of heaven she has deigned to grant us a special grace. Anonymous. — I am sending you \$5.00 towards the Little Flower Burse to thank this little Patroness of Missionaries for her protection during a serious illness and to have been spared from an operation. Mrs. W. P., **Quebec.** — Many thanks to St. Teresa for the favors granted me: a position and health for my little girls. In return for these favors I gladly renew my subscription. If our powerful Protectress deigns to spare my dear children from a contagious disease and grants me the success I desire I shall give \$5.00 for the ransom of a Chinese baby. Mrs. D. L., **St. Vincent de Paul.** — You will find enclosed a postal note for \$2.00 in gratitude for favors received through the intercession of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. R. H., **Hills Grove, R. I.** — I am renewing my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" in token of my gratitude towards your so powerful Patroness for favors received. Miss B. R., **Montreal.** — Please accept my offering of \$5.00 for the ransom of a Chinese baby. My most grateful thanks to St. Teresa for she has obtained success for us in a serious operation. Once again I recommend myself to her powerful intercession for I am seriously ill. I beg her to obtain for me a tender devotion to Our Blessed Lady and the virtue of patience. Mrs. J. B. C. — Our heartfelt thanks to the Little Flower for her kindness to us. May she continue to watch over a mother of sixteen children and her dear family. Mrs. A. B., **Quebec.** — I am indebted to the dear Patroness of Missionaries for a great favor granted me. To thank her I am enclosing \$1.00 for your needy missions. R. L., **Valmont.** — To the glory of the dear Scatterer of roses, St. Teresa, kindly publish my grateful thanks for the favor that God has granted me through her intercession. I am sending you an offering for the ransom of a Chinese baby as promised. Mrs. D. P., **Montreal.** — The loving Teresa of Lisieux through her powerful intercession has obtained a great favor for me. In

token of my gratitude I am sending you the sum of \$1.60 for the ransom of dying babies. Mrs. A. L., **Clarence Creek**. — A thousand thanks to the Little Flower for having heard my prayers. I am enclosing \$3.00 in her honor. I entreat her to again come to my assistance by obtaining the conversion of a mother neglectful of her religious duties. A subscriber. — My most grateful thanks to the Little Flower for it was not in vain that I implored her aid. J. L., **Manville, P. Q.** — I am sending you an offering for a novena of lights in honor of the little Sister of missionaries asking you to thank her for me and to beg her to continue to assist us. A lady of **Shawbridge**. — I am enclosing a cheque for \$5.00 in honor of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for your missions in China. This is to fulfil my promise for my prayers have been heard thanks to this little Saint's intercession. A. H. G., **Montreal**. — God has granted me the grace I desired through the intercession of His faithful Servant, the Little Flower. In thanksgiving I am enclosing \$5.00. Anonymous. — My lively gratitude to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for two important graces obtained through her powerful mediation. My offering of \$7.00 for the works of your Missions. Mrs. A. R., **St. Jerome**. — You will find enclosed \$1.00 which I promised in honor of St. Teresa for a favor which she obtained for me. Please publish my gratitude. I shall renew my subscription if this dear Saint deigns to continue to hear my prayers. Mrs. J. B. D., **Roberval**. — My grateful thanks to the Patroness of missionaries for the favor she has granted me. I am fulfilling my promise by sending you the sum of \$5.00 to assist your Sisters who go so far in order to save souls. Mrs. T. G., **Amqui**. — A subscriber, **Montreal**, sends you \$4.00 in favor of the Little Flower Burse in thanksgiving for a favor received. — I am sending the enclosed offering for the missions dedicated to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus to thank her for granting my request and I solicit our powerful little Saint to obtain other important graces for me from the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. J. A. D., **Montreal**. — My grateful thanks to the Little Flower for a favor granted me after promising to renew my subscription and to give an offering of \$0.50 for the Missions. Mrs. A. D. M. — Heartfelt thanks to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a favor obtained after promising to publish. Other spiritual and temporal favors are solicited. Anonymous. — By this offering of \$5.00 I desire to express my gratitude to St. Teresa for several favors granted me. Mrs. S. R., **Montreal**. — A thousand thanks to the Little Flower of Jesus, my sweet Consoler in my trials. Thanks also to St. Anthony for a favor obtained. Mrs. A. N., **Ahuntsic**. — My lively gratitude to St. Teresa for a grace received through her intercession. M. H. H.

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 the Missionary of the donor and takes his place near the poor infidels. The Founders of **Burses** participate in all the spiritual advantages of the Community. The sum of \$1,000.00 given in one or several payments by one or many persons forms a complete **Burse**.

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

In September-October	1929.....	\$ 54.00
In November-December	"	149.25
In January-February	1930.....	310.00
In March-April	"	196.00
In May-June	"	124.25

In loving Memory of our dear Sister Marie de la Purification

OUR dear Sister Marie de la Purification, Missionary of the Immaculate Conception was gently ravished from our midst at noon on Easter Monday, April 21st.

Holy Mother Church in the Gospel of the day recalled to us the words uttered by the disciples of Emmaus to Our Divine Saviour: "Stay with us..." We were tempted to extend the same invitation to our dear Sister on seeing her about to leave us: "Stay with us a little longer, edify us by the example of your so beautiful and humble virtues." But a voice far more powerful, that of her heavenly Spouse softly whispered to her: "Come My child, abide forever with Me!..." And her life slowly ebbed away to the deep regret of her religious family.

Our dear Sister Marie de la Purification (née Berthe Girard) was only in her 32nd year. At the age of four she had the misfortune of losing her dear mother and it was then with her grandfather that she made her home until the age of ten when she joined the other members of her family living in Central Falls. A few years later she came to our boarding-school at the Mother House to continue her studies for two years more and then asked for admission to the Novitiate. She was then eighteen years of age. Owing to her kind and peaceful character, her good-naturedness, her simple piety, her perfect obedience and remarkable charity, she was readily accepted. She was soon employed at the sacristy and the book-bindery where she remained during the greater part of her religious life and we may add that it was always with the greatest care that she accomplished her tasks. As she was not very strong we strove to lighten her labor, but she never took a minute's rest before she had left everything in perfect order. What struck us the most was the respect with which she responded to the least desires of her Superiors and with which she followed the established customs. Forgetful of self, neither fatigue, nor the extra work at the sacristy when she made preparations for the great liturgical feasts caused her to shrink from her duty or fail to do the least thing in the way that she had been told to do it.

She cherished the hidden life, loved silence and expressed the happiness of her vocation by the most lively gratitude. Yes, first of all her gratitude towards God and the Immaculate Virgin who had called her to the religious and apostolical life, and her gratitude towards our Mother who had accepted her as one of her children. Every time that our Mother went to visit her she never ceased to repeat her joy and gratitude and was quite grieved that she was not able to tell all that she felt: "In heaven," did she say, "I shall make up for lost time. I shall thank you by doing much for our dear Community."

During Holy Week and on Easter Sunday she felt very poorly and should have liked to have gone as quickly as possible to take her rest, but ever forgetful of self she said to our Sisters: "I would not wish to die during Holy Week for you have already too much to do, nor on Easter Sunday because it would no longer be a feast for you..." God hearkened to her charitable request by taking her from our midst on Easter Monday. We feel that the Divine Harvester must have smiled in inclining towards this lily whose purity appeared so dazzling to us. How often did we notice her excessive fear for all that might disfigure the purity of her soul. With childlike candor and artless simplicity she confided herself entirely to her Superiors. She loved the Blessed Virgin with a confident and filial love and it was hand in hand with this Blessed Mother that she went to Jesus. Strengthened by her she did not fear death in the least. As her lungs were affected and for some years past she had frequent hemorrhages which put her life in danger, she herself asked in these painful hours if she were sick enough to be anointed. She then rejoiced to have been given the privilege of receiving Extreme Unction. Last spring as she was very low and as she was so joyous after being anointed we wondered if she realized how close she was to death. We warned her in a gentle way — that she might not lose the merit of making the sacrifice of her life — that at any time God might come for her as a thief in the night... "Oh!" she gaily replied, "I know it, I realize that from one minute to the other I may take a weak spell and die, but God may come for me when He wishes. I do not feel that I have anything on my conscience, I feel ready to die... But if He wishes me to live a little longer I shall be just as glad to do His Holy Will."

She practised this compliance with the Divine Will in a most striking manner especially during the last few years of her life. She found everything agreeable provided that it was God's Holy Will manifested by that of her Superiors. An example: There was a time that she would have dreaded going to Nominating to take a rest, but last June as she grew worse our good Mother thought that the pure air of the Laurentians would do our dear sick Sister more good than that of Pont Viau where she had been since 1924. But fearing to make her make too great a sacrifice, our Mother wished us to find out what she preferred. "I do not desire one place more than another," she told us, "I wish to be where God will place me by my Superiors, but if they desire to send me to Nominating, I shall gladly go for I may perhaps recover my health so as to be able to work for my dear Community which does so much for me. But I should be very unhappy if my Superiors send me to Nominating to satisfy me." We reassured her that such was not the case and she left full of hope... Alas! she was never to return. After spending ten months and a half at our "Bethany" in the mountains, she took her flight towards the "Bethany" beyond the skies.

Her mortal remains lie in our cemetery at Nominating, a few steps only from the Convent of our dear Sisters. It is a great consolation for the latter to feel that she is still so near them and to be able to go often to pray at her grave and to lay flowers thereon.

Reverend Father Bazin, Pastor at Nomining gave the most thoughtful attention to our departed Sister by assisting her in her last moments and by accompanying her to the grave. From above she will pay him her debt of gratitude.

She will also remember our dear neighbors, the Reverend Sisters of the Holy Cross who fortified her by their religious and sisterly encouragement and who, with their pupils, offered so many prayers before her mortal remains and who also accompanied her to the grave.

We do not doubt that from her heavenly home she will shower a little of the happiness which she now enjoys forever, upon those who thus assisted her.



The Devotion of the First Saturday

His Holiness Pope Pius X has granted a Plenary Indulgence to be gained the first Saturday of each month.

"In order to increase the devotion of the faithful towards the most glorious and Immaculate Mother of God, and to favour the pious desire for atonement which inspires the faithful to offer some reparation for the impious blasphemies which criminal men profer against the most august Name and the high prerogatives of the Blessed Virgin, His Holiness grants a Plenary Indulgence applicable to the souls in purgatory to all who, having gone to Confession and received Holy Communion, will, the first Saturday of each month, in a spirit of reparation make particular exercises of devotion in honor of the Immaculate Virgin and who will pray for the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff."

Acta Apostolicæ Sedis, September 30, 1912

There are henceforth two days for communion, particularly recommended and specially endowed with spiritual favors: the first Friday and Saturday of each month. These two days generally follow each other. The intention of the first Saturday will be to repair the outrages committed against Our Lady.

Imprimatur: † PAUL, Arch. of Montreal
May 1, 1918

To comply, although in a modest measure, with the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff, on the first Saturday of every month, from 8 A. M. to 6 P. M. a special Guard of Honor is made before the altar of the Blessed Virgin, in the chapel of the Mother House of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, 314 St. Catherine Road, Outremont, Montreal.

Persons desirous of taking part in this chorus of love, gratitude, reparation and supplication will be most welcome. The only condition necessary is to choose an hour at one's convenience and to come and spend it at the feet of the Immaculate Virgin, whose hands, filled with graces, are ever ready to shower favors upon her devoted servants.

If, at times, it be impossible to perform this pious practice one may be replaced by another.

Echoes from our Missions

HONG KONG, CHINA

Letter from a Chinese Catechist to the Superior General of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

DEAR "MA ME",

I have been in the train for four days and four nights. Sister Superior and a lady came to meet me. On arriving I would have liked to have taken the train back to Montreal but Sister St. Marc told me that I could not do so. I spent a day and two nights at the Oriental Hospital; I saw many Chinese. We set sail at eleven o'clock. A bishop, two priests and a Dominican Father were on the same boat. The first Sunday I felt too sick and dizzy to assist at Mass. I did not grow lonesome for I often spoke to the Sisters and the Chinese women. I was sick until we reached Nagasaki. Everybody got off, I was so sick that I could not walk. Here a Chinese family got on the boat. The two children of this family had just been baptized. I was glad to see some Chinese Catholics. Everybody on the boat was kind to me. After the departure of the Sisters for Koriyama, I found the time long. One lady was very kind to me. She came to my cabin to see me and brought me medicine. I got off at different ports with this lady, we were seven in all. It is very nice in Japan. I changed cabins so as to be with this lady for many foreigners boarded the ship and I did not want to have a Japanese in my cabin.

I was very glad when the boat reached Hong Kong. Towards eleven o'clock Sister Superior and Sister St. George took me to the hospital at Kowloon for treatment. I remained there for seven days and then went to the Convent where I am yet. On Wednesday I went to the Civil Hospital with Sister St. George. I feel better since taking this new treatment. The next day I was very tired but afterwards it did me much good.

I desire very much to return to you, dear Mother, it is very nice here, but nothing is as nice as my former "home". I beg you to pray for me, Mother, that God may cure me as quickly as possible. Every day when I receive Holy Communion I pray for you, dear Mother, and I think very, very often of you.

On Easter Sunday eleven Chinese were baptized at Holy Rosary Church. In the morning, a Protestant instructed by Sister St. Patrick was also baptized. In the afternoon nine persons came to the Convent: a little boy for his First Communion, a girl to be confirmed and seven to prepare for Holy Baptism. Beautiful work is performed here, I am overjoyed in doing this work for it is so hard to make converts in Canada. A pagan

* woman at the convent now lets us speak to her of religion. Sister Marie des Victoires has her visit the chapel.

