

THE PRECURSOR



Vol. VII., 8th Year MONTREAL, NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1930 No. 6

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.

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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., St. Germain St. (Founded in 1918)

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., Corner St. Louis and Ste. Angeline Streets (Founded in 1919)

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

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SILLERY, near Quebec, 651 St. Cyrille St. (Founded in 1928)

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

GRANBY, P. Q. 64 Ottawa St. (Founded in 1930)

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

CHICOUTIMI, P. Q., 138 Rivière du Moulin (Founded in 1930)

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

(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.

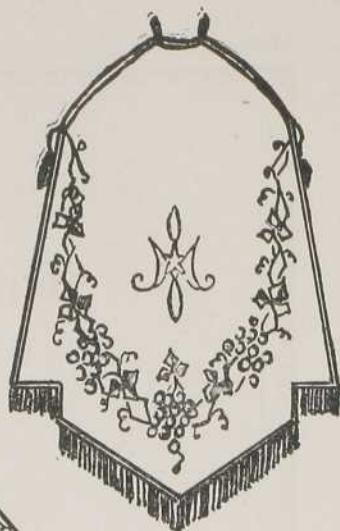
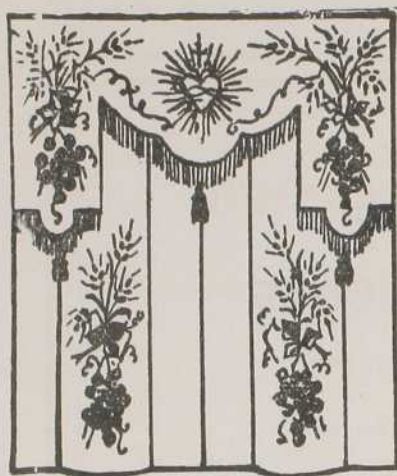
Missionaries must undergo several years' preparation before being able to commence their apostolic labors in foreign fields.

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.....

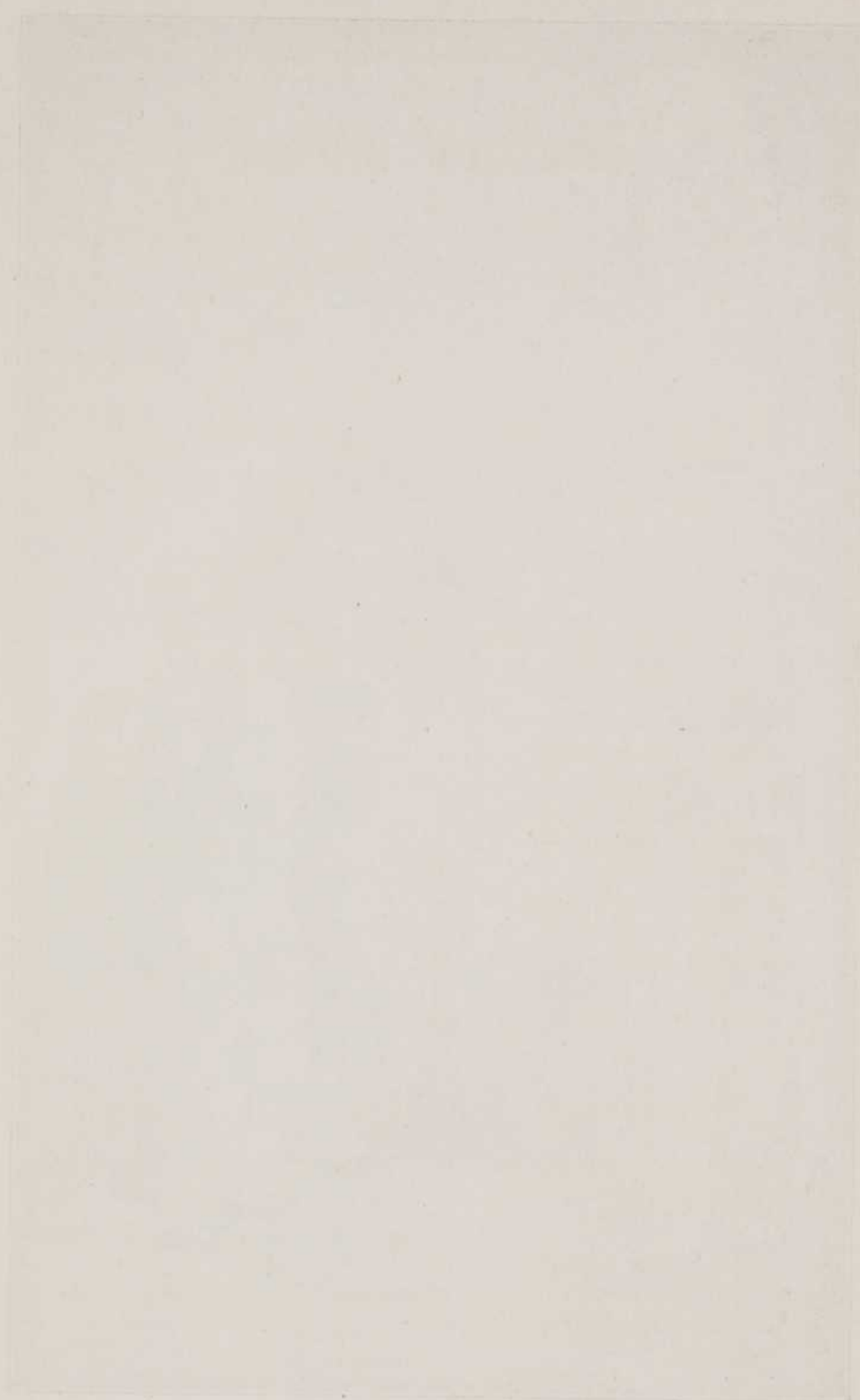
By providing for the:

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

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With Mary at the crib

O joy of the Virgin Mother
As she gazed on the Child Divine,
Whispering in her burning soul;
My Son, thou art mine, all mine:

O bliss of the spotless Mother
As she looked on her Infant's Face,
And her Heart with rapture melted
As she drew Him to her embrace.

Then kneel, dear soul, at My manger
Oh, list to My message of peace;
Seek but My love, trust in My Heart,
And Blessings shall never cease!

Come, kneel with the Virgin Mother
At the crib of the Child Divine;
And hear Him whisper to your soul:
My child, I am thine, all thine:

I have come from the realms of glory
To show thee My tenderest love;
Peace and Salvation and Blessings,
I bring from heaven above.

' TABERNACLE AND PURGATORY '

*Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
Clyde, Missouri*



Christmas and New Year Wishes

MAY THE AUTHOR OF ALL GOOD

at the dawn of the Christmas Season
shower the most abundant celestial blessings

*Upon Our Venerated Pastors,
Upon each member of the Clergy,
And upon Our so worthy Religious
Congregations.*

MAY HIS DIVINE AND PATERNAL HAND

liberally bestow
the choicest graces

Upon our Devoted Benefactors

And bless in a special manner

*The zealous Propagators and indulgent Readers
of our Review.*

Such is our ardent wish, our fervent prayer.

"THE PRECURSOR"



MISSIONARY EXPOSITION OF MONTREAL MISSIONARY UNION OF THE CLERGY
HOMAGES TO HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS XI "THE POPE OF THE MISSIONS"

Missionary Exposition of Montreal

From the 21st to the 28th of September, 1930.

Under the distinguished patronage of His Grace Archbishop Gauthier

THE first great mission week of Montreal was opened on September 21st at the Cathedral by a Pontifical High Mass celebrated by His Lordship Right Reverend Alphonse Deschamps, Bishop of Thennesis and Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal. Very Reverend Canon Avila Roch, Superior General of the Canadian Foreign Mission Seminary, acted as assisting priest and the different functions were performed by the pupils of this Seminary: Reverend Fathers Cossette and Roberge acted as deacon and sub-deacon, and Reverend Father Papineau, curate of the cathedral acted as master of ceremonies.