Thank you a thousand times, dear Mother, for ail that you have done for me.

May God bless you!

Tin chu po yao!

Your little Chinese girl,

MALEA ANAP

P. S. Twice daily Sister St. Etienne puts drops in my eyes and I also have a tonic to take. I am much better.

* * *

SHEK LUNG LAZARETTO

*Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Hospitallers at the
Shek Lung Lazaretto*

Monday, January 13, 1930

Obliged to go to Hong Kong on business, we arrive at the Convent of our Sisters at half-past one. What a welcome we are given! How good it is to thus find a little corner of home in a foreign land... Sister Superior was awaiting us at the door and had a nice hot dinner prepared which we greatly relished. We spoke most fraternally together all afternoon and again in the evening at recreation.

Our dear Sister St. Raphael had remained as guardian at the lazaretto, but as a reward God also gave her a good recreation by sending her a most interesting letter from our Sisters of Manila and which shows that despite distance, we remain closely united.

Wednesday, January 15

We return from Hong Kong quite satisfied but also very tired for we had to do a great deal of walking in order to go all the messages given us by our dear lepers. Every time we go to the city, they seize the opportunity of ordering what they need: a cup, a dress, a pair of stockings, etc. etc., and to satisfy everyone we must sometimes walk for a long time, but on seeing how pleased they are when we distribute the different articles to them we very soon forget our fatigue. Moreover, we return loaded with several little presents which our dear Sister Superior of Hong Kong (Sister St. Paul) begged for our poor disinherited patients of the lazaretto, and which we shall be glad to give them on the Chinese New Years. Here is a list of them: oranges, apples, cakes, candies. For the children: 8 dolls, 12 toy watches, 3 cigarette-holders, 8 tops, 6 different kinds of games, 3 canoes, 2 small guns, 12 hairpins, 3 bracelets, 1 flute, 4 little rabbits, 6 watch chains,

15 penknives, 11 boxes of sky-rockets, 22 whistles. How pleased we are and how we thank Sister Superior. She was also kind enough to send women to carry these packages as far as the station.

To-day one of our little Christian boys leaves us for a better land. He had suffered greatly.

During the year 1929, we registered 139 deaths among our lepers, an average of 20 per cent.

Friday, January 17

Another of our patients after being baptized takes his flight to heaven. While dressing wounds this morning a poor leper said to me: "Sister, please lend me forty cents." "Why forty cents?" I asked. He replied, "Because when one of my companions was away for two days I ate all his food and now he is asking me for it, and as I cannot give it back to him, he is taking mine and I shall have nothing to eat for two days." Poor miserable creature! how I would like to help him, but this would not be a way of correcting him and moreover we have learned that he sold this food in order to have money for gambling, terrible passion so difficult to have the Chinese give up. May Our Blessed Mother transform their hearts.

Saturday, January 18

It is very cold to-day. One of our leprous women has died. She was formerly a Protestant, but embraced the Catholic faith a few years ago and since then has always desired to die. Each time she saw one of her unfortunate companions leave her, she would say "God came to get her, and He still leaves me here... I am very anxious for my turn to come!"

Sunday, January 19

The young leper who rows our boat has just been admitted to the infirmary. He is very sick. The dreaded disease is rapidly performing its destructive work despite all endeavors to check it. Up until the present time he has only had a slight attack but the disease has progressed so rapidly that it has settled on his lungs and he will leave us before long. He is not anxious to die, but as he is a good Christian, he is resigned to the Divine Will and he is full of hope for he knows that he is going to God. One of the Sister infirmarians asked him if he was glad. He immediately answered: "Yes, Sister, I am very happy to die, but I suffer greatly." Sister continued: "When you suffer thus ask the Blessed Virgin to help you so as not to lose any of your merit." "Yes, Sister, thank you... I shall think of you when I am with God," he rejoined.

Wednesday, January 22

Our poor lepers are overjoyed: they will have the great privilege of making the mission. All prepare themselves for it by fervent prayer and hasten to finish their work so as to be free during this blessed time.

Thursday, January 23

This evening everyone attends the mission. We believe ourselves to be in the midst of a fervent novitiate. After the singing of the *Veni Creator* and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the preacher, Reverend Father Tang, S. J., speaks to them of the importance of the mission.

Friday, January 24

The greatest spirit of prayer and recollection continues to reign over our island. How happy you would be, dear Mother, to see how fervent our lepers are, they make us cry for joy. Moreover, Father is very kind and knows how to convince his listeners. Each sermon lasts for an hour and a half; nobody moves and all listen with the most touching fervor. There is also the Way of the Cross and the recitation of the Rosary in common, it is a continual prayer.

Besides, between his four sermons the Reverend Retreat-master invites the pagans to come to the chapel to talk over religion. He converses with them for an hour relating to them the life of Our Lord in detail. These poor pagans are very happy and are proud to say that they also are making the mission.

Sunday, January 26

It is the last day of the mission; three of our little leper children make their First Holy Communion. They are really well prepared and look like three little angels. Before these little ones receive Our Lord for the first time Father addresses them a few words. We are deeply touched for all this recalls to us such sweet memories... After Mass, the entire personnel go to thank the priest who continues to relate the most edifying incidents to them. He tells them that he has already spent a month in prison because he taught religion. He was shut up in a damp cellar where he contracted rheumatism which still causes him much suffering. "Pray for me," he adds, "that I may one day be a martyr, this is my desire."

At three o'clock Reverend Father leaves for Canton where he will spend a few days before returning to Siohing.

We also made our jubilee during the mission; thus everybody has been converted. We feel that there is peace and happiness throughout the entire island. This evening we sing a fervent Magnificat to thank God for the graces He has deigned to bestow upon us.

Monday, January 27

We prepare for the Chinese New Years. For each of our six hundred and fifty patients, young and old, we make a little bag in which we put three or four candies some of which have come from our dear Mother and some from Sister St. Paul, Superior of Hong Kong. We know that this little present will please all our patients for they are so fond of sweet things and it is so seldom that we have any to give them.

A little boy who had been stolen from one of the boats, some time ago, comes back to us to-day. The robbers were caught and compelled to give up the child. One of our soldiers was smoking opium with these robbers when the latter were caught and was arrested with them. His homeless wife comes to stay at the lazaretto while waiting for her husband to be set free. Poor unfortunate woman! she is much to be pitied! If she only knew God. Just lately our little girls showed her how to make the Sign of the Cross and taught her the Hail Mary. She said to them: "Yes your religion is beautiful and you seem to be happy, but it is very difficult for me to embrace Catholicity for I am obliged to live among Protestants."



CHINESE OF THE SHEK LUNG LAZARETTO AND SISTER S^t FRANÇOIS D'ASSISE (1) MISSIONARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, HOSPITALIER AT THE LAZARETTO SINCE 1913

Wednesday, January 29

Most of our leprous women are busy making cakes for New Years. Some they make with rice flour and brown sugar which is mixed together in the evening and steamed the next day. Others follow this recipe: *laupacs* (large white turnips) scraped, dried pork, shallots, earth-nuts mixed with flour and steamed. It is appetizing and very nice to see. But what gives us the greatest joy is to see how happy our dear leprous women are. The other day one of them said to me: "Sister, I am always as happy as on the day that I was baptized... I think it must be always like that in heaven..."

Thursday, January 30

Finally New Years has dawned for the Chinese! Our patients have a Thanksgiving Mass said to return God thanks for the favor granted them during the past year and to draw blessings upon everyone who does them good. There is General Communion. Each has donned his or her best clothes, the most of them wear the costume which we have just purchased for them with the money which our dear Mother sent us for this purpose.

After breakfast, towards half past nine, Father Director comes to the women's dwelling to raffle different articles: towels, stockings, soap, sugar, etc. Each receives something. Besides this we distribute to them the presents that Sister St. Paul gave us. Everyone is overjoyed.

(1) Clara Hébert Montreal

At three o'clock Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament takes place and this evening a real good meal paid by our good Mother is served to the patients. Each is given four ounces of pork. I can assure you that for them it is not an ordinary feast. As the weather is still cold, we placed on the tables (upon which there are no cloths, as we have none) little Chinese stoves in order to keep the "*soung*" hot. "Sister," our leprous women said to us while eating, 'do not forget to thank "*Tai ma Me*" (Mother) for all that she does for us.' This morning we asked God to spare her for many years to come, and to give her all that she desires. Thank her for sending Sisters to take care of us and for giving us always a good meal on feast days; thank her also for the nice dresses she had you buy for us. If one day we could only see "*Tai ma Me*" we should have nothing more to ask for. Oh! how happy we should be! Tell her that when she is able to send us something else, to send us money to buy screens. It was she who gave us the ones we have, but they are all torn now..." Dear Mother the gift that they desire would cost at least three hundred dollars, but it is very necessary... May the Blessed Virgin inspire generous benefactors with the thought of assisting these poor lepers!...

After supper we distribute our little bags of candy which caused fresh happiness to our interesting family. Our big children found that the candies from Canada tasted nicer than Chinese candy. "It is really New Years Day," they said while relishing it. The little ones only licked their candies so as to make them last longer. The next day they had still some left. I am not exaggerating when I tell you that the men and the women were as happy as the little children.

Monday, February 3

Reverend Father Director comes to examine those who are preparing to be baptized. All are afraid of not being accepted. This reminds us of the fear we had at our canonical examination before being admitted to take the Holy Habit or to make Profession... Among the men twenty-eight out of thirty-one were accepted and thirty-four out of thirty-seven among the women. So before long sixty-two catechumens will receive Holy Baptism.

Tuesday, February 4

We are heart-broken this evening for we have just learned of the cruel punishment inflicted upon those who stole a little boy from one of the boats. A woman helped in the robbery but as she is over sixty years of age, she was not condemned to death, according to the law, but will be imprisoned for three years. The two other criminals, one of whom is her son, were condemned to kneel on spikes while tyrants struck them until their bones were broken. They pierced their heads, poured in oil which they set on fire. They also tore the flesh from their arms and legs. Is the punishment in proportion to the crime?... If these poor unfortunates had only known God... but no, they have no consolation. We hope that Our Lord in His mercy had pity on them as formerly on the good thief.

Friday, February 7

At half-past three this afternoon, our catechumens commence their retreat. We offer all our little sacrifices and prayers to Our Blessed Lord for their perseverance. All seem to be well disposed and understand what they are doing.

Saturday, February 8

Our catechumens are still silent and recollected. It is really a great consolation for us to see how fervent they are. The men offered to scrub the chapel floor, but as it is too damp to-day, they ask to be given other work to do. They feel the need of self-sacrifice as a preparation for Holy Baptism. We had them clean up the chapel grounds. With the greatest ardor they set to work in silence. To see their pious enthusiasm was enough to make us cry for joy... How we thank God!

Sunday, February 9

We learn that Bishop Deswasieres of the Foreign Missions of Paris, and former director of our lazaretto is returning to China. He has been superior of their house in Hong Kong. This good news greatly rejoices us, as well as our patients.

Monday February 10

Our good oarsman has just died. He was one of those preparing for Solemn Baptism. He was baptized privately a week ago and was very fervent. One day that he was working very hard Sister noticed that he seemed to be suffering and said to him: "You look sick, go and take a rest." "Oh, no," he said, "I must do my share like the others to be better prepared for Baptism." He was in an advanced stage of leprosy. It greatly pains us to lose our poor unfortunates... Happily they are going to a blessed home where no suffering is known.

This is the long-awaited day. Our sixty-one catechumens are made children of God and of the Church and receive Holy Communion for the first time.

Everybody is up before four o'clock and before five o'clock strikes several are in the chapel saying their beads. The first Mass is said at six o'clock in the women's chapel. There is General Communion. The ceremonies of Baptism and of First Holy Communion take place at seven o'clock in the men's chapel. The altar is adorned with palms, white flowers and little blue lamps, the whole resembling a little the decoration at home on Profession days. The ceremonies which take place to-day on our poor leper island are not less impressive than that which takes place on this same day at the Novitiate of Pont Viau when several of our sisters consecrate themselves to God and others don the holy livery of the Immaculate Virgin. After Solemn High Mass Reverend Father Pierrat of Tseng Shing and Reverend Father Tsan, Retreat-master, come to visit the lepers. All our

big children seem to be very happy and your daughters, dear Mother, are just as happy as they... Yes we are overjoyed.

In the evening after Benediction our patients sing "I believe in God" in Chinese. Peace and happiness beam on all faces. A meal a little better than usual is served.

Wednesday, February 12

Fresh happiness for our dear neophytes. They approach the Holy Table for the second time.

This evening in the men's dwelling a modest banquet is served to which all the godfathers of the newly-baptized patients are invited. In speaking of godfathers it will perhaps interest you to learn how the Chinese ask for their sponsor. The catechumen writes on a piece of red paper: I, ask you Mr. X. if you wish to be my godfather and kneeling down he presents this paper. If the one to whom the request is made accepts to stand for the catechumen, he places his hand on the paper. It is really touching to see the way they act in such circumstances. All the men and women who have the same godfather feel that they belong to the same family.

The meal over, we distribute pictures, medals and crucifixes to them. It is a real joy for all our patients to receive these objects, especially the crucifixes. Fortunately, dear Mother, that you sent us some. A short time ago we were able to give one to each of our newly-baptized lepers.

Tuesday, February 18

One of our Christians stole a basketful of "laupacs" (large white turnips) to make cakes which he sold. A guard came to notify us of the theft: "Sister," he said quite shocked, "I gave him a good scolding... a man who has been a Christian for two years! How mean... and what bad example for the pagans!..."

To-day, one of our little Christian boys takes his flight to heaven.