Before Mass a procession took place around the nave. Among the clergy were to be remarked representatives of all the religious communities that have missionaries in foreign lands.

The sermon for the occasion was preached by Very Reverend Canon Adelard Harbour, Pastor of the cathedral. He first announced that this Pontifical Mass solemnly opened the Missionary Exposition which was being held in the Drill Hall on Craig St., transformed into an exotic museum containing the most varied collections of products and objects of mission countries, and that conferences on the missions would be given at the same time in the Sulpician Fathers' hall and by radio.

"The aim of this manifestation," Very Reverend Canon Harbour states, is firstly to attract the attention of the faithful concerning the missions, to inform them of the field of action of our 1500 Canadian missionaries scattered over infidel countries and finally to induce them to pray fervently and to give a little of their money to the Catholic cause of proselytism and propagation of the Faith.

"And it is only right that we should firstly have recourse to prayer. Doubtlessly, since the time of St. Paul we believe that faith and the works of faith are made known by these words: *FIDES EX AUDITU*. Moreover we know that even the most spiritual works of this world need material co-operation, that missionaries do not live on air alone and that they must defray the expenses of travelling, of living and of the construction of churches and schools, at least when other christendoms are established. And for this reason the Propagation of the Faith should collect generous sums from the faithful.

"But what I wish to insist upon to-day is recourse to prayer by which we have begun this undertaking and from which we should expect success.

"The Propagation of the Faith is first of all an idea, a sublime idea, and a precept of our Divine Master. 'Go', He said to the apostles, 'and teach all nations'.

"We admit, Brethren, the necessity of religion; we admit that God created us, that we are his property and since we have been raised to a supernatural state, we admit that we are His children. As such we recognize our duties towards Him: duty of adoration, if He is the Supreme Master; duty of gratitude, if He is the source of all good; duty of impetration or prayer, if everything comes to us from Him; and finally, duty of reparation, if through our own weakness despite His gifts, we have offended Him.

"And man should bear these duties in mind for if God has taken the trouble to recall to him the precise knowledge of all these things, and has sent us One invested with all authority and power, is it not evident that the duty of all men is to listen to this Divine Messenger. Brethren, as we already know, Our Lord Jesus Christ came down upon earth in order to fulfil this mission. He has been the great missionary of His Father. For this reason He has established a Church to preserve the Faith from all corruption and to indicate to men without fear of erring, the road to Heaven.

"Is this not an incomparable advantage, so great that those who possess it have the duty of sharing it with their brethren, for such is the precept of our Divine Master which we recalled but a short time ago: 'Go ye therefore and teach all nations'.

"Since the Church has been founded, the propagation of the faith has been organized. And in this aim there exists at Rome, a congregation that labors for the evangelization of countries not yet explored by faith, never abandoning them until they possess all the organizations prescribed by the Church to bring about the salvation of souls.

"There exists also, throughout the world, an association known as the Society of the Propagation of the Faith. Sprung from the apostolical soul of a poor maiden of Lyons ⁽¹⁾ at the beginning of the 18th century, the Society of the Propagation of the Faith has spread its branches over the entire universe. It asks every Catholic to give but one cent a week, and sends the sums collected to our less fortunate brothers who are still sitting in the shadows of death; it asks each rising generation for apostles and martyrs and each country sends it apostles and martyrs. This work of the Propagation of the Faith is carried on here at home and it yields abundant fruit. We also have our Foreign Mission Seminary, the pride of our nation from a supernatural point of view, which, inside of six years, has sent twenty-three young priests to Manchuria.

"Ah! Brethren what a beautiful sight is the departure of missionaries! One to be admired took place a few years ago in our cathedral which although accustomed to splendid ceremonies had never before witnessed one more impressive. These young men in the flower of youth and strength bidding farewell to all that the heart seeks here below armed with the Cross alone, left in their turn for the moral conquest of the world, ever proclaiming the same precept of our Divine Lord: *Euntes ergo*.

"And we, Brethren, what are we doing for this, the most Catholic of all works?

1. Miss Pauline Marie Jaricot

"But you may ask: 'What are we able to do?' Many things which come under three headings: firstly, pray for the propagation of the faith and for the salvation of infidels. The soul which thinks of praying for the spreading of the Gospel is certainly a generous and truly Christian soul; secondly, help by giving alms. Are a few pieces of silver really worth becoming attached to? And if, Brethren, God asked you to give more than money to the missions, if He asked you for a son for the Foreign Mission Seminary or a daughter for the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, be generous and make the sacrifice with all your heart! And be persuaded that even from a material point of view, your daughter whom you have given to the Missions is less sacrificed than another who, married outside of the Church, has left for an unknown country, with one who differs from her in race as well as in religion; and that your missionary son will love you more than the one, who, married to a stranger, has abandoned his religion, his children's future, and no longer gives you any hope of assistance in your old age.

"After having given our children and our money for the sublime cause of the propagation of the faith we can still do more by giving ourselves. Oh! not in leaving for infidel shores, but by contributing by our good example: that is the hardest thing of all to do.

"Act, and act resolutely, this is the greatest of all contributions to any cause that you may have taken up and the infallible sign of its sincerity. If you wish to work for economy in a country, practise economy yourself and cut down all unnecessary expenses; if you wish to beautify your city, first of all take care of your own property. In other words, you must not content yourselves with words and verbal contributions; you must not let others do your work! You must be generous in your personal sacrifices.

"So it is, Brethren, with regard to the propagation and progress of faith in the world. If we wish faith to enlighten the world it must first of all be lively in our own souls. Doubtlessly for this we must make a few sacrifices, and take a few difficult steps, for faith in order to shine forth requires a pure soul and a heart without any other affection. Let us rid our lives of the narrowness of ambition and break the chains which bind us to this world's goods; let us rise above the vileness of certain illicit affections and in so doing, Brethren, we shall be laboring efficaciously for the beautiful cause of showing forth the Faith in all its splendor and for an even more practical cause, that of our eternal salvation."

Representing His Grace Most Reverend G. Gauthier, Coadjutor Archbishop of Montreal, Very Reverend Canon Emile Chartier, officially opened the Missionary Exposition in the Drill Hall at half-past two on September 21st. He was accompanied by Very Reverend Canon J. A. Mousseau, Diocesan Director of the Propagation of the Faith and of the Holy Childhood and by Very Reverend Canon Avila Roch, Superior General of the Canadian Foreign Mission Seminary.

From then until about five o'clock crowds of visitors uninterruptedly circulated in the vast aisles of the Hall, charmed by the sight which met their eyes.

The Hall presented a remarkable aspect. The aisles bordered by booths illuminated in a thousand ingenious fashions were covered with flags, bunting, and pictures explaining in an eloquent and practical manner the work done by the missionaries throughout the world.

The thirty-eight booths of the Exposition had been arranged with extraordinary ingenuity. The Organizing Committee have succeeded in making it a living sermon.

The spectators have been able to see, behind the specimens of fauna and flora, behind the furnishings, costumes and industries of Asiatic or African peoples, the heroic and unceasing efforts of our compatriots to spread the Light of the Gospel throughout the world.

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* *

The Pontifical Association of the Propagation of the Faith

Extract from a conference by Mgr. J. N. Gignac, National Director

THE WORK OF THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH IN OUR COUNTRY

IF we go back a century, let us say to the year 1822, we realize that our immense country which extends from ocean to ocean, and which to-day numbers eleven ecclesiastical provinces, thirty-six dioceses, six apostolic vicariates, one prefecture apostolic, one abbacy *nullius*, four million Catholics out of a population of ten million, we realize that at that time only one bishop had charge of the government of about ten hundred thousand faithful dispersed in Upper and Lower Canada and throughout the Maritime Provinces.

In 1819, Mgr. Plessis, whom the English Government had just recognized, left for Rome to see to the dividing of his immense diocese, which was as vast as Europe itself. He was obliged to go through London so as to make arrangements with the English Government. All that the bishop could obtain was the nomination of titular bishops, who, under the title of vicars general of the Bishop of Quebec, exercised jurisdiction and conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is thus that Mgr. McEachern was named titular bishop of Rosa with jurisdiction over Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton Island and New Brunswick. Mgr. Lartigue was consecrated titular bishop of Telmesse with jurisdiction over the district of Montreal; Mgr. Alexander McDonnell was consecrated titular bishop of Rhesine with jurisdiction over Upper Canada. Mgr. J. N. Provencher was consecrated titular bishop of Jullis having his residence at Riviere Rouge and jurisdiction over the North West Territories. The distant missions of Columbia remained under the charge of the Bishop of Quebec. By the missions of Columbia was understood the territory situated between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, which territory extended from the southern

coast up to the border of California which at that time was a province of Mexico.

At the beginning of the last century, the entire territory of Canada was a vast field of apostolate which was waiting for apostles to preach the Gospel and to found churches.

Mgr. Signay understood what great advantages he could draw for the propagation of the faith in his immense diocese by having a society erected after the model of the one founded at Lyons. In 1836, he placed before the S. Congregation of the Propaganda, a humble supplication drawn up in the following terms:

"As in many of the missions of Canada already erected or about to be erected, either among Indian tribes or among the poor Catholics living among non-Catholics, the missionaries have great difficulty in procuring the necessities of life and it is impossible for them to supply what is needed for Divine Service without extraordinary help from pious charity. Therefore, the bishops and priests have been advised to erect, with the consent of the Holy See, a society similar to the one founded at Lyons, May 3, 1822, under the title of the *Association of the Propagation of the Faith* in the aim of collecting alms for the conversion of infidels. For these reasons and with the aim of propagating the Faith, the Archbishop is fully confident that Your Holiness will grant him the power of erecting the said society and of enriching it with all the privileges granted to the society at Lyons by a brief of Pius VII, May 15, 1823, and by that of Leo XIII, May 11, 1824.

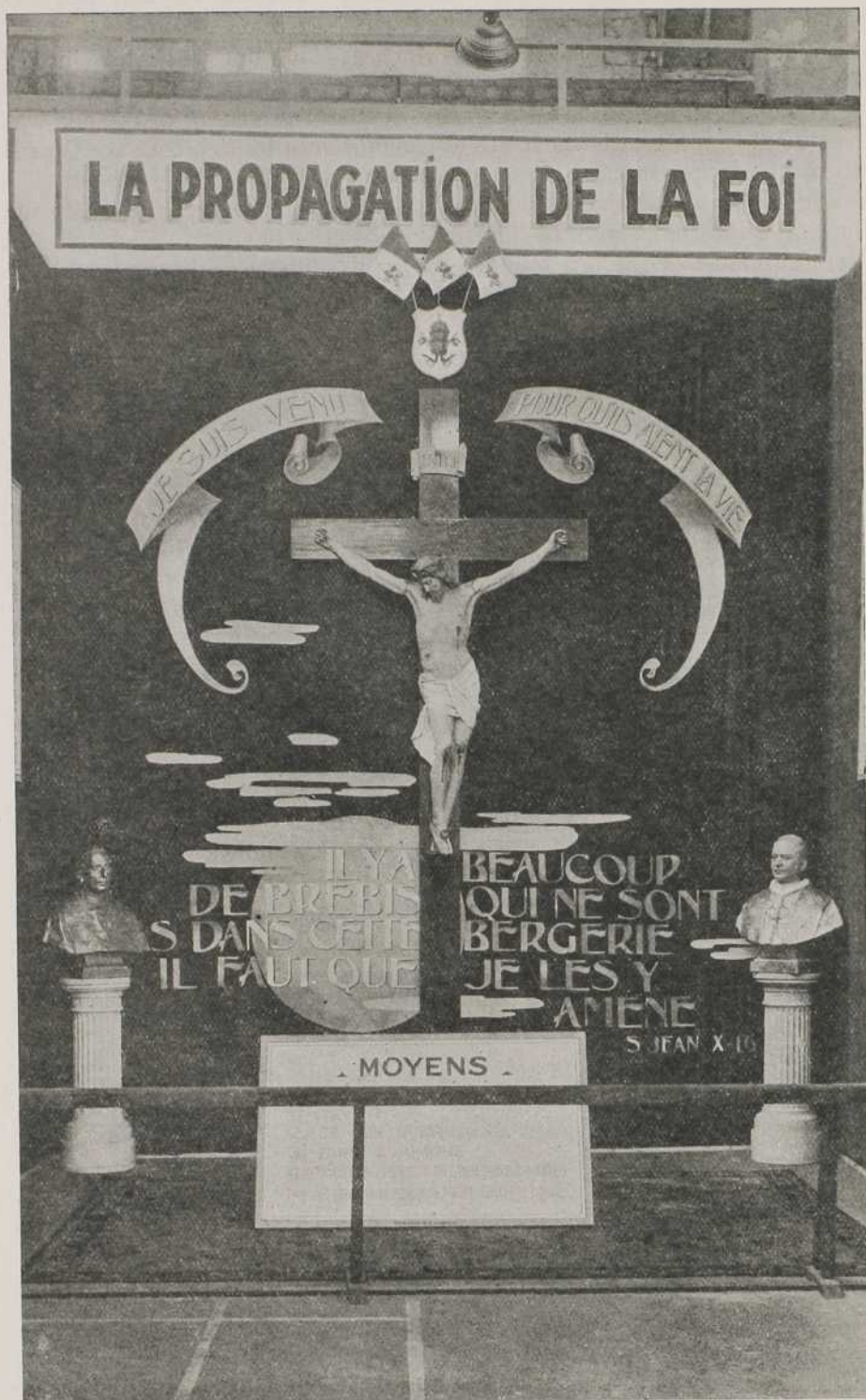
On February 28, 1836, His Holiness Gregory XVI granted the Archbishop of Quebec the faculty of erecting in the places mentioned above in the petition, a society for the propagation of the Faith like the one already erected in the diocese of Lyons, with the indulgences and privileges granted by the Holy See to the aforesaid society.

Great was the surprise at Lyons when it was learned that an independent society of the Propagation of the Faith had been founded in Canada. Upon the request of the Prefect of the Congregation of Propaganda, our society asked to be affiliated with the mother-society, affiliation which was maintained until 1876.

What has the Association of the Propagation of the Faith of Lyons with the aid of the filial one of Canada done for the establishment and development of the Church in our country?

This answer is given us by the missionaries in their narrations entitled: *Notices sur les missions du diocèse de Québec* from 1839 to 1876 published at Quebec and *Rapports de l'Association de la Propagation de la Foi* from 1839 to 1876 published at Montreal.

It is the Association of the Propagation of the Faith that supported the distant missions which was called, a century ago, *The Columbia Missions*. All that territory situated beyond the Rocky Mountains, which has given several States to the American Union and a province to the Confederation of Canada, was at that time inhabited by Indian tribes, of a mild nature but attached to polygamy.



THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

No priest had yet visited this country when Reverend Father Blanchet went thither having received full power from the Archbishop of Quebec, who had named him his Vicar General. Father Blanchet became Vicar Apostolic with the title of Bishop of Drusa, then Bishop of Oregon City and finally Archbishop of the same city where he died in the year 1883 at the age of 88 years after having given 80 years of his life to the Oregon Missions.

Father Blanchet was accompanied in 1838 by Reverend Father Demers who was the first bishop of Victoria, B. C.