Tuesday, February 25

One of our infirmarians has been at the lazaretto for several years but has never asked to be baptized. God was obliged to strike hard to arouse her from her drowsiness. She fell dangerously ill and was very much afraid of dying without being baptized. She made many promises. "Certainly, certainly," she said to the Blessed Virgin, "if I get better I shall not be lazy and shall study my Catechism and go to the chapel." She begged her companions to pray for her adding: "Tell Sister that I believe all the truths that she teaches us and ask her to come and baptize me for I am going to die... I have been very lazy, forgive me, I now want to be a Christian..." We hastened to her bedside and as she was very low we baptized her.

Wednesday, February 26

We have the honor of having a doctor from the Pasteur Institute in France visit us. He is sent out to visit all the lazarettos of the entire world. The French Consul and four doctors of Canton, two from the Hospital and two from the Health Department accompany him. These men did not find our lazaretto a *modern* one, but remarked that everyone appeared to be very happy.

Wednesday, March 5

First day of Lent: all our Christians have received the blessed ashes. During this holy season we notice that everyone in our big family is more fervent. With the greatest enthusiasm they learn their Catechism, their prayers and the Passion of Our Lord. Several even recite the Office of the Blessed Virgin. It is really beautiful and consoling.

To-day an oarsman shows us a proof of his kindness. A few days ago two of our Sisters went to Hong Kong and our watchdog followed them and got lost. We were very sorry when we saw that he did not come back, for he protected us well, surrounded as we are by highway robbers. But to-day a leper, noticing it straying far from here and recognizing it to be ours brings it back to us. We wish to reward this poor man for his charity but he refuses to accept our little gift. "No, no," he says, "that is not necessary, you are always so kind and you give us such good care..." When we consider that these poor people think it such a feast when they have a dog to eat we realize that our good leper must have made a big sacrifice to bring ours back safe and sound. How thankful we are to him!

Thursday, March 6

One of our leprous women receives a visit from her brother whom she had not seen since her arrival at the lazaretto ten years ago. He was only nine years old when she left home. We cannot describe to you the happiness of our dear patient. Oh! if it were only in our power to occasionally procure such legitimate happiness for these poor unfortunates!... But now as in former times, a leper is an object of horror to human beings even for the other members of the family. We realize that God has given us a special grace in filling our hearts with such compassionate love for these poor creatures whom we are charged to conduct to heaven while caring for their miserable bodies. We thank Him with our whole hearts and souls for we find that we have a most beautiful task to accomplish...

Saturday, March 8

"The buttons on my baptismal suit are not clean enough," a newly-baptized leper said to us this morning, "will you have them changed for this is the suit that I shall wear to present myself before the king..." Quite surprised we asked him what he meant. "Yes, indeed," he immediately answered, "when I die you will dress me in this suit, and is not God our King?"

Monday, March 10

A young Christian leprous girl from Siving comes to the lazaretto. She knows one of the patients and tells him that his big brother has also contracted leprosy. It is a real thunderbolt for this poor young man. "What will become of Mamma?... " he said with a sigh. The poor woman is a widow. Three of her children, two boys and a girl have died just lately and her two remaining sons are lepers...

Sunday, March 15

To-day one of our leprous women relates a most heart-rending incident to us. "When I was at Canton," she said, "waiting to be brought to the lazaretto, a leper, thirty years of age who was with us watched by guards, managed to escape twice, but he was soon caught and the second time chained and shut up in a dungeon where he was condemned to starve to death. I went often to see him for I really pitied him. Through a very tiny hole I managed to give him something to quench his thirst or to appease his hunger a little. One day he said to me: 'Wet my towel and if you have no clean water, soak it in a ditch for I am dying of thirst... Have pity on me!...' But the guards finally perceiving that we were trying to soothe his horrible sufferings plugged this little hole and severely punished everyone who approached the dungeon. When the poor man had starved to death he was dragged out of his prison by a chain... And just to think," our leprous woman added, "that this poor man suffered so much without ever knowing God!..." We also passed this same reflection on hearing the sad story. Oh! how we must pray for pagan China!...

Tuesday, March 18

On the eve of his great feast St. Joseph sends us thirty-one new patients, twenty-six men and five women. In this group there are four prisoners who have been punished and chained because they ill-treated the son of the manager of the Canton lazaretto (the place where the lepers are gathered together before being sent to us). It seems that this manager gave the lepers nothing else but a little soup when he could have given them all the food they needed. So four of them rebelled and took vengeance on his son, who, it is said, died of the affects of the blows he received. One of these prisoners arrived in a dying condition; we had time to baptize him. We hope that the other three will be set free before long. Once again we realize that life is full of misery when God is not known.

Wednesday, March 19

Feast of St. Joseph. What numberless graces we asked for to-day! The entire day was one of supplication and thanksgiving. One hundred and sixty-nine women and sixty-nine men received Holy Communion. Solemn Benediction was given in the women's chapel, the men also assisting.

Friday, March 21

One of the three newly-arrived prisoners receives a visit from his mother. The poor woman is grief-stricken. It is heart-breaking to hear her say to her son between her sobs: "Why did you share in the crime?... Was is not enough for you to be a leper without being imprisoned for the rest of your days?..." He sadly replies: "We hoped to be able to make our escape but the police caught us..." Poor mother and poor son!...

* * *

TSENG SHING, KWANG TUNG

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Tseng Shing

Sunday, December 1, 1929

A young pagan has just invited us to go to the neighboring village to care for her sister who has been sick for the last four months. Sister Claire de Jesus and a companion hasten to accept the invitation. After walking for three quarters of an hour they reach a little village containing about thirty families and which is surrounded by a wall. On entering the house they see a young woman, twenty-four years of age, with a most frank and sympathetic countenance, lying on some straw beside the fireplace. Her husband and two young children, who look very intelligent, are with her. At the first glance we consider her case incurable, as she is in an advanced stage of consumption. We would like to give the poor man a little hope. We ask him different questions about his wife but we cannot conceal the truth from him. We are deeply touched and try our best to console the weeping family by speaking a few words to them about God.

Friday, December 13

For a month past we have been attending to an aged man infected from head to foot. To-day, all the abscesses are localized and it is now a case of performing an operation. The idea came to our Sister infirmarian to recommend its success to our regretted Sister St. Lucy whose patronal feast we to-day celebrate. Did she not promise to help all our missions after her death? Relying upon her assistance our improvised surgeon lanced the abscess... Her confidence was not in vain: the operation proved most successful. How grateful are we to our kind little Sister and protectress for the help she gave us.

Saturday, December 21

A whole regiment of old women, deaf, blind, leprous, etc., leaning on their canes, come to the dispensary lead by a guide. They are seeking *Ka kou neung* (Sister Claire de Jesus) in order to be cured by her. One of them is very anxious to have ears with which she may hear better, another

would like to recover the sight of her young days, another desires to be rid of her numerous sores, etc. We dress their wounds and care for them as best we can adding a few encouraging and consoling words. Overjoyed, our poor old women take up their canes and start on their way back home.

Tuesday, December 24

The Christians from the different districts of which Reverend Father Pierrat is pastor come to the mission to assist at Midnight Mass. The men stay with the priest and the women come to the convent. Childlike happiness beams on all faces: they feel at home.

Everyone seems to have some ailment. Despite the extra work occasioned by the Christmas festival, we must needs put everything else aside to attend to these poor people. Long before Mass-time our valiant Christians are in their places awaiting the solemn hour. With its gold-trimmed altar-cloth, its scarlet sanctuary carpet, not very costly, it is true, (two blankets sewn together) and its decoration of different colored roses, our modest church has taken on a festal appearance which greatly rejoices us. In one corner is the Crib surrounded by rocks made of paper of various tints. The Divine Infant sleeps peacefully therein despite the loud praying of the dear flock. We assist at two Masses. After the second one, our little orphans sing: "Angels we have heard on High" which we taught them in their own language. On hearing them, the old men join their trembling voices to those of the children which produces a harsh sound which is nevertheless enchanting. The Infant Jesus must have smiled to see them so enthusiastic.

The Masses over, a bowl of soup is served each one and then they take a little rest in our classrooms on a few boards placed on trestles. We also try to take a little sleep in order to be able to undertake the work of the day, which will be a very busy one.

Wednesday, December 25

How edifying it is to see with what haste our Christians assemble in the church before daybreak. The recollection which accompanies the Holy Sacrifice and the piety of the congregation fill us with such consolation that we feel that no one on earth can be happier than we.

As it will take many of our Christians several hours to reach home on foot and as they prepare to leave early in the afternoon, we have Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at one o'clock, after which the medical consultations recommence.

When all have left we feel how strong are our ties of affection for these poor unfortunates. Oh! how good God is to make our work easier by filling our hearts with so much sympathy for these suffering and disinherited people.

It is three o'clock and we have not yet had dinner. One of the employees at the mandarin's office, a Christian, invites us to take this meal at his home. It is impossible to refuse, he is waiting to conduct us thither.

Hardly have we entered the house when we are requested to be seated at a table. Immediately we are offered the traditional cup of tea, and then a servant brings in a basket of oranges which she empties on the table. The Chinese virgin who accompanies us separates them in four and presents them to us. We are served different kinds of Chinese dainties. What is left over: eggs, oranges and cakes, is put in a basket and carried to the Convent by a servant who comes back with us.

This is how we spent our first Christmas in the mission of Tseng Shing.

Tuesday, December 30

Babies received and baptized at the Foundling-Home during the month: 39. Wounds dressed at the Dispensary: 500.

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MANCHURIA, CHINA

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Liao Yuan Sien

Friday, February 14, 1930

Sister Ste. Anne baptizes two children giving to each the name of "Valentine" in the honor of the saint of the day.

Saturday, February 15

On our way home from the country we pass by a pagan cemetery. A strange scene attracts our attention. A crowd of people have gathered around a corpse and are making preparations to burn the mortal remains. She was a victim of tuberculosis and that is why the relatives burn the body so that no other member of the family may contract the disease. But no precautions are taken to disinfect the house; such is the way that the Chinese understand and practise hygiene.

Thursday, February 20

Martha and Elizabeth, 2 and 3 years of age, go to the chapel to make a visit to the Infant Jesus. To each Sister they meet they say: "Good-morning, Sister". When they have reached the altar they bow profoundly and say: "Good-morning, Jeso!"

At the dawn of the new year, we asked the Little Sister of Missionaries to let fall on our humble dispensary, a shower of roses by giving us 1500 baptisms during its course. A picture of the Little Flower holds a place of honor in our dispensary. Our celestial protectress wishes to manifest her powerful intercession with the Blessed Virgin and her Divine Son. We count seven baptisms to-night, two of whom are adults.

Saturday, February 22

A woman comes to the dispensary for treatment but absolutely refuses to accept the medicine offered her. Sister tries to persuade her, but the patient protests assuring her that she will take nothing, not even a drop of water before three o'clock. She is a Mohammedan. Would that she offered to the true God the sacrifices that she imposes upon herself in her unbelief!

Another woman suffering from a turbercular festula said to Sister yesterday while the latter was dressing her wounds: "If I am not cured I shall take something to end my life." One of her brothers who was suffering from the same disease poisoned himself by taking a big dose of opium.

Thursday, February 27

We learn this morning that Reverend Father Superior has been named Prefect Apostolic of Sze Ping Kai. This good news greatly rejoices the hearts of all the Canadian missionaries of Manchuria.

Number of dressings and different treatments during the month: 1179. Baptisms, 37. Visits to the homes: 39.

Saturday, March 1

At the opening of the beautiful month dedicated to St. Joseph, Sister Superior opens heaven for another soul. Asked to go to a family where a woman was dying from tuberculosis, she had the happiness of baptizing her before her departure for eternity.



SISTER JULIENNE DU ST. SACREMENT (1) MISSIONARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND A CHINESE VIRGIN ON THEIR WAY TO VISIT A PATIENT IN THE COUNTRY.

1. Beatrice Lareau Chambly Bassin.

Before receiving the Sacrament of Baptism, the catechumens must learn or at least understand, what the Chinese call, "the four books." Father Charest, visiting the classes yesterday, asked Elizabeth, a little girl three years old who has been baptized, how many books she knew. "I know three," she quickly answered, and then cunningly hid her face in her hands.

Sunday, March 9

During the evening recreation we go with the Chinese virgins to visit the numerous catechumens who arrived lately. Several have come from a distance of one hundred lis. They brought with them the children who were too young to leave at home.

Tuesday, March 11

More than one hundred patients were admitted to the dispensary to-day, among whom we counted seven baptisms. A young man, 19 years of age, suffering from tuberculosis, and whom we have been caring for for some time past asks to be baptized. He now peacefully awaits the day when he will be given to enjoy the beatific vision.

Yesterday evening when I went to bring some medicine to an old catechumen, 60 years of age, I found her with a catechism in her hand. Sitting beside her another pagan who has been taking lessons for some time past, was helping her to say her prayers word by word.

Saturday, March 15

Early this morning the good Master came for our tubercular patient. Yesterday, feeling that his end was approaching, he sent for the nursing Sister who went to see him immediately, accompanied by a Chinese virgin. She exhorted him to sanctify his last moments by offering to God with his whole heart, the sacrifice of his life. The expression on the poor man's face seemed to say: "You helped me in this life, I shall not forget you in the next." We were not present when he passed away but we have learned a few details from his brother. Towards four o'clock in the morning he said to him: "I am not able to pray any more, make the "keto" to God for me". (The "keto" consists of three deep bows down to the ground in the presence of someone. It is the greatest mark of respect that a Chinese can honor a person with). His brother did immediately what he was told, only, according to Chinese custom. "No, not that way," said the dying man, "join your hands as the Christians do." "After I am dead," he said, "make a "keto" to the Sisters, and tell them that I shall not forget the Catholic Mission when I am in Heaven."

His mortal remains now lie in the Mission cemetery. We shall often go with our orphans to pray at his grave asking him with confidence to be faithful to his promise and obtain numerous graces for us.

Sunday, March 16

Two little children in the same family were burned yesterday. The youngest one died immediately, the other, this morning after having been baptized.

Wednesday, March 19

High Mass is sung in honor of St. Joseph. Our great protector deigns to grant us the favors we ask. This evening we ascertain that we have had seven baptisms during the day.

A young woman, twenty-three years of age is baptized at the dispensary. For some time past she has been suffering from an abscess. This morning Sister St. Anne notices that she is rapidly sinking away. It is the custom among the pagans not to be told of their condition so as not to be frightened by the thought of death. It is hard for us to say to them: "There is no hope for you." Gazing upon this patient whom she had tried to grasp from death, Sister St. Anne cannot keep back her tears. "Why are you crying?" the young woman asks, "I do not want you to cry". Sister answers: "It is because you are very sick and you are not yet a Christian." The dying woman understands. The Chinese virgin quietly instructs her, tells her of God's mercy and of the happiness in store for His children in the other life. "Oh! baptize me quickly," she exclaims, "I want to be a Christian!"

Thursday, March 27

The dispensary catechist was asked by a family to come to burn their idols. These people wish to become Christians but do not venture to do away with the buddhas themselves. We are told that the devil often pays nightly visits to the homes in which we have destroyed the idols terrifying the residents by all kinds of molestations.

Friday, March 28

His Lordship Bishop Gaspain of Kirin is at Leao Yuan Sien on a visit. Accompanied by Mgr. Lapierre, he comes this afternoon to the dispensary. Mgr. Lapierre gives Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Sunday, March 30

To prove our gratitude to St. Joseph we wish to write our diary to-day to the glory of our celestial protector before the closing of his beautiful month. A young girl from Tung Leao came to the dispensary last October for treatment. She was threatened with the loss of her sight. For a few months we gave her the best treatment but all in vain. We could see no improvement. She even seemed to grow worse from day to day. Inflammation of the conjunctiva and continual suppuration caused her great pain. Seeing that medical science was of no avail we thought of asking

St. Joseph to be himself her doctor. One of us wrote him a little letter, imploring him to cure this young orphan who would be a burden to the Mission if she were to lose her sight.

The very next day the inflammation began to diminish. Every day we noticed a change for the better and to-day her eyes are almost cured. All inflammation and suppuration have disappeared. Our most grateful thanks to our dear patron who never ceases to assist the Missionaries in every way.

Monday, March 31

Number of wounds dressed and divers treatments given during the month: 2,526. Visits to the homes: 145. Baptisms registered: 92.

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TSONGMING, HAIMEN VICARIATE, CHINA

Tsongming, March 26, 1930

DEAR SISTER ASSISTANT,

It is a long time since I last wrote to you, but it is not that I have forgotten you. Oh! no I think of you very often and I try to prove my gratitude to you by the perfect accomplishment of my duty. Every morning I mention you in my feeble prayers.

I devote all my spare time to the study of the Chinese language. Oh! what a terrible tongue, what difficulty I have in learning it... The other day I wanted to tell one of the helpers to sweep down a *spider's web* but said instead *mosquito's web*. Shortly after he came back holding in his

fingers a spider and a mosquito. He explained to me that the web was made by the spider which is called *tsi tsu* and the mosquito *men tsi*. He wanted to inform me, knowing, he said, that in Canada no such insects are to be found!...



Yesterday, while Sister Superior was in Shanghai, a man came asking to immediately see a Chinese woman who arrived here a few days ago. He told me that he was this woman's father-in-law. I told him that he could not see her without presenting a letter from Reverend Father Forain. He left and returned having met with success, but the woman refused to see him. The priest told us that we must compel her to come for we must see that families be

united rather than separated. The unfortunate woman screamed and lamented... I tied a miraculous medal around her neck, saying to her: "Go, the Blessed Virgin will protect you." Hardly had she reached the door when ten men and two women seized their prey tying her in a wheelbarrow, but the victim insisted that she had money here that she must bring with her. They let her go upon her promise of returning. Once in the house, she hid herself. After searching for an hour I found her under a bed rolled in a mosquito net where she had remained from eleven o'clock to four. The men waited impatiently at the door all this time, they wanted to break into the house when the Reverend Pastor arrived telling us to send this band of people away and to keep the poor woman in the house as her husband wished to kill her. She had already received several gashes on her arms, legs and feet. We must keep cool when dealing with these kind of people. Probably Reverend Father Forain did not know of the hatred existing in this family. Once again we felt the motherly assistance



MEAL-TIME FOR THE LITTLE ONES AT THE FOUNDLING-HOME AT TSONGMING, CHINA.

of the Blessed Virgin, who again saved the situation. How sorry we should have been if our unfortunate refugee had undergone the cruel treatment awaiting her.

I feel happier every day in China and I would like to tell all our young Sisters, novices and postulants, of the happiness we enjoy. Really we are God's spoiled children. How I would like to show them a little corner of our mission. I should speak to them of my good Chinese. Oh! my dear Chinese, it is their souls that I love!... There are numerous sacrifices to be made in the missions, but where on earth are they not to be found? We do not see our Mother, but I hope to go to heaven to see her. I shall ask to see everyone whom I left in Canada...

Among our pupils we have about thirty virgins who are awaiting the novitiate for natives. The oldest is about thirty-five.

Every month there are a few baptisms at the dispensary. I baptized twenty-eight little "Annas." Just lately I met a woman carrying a baby and who appeared to be in a great hurry. As it is politeness here to inquire where one is going, my companion, the virgin Con, naturally put this question to her. The unbaptized baby was in a dying condition and the mother was going for a doctor. We offered her some medicine which she willingly accepted. I first baptized the little one. When we have the privilege of pouring the regenerating waters we experience the most unspeakable happiness, but we feel that the souls that we give to God are the fruit of the prayers and sacrifices of other persons, that we are only the instruments.

I am writing to you while watching my pupils. I have fifty-one scholars before me who are screaming their lessons. It is not melodious, but it is the way of studying in China.

Before leaving you, dear Sister Assistant, permit me to thank you, yes thank you for all your kindness. I owe you so much gratitude that I do not know how to express my thoughts.

Your grateful child,

Sister MARIE DE SION, M. I. C. (1)

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Manila, Philippine Islands

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

Thursday, January 9, 1930

In the Charity Ward a Chinese, twenty-two years of age is dying after having been baptized. He is stricken with the "berri-berri," a disease common to the country caused by defective food. Cases of the kind are found especially among the poorer class whose sole food is fish and rice.

Sunday, January 12

In Ward No. 68 a Cantonese patient is seriously ill, so ill that he is heedless of all that is told him of religion. His catechist, a Cantonese pupil of the Jesuit Fathers, who comes here every Sunday, was almost discouraged: "I do not know what to do, Sister," he said, "religion means nothing to him."

To-day he overhears a Catechism lesson given to one of the other patients. He calls the nurse, saying: "I want some Holy Water too." As he is in danger of death, Sister St. Joseph baptizes him after having excited him to contrition for his sins.

Saturday, January 18

Towards two o'clock this morning we send for Reverend Father Becke for an aged man in the Charity Ward. He had learned the principal truths

1. Florida Ravary, St. Clet.

of our holy religion but always deferred Baptism. Seeing death close at hand he states that he wishes to be baptized. The priest shows him the crucifix and has him recite acts of faith and contrition... Ready to pour the regenerating waters, he asks the patient to turn his head a little. Suddenly the aged man changes his mind... he no longer desires to be baptized. To all the priest's questions he makes a sign of refusal.

One of the onlookers jumps out of his bed and speaks to him in such a manner that the old man finally consents. With the greatest kindness Father has him recommence his act of contrition and then baptizes him. Two hours later St. Peter opened for him the gates of Paradise.

Before leaving the Charity Ward the priest asks: "Is there anybody else?" "The patient in Ward 178 is also dangerously ill, but he does not want to be baptized," we reply. "Oh, yes, I have already seen him," he rejoins, "he has been told of our religion by one of his aunts. He refused me the other day, but I am going to try again."

Father raises the netting and with a kind smile says to the patient: "Camusta Ka?" (How are you feeling?) Rolled in his blanket, his cap under his head so as not to lose it, and with all his knick-knacks around him on his bed, the dying man casts a weary glance at the priest. This Good Shepherd continues with increased kindness to draw his sheep out of the briars, but all in vain. He told us later that he then said to the Little Flower: "You must give me this soul." She sent a patient to help him who met with the greatest success. Full of joy Father led this sheep into the fold, giving him the name of Joseph.

This morning Joseph wanted to go to Mass without fail so as to begin to practise his religion right away. We did not permit him to do so as his strength would have given out. When Sister St. Joseph went to the Charity Ward in the course of the forenoon, our new Joseph told her that during the night he had been made a Christian adding: "What is your name, Sister?" "Sister St. Joseph," she replies. "My name is Joseph, too," he proudly tells her... "When the priest comes back perhaps he will bring Jesus with him that you may receive Him into your heart," Sister tells him. "I am willing to receive all the Sacraments you wish, Sister," he answers. To-morrow, if he is still alive, he will make his First Communion.

How true it is that when grace and innocence dwell in a soul there also happiness is to be found. He who was always in such bad humor now smiles and is most grateful.

Wednesday, February 12

Sister Superior and Sister Assistant go to Passay with a group of pupils to assist at a conference given each year by the Reverend Apostolic Delegate in honor of the Coronation of Our Holy Father.

Friday, February 21

Three babies, one Chinese and the others Filipinos are baptized in our chapel. Two certainly will soon take their flight to heaven. Let us hope that the third will be a good child.

Monday, February 24

An aged Chinese arrives here at noon in a dying condition. "My only prescription," says Dr. Tee Han Kee, "is Holy Baptism." We did not delay in filling it.

During prayers at noon, Sister St. Joseph de Bethlehem is called to the Charity Ward for patient No. 114 who has suddenly grown worse. She soon ascertains that a strong dose of medicine (he is following Chinese treatment) has made him unconscious. It was not for him that God called Sister to the Charity Ward but for one of his companions. Passing closeby the bed of patient No. 68, she sees him struggling with death without being noticed by the nurses. He is baptized immediately and five minutes after breathes his last.

Wednesday February, 26

An unexpected visit. Our poor Abraham who left us for the San Lazaro Hospital (a hospital where mental treatment is given) comes here very early this morning. He says that he has not forgotten us and to prove the truth of what he tells us he hands a few bank-notes to Sister Marie Angelina who finds herself obliged to accept the money. She says to him: "We shall use it to have a Mass said for your intentions." "I do not want a Mass," he replies, "I give you the money because you have been good to me."

He meets Sister St. Dominique who draws back a little afrighted at the sight of this giant Hindu, in an officer's uniform and a turban on his head and who speaks in such a stentorious voice. He thanks her and offers her a bill also.

After making several military salutes to everyone he meets in the hospital, he leaves us reciting his prayers at the top of his voice. He is a fervent Mussulman who many a time stupefied us by his plaintive psalmodies... poor Abraham!

Friday, February 28

A Cantonese who has been our patient for a few days past, to-day tells us that he has decided to return to his own country. He tells us that the air of his native land will cure him. Alas! he suffers from a cancer and will never recover. He is so dreadfully thin that we may well say that he is only skin and bones.



Besides his passport for Canton we offer to furnish him with his passport for a blessed eternity. He not only accepts our offer but declares that he is very glad to be made a child of God. The principal truths of our holy religion are summarily explained to him and at six o'clock he is baptized and given the name of Joseph. "*Salamat po, salamat, salamat* (thanks, thanks, thanks). The Sister who baptizes him shows him a crucifix. At first he does not understand but his neighbor explains to him that Sister wants him to kiss the "*Santo Christo*" who died on a cross to win heaven for us. With the greatest respect he kisses the crucifix for a long time and then remains recollected for a little while so as to enjoy the happiness which the grace of God doubtlessly bestows upon his soul. "Are you suffering very much?" Sister asks. "Oh! no," he answers in a tone which signifies "I experience more happiness than pain." That same evening at half-past ten he expired... How good God is!...

Saturday, March 1

Five other patients receive Holy Communion. Doubtlessly it is St. Joseph who wins these souls to his most kind and loving Jesus.

In the chapel, First Communion of a convalescent who has told us that he is a "good Catholic" because he has received Holy Baptism but nothing more... Yesterday the priest heard his confession and this morning he receives Our Lord for the first time.

Sunday, March 2

His Grace the Archbishop gives us the privilege to-day of having the Blessed Sacrament exposed. During the entire day, the doctors, nurses, house-boys and ourselves kneel in adoration before our Divine King in order to console him for the insults He receives during these days especially in the Philippines. Shrove-tide here is hell let loose. The most exorbitant expenses have been made in order to procure pleasure, and what pleasure!... We understand what disorder may be found in a country where paganism or a religion all for show, for a great many, reigns supreme.

We spend four hours before the Blessed Sacrament and after Benediction an old man of seventy is led to the chapel to be baptized. Although very feeble — he is almost at death's-door — as soon as the priest pours the saving waters upon his brow he folds his hands in Chinese fashion and as gracefully as possible says "*salamat po*" (thank you).