To Bishops Blanchet and Demers was confided the care of directing the missions of Columbia. Several secular priests felt called to these distant missions. Fathers Bolduc and Langlois who left Boston September 12, 1841, were obliged to go around Cape Horn in order to reach the Columbia Missions September 15, 1842. Father Magloire Blanchet, Father Norbert Blanchet's brother, became first bishop of Nasqually; Father J. B. Brouillet became Vicar General of Oregon City; Father Thomas Soulard was but a minor cleric when he devoted himself to the Columbia Missions, and received the Sacrament of Holy Orders from the hands of Mgr. Demers. He died after five years of apostolate.

It is the Propagation of the Faith that supported the missions called Missions of *Riviere Rouge*. The Missions of *Riviere Rouge* comprised the immense territory which formed the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. This vast country, bounded on the West by the Rocky Mountains, on the North by the Polar Regions, was inhabited by savage tribes.

In 1822, Father J. N. Provencher, appointed Vicar General of the North West, was consecrated titular bishop of Juliopolis as auxiliary of Quebec. Several priests went to labor under his jurisdiction. Let us recall the names of Fathers Belcourt, Thibault, Poire, Darveau, Mayrand. Father Belcourt, whose letters are often found in the relations of the missions, spent a part of his life at *Riviere Rouge*. He acquired such a wonderful knowledge of the Sautaux language that he composed a Dictionary and a Grammar.

Father Thibault was yet a seminarian when he gave himself to the missions of *Riviere Rouge*. Ordained by Mgr. Provencher, he exercised his zeal over the territory of Manitoba and the Rocky Mountains. He founded missions at Lake St. Anne, visited the first stations of *St. Albert*, of *Lac à la Biche* and of *l'Ile à la Crosse*, travelled over every part of the Saskatchewan Valley, and composed in the natives' language, a catechism, prayer books and hymns.

In 1845, Bishop Provencher feeling the great need of apostolic workers, came to Lower Canada to seek recruits among the secular clergy. His trip was successful: two priests went to share his labors, one of whom was a professor at the Nicolet College, he was Louis-François-Richer Lafleche who later became bishop of Three Rivers.

It is the Propagation of the Faith that supported the missions of Abbitibi.

The missions of Lake Abbitibi was established in the centre of a savage tribe who inhabited the shores of Lake Temiscamingue and Abbitibi, the hunting grounds of which were the banks of the Ottawa River and its numerous territories.

The founder of the mission of Lake Abbitibi was Father Bellefeuille, a Sulpician Father. After having had charge over the Indians of the Lake of Two Mountains for several years, he acquired a perfect knowledge of the language. During the summer of 1836, accompanied by Father Dupuy, priest of St. Jacques' Church, Father Bellefeuille has left a very detailed relation of his voyage to Lakes Temiscamingue and Abbitibi. He had sown good seed among these natives, but he was not destined to see the fruit of his labors. On his return to Montreal, he felt the first symptoms of a serious illness which was to lead him to the grave. The Indians who owe their conversion to his zeal, ever keep a remembrance of their spiritual Father.

It is the Propagation of the Faith that supported the mission of the Upper St. Maurice. The first missionaries were Father Dumoulin, Pastor of Yamachiche, and Father Harper, who visited the savage tribes in 1837. In 1839, Father Harper left in a boat conducted by six men and perished tragically in the Saint Maurice Rapids before the eyes of the men who were powerless to come to his help.

The field of apostolate was too vast for the secular clergy, already absorbed by parochial work. A missionary congregation was needed who would be able to supply evangelical laborers. Bishop Bourget, of holy memory, addressed himself to Mgr de Mazenod, founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and admitted them into his diocese. In 1844 the Council of the Association of the Propagation of the Faith voted 150 *louis* to defray the expenses of the three first Oblate Fathers who came to Canada.

Henceforth, the Propagation of the Faith in the Columbia Missions, those of Riviere Rouge, Temiscamingue, Abbitibi, St. Maurice, Labrador and Hudson Bay will be the work of a religious congregation. "From Riviere Rouge to the shores of the Arctic Ocean," wrote the author of the *Canada Apostolique*, "from the coasts of Lake Superior to the summits of the Rocky Mountains, the Oblates have travelled through all these missions, founded the majority of the different parishes, organized all the dioceses and the apostolic vicariates. They have preached the Gospel in all the aboriginal languages. They baptized, instructed, married, helped and buried men, women, and children of every race of North America."

In this work of evangelization of our country by the heroic family of Bishop de Mazenod, the missionaries have been greatly helped by the Association of the Propagation of the Faith of Lyons, even after our society had broken away from it.

The Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood

Conference by Very Reverend Canon J. A. Mousseau, Director of the Work
in the Diocese of Montreal

MY LORDS,

GENTLEMEN,

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

We are told in the Gospel that Our Lord, while on earth, after calling the little ones unto Himself, caressingly blessed them. He loved their simplicity and innocence and declared that "of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

The priest, another Christ, if he wishes to be faithful to his mission, should share the sentiments of his Master: *hoc sentite in vobis quod in Christo Jesu.*

Moreover, in justice, he should watch over the children in his own parish and through charity over those in the missions.

The Holy Childhood is the official association by which he may assist the latter.

Origin. — This Association was founded in 1843 by Bishop Forbin Janson, Bishop of Nancy. This same year he came to establish it in Canada. Although most flourishing in the beginning this Work soon declined. In 1917 His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi reestablished it in Montreal and entrusted its organization to the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception who upon the request of the bishops of the Province of Quebec spread it in nearly every diocese.

Aim. — The aim of this Association is the salvation of children who have been born of pagan parents. In infidel lands, infanticide exists under various forms. Little girls are looked upon as a disgrace. When they are not killed in a most brutal manner they are left to be devoured by wild beasts, or sold as merchandise. Parents who are a little less cruel-hearted rid themselves of their children by leaving them at the door of a foundling-home. Numerous are the children born in pagan countries. In India alone from six to eight million children are born each year but owing to lack of care two-thirds of this number die, and they die without receiving the grace which alone may admit them to heaven.

Your Excellency. — The Holy Childhood protects these little helpless children who know neither the care nor the caresses of a mother. Upon their brows it pours the Saving Waters which incorporates them with Christ their Redeemer. Many of them die soon after their baptism and immediately receive the crown of the elect. Others are placed in foundling-homes, hospitals or orphanages where they are given a good christian education and later in work-shops and schools they are taught how to earn an honest living. They go through childhood safely and then form Christian homes. Among the children sheltered by the Holy Childhood are often found precious



THE HOLY CHILDHOOD

souls destined to the noble function of catechist or to that still nobler, the religious life or the priesthood. Always does it make these children sympathetic towards the Catholic religion, most necessary in a country where the greater majority of the people through ignorance look suspiciously upon our holy faith. And perhaps this leaven, in God's good time, will succeed in raising up the pagan multitudes inspiring them with the thought of realizing Christ's desire: "There are many sheep who are not of this fold, them also must I bring."

This work of salvation in infidel countries performed by our little Holy Childhood associates, even here produces fruits worthy of note. "It is difficult to state," Our Holy Father Pope Benedict XV affirms, "if they do more for others than for themselves". This Work is of great educative value. We must teach our children to appreciate the gift of faith which they have received gratuitously while so many children are still deprived of it.

We must also help them to develop charity and the spirit of apostolate. Children are naturally selfish, but their tender characters allow them to become generous. The Holy Childhood accustoms them to think of others by inviting them to sacrifice a plaything, a candy, in order to assist their less fortunate brothers and sisters. To encourage them in their work it tells them, by means of the narrations in its reviews, of the number of souls which they harvest in the field of pagan childhood. By these means Christian children are brought into contact with pagan children. These results encourage them and induce them to do still more. They have but one desire: the salvation of souls. "The Holy Childhood," says the Sovereign Pontiff, "is one of the most beautiful associations, not only because it procures large sums for the missions, but especially because it changes the children into little apostles." Can there be anything more beautiful than to see our children become "little saviours" of souls as Our Holy Father Pope Benedict calls them.