Friday, March 7

Not a week goes by that we are not obliged to see to the blessing of the marriages of our patients. This mix-up of religion and nationalities which exists in the Philippines perhaps explains it. We prepare the patient for Confession and Holy Communion but when the priest arrives he cannot administer these Sacraments to him because he has not been married as he should have been... To-day this is the case with a poor young woman married to an Aglipayan. After the priest's visit, we try to attain her

husband who arrives in the evening. The priest returns to baptize him (the poor unfortunate had embraced the Aglipayan religion because he dwelt in an Aglipayan centre and believed this religion to be as good as another). They both then receive the sacraments of Penance and Matrimony and the priest leaves them grateful and happy.

Another young woman, a descendant of the negroes of South America has also the happiness of having her marriage blessed and dies a true Christian.

A Filipino baby for whom there is no hope of recovery is taken home from the Hospital after being with us for the past few days. We baptize the child before sending it away for in a few days the gates of heaven will be opened for it.

Monday, March 17

For the last few days we have been caring for an aged Spanish gentleman in Ward B. He is almost worn out by old age and seems to have been brought to the Hospital as much for the health of his soul as that of his body. We invite our chaplain, a Benedictine Father, to pay him a visit. "There is no hurry to hear my confession," he told the priest. "I am not so very sick. I shall get along alright with God." Father did not insist but left him a book saying to us, "Let God do His work, it is He who will touch this soul by grace." Two days after, our aged independant patient humbly asked to have the priest come to hear his confession. This morning with all the happiness of the Prodigal Son he received into his heart the God of all mercy.

A Catholic Chinese tubercular patient is anointed. Another suffering from tetanos receives Holy Baptism before dying.

Tuesday, March 18

An aged Chinese brought here in a state of unconsciousness is baptized conditionally.

Wednesday, March 19

Feast of St. Joseph, the special patron of the Hospital. Our prayers, hymns and work during the entire day are consecrated to his glory.

After Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at six o'clock, Reverend Father Provincial of the Fathers of the Divine Word comes to the Charity Ward to baptize a young Chinese, twenty years of age, suffering from consumption of the lungs and who probably has but a few days more to live. It is his third stay at the Hospital. He is a good young man with a frank and intelligent countenance. Despite his great weakness, we have succeeded in instructing him in the principal truths of our holy faith. Before baptizing him the priest reminds him of his principal duties. All of a sudden our neophyte turns to the Sisters saying, "When I am better, I shall never miss Mass on Sunday." Father smiled on hearing his good resolution and baptized him giving him the name of Joseph.

After the ceremony, a Sister remaining with the patient invites him to kiss his crucifix. Immediately while kissing the one tied on his neck he repeats: "O Jesus, my Saviour, I love Thee, I thank Thee."

The same Sister returns a little later to see him and as soon as he catches sight of her he seizes his crucifix and kissing it smiles kindly as much as to say: "Haven't I learned my lesson well?..."

Friday, March 21

Sister St. Gabriel baptizes a Chinese adult a few minutes before his death.

A young man suffering from pneumonia is also made a child of God according to his desire. "I believe with my whole heart," he says, "in the one only God and beg Him to forgive me all my sins."

Saturday, March 22

At eight o'clock this evening a boy of twelve, who has been picked up unconscious on the street, is brought to us. The doctor who has no hopes for him, advises us to send for the priest. Stretched on a bench injections are given him in order to bring him back to his senses and the priest baptizes him conditionally and anoints him. After a half hour's treatment, the child is brought to the Charity Ward where little by little he regains consciousness. He tells the police officer who questions him that no one has done him any harm and that he does not know why he fainted... He is a poor little "bottle-washer" in a dairy. "I have stopped school," he says, "my father does not want me to go... and I have no mother..." The doctor thinks that he is suffering from cerebral anaemia... poor little boy who eats only what he can find... We tell him that he has been baptized and that he is now a Catholic... "I was baptized in the Aglipayan religion," he tells us, "but I want to be a Catholic now." He promises us to be instructed by the Reverend Pastor and even to come to see us occasionally. God must have a special love for this poor little orphan.

Monday, March 24

Our patient baptized on the 19th is very weak to-day. Reverend Father Ildefonse having come here this evening for treatment, we ask him to hear the young man's confession and to give him Holy Communion. It would be difficult to state which was the happier of the two, the priest or the patient.

This young man is really good and on approaching him we feel that he is filled with the Holy Ghost. Last night in a dream these words escaped his lips: "O my God, forgive me all my sins." When we go to help him to pray he repeats all that we tell him like a fervent and docile child.

Tuesday, March 25

Feast of the Annunciation. Our pupils hear Mass in their beautiful costume of Children of Mary. This forenoon they recite the Office of the Blessed Virgin. May our Immaculate Mother make them as humble and pure as Herself!

Monday, March 31

An unfortunate young man, the father of a family, after having lost all his money yesterday in a cock fight, in a fit of discouragement poisons himself with aniseed. He is brought to us a little too late, the poison has already gone through his system. He dies at about six in the evening after having been in the most horrible convulsions all afternoon. What an unfortunate passion are these cock fights so popular here... We have but a short distance to travel before meeting one of these wrestlers with a cock under his arm.

A little girl suffering from pneumonia chokes in a fit of coughing. Happy little one who has left us after having been baptized... she will never know the wickedness of this world.

A Chinese adult also is baptized at the hour of death.

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NAZE, JAPAN

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Naze

Monday, February 17

On our way to the parish church to hear Mass we always meet throngs of little urchins each wearing a red bonnet, running wild in the streets yelling at the top of their voices: "Eysa Eysa." At first we wondered what all this meant. One of the teachers tells us that it is a Japanese custom which is to accustom the little boy to the cold and to make him grow strong. Eysa, it seems, is a word which makes one energetic, for our Japanese think that if they do not say anything while running they cannot run fast. The little girls do not run the streets thus but as early as five o'clock in the morning they make their way to the different Shintoist temples carrying with them brooms, spades, etc. After having adored the gods, they pull up the weeds and clean up the temple grounds. This is done by the primary pupils only. As the little Christians cannot go they are most unpleasantly looked upon by the teachers and other pupils.

Thursday, February 20

What ideal weather we have had since last Sunday! Is it because it is the year of the horse that the winter is so mild. A goodly number of the inhabitants of Oshima doubtlessly believe this to be the case. In bygone days before foreigners could penetrate into Japan the hours of the day and night were counted by means of the names of twelve animals: mouse, cow, tiger, rabbit, dragon, horse, sheep, monkey, etc. When one wanted to know the time he was told that it was mouse time, sheep time, etc. These names of animals were also used for the years which were divided into twelve periods, each year bearing the name of one of these animals, and at the end of the twelfth year, the names began all over again. The old men of Oshima



still count the years thus. If you were to ask them their age, one would answer that he was born in the year of the horse, another in the year of the tiger. Our aged gardener was born in the year of the horse which again occurs this year. At the end of each period of twelve years, festivals and family celebrations take place.

Besides these festivals there is also a celebration in honor of all three-year-old children. At this age, all the little ones are permitted to wear the family coat-of-arms on their new coats. When

five years old they will go to the *Miya* (Shintoist temple) for the first time. At the age of seven the little boys don the "Nakama" puffy trousers worn by students and professional men. On this day each of them is given a dish containing seven different kinds of vegetables which they present to their relatives and friends who give them some also. At this age the little girls are dressed in kimonos with long trailing sleeves and drawn in at the waist by a wide belt "obi". It seems that these costumes are gradually disappearing.

Monday, March 17

Upon their return from a Catechism lesson our five little catechumens appear to be overjoyed. "What has happened," I ask, "you seem to be very happy?" Oh! yes," they reply, "we are very glad for the day after to-morrow we shall be baptized!"

At recess the Christian and pagan children assemble. During this time a little Christian girl returning from her visit to Chinaze, a neighboring village, enters with a bouquet of white lilies in her hand. "O Sister," the little Christians exclaim, "these flowers are like the ones with which you were crowned on the day of your Perpetual Profession!" With the most charming simplicity they continue: "Why should we not make a retreat also? Would you not like that? It is true that we have to attend school, but between class hours we could keep silence and go to the chapel." We had never mentioned to them of what a retreat consisted, but they understood by themselves that prayer and silence are the substance of it. Sister Superior readily complies with their desire and has a little oratory prepared for them. Addressing one of the youngest aspirants I ask her if she also wishes to make a retreat. "Oh! yes, Sister," she answers running to me, "I shall make it without laughing even once..."

Tuesday March 18

Our pupils who are making the retreat were very quiet throughout the entire day. The other boarders envy them. This morning I heard them

saying: "How good it is to make a retreat!" Chiku San, a Christian since childhood, added that she wished to make one too so as to be able to speak to God for a long time. Our little catechumens spend all their leisure time in their oratory. They pull down the blind so as not to see what is going on outside and so as not to be seen by anyone. In need of a book which we had lent them I go to the oratory for it and find one of them profoundly recollected seated quite close to the Blessed Virgin's altar. I go in and come out without seeming to be noticed by her. Doubtlessly, Our Blessed Lady whom we asked to prepare these young hearts for the great day of their baptism, was silently doing her work.

Wednesday, March 19

We spent part of the day preparing our little catechumens for the baptismal ceremony. Coming close to So E I asked her in a low voice if she had a veil. "No," she replied in a way that showed that she was a little embarrassed. As her parents are already making a big sacrifice to keep her at school, she did not venture to put them to any other expense. Moreover, they are still pagans... Some time ago one of our Sister's aunts sent some net from Canada. We were glad to use it for these poor children and especially for little So E who, doubtlessly will not forget to pray for the benefactress who was the cause of her joy.

The ceremony took place at half-past four. Reverend Father Maxime, O. F. M., after giving the five aspirants a little instruction baptized them giving them the names of Cecilia, Agnes, Bernadette, Teresa and Lucy. The neophytes themselves chose their own godmothers from among their classmates already baptized.

After being made children of God our little pupils were crowned with white flowers which they wore during Benediction. In seeing their desire thus realized they never ceased to proclaim their happiness.

Thursday, March 20

The day of their baptism is followed by that of their First Communion. The five, each bearing a candle, enter the chapel singing a hymn preparatory to their first union with their Eucharistic Lord. This ceremony is most beautiful and touching and no doubt have we that the Lover of pure souls takes pleasure in hearkening to the prayer of these pure little hearts.

Seeing our little privileged ones come in this evening without their crowns, I ask them what they have done with them. "We gave them to the Blessed Virgin," they reply. "You knew who to confide them to," I say, "when you go to heaven..." And before I am able to finish my sentence they all exclaim in one voice: "She will give them back to us." We could see in their eyes that they did not doubt in the least that what they had just said would really come true. From the heights of heaven, the Immaculate Virgin, on hearing her five new little children making this act of confidence, must have granted them her motherly blessing while lovingly smiling upon them.

Friday, March 21

The holidays have just begun. We have only two little boarders with us, two of the little girls baptized yesterday. While going through the house to-night to see that all the doors and windows were well closed, one of them said to me with the greatest simplicity: "O Sister, how we would like to become religious to live with all of you and to die here. We shall finish school and then we shall work for you." After giving them to understand that it would be hard for them to realize such an ambition as their parents were still pagans I told them that it might happen, but that they must pray fervently in the meantime. Then, seeing how privileged we have been one little girl says to the other: "Why were we also not born in Canada!" I immediately thought of the numerous vocations that are lost and how generous God has been towards our native land. I thank Him for His bounty and ask Him to look as favorably upon our country of adoption as upon the homeland and to hasten the coming of His kingdom throughout the entire world.

Departure of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception from the mission of Naze, Japan

With regret the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception are leaving the mission of Naze, Japan, where, in 1926, upon the request of the Reverend Franciscan Fathers they accepted to take charge of the Girls' School and where they were already most successful in their apostolate.

As a guarantee of their stability at the School of Naze the Reverend Franciscan Fathers asked them to construct, at their own expense, a hospital the cost of which would not be less than from \$75,000.00 to \$80,000.00. As the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception lacked the funds necessary to cover this heavy expense they preferred to give up the School. The Sisters in charge of this establishment will go to help their Sisters in the other missions.

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KAGOSHIMA, JAPAN

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Kagoshima

Sunday, March 16

Sister de l'Enfant Jesus hears Mass at the parish church with our young girls. On her return, Yoshi ko, overjoyed, tells her that the priest is to baptize her on March 19th, the feast of St. Joseph. "On that very same day just a year ago we came into the Blessed Virgin's dwelling," says her older sister, who has been a Christian for a few years back.

Monday, March 17

There is a beautiful sunrise this morning. Rightly Japan may be called the Land of the Rising Sun. Everything is bathed in its beneficent light and God's little songsters fluttering from branch to branch gaily warble the praises of their Creator. How consoling it is to hear praises offered to Him who receives so little homage from his creatures in this pagan land. As we have already remarked here in Kagoshima of a population of almost one hundred and forty inhabitants there are only two hundred Catholics. May St. Francis Xavier who was the first apostle to trample the soil of Kagoshima, hasten the conversion of this nation.

Wednesday, March 19

Feast of Saint Joseph. A sister accompanied by a few young girls goes to the church where Yoshi ko is to receive Holy Baptism. The ceremony takes place before Mass and is quite simple. "Teresa, I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost," and this soul, pagan but an instant ago, has been cleansed of the original stain. During Mass, our new Christian has also the great happiness of making her First Communion. How incomprehensible is the mystery of God's predilection for souls! Yoshi ko and her big sister are the only Christians on their island which nevertheless numbers thousands of inhabitants.

Our most lively gratitude to St. Joseph for this beautiful day which marks the first great consolation of our apostolate in Kagoshima.

Thursday, March 20

Flowers quickly spring up and blossom in the nimble fingers of Takaki San and her pagan companions. While making flowers we speak of religion to them. One of them, Miss Kamizono brings home the "Life of Christ" with her.

Thursday, April 13

To-day in Japan is the "Hina Masturi" (girls' feast). In every home where there are little girls "mochi" (Japanese cakes) are made and the tables are decorated with cherry or peach blossoms. All the dolls are placed so as to be seen and the little girls wearing their best dresses are petted and entertained.

This morning, a group of children from the neighborhood come timidly to pay us a visit. Takaki San invites them to come in and shows them an illustrated Catechism which seems to interest them greatly. They then take a walk in the garden gazing enviously upon the beautiful cherry trees in blossom. As we had not thought of the feast celebrated to-day we do not understand the object of their visit. It is only when about to leave us that they decide to ask us for some cherry blossoms for their little family celebration. A few moments later a little girl returns with a plate of "mochi." "Kindly accept them," she gracefully says, "we made them at home." We hope to have the happiness of one day winning their souls to God.

KORIYAMA, JAPAN

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Koriyama

Monday, March 24, 1930

After a most pleasant voyage, we landed at Yokohama where Reverend Father Dumas, O. P., our dear Sister Superior and Sister Joseph de la Ste Famille were awaiting us. Needless to state how it pleased us to see our Sisters again, and with what touching eagerness they inquired about all the dear ones in the distant homeland... With the most fraternal charity the kind religious of Saint Maur extended us hospitality. At one o'clock this afternoon we took the train for our new home in Koriyama. At a quarter to seven we arrived at the station. All the Dominican Fathers of the mission had come to meet their Very Reverend Father Provincial. Powerless are we to tell you of their happiness. Several of the city's noted men had placed their carriages at the disposal of the missionaries. We went immediately to the church to sing the *Magnificat* and then to the convent of the Reverend Dominican Fathers where supper was served. We were then conducted to our new home. Reverend Father Reid had put everything in readiness: *fulons*, kitchen utensils, three tables and five chairs. This is all the furniture in our little "Nazareth." The Blessed Virgin must not have been any richer when she received the visit of the Archangel Gabriel whose feast we shall celebrate to-morrow. We are happy to share a little of the poverty of Our Blessed Mother.

Tuesday, March 25

Feast of the Annunciation. Reverend Father Provincial sings High Mass at which all the Christians and many pagans assist. Reverend Father Reid delivers the sermon and extends the most touching welcome to the worthy visitor. A Japanese doctor interprets the words of gratitude addressed to the throng by Reverend Father Provincial for the warm welcome given him. After Mass, this same doctor introduces us to three of the leading men of the city, and all four promise to help us in the work we are about to undertake. The kind doctor also offers us his car that we may visit the city. The Japanese then take the photographs of all the missionaries surrounded by all the Christians of the district.

Towards evening we receive our trunks and valises. Our first thought is to unpack the statue of the Blessed Virgin and to set it up with filial love, that this good Mother may watch over us. Kneeling at her feet we renew our Act of Consecration, entreating her to ever keep us faithful to her Divine Son and to make us true apostles.

Tuesday, April 1

What is our surprise on awakening to see the earth covered with a coat of snow. "I have not seen any snow for three years," Sister Superior tells us, "for it never snows at Naze..." Here the climate is much like that of Canada, but the heating system is far from being the same. The Japanese have but a large jar in which they place a little charcoal beside which they warm their hands; they warm their feet by sitting on them. As you see one must not be in a hurry to make use of this mode of heating.

Saturday, April 5

We are given a distraction during our Japanese class. A bonze dressed in black silk, with beads on his arms and I do not know what kind of a collar on his neck, suddenly appears at our door. On noticing us he at once withdraws quite amazed... He goes thus from door to door, yelling or praying. He rings a little bell and collects the alms that the people offer him. It is most distressing to see men exhaust themselves thus in order to give honor to infamous idols. This bonze lives just opposite us and it seems as though his prayer-time is the same as ours. This helps us to be more fervent in order to prove our gratitude to God for having been born of Christian parents and in a Catholic country.

Thursday, April 6

Reverend Father Provincial, before leaving for Southern Japan, comes to pay us a short visit. "May God bless the Work you are about to undertake, Sisters," he says, "may He grant you a family spirit ever more and more intense, in accordance with the spirit of your Community." He then wishes us all the martyrdom of love and duty.

This afternoon a group of young girl students from a pagan Normal School come to see us. They are very ladylike: they show us all their school books and then group around the statue of the Blessed Virgin, never tiring to gaze upon it. They seem spellbound with admiration. May Our Immaculate Mother cast a favorable regard upon these poor pagan children and open their eyes to the true faith.

Friday, April 11

With all possible fervor we to-day celebrate the feast of the Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin. We entreat this good Mother who has suffered so much for the salvation of mankind, to help us to save all the souls confided to our care and to bestow abundant blessings upon our new mission.

The young girls who came to visit us yesterday, come back again to-day. They bring us a pretty bouquet of flowers which we place before the statue of Our Blessed Lady. Let us hope that before long, they will not only offer her flowers but also their hearts.

Extracts FROM THE Novitiate Chronicles

Dedicated to our dear Parents



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

Wednesday, March 19, 1930

At the approach of the Feast of St. Joseph we soon forget that it is Lent. Graceful decorations again appear in the Dovecot. We sing hymns of joy and spend long hours in recreation. Needless to say, it is with the most filial piety that we address our wishes and praises to the glorious Spouse of the Immaculate Virgin. And, this year, responding to the desire of Our Holy Father, in union with all the faithful of the Catholic world, we make this day one of reparation and prayer in favor of unfortunate Russia. Every half hour we go in groups of four to pray before the Blessed Sacrament exposed and before the statue of the glorious Patron of the Universal Church imploring help for the poor victims of persecution and forgiveness for their miserable persecutors. As it is a great holiday at the Novitiate, we are free to go at all hours of the day to satisfy our devotion in the chapel.

After dinner a telephone message "long distance" informs us that the house and store of the parents of one of our Sister novices are threatened by fire which is raging closeby. "The families of our Sisters are ours also," our Mistress says in telling us the sad news, "we should feel for them and therefore we must pray and make promises to the Holy Souls that they may be spared from this trial..." All pray with the greatest fervor. Let us hope that God will listen to our entreaties and grant that the flames be controlled before any considerable damage is done.

In the evening dumb-concerts and charades are added to the day's programme... What pleases us the most are the episodes we are given of the history of our elder Sisters when novices at Nominig, among others their charming trips in big wagons to gather strawberries, raspberries and blueberries... and the catastrophes which resulted from them... A thousand interesting stories were told us lately by our Mistress of the adventures in the country always so loved by the novices of former days and even by those of the present time who by hearsay know Nominig fairly well.

Friday, March 21

We see by the calendar that it is the first day of spring, but it is so cold and the wind blows so violently that we would believe ourselves in the middle of January. And the little birds who have returned with such confidence to the land of their dreams, how disappointed they seem to be! We see they fly from one branch to the other, chilled through and through, and they

seem to glance enviously at us... Poor little birds! you have good reason to find that your sisters, the "Doves of the Immaculate" are happier than you, for it is always springtime for them since everywhere they find themselves in the dwelling of the most loving Virgin... There, no biting winds; each dawn brings forth a radiant sun which invites them to unceasingly proclaim the Lord's goodness.

Saturday, March 22

We read of the feast of St. *Deo Gratias* in the Life of the Saints to-day. This causes us to smile a little... We did not know that our "holidays" had a special protector in heaven...

At recreation time we hasten to recall the feast of the day... Our Mistress immediately guessing our reason for so doing says to us: "I hope that you have not the intention of asking a *Deo Gratias* during study hour?... " Our silence accompanied by a smile soon reveals our thoughts... our desires are realized, thanks to St. *Deo Gratias*!...

Easter Sunday, April 20

Easter! what joy this word evokes! Easter, it is the day of the Resurrection, a day of bliss... Moreover Easter in the Dovecot means that we are to see our dear parents again or at least to receive mail from home... It means the return of beautiful holidays, of frequent joyous hours of recreation. In a word Easter brings with it the sweetest rejoicing after the pious austerity of the holy Lenten season.

How gayly do the bells, *just back from Rome*, ring out the joyous alleluias... Early this morning the singing of the *Regina Cæli* accompanied by the violin re-echoes throughout our dormitories, while Easter sunbeams dance upon our walls. With hearts overflowing with gladness we repair to the chapel where we find the altar adorned with palms, lilies and roses, symbolical decoration which tells us that it is by suffering and love that we shall win palms of glory.

During the Holy Sacrifice we have the honor of proclaiming with the Church the glories of Our Risen Lord by singing as well as possible Marzo's harmonized Mass. Our little Sister postulants and the novices who do not sing, congratulate us on our success... But this does not give us any pride, for we know that fraternal love oftentimes makes one very lenient.

Our thanksgiving over, we go down to the refectory where we are served, just like at home, a real Easter breakfast. The eggs and the ham were kindly given us by the parents of some of our Sisters and our good Mother did not forget her children. She sent us baskets filled with all kinds of good things from dear Outremont. She also gave us a maple-sugar treat... as in the sugar-camp... We were well aware that the sugar-making time would not go by without this maternal thoughtfulness...

At 9 o'clock, as is the custom, the first part of our Rosary is sung. Then everyone goes down to the recreation room. Soon the bell rings out gaily and our Mistress enters with a valise filled with letters. She is followed

by "*Resurrection angels*" who bend over the pile of letters... The distribution begins lasting nearly an hour. Ah! but it is amusing to pile up our letters and to try to guess what can be in this package, and in the other, and in the other. The whole day is filled with joy and glides away as a fleeting wave.

If the happiness that the Divine Risen Saviour has bestowed upon us on this blessed feast increases our debt of gratitude, it also makes us cherish our beautiful vocation the more and fills us with fresh ardor to consecrate every moment of our short life to the service of so generous a Master.

Monday, April 21

We were still celebrating the paschal feast, when, in the course of the afternoon, a doleful message put an end to our happiness. We learn that our dear Sister Marie de la Purification (nee Berthe Girard) has just terminated her pilgrimage here below. She had been at our "Bethany" at Nominig for nearly a year waiting with peace and happiness for the Lord to call her to Himself. We have not as yet had any details of her last moments, but we may surmise that they were sweet and peaceful as was her short life, a good half of which was spent in the sanctuary where she took charge of the altars.

The greater number of us have had the happiness of living a short while with her for it was only last June that she left the Novitiate where she was employed at the sacristy. We all remarked that she was a hidden violet, who, without doubting in the least, exhaled the sweetest perfume of the most simple and modest virtues.

Most likely in heaven she will pray for her little Sister novices whom she so dearly loved, for at Nominig she often spoke of the Dovecot.

Thursday, May 1

Before the bell had rung to awaken us this morning two little birds flying into a room adjoining our dormitory began to chirp gaily, as much as to say: "What! you the Doves of Mary are still sleeping when her beautiful month is already here!..." But no! the little birds did not wish to reproach us, since sleeping by obedience is more pleasing to God and the Blessed Virgin than to sing their praises if such be contrary to the Divine Will. Our filial hearts were filled with joy on hearing the dear little songsters offering their homages to the Queen of May... In a few moments, we shall add our pious accents to their joyous concerts.

On arising we notice that nature has become more beautiful during the night: a gentle shower has cleared up the grey skies, the grass appears even greener and the waters of the violent River des Prairies are clearer than ever. In the chapel the altar is adorned with green foliage while two beautiful bouquets of lilies and roses incline the dazzling whiteness and the crimson of their petals towards Our Immaculate Mother.

And while old-time hymns which are ever new are sung in honor of Mary, our minds are filled with the most touching remembrances: the month of

Mary in former days in the church of our native village, beside the roadside cross, in the little rural school, or in the pious little chapel of a boarding-school; the trips through the fields and woods to pick lilies and violets; the hours spent in decorating more or less tastefully the little altar in our room. All this comes into our minds this first morning in May and from our souls we waft heavenward towards the Immaculate Virgin a fervent Magnificat for her goodness in thus sheltering us beneath her virginal mantle, that we might be hers in a special manner.

We also choose this first day of May to take the holiday promised us by our Mother during her last visit to us at the end of Lent. As it was then the time to do penance, we joyfully kept it until to-day... Our dear Mother wishes us by telephone to spend it as pleasantly as possible and we implicitly obey...

We have yet to note another favor granted us by the Blessed Virgin on this beautiful day: on this happy date the twenty-fourth house of our dear Institute is opened. It is in the industrial little city of Granby, in the diocese of St. Hyacinthe, that our Sisters are going to settle to there take charge of the Holy Childhood Work, closed retreats, and hostels for young girls, etc...

Blessed by Mary and under the auspices of His Lordship Bishop Decelles, of the diocese of St. Hyacinthe, we are confident that these works will meet with the approval of the venerated pastor.

Sunday, May 11

A pilgrimage of Congregationalists of the Blessed Virgin, men and young people of the parish of Youville, Montreal, headed by their devoted director, Reverend Father de l'Etoile, C. SS. R., come to render the homages of their filial affection to the Immaculate Virgin in our humble chapel. They arrive singing the *Ave Maris Stella* and then piously recite the Office of the Blessed Virgin in common, hear Mass and receive Holy Communion with great fervor. During Holy Mass they sing beautiful hymns and we feel that they put their whole heart and soul into their singing.

Monday, May 12

At the Novitiate as we like surprises very much all faces beam with joy when after the noon recreation we are told to go up to the reception hall for a conference on the missions. Shortly after we have the honor and pleasure of hearing Reverend Father Levesque, C. SS. R., who has just recently arrived from the Orient where he visited a large number of establishments of his Congregation, relate to us a few incidents of his interesting trip. On the way he stopped to pay a visit to our Sisters of Hong Kong and to-day gives us news of them which greatly rejoices us. It seems as if the continents have been brought closer together and that our Sisters beyond the seas are quite near us...