A child who devotes himself to the Work of the Holy Childhood is in later years ready to devote himself to the Propagation of the Faith. It is as a beneficent apprenticeship which little by little initiates him in apostolical works.

Taking into consideration the important results produced by the Holy Childhood here at home as well as in distant lands it is not surprising that the Sovereign Pontiffs, Pius IX and Pius XI especially bless this Association in a special manner, frequently recommending it and enriching it with numerous privileges. To prove more clearly Our Holy Father's appreciation of the Work, I shall give but one testimony, that of His Holiness Pius XI, gloriously reigning. On May 12th, 1929, 15,000 children all members of the Holy Childhood cheer him in the court-yard of St. Damascus. The Pope declared that he wished to place this joy which all these children procured for his paternal heart among the most beautiful and exquisite graces with which the Lord deigned to enrich his pontificate, among the most outstanding manifestations of the celebration of his fiftieth sacerdotal anniversary.

Obstacles. — However excellent this Work may be, it nevertheless, meets with obstacles. A general opposition is not shown it in an active manner but this opposition is to be found in the fact that many believe themselves exempted from taking an interest in it.

We are sometimes tempted to neglect this Work because it is not a parish work. This is too individual a reason. Christian charity obliges us to increase our apostolic solitudes. Our Beloved Master has said: *prædicate super tecta*. By these words he invites us to preach in the open air so that the throngs may hear us from afar. He wishes to give us to understand that our collective duty is not sufficiently fulfilled when we have evangelized those living under our own roof.

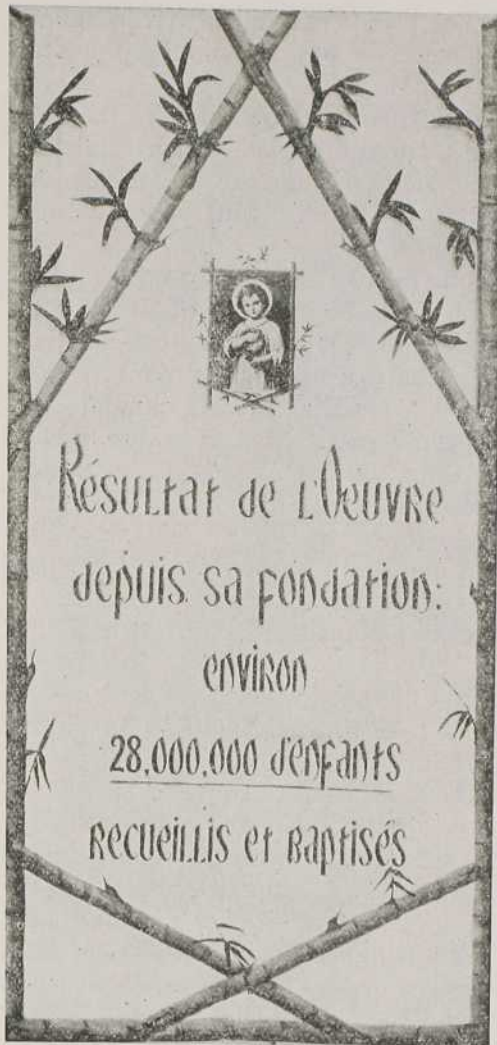
There are also certain principals of schools who do not give the Work the attention it deserves. This is manifest by the annual reports of the Holy Childhood. Such and such a school met with a most wonderful success with such a principal but does not succeed at all, or meets with much less success with another. And why? They are the very same children. Sometimes one may give as pretext that the freedom allowed the children is not sufficient enough to have them act efficaciously. Let us hope that this pretext will never be accepted. The engagement written by the school officials asks for but one thing, "that the offerings be freely given". This restriction does not hinder a reasonable propaganda.

Sometimes we remark that there is zeal for missionary works, but pontifical prescriptions are left aside. By this I mean that much good will is shown for individual missionary works connected with one community in particular, but the great works of the propagation of the faith recommended by Rome are neglected. It is not without reason that Our Holy Father has concentrated these works in Rome. He has done so in order that the funds received be distributed justly, thus hindering certain missions from receiving too great a share while others just as deserving lack what is really necessary.

There are still other adhesions whose activity would be a powerful assistance to the Holy Childhood, namely: the colleges and convents where the number of children is ever increasing. To urge them to join in the Work I shall cite but the words of Pius XI to the Director General of the Association: "Let all the directors of colleges and heads of institutions enroll all their pupils in this so beneficent and meritorious work".

Who should take an interest in it? Everybody. The Work is for children especially who need guides, without whom their efforts would be sterile or almost so. This important role belongs to priests, teachers and parents.

It is true that the organization of the Work has been confided to the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, but without collaboration what are they able to do? If the school door remains closed, if it is opened with indifference, if parents do not become acquainted with the aim of the Holy Childhood, the zeal of the religious, however ardent it may be, will produce but little effect. On the contrary if the priest speaks of this Work from the pulpit and during Catechism lessons, if he makes it easy for promoters to visit the schools in his parish, if he takes an interest in the success



of the Work, appreciable results will be obtained. He may also have a celebration in the parish occasionally just for the children. This may take place during the month dedicated to the Holy Childhood. These kinds of celebrations are held in the parish churches of Europe. There is a procession in honor of the Infant Jesus, appropriate hymns, little plays in which the children are dressed in oriental costumes as priests and even as bishops. Evidently such celebrations are not of a real necessity for the success of the Work but they do not fail to produce wonderful results. They are very striking to children and give them favorable impressions regarding the Holy Childhood.

I have already sketched, at least in a negative way, the role of a teacher. Now is the time to invite him to be fervent and active. His continual contact with his pupils allows him to exercise his influence over them. What is in his heart is quickly conveyed to his pupils. He should strive unceasingly to make them love the Holy Childhood for if they love it they will become devoted mem-

bers. Therefore let every teacher speak to his pupils of this Work and arouse their zeal for it, collecting on a certain date their modest offerings keeping an exact account of them.

The parents and older brothers and sisters, should not refuse the little ones the mite which they solicit in favor of the Holy Childhood. When they give them a present, they themselves may suggest that they set a portion aside for this Work. In brief it is to be desired that parents who have wonderful influence over their children be eager to see them enlist in this divine army. "A mother ever mindful of her children's welfare," says Benedict XV, "should enroll them in the Holy Childhood." And he adds that a mother who is not mindful of this gives no exterior proof of a mother's love. Certain Christian mothers anticipate the desire of this venerated Pontiff and enroll their children in the Holy Childhood even before their birth.

These are the pious suggestions which priests may make to teachers and to mothers. By our ecclesiastical influence we may become the promoters of apostolical works in our respective parishes.

Results and Hopes. — Who can tell of the results obtained by the Holy Childhood up until the present time? There are some which cannot be appreciated for God alone knows their value. These are the prayers and hidden sacrifices which are performed for the Work. But there are others which are right before our eyes.

The receipts received by Rome from 1921 to 1929 increased from nine to thirty million francs a year that is from \$360,000 to \$1,200,000. In the four hundred missions it supports, the Holy Childhood baptizes hundreds of thousands of children annually and educates a still greater number. The Report of the Holy Childhood for 1928 shows that 530,913 children were baptized and 737,831 supported during the year. Mgr. Rossillon, Bishop of Vizagapatam (India), affirms that the Sisters of Annecy, in his diocese alone, baptized 100,000 children inside of twenty-five years. He states that one of the religious in his diocese (Sister St. Lucy) baptized 44,000 children during forty-six years of apostolate. In Canton alone, from 1909 to 1930, our Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception very few in number and over-burdened with work, administered Baptism to 78,292 children.

In Canada the receipts of the Holy Childhood which were sent in by a few dioceses from 1916 to 1930 make a total of \$456,390.54. The diocese of Montreal alone furnished \$244,498.19. Last year the six dioceses of the Province of Quebec which contributed to this Work collected \$56,108.35. This sum when compared with that of other countries is an honor to the small population of these dioceses. What will be the amount attained when the movement will be a general one! It is estimated that if all the Catholic children of Canada were faithful in donating their small annual offering of twelve cents we should realize the sum of \$130,000 each year.

Conclusion. — Without any connection to this hypothesis, I have just related a few facts, taken from among a thousand, which prove to us the good done by the Holy Childhood. These facts invite us to devote ourselves to the Work.

God asks us, in a general way, to assist our neighbor: *mandavit unicuique de proximo*. We know by an entirely elementary theology that the duty of charity is all the more incumbent as the needs of one's neighbor is the more urgent. And what greater distress is there than that of error, what worthier of compassion than a forsaken child, what more important than to win it to Christ, what more encouraging to us than to fill, by our zeal, the granaries of the Master of the harvest!

What God asks of us is not the substance of our wealth but the crumbs from our table. And shall we refuse them to Him? "Amen I say to you, as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me." does Our Lord tell us.

Wherever the Holy Childhood succeeds there is not much labor to be done; but where it meets with but little success, we must strive by the

dexterity of our zeal to overthrow the obstacles which impede its advancement.

We have every reason to rejoice in the progress made by the Holy Childhood since its restoration in the Province of Quebec. We attribute it, for the greater part, to the official promoters of the Work. The best way to show them our gratitude is to second their efforts in a persevering manner.

In this country God blesses our homes by a numerous posterity. If we wish to draw heaven's blessings upon us, let us sow in young hearts the seed of apostolate: whilst in the hearts of our children in the homeland, solid virtues take root, across the seas in pagan lands, little ones will be born to the spiritual light of faith.

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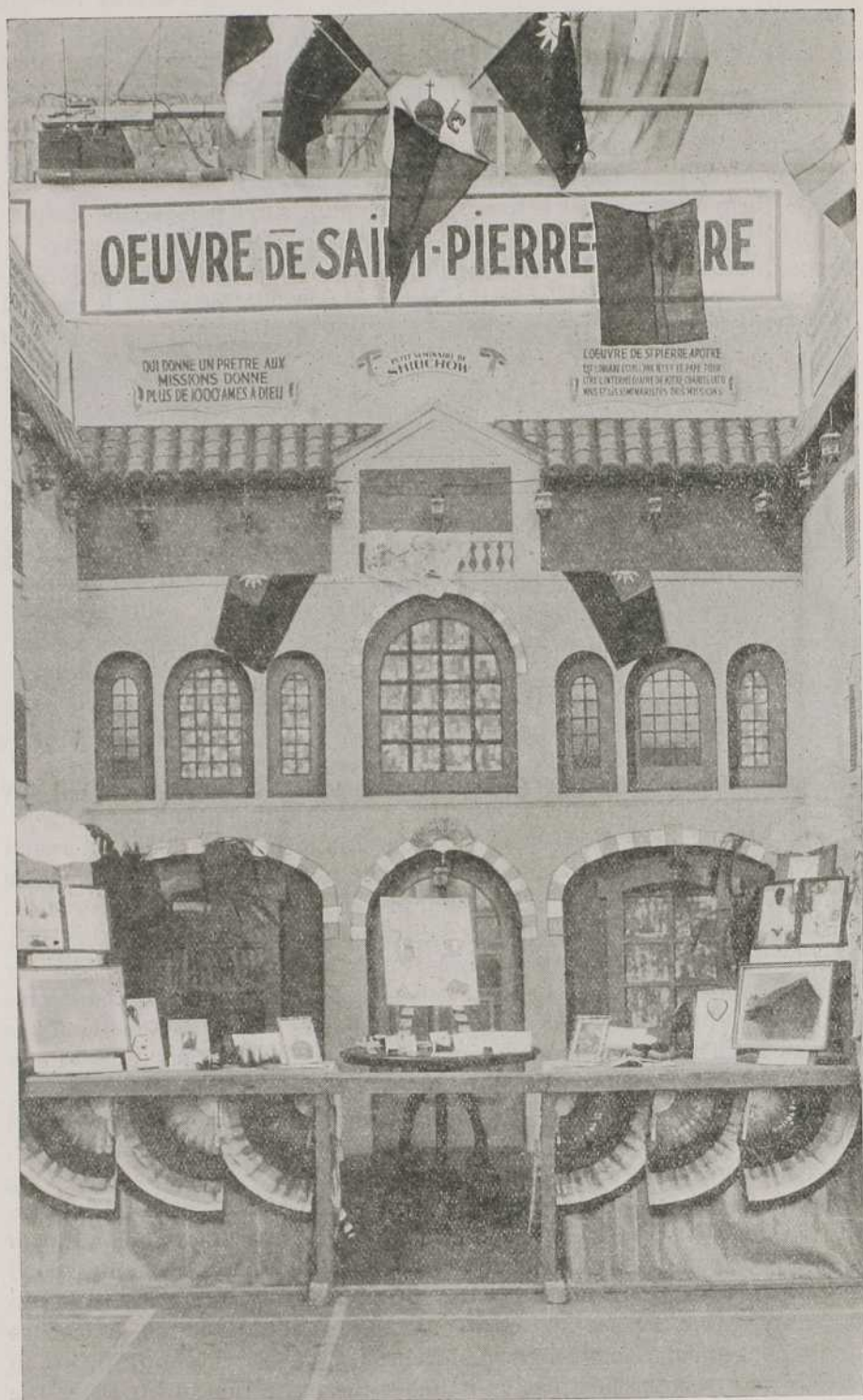
The Pontifical Association of St. Peter the Apostle.

Extract from a conference by Reverend Father H. Jeannotte, P. S. S.
National Director of the Association.

THE ASSOCIATION OF ST. PETER THE APOSTLE AND THE CANADIAN CLERGY

ONE of the most consoling truths of our holy religion is that the Holy Ghost watches over the Church guiding and directing it. Our Divine Lord has so promised, and he who doubts it is not a Christian. It suffices to glance over history to recognize in the government of the Church, light and prudence which surpass the wisdom of man. But when it is a matter of discerning the operation of the Holy Ghost in contemporary events the task is not always an easy one. However there are happenings which have such favorable results and in which man's wisdom takes but such little part that we at once recognize that God has intervened. The establishment of the Pontifical Association of St. Peter the Apostle is seemingly one of the kind.

The Work of St. Peter the Apostle like all other great works of God had a most modest origin. It seems as if God, in order to manifest His power the more has done without everything necessary to man when giving him success in his undertakings. Moved by a letter from a bishop of Japan, Bishop Cousin of Nagasaki, in which he told them of his distress and of his great sorrow in being obliged, owing to lack of resources, to refuse good children who wished to enter his little seminary, two women of Caen in Normandy, Mme. Bigard and her daughter took the resolution in 1889 to found among their friends and acquaintances, an association to help Bishop Cousin's poor seminarians placing it under the protection of St. Peter the Apostle. Had they the least idea that they were founding a work which the Sovereign Pontiffs would need thirty years later and which was to become



ASSOCIATION OF ST. PETER THE APOSTLE

one of the greatest missionary works of the Church, one which is at the present time perhaps the most important for the future welfare of Catholic missions!

The little society at first made but little progress. God was in no hurry for the appointed hour had not yet arrived. It was treated as those who strive to live piously for Christ, meeting with all kinds of hardships which threatened its destruction. It was even forced, in order to survive, to emigrate from France to Switzerland and finally, in time of persecution and trial, it sought refuge in Rome where the Sovereign Pontiff soon needed its assistance.