Needless to tell you how our kind visitor interests us in speaking to us of Tonkin, of Annam etc., etc., of the progress that Christianity is making

in these idolatrous countries watered with the blood of so many martyrs. There also the harvest is ripe and laborers are needed, but they are too few in number to gather all the perishing sheaves!

Reverend Father asks us to pray fervently and to add sacrifices to our prayers. "A missionary is not made all at once," he adds, "a long and serious formation is necessary and even when the novitiate is finished we must still prolong it, continue during our whole life to acquire more virtue so as to become greater apostles."

Before leaving us, the good missionary shows us a few photographs which give us greater knowledge of the interesting life of the Annamites, and crowns with a paternal blessing his thousand good wishes.

THE HAIL MARY

The devout recitation of the Hail Mary is most pleasing to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Whenever she hears it, it would seem as if the joy she experienced when the Archangel Gabriel announced to her that she was the chosen Mother of God was renewed within her. With this object in view, she would often salute her with the Hail Mary. "Salute her," says Thomas à Kempis, "with the angelical salutation; for she indeed hears this sound with pleasure." The Divine Mother herself told St. Matilda that no one could salute her in a manner more agreeable than with the Hail Mary.

He who salutes Mary will also be saluted by her. And her salutation will take the form of some grace corresponding to the wants of him who salutes her. "She willingly salutes us with grace," says St. Bonaventure, "if we willingly salute her with a Hail Mary." To which Richard of St. Laurence adds: "If we address the Mother of Our Lord with the Hail Mary, she cannot refuse the grace we ask."

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 DRAGON

Chinese Superstitions

Minerals, Animals and Vegetables having marvellous influence.

Among the animals four in particular are supposed to forbode good or evil. In the *Li-ki*, book of rites, their names are to be found and special mention is therein made of the transcendent nature with which they are endowed.

What are these four animals? They are: the dragon, the tortoise, the phenix and the unicorn.

Erroneous beliefs of divers other animals and birds, in particular the rooster, the fox, the tiger and the crane little by little spread among the natives. But for all this they are no less deeply impressed upon the minds of these people.

Yarrow (*Ptarmica sibirica*) vulgo *Che tsao*, is the plant officially employed for conjecturing.

The Dragon (*Long*)

Proenotandum. — Sometimes the dragon is spoken of as a fabulous animal and sometimes as a human spirit. Thus an inextricable confusion has sprung up in the different Chinese legends. Here we shall speak of the animal dragon, and after of the humanized dragon, or of the divers *Long-wang*.

Therefore in the present article we shall deal with the mysterious supernatural reptile, mentioned in Chinese books as the dragon.

1. *Pretended apparitions of the dragon*

The dragon is a fabulous animal, as also its brother, the phenix, and its sister, the unicorn. The first time the dragon is mentioned is in the reign of Fou-hi, 4477-4363 B. C. A horse-dragon arose from the T'sai River a tributary of the River Hoai. This monster bore eight trigrammes on its back which Fou-hi received as a heavenly deposit. These figures, diversely arranged, when combined together composed the formulas of the Book of Changes, I-king, the geometrical oracles of which are reputed as being the desire of Heaven. These trigrammes go by the name of Pa-koa, and are used for a multitude of superstitions.

Fou-hi classed his officers in "dragons" of different degrees: the dragon was the distinctive emblem of his reign.

The Emperor, Hoang-ti, 2697-2598 B. C., in a dream saw two dragons which presented a design to him. He purified himself by fasting and then went to the banks of the Yellow River, where a huge tortoise appeared before him.

The flatterers of Confucious tell us of two dragons entwined around the roof of his house on the day that he was born.

The supposed apparitions of the dragon have played an important role in China. Chinese politicians had five means which they skilfully made use of in favorable and unfavorable periods, in order to recover the support or the aversion of such and such a government. They are the following: the sky, the dragon, the phenix, the unicorn and conjecturing by the tortoise-shell or by the yarrow.

The minister Wang K'ing-jo said one day to the Emperor Song Tcheng-tsong, 1008 A. D.: "The former Chinese rulers had recourse to false revelations whenever they felt the need of them to make themselves obeyed, to command respect and to compel their subjects to do their duty. For instance do you believe the story of the trigrammes of Fou-ki or the great Yu? These wise men only made use of these pretended apparitions to make their politics credited." These words caused the Emperor to reflect and a few days after he unhesitatingly said to Tou Kao, a lettered man: "Is what is related of the horse-dragon which appeared to the Emperor Yu in the Lo River really true?" The aged sage taken unawares and not knowing what motive prompted the Emperor to ask such a question, replied: "These learned men have made up the story of these revelations to make themselves obeyed." Thereupon the emperor made up his mind to invent revelations and apparitions of celestial spirits, etc... There was even a blue dragon which deigned to appear on T'ai chan, a sacred mount, to approve the unscrupulous ruler's manner of governing.

This is the thesis of more than one of the literate of modern times. These philosophers, freethinkers, laugh heartily at these superhuman inventions, but find them excellent to deceive the people and to compel them to do their duty.

Nearly all the apparitions of the dragon had the same aim as that of the yellow dragon of Song Tcheng-tsong.

Description of the dragon

Here is how the Chinese mythologists have pictured this king of the reptiles as having a human form. The dragon, do they state, diminishes or increases the size of its body as it desires and becomes visible or invisible when it wishes. At the vernal equinox, it mounts to heaven; at the autumnal equinox it plunges itself into the seas and rivers. Upon its head there is an eminence, the shape of a mountain. This is what is known as *tche mou*, the dragons alone who bear this distinctive mark are capable of mounting to heaven.

Among the distinctive characteristics of the dragon there are nine remarkable peculiarities to be noted:

1. Its horns are like those of the stag;
2. It has a camel's head;
3. It has devil's eyes;
4. It has a serpent's neck;
5. It has the viscera of a tortoise;
6. Its clutches are like those of the vulture;

7. The sole of its foot is identical with that of the tiger;
8. Its ears are like those of an ox;
9. It hears with its horns; its ears are deprived of the faculty of hearing.

The dragon is the source of progress of the Yng, or in other words it is the Yang of the Yng, and produces the clouds as it wills. The clouds are but the product of its breath, the great man of letters, Han Yu, tells us. It travels through the clouds and wanders over the earth as it desires. On its throat is a turned up shell, a weapon with which it kills men.

The classification of the dragons was made by the superstitious emperor, Song Hwei-tsong, in the fourth year of Ta-koan, 1115 A. D.

He divided them into five families to whom he gave the title of Spirit-Kings.

1. The blue spirit-dragons, most compassionate kings.
2. The red spirit-dragons, kings, the joy of the lakes.
3. The yellow spirit-dragons, kings, who favorably accept our wishes.
4. The white spirit-dragons, virtuous and pure kings.
5. The black spirit-dragons, kings of mysterious lakes.

The Ke-tche-king-yuen attests that nearby the Mao-chan, Mount Mao, lies the dragons' lake. This lake is of an ordinary size, and in its waters ten little black dragons about three inches in length are to be found. They have four feet, a raised head, their eyes glow with a bluish light, their abdomen is covered with stripes. There is no distinction of sex, they are of the lizard family. In the years of drought they grant rain when they are asked for it. They are worshipped in much the same way as the mountain spirits.

In fine, Chan-hai-king relates that the winged dragon dwelt in the South Pole. After it had killed Tche Yeou, it was no longer permitted to fly up to heaven but doomed to remain on earth producing drought. To draw a picture of this dragon is sufficient to obtain a copious rain.

It is probably this text of Chan-kai-king which plays an important role in the ridiculous ceremony which in our days takes place in China when rain is desired: Kieou yu. We shall give a description of it later on.

Other Chinese legends divide the dragons into four families.

1. The family of dragons that fly up to heaven. *Cheng-t'ien-long*.
2. The family of spirit-dragons. *Chen long*.
3. The family of earthly dragons which are unable to mount to heaven. *T'ou long*.
4. The family of dragons hidden in the ground, guardians of buried treasures. *T'sang long*.

I have often seen pictures of the god of wealth, T'sai-chen, in which he is represented mounting a dragon, or two dragons are stationed on either side of his magic cash-box, the constituted guardians of his treasures.

(To be continued)

Thanksgivings to the Blessed Virgin

for favors obtained




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

BL. HENRY SUZO.

In token of my gratitude to Mary Immaculate I am sending you my offering of \$5.00 for the ransom of a pagan child. G. N., **St. Sylvester**. — A thousand thanks to Our Immaculate Mother for a favor obtained. A subscriber, **Point St. Charles**. — In gratitude to the Blessed Virgin who has granted me a great favor I am sending you an offering which I shall renew in favor of your needy missions if this good Mother deigns to grant me another grace that I am soliciting. Miss R. P., **Augusta**. — Herein enclosed my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" in thanksgiving for a favor received and \$1.00 for your Missions, my thank-offering for another grace obtained. M. J. B., **Rogersville**. — My offering of \$2.00 in thanksgiving for graces granted me by the Blessed Virgin and the Little Flower. I again solicit them to protect my children exposed to so many dangers and with my whole heart I beg them to grant me a special favor. Mrs. F. B., **Quebec**. — Enclosed please find \$1.00 as a thank-offering. I shall send more when my request is granted. K. R., **Ottawa, Ont.** — This dollar is for a Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin in thanksgiving for a favor received. Mrs. O. H., **Spencer, Mass.** — I am enclosing cheque for \$8.00. Of this sum \$5.00 is in thanksgiving for a favor received and \$3.00 for three Low Masses for my deceased parents. Will you kindly pray for two other favors. Mrs. W. P. R., **Hemmingford, P. Q.** — I promised to send \$5.00 for the ransom of a baby likely to live, if I got better health. Thanks to the Blessed Virgin and St. Teresa, I am very much better so am enclosing \$5.00. A. E. C. — Please find enclosed \$2.00, an offering for your good works, \$1.00 of which is in thanksgiving for my sister's return to health. Kindly pray for my intention. K. R., **Ottawa, Ont.** — Enclosed you will find money order for \$20.00 in gratitude for favor granted. \$10.00 is for monthly support of a missionary sister and \$10.00 for monthly upkeep of two cribs. Many thanks to the Blessed Virgin. I ask her help for another favor. T. M. L., **East Windsor, Ont.** — In token of my gratitude to Mary Immaculate, I am sending you \$2.00 for your works in Naze. I beg you to pray for the conversion of my two sons. A subscriber. — My heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin for the renting of a house the day after I implored her aid. \$1.00 for the ransom of little dying Chinese babies and a subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" for a friend. Mrs. F. S., **Montreal**. — Kindly accept this little alms from a poor student who has been protected by Our Blessed Lady and the Little Flower. I promise to have this published and to send an offering. C. R., **Quebec**. — I am sending you a cheque for \$5.00 which I promised in honor of the Blessed Virgin and St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for the ransom of a little "Joseph Alphonsus." A subscriber. — I am renewing my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. Mrs. O. P., **Beauharnois**. — Happy am I to fulfil my promise to the Blessed Virgin by sending you \$1.00 for your Missions in China. I add thereto \$1.00 again seeking the intercession of the Queen of Heaven that my son may continue to have work. Mrs. E. P., **Pawtucket, R. I.** — To thank Our Blessed Lady for helping my husband to find a position and for having protected him from sickness I am sending you \$5.00 for your Works. I recommend myself to your prayers in order to obtain better health if God so wills. Mrs. J. J., **Montreal**. — Many thanks for the graces I have already received from the Blessed Virgin. I promise a donation of \$25.00 if this good Mother deigns to hear my prayers for another favor. Mrs. E. B., **Bagotville**. — Please insert in "THE PRECURSOR": Offering of \$2.00 for your missions, in thanksgiving for cures obtained from the Heart of Jesus through the intercession of Mary Immaculate. Anonymous. — I am enclosing \$5.00 in token of my gratitude for a favor received. I am asking Our Blessed Lady to grant me another special grace, success in our undertakings and her protection over my son, for I fear that he will be influenced by bad companions. A subscriber, **Val Quessel**. — Enclosed please find cheque for \$1.00 in thanksgiving for past favors. I. M., **Montreal**. — I am enclosing a money order for \$5.00. Will you please ransom a pagan baby with it in thanksgiving for a favor which I have received. F. M., **Thorold, Ont.** — Please find enclosed \$2.00 to prove my gratitude for a special favor obtained. One dollar is in honor of the Blessed Virgin and the other for the Little Flower Fund. Please include our family in your prayers. Mrs. P. M. D., **Woodstock, Ont.** — Having started in business for ourselves, I promised \$5.00 in honor of the Blessed Virgin for your missions if we met with success. I am happy to be

able to fulfil my promise. Please pray that we may continue to make a good honest living. C. M. G., **Holyoke, Mass.** — Please find enclosed \$1.00 in honor of Our Lady. W. B. C., **Notre Dame de Grace.** — I am sending \$5.00 for the ransom of a Chinese baby in thanksgiving for a favor received. L. S., **Marlboro, Mass.** — Please find enclosed a small offering in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. Mrs. A. M. B., **Montreal.** — I am renewing my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" to thank Our Blessed Lady for graces granted me. I promise an offering in her honor if she deigns to grant me other favors. A subscriber, **Smooth Rock Falls.** — I wish to thank the Blessed Virgin for a special favor received. I now ask this good Mother to grant health to our family and success in business. D. D. B., **Montreal.** **North.** — Enclosed please find cheque for \$5.00 for the Chinese Missions in thanksgiving for favors received through the intercession of the Blessed Canadian Martyrs. M. J. W. **Montreal.** — I have obtained the favor I asked. In thanksgiving kindly accept my cheque for \$4.00. I am soliciting other graces. A.D., **St. Boniface.** — I have obtained a special grace through the intercession of the Immaculate Conception. To thank her I am sending \$1.00 to her missionaries. Mrs. E. L., **Fall River.** — You will find enclosed \$5.00 for your Missions in China in fulfilment of my promise. I beg you to have a special intention in your prayers for my family and myself. Mrs. P. G., **Montreal.** — I desire to prove my gratitude to the Blessed Virgin by donating \$2.00 for the ransom of little Chinese babies, for this good and merciful Mother did not delay in answering our prayers for the conversion of a sinner. A subscriber, **N. B.** — My lively gratitude to Mary Immaculate. I am fulfilling my promise by sending you \$5.00 for your missions. Mrs. A. P., **Napierville.**