In 1919, His Holiness Pope Benedict XV published an important encyclical letter concerning the missions, in which he revealed to the Catholic world and to the missionaries themselves the insufficient number of native priests in the missions and the impediments to their formation.

It states that *the Sovereign Pontiffs have always insisted on having the superiors of missions look upon the formation of a native clergy as a very important part of their charge giving it their entire attention. It is deplorable that, despite this insistence of the Sovereign Pontiffs, there are still countries to which the Catholic faith was brought centuries ago in which a native clergy is not to be found, but only an inferior clergy if any. It is deplorable that nations who for already long centuries have enjoyed the beneficent influence of the Gospel and of the Church, who have been lifted up from barbarism to such a degree of civilization that they now have men remarkable in every branch of art, have not yet succeeded in producing bishops to govern them nor priests whose merit would make an impression on their compatriots.*

The Pope showed that the cause of this insufficiency, due to the lack of forming native clergy in the missions.

In order to produce the fruit expected from it, it is most necessary that this native clergy receive a suitable formation and preparation. We must not content ourselves with a rudimentary initiation whose only object is to render access to the priesthood possible; what is needed is a complete formation in every branch, a formation which priests in civilized countries usually receive. Native priests should not be formed simply to serve as helpers to foreign missionaries in the inferior functions of the ministry but in the aim of one day governing their people when they will be capable of performing this divine task.

And the Pope severely concluded:

Therefore it is evident that the method followed everywhere up until the present time, in the formation of a clergy destined to the missions is imperfect and defective, MANCA MENDOSAQUE. And so as to avoid these inconveniences, that we entreat the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda to take every possible measure in the different countries and to assure the establishment of Seminaries for each country or for a number of dioceses together, to carefully direct those already existing and especially to see to the formation of other clergy in all apostolic vicariates and other mission centres.

Such was the undeniable state of affairs however painful they are to ascertain and however painful the examination of conscience may be. The

remedy was decided upon with precision and firmness: construct real Seminaries, especially local Seminaries to replace the little parish schools. But where procure the immense resources necessary, as we shall see a little later on, for the construction of greater and lesser seminaries? His Holiness Pope Benedict XV did not have to wait long. The instrument of his apostolical designs, the organ which would supply him with the necessary funds had been prepared by Divine Providence: the Association of St. Peter the Apostle with its particular methods, its complete organization already put to a test, its spirit and success acquired. At the very moment when the question of a native clergy for the missions was pending, the Association of St. Peter the Apostle sought its approbation. How could we not see in this coincidence the manifest operation of Divine Providence. Must we attribute a so weighty and fortunate occurrence to chance as being a result of the foresight of two women alone anticipating what was about to take place? Fortune is blind and foretells nothing, man's foresight is short. Divine Providence, watching over the Church, alone could have created the Association of St. Peter the Apostle and lead it so opportunely to the Throne of the August Pontiff.

Our Holy Father had but to make use of the providential instrument offered him to second the efforts he was about to make in order to give to the Missions the native clergy which they needed. The Association of St. Peter the Apostle was therefore recommended to the faithful of the Universal Church in the Encyclical *Maximum Illud*. The following year (1920) the Pope gave it his approval making it a Pontifical Work and giving it its first constitution. Since then, the Association of Saint Peter has never ceased to win the favor of the Sovereign Pontiffs. It is a Work dear to Our Holy Father, Pope Pius XI, the Pope of the Missions, the Pope of native clergy. In the month of June last year (1929) Pope Pius XI gave this Association its definitive constitution declaring its organization equal to that of the Association of the Propagation of the Faith.



It is greater to convert a sinner to justice than to create the universe from nothing, for Heaven and earth will pass away but justification and salvation will not pass away.



The missionary should not be alone in the task: all christians should unite to help him in his labours by their prayers and alms.



Count not the sacrifices that you impose upon yourself for the extension of God's Kingdom on earth. God Himself will be your recompense.



The Miraculous Medal Centenary

1830—NOVEMBER 27—1930

*Sweet Symbol of Love from our Mother — our Queen —
Revealed in vouched visions to Sister Catherine;
A symbol to save from destruction and sin,
This Prodigy's power Earth's pilgrims does win.
A badge from the beauteous Abode of the Blest
Seeks servile enslavement of Satan suppress'd
Miraculous Medal of Mary! Thy need
Thus crown and encircles a Century's meed!*

*Thy clients are claimed by allegiance of love
To Mary Immaculate — our Mother Above —
Through ties of affection, compelling and sweet,
To gather like children and kneel at her feet
To whisper each want — O Miraculous One!
Well knowing the Mother will seek of her Son.
O Medal of Mary! Thou Medal of Might,
To draw us from darkness to realms of light!*

*Most marvellous Medal! A world you enchain;
Yet Kingdoms thou covet — through Mary may gain!
From babes in their cribs to venerable Age,
Thy millions enrolled, Earth's combat to wage.
Rich records of gold in Archives Above
Hide merits unnumbered — thou true Treasure-trove!
Earth's maimed scan a medium — merciful, mild,
Where souls seek salvation — sweet-led like a child.*

*Ten decades, thy years! They are decades of gold
To capture us all and forever enfold!
You woo us for God; through a Mother most kind
To children so wayward, unruly and blind.
May Mary, our Mother, enfold in her band
Each stray of the Shepherd throughout every land!
With Jesus she bled that the World be laved —
Twin hearts won the sword that earth's waywards be saved!*

RONALD STEPHEN MACDONALD.

The Chinese Government no longer wishes Religion in Schools

ON July 25th twelve Protestant societies presented to the Minister of Education at Nanking, through the medium of three Chinese Doctors, a petition asking to revise the school law of August 29, 1929, Chap. 1, art. 5., which forbids religious instruction in all schools, and religious ceremonies in all primary schools. A few days later a ministerial order was published, ordering all provincial and common offices to examine with severity, the mission schools, to see if the decrees of the 29th of August had been strictly observed, and especially article 5, which had been repeated in the said circular letter.

On July 24th the Minister of Education answered the Protestant societies, and maintained in its integrity the execution of the law and even added in terminating that there will be no need of coming back on the question.

Let it be remarked that several of the authorities of Nanking are Protestants: Dr. C. T. Wang, Foreign Minister, Mr. Soong, Minister of Communications, Dr. Kung, Dr. Heng Liu, etc. etc.

The Minister of Education in refusing to amend the law holds as principle that the coming generation should grow up without the ties of religion. The real reasons for this religious persecution are numerous:

1) —First of all the Chinese act through interest. The parents seeing the poor education given in the government schools, prefer sending their children to the mission schools where the discipline and instruction are better. Many officials even send their children to these schools, the attendance at the government schools diminish, and they are gradually losing their reputation.

2) — The government hopes to lay hands upon the mission schools; it has been remarked since 1927 that the best built schools, the best organized from a scientific material point of view are the very ones which are mostly surrounded by enemies, and which are the most frequently disturbed. Here the reason is clear.

3) — The governors are surrounded by freemasons who work in China just as they do in Europe and America.

4) — The influences of Moscow are unlucky, and when compared to the Decrees of the Trusteeship of Public Instruction in Russia, and those that followed in China, the resemblance is a striking one.

5) — Young men returning from France are imbued with the principles of lay schools, of neutral schools, they are born enemies of religion and several of them are placed in the ministry of education and in that of Foreign Affairs.

—Fides Service. Translated.

Religious intolerance in China

In 1929 it was believed that the nationalist government would be liberal and would show no hostility towards Christianity, for in the government there were quite a number of Protestants. During these last few months it is to be noticed that the intolerance of the government resembles that of the Soviets. The school regulations are clearly drawn up for the ruination of mission schools, Protestant as well as Catholic. Persecutors employ modern methods for the dethroning and destruction of Christ's work. After the educational conference at Nanking, a leader of the left wing, Wang Tsing Wei was so disgusted with the decision that was made, that he was obliged to send a telegram of protestation to show that those who govern in the name of the three principles, are sapping the foundations, and are in opposition to the directions of Dr. Suen Wen who wished that China be absolutely free with regard to education and religion.

During the last ten months, two bishops and seven missionaries have been massacred; at the present moment five missionaries are in the hands of bandits. More than ever are the properties of the missions threatened and the authorities that are in need of money try to find reasons to monopolize them.

And during this time the missionaries continue their work of evangelization as though everything was going on for the best. New works are being founded and are constantly developing. The apostolic laborers of China have traditions of heroism and perseverance, against which the governors can do nothing.

—Fides Service. Translated.

CHH

The Lepers of Hong Kong

The Commission in charge of the hygienic conditions of the Colony of Hong Kong has just dealt with an urgent problem of present interest: that of leprosy and of leper colonies. Already in 1910 there was question of constructing a pavilion in which to assemble the lepers to therein care for them; but up until now nothing of the kind has been done.

The only practical solution realized with regard to these poor unfortunates was to have them isolated after having declared that they were attacked by the terrible disease. Then they were sent to the police in Canton where they were shut up in one of the lazarettos of the Province.

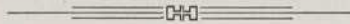
According to official statistics one out of a thousand of the inhabitants

of the province of Kwantung have contracted leprosy. As to the colony of Hong Kong all documents are lacking up until 1922. But since that year to the present day the Police have registered 327 lepers whose cause they must have taken up with interest. As the Chinese have an instinctive horror for this disease, it is not probable that many escaped from them unless they be those who voluntarily and spontaneously exiled themselves. The official figures correspond with the actual state of affairs.

After these sad verifications the Commission in charge of hygiene, in the person of its President showed that it was willing to enter into relations with the directors of the Shek Lung Lazaretto to confide them the lepers of Hong Kong.

The immense Lazaretto of Shek Lung was founded by the Foreign Mission Society of Paris ⁽¹⁾ and is actually directed by a champion of the Great War, Reverend Father Marsigny of the Canton Vicariate who was an officer in the Belgian army.

—Fides Service. Translated.



Departure for Manchuria, China



On November 6th eight religious Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception left their Mother House at Outremont for the distant Mission of Manchuria, China, where, since 1927, they have been co-operating in the work of the

Reverend Fathers of the Canadian Foreign Mission Seminary.

They first took the train to Vancouver to the Oriental Hospital over which the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception have charge and on the 13th embarked on the Empress of Asia for China.

Charitable persons who wish to share in the apostolic merits of our eight Missionaries by helping to defray the heavy expenses of their voyage are requested to send their alms to:

The Procure of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception,
314 St. Catherine Road,
Outremont, Montreal, Canada.

1. Reverend Father Conrardy. See PRECURSOR, March-April 1930, p. 76

The infirmarians of the Shek Lung Lazaretto are the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception who have devoted themselves to this work, since 1913.

New Canadian Bishop

On September 11th, His Lordship Right Reverend J. M. R. Villeneuve, O. M. I., received the episcopal consecration from the hands of His Grace Most Reverend G. Forbes, Archbishop of Ottawa.

The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, through their modest review, offer their most respectful homages to the first bishop of Gravelburg and wish him a long and happy episcopate.

CAUSE OF BEATIFICATION

The cause of Pauline Marie Jaricot, Foundress of the Association of the Propagation of the Faith has been introduced in the court at Rome.

In return for the Faith which we have received from God, let us contribute to give Faith to others. In return for the treasures of grace which God has showered upon us let us contribute as much as is within our power to carry these treasures as far as possible and to the greatest possible number of God's creatures. This is what the Vicar of Christ asks you and all his sons to-day.

His Holiness Pope Pius XI.

Our Lady of Providence

FEAST: NOVEMBER 29

Oh! sweet Virgin Mary who reignest above,
Untarnished and mild, like the pure, spotless dove,
Reign also as queen of my heart's truest love!

Like fair, lovely flowers that bloom in the May,
Alike the blue sky that beseemeth to say,
“**Dream**, work, and be happy, then, child, come and pray,”
You, too, tell me, Mother. “Be blissful away.”

Oh! Lady of Providence, queen of the flowers!
Fair Mother of Love and of life's sweetest hours!

Provide for me, Mother, this grace I implore—
Remain with me ever, till life's struggle o'er,
Oh! light up the pathway that leads me to you;
Vouchsafe that I bide ever pure, sweet and true;
I crown you with garlands of blossoms most gay,
Dear Lady of Providence, queen of the day!
Enchanted I fall in deep bliss at your feet;
Ne'er let me, no never, from here make retreat!
Cast downward your eyes, most tender, most mild,
Ever keep me, Mother, your dear, faithful child!

Amedea Bortolotti.

In loving Memory of our dear Sister Marie du Perpetuel-Secours

WITH the sereneness of those who die in peace with God Sister Marie du Perpetuel Secours, Missionary of the Immaculate Conception, ended, on August 4th last, her exile upon earth where she remained but for twenty-eight years.

She was born in the parish of Sacre Cœur de Beauce on June 28, 1902, and was one of the oldest of the family. From early childhood the dear child began at home her mission of "cheerful devotedness", the characteristic of her life which only too quickly came to a close. She was always satisfied, while she never found anything good enough for her brothers and sisters, who dearly loved their gentle and devoted sister. It was while reading a missionary review that our dear Sister decided on the career in which God wished her to labor henceforth for Himself alone. Before entering she came to our house in Quebec where with the greatest recollection she attended all the exercises of a closed retreat.

The young postulant's uprightness, simplicity of character and strong determination to do good soon revealed the sincerity of her desires.

While yet a novice God sent her a most bitter trial. One of her younger sisters who also had entered our novitiate died in the Community after a short illness.

Being admitted to profession, she pronounced her temporary vows on September 8th, 1926 and on November 4th of the same year she left for Naze, Japan. This dear Sister, after three years of mission life during which time she labored unceasingly, was forced to remain in bed after a pulmonary hemorrhage which brought her almost to death's door. Despite the diligent care given her by her sisters who sent her to Kagoshima where the climate is healthier, the patient continued to decline. Our good Mother Superior General decided to bring her back to Canada while she had still enough strength to endure the fatigue of crossing the ocean.

She arrived at the Mother House on September 18th, 1929, and after a short rest, left for our Bethany of Nominig. Although she was perfectly resigned to God's Holy Will, her great desire was to recover her health in order to return to the missions where she seemed to have left her heart. But instead of this life, the Lord chose to give her *the long day of eternity*. When the Sisters went to visit her in her room, they always found an efficacious means of cheering up their dear patient by speaking to her of her dear Japan.

On March 19th, the Feast of St. Joseph, as the patient regained a little strength, she was permitted to pronounce her Perpetual Vows. She received a visit from our beloved Mother during the last few months before her death which was a joy that fortified her in her sufferings.



*Sister Marie du Perpetuel Secours,
Missionary of the Immaculate Conception
teaching a Japanese girl how to cook*

If God filled her last days with such great happiness He also reserved her a most bitter portion of his chalice. On Trinity Sunday, June 15th, one of her brothers, twenty-one years of age, and for whom she had a particular affection, met with a fatal accident. Although the news was broken to her in a gentle way it was nevertheless a thunderbolt for her tender heart, but as in all other events of her life, she repeated: "May God's Holy Will be done!"

These are the messages which a little before her death, she confided to the Sister who was taking care of her, to be transmitted to our beloved Mother: "Tell our Mother that I thank her for all her kindness and especially to have admitted me into the Community. Oh! how happy I feel! I am leaving without the least uneasiness. I offer the sacrifice of never seeing her again upon earth, for her intentions. Tell this dear Mother that when I am in heaven I shall not forget what she has told me. I beg you also to transmit my gratitude to our good Sister Assistant for her precious words of advice, as