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

Petitions

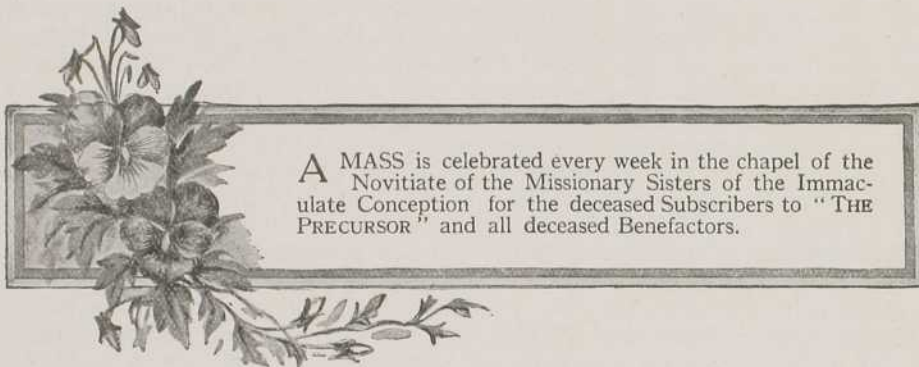
"O Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to Thee".

Will you please pray to the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin that we may sell some mining property. If I obtain this favor I shall contribute \$100.00 for your work and continue my subscription to your review. I shall also send \$10.00 every year as long as I live. Mrs. H., **Montreal.** — With my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" I am sending an offering of \$1.00. I am asking a special favor and beg your prayers for my intention. Mr. P. J. R., **Enchant, Alta.** — Enclosed please find \$1.00 for the renewal of my subscription and \$1.00 for lights in honor of the Blessed Virgin for special favors. Please pray for us. Mrs. A. D., **Petrolia, Ont.** — Will you kindly pray that my boy may obtain a position. I shall send a donation towards your works if he is successful. Mrs. T. P., **South Porcupine, Ont.** —

Please pray to the Blessed Virgin that my sister and I be successful in our examinations and find work after. We promise \$1.00 or more if we obtain this favor. Miss A. St. P., **Merlin, Ont.** — My son suffers from a sore eye. Please send me a miraculous medal for this important purpose. Mrs. T. A. C., **Dutton, Ont.** — Will you start a novena for me. Surely in the month of May the Blessed Virgin will answer my prayers. A. F., **Ottawa, Ont.** — Kindly pray for a very urgent and special intention. I trust that you will beg Our Blessed Lady to come to my aid at once. I promise to publish my thanksgiving if I obtain this grace. Mrs. P., **Outremont.** — May I ask you to make a special novena for my intention and to daily remember me in your prayers. M. M. O., **St. John's Newfoundland.** — I am donating \$5.00 towards the Little Flower Bursar that I may obtain a position. J. T., **Montreal.** — I have been sick for a long time and beg your prayers to the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph and St. Teresa that I may get better. I am sending \$1.00 for your works. Mrs. E. E., **Outremont.** P. Q. — Please find enclosed \$1.25 to be used in your missionary work in honor of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus and an offering for a votive light to be burned during the month of May in honor of our Blessed Mother. I also ask your prayers to St. Teresa that I may obtain a special favor if such be God's Holy Will. Mrs. G. S., **Jackson Heights, N. Y.** — I am enclosing \$1.00 hoping it may help in your good work. I have asked your prayers to the Blessed Virgin and St. Teresa that I may be granted special favors. I shall send \$10.00 in thanksgiving for each favor I obtain. A. H., **Matapedia.** — I am renewing my subscription and also am sending an offering of \$4.00. Please pray for the soul of my deceased brother and pray also for a special intention. E. S., **Cleveland, Ohio.** — I am in request of a very special favor and would appreciate your prayers. I shall send an offering in thanksgiving when this favor is granted. G. I. C., **Ottawa, Ont.** — I am about to write an important examination. Kindly pray for me. If I am successful I shall send a generous offering as token of my gratitude. I also promise to publish. T. A. R., **Ottawa, Ont.** — Please pray for my special intention. M. C. M., **Chesterville, Ont.** — May I ask you to pray to the Blessed Virgin and the Little Flower that I may obtain a desired favor. I promise the sum of \$100.00 if this favor be granted me. G. G. T., **Westmount.** — I am asking a special favor in return for which I shall forward you \$5.00. Please pray for me. Miss A. G., **Montreal.** — I beg you to pray for my recovery to health that I may be able to work. Mr. P. L., **North Adams, Mass.** — Enclosed please find an offering for a novena of lights in honor of our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph for improvement in my sight and to be cured of rheumatism. If granted I shall remember your mission work. A subscriber, **Montreal.** — I am sending \$1.00 for your works. Kindly pray to the Sacred Heart and Our Blessed Lady for my special intention. If granted I shall send \$5.00. S. M., **New York.** — Please find enclosed \$52.00 for which kindly have ten High Masses and two Low Masses said in honor of the Blessed Virgin for my intention. Mrs. A. L., **North Bay, Ont.** — I am asking a very special favor. Please pray for me. M. O., **Ottawa, Ont.** — I would like very much if you would ask the Blessed Virgin to grant me my requests. I am enclosing \$1.00 for your works and shall send more when I obtain these favors. Mrs. G. F., **Westboro, Ont.** — I am sending \$1.00 for a Mass for two Departed Souls. Please pray for my husband's success in an undertaking. Mrs. J. A. K., **Cleveland, Ohio.** — I am writing to ask you to pray to the Blessed Virgin and St. Teresa for my intentions. A. H., **Matapedia.** — Please make a novena for me as I am in trouble. The enclosed offering is for your works. L. B. — I am sending you a small donation for the work you do. Please ask Our Blessed Lady to intercede for me. Miss E. T., **Taftville, Conn.** — Kindly accept \$1.00 for a novena of lights in honor of the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph and St. Teresa for two special intentions. I promise to help to support a Missionary Sister if my prayers are heard. A. F. F., **North Adams, Mass.** — Will you please make another novena to the Blessed Virgin and also one to St. Teresa for my intentions. A. F., **Ottawa, Ont.** — Please accept my offering of \$1.00 for your good works. May I ask you to pray that I may secure a good position shortly. I promise \$5.00 for the ransom of a baby if I obtain this favor. Miss C. C. M., **Windsor, Ont.** — Kindly pray for my intention which is to hold my position or secure another one as good. I shall send you an offering of \$1.00 when I receive my favor. E. E., **Ottawa, Ont.** — I am renewing my mother's subscription to "THE PRECURSOR". I make this offering in honor of St. Jude Thaddeus that he may grant me a special request. I promise to send another offering in

his honor if I obtain this favor. G. M. T., **St. Mary's, Ont.** — With my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" I am sending an offering of \$1.00. Please pray that my husband may give up drinking and secure a steady position. Mrs. W. B., **Windsor, Ont.** — I am sending a small donation as promised and shall also send another donation if I obtain the favor I am asking. Mrs. E. F., **Westmount.** — I am enclosing \$1.00 for your works. Please pray for my special intention. Mrs. C. W. R., **Bridgeville, P. Q.** — Being a subscriber to "THE PRECURSOR" I beg the help of your prayers for success in business. I promise to donate a substantial sum to your good work each year if I meet with success. A. V. R., **Chicopee Falls, Mass.** — I am asking a special request and beg your prayers for this intention. If I obtain this favor I shall renew my subscription. Mrs. D. Y., **Willimansett, Mass.** — Please find enclosed \$1.00 for the renewal of my subscription. I beg your prayers that my husband may regain his former position. Mrs. G. S., **Stratford, Ont.** — Please pray for my sister who is suffering from a cancer. Mrs. B., **Montreal.** — My offering for a novena of lights in honor of the Sacred Heart that I may be granted a special request. If God deigns to hear my prayers I shall send \$5.00 for mission work. S. M., **New York.** — Will you kindly have a Mass said as soon as possible in honor of St. Teresa that my sister may be cured without an operation. Mrs. E. B., **North Adams, Mass.** — This offering is for a novena of lights in honor of Our Immaculate Mother and St. Joseph that I may be granted a very special favor. In return I promise to pay a life subscription to "THE PRECURSOR". Mrs. I. A. T., **Verdun, P. Q.** — I am enclosing a little offering. Please pray for us. Mrs. M. O., **Stratford, Ont.** — I am sending \$1.00 to help your missions in China. I am asking St. Teresa to cure me. Mrs. J. L. D. — I solicit the help of the Blessed Virgin that I may succeed in selling two houses. M. E. — It is with the greatest confidence that I implore the assistance of the Mother of Mercy in order to obtain the conversion of a hardened sinner. M. B., **Montreal.** — I recommend myself to your prayers so as to obtain a particular grace through the intercession of Our Blessed Lady and the Little Flower. If I obtain this favor I shall give an offering for the ransom of a baby likely to live and also publish. Mrs. F. B., **Montreal.** — I beg the assistance of the Little Sister of Missionaries who so dearly loves to assist the poor unfortunate people of this earth that my husband may give up drinking and not sell liquor, which is a misfortune for the family. I also desire a position so as to be able to meet expenses. Mrs. R. L. — I beg you to assure me the help of your prayers that Mary Immaculate may grant to our family the graces of which we stand in need. May Almighty God give me the supreme happiness of calling one of my children to the missionary life. A subscriber. — I recommend my son to your prayers. He is addicted to drinking and about to give up his religion. An afflicted mother: — A great grace concerning the welfare of a family is solicited by a subscriber. — Kindly beg the Blessed Virgin to grant health to my husband and son. A subscriber, **St. Pascal Baylon.** — I promise to give \$50.00 yearly to support a virgin catechist if I obtain the position I desire. J. M. D., **Montreal.** — I desire to obtain a conversion and my cure. Kindly implore our Blessed Lady to hear my prayers. A. G. B. — I am sending \$1.00 for the Little Flower Burse in order to be successful in my undertakings. I promise more if this little Saint deigns to protect me. M. G. R., **Timmins, Ont.** — I am enclosing an offering of \$1.00 and promise to make the same donation yearly as long as I am able if I regain my health. P. D., **Ste. Madeleine.** — A poor widow, mother of four children and almost in dire distress begs prayers that she may be granted several particular graces. — I shall subscribe to "THE PRECURSOR" if I obtain a cure. F. D. — I am renewing my subscription trusting that through Our Blessed Lady's intercession to obtain the conversion of a sinner and health for two persons. I. B. — Kindly pray that I may obtain two graces which I greatly desire. Mrs. X. — Desiring to obtain a great favor I recommend myself to your prayers and to those of all the subscribers that Our Immaculate Mother may grant me the favors I am asking. L. C., **Three Rivers.** — The cure of sore eyes through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. H. T., **Warwick.** — We are asked to publish the following request in "THE PRECURSOR": I beg the Little Flower of Jesus to intercede for my daughter that she may be successful in her examinations. I shall send an offering for a High Mass if my prayers are heard. Mrs. M. P., **Ottawa.** — I beg the subscribers of the "THE PRECURSOR" to implore Our Blessed Lady to cure me without being obliged to undergo an operation. Mrs. H. — Through the

intercession of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph I desire to receive, within a certain time, a favorable reply concerning a position. I shall give an offering of \$3.00 in thanksgiving. A subscriber, **Levis**. — A subscriber recommends to our prayers the father of a family who has not practised his religion for many years. — We are in great distress for we are threatened to leave our old home. Kindly pray for us. **M. L. D.** — Prayers are requested for the cure of a father of a family who suffers from neurosthenia and consequently unable to work, also that we may find a house and store which will assure us a means of livelihood. A subscriber who is a little discouraged. — May Our Immaculate Mother help us to sell our farm in the West. **Mrs. V. A., Montreal**. — I rely on the Blessed Virgin to grant me success in an undertaking. I promise a substantial sum of money to help the missionaries in China if this good Mother deigns to come to my assistance. A subscriber. — I beg you to have a remembrance in your prayers for some poor sinners, some sick persons and my very special intentions. I shall send an offering in honor of St. Teresa if my prayers are heard. **A. D.** — I want to ask Our Blessed Mother to cure my sister. Kindly pray for my intentions. I am enclosing an offering of \$1.00. **K. R., Ottawa**. — Will you kindly pray that my son may find a good position. **A. B.** — Please pray that my oldest boy's cough will stop and that my second boy may recover his sight. **Mrs. W.** — A subscriber recommends the following intentions to our prayers: the conversion of her husband, a position for her daughter, the repose of the soul of her son.



NECROLOGY

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

3. — **Subscriber**, those who give an annual offering of \$2.00.

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

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

Privileges accorded to Benefactors

While commending their Benefactors to God, that He himself may reward them according to their generosity, the Missionary Sister 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 member 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 Noviate 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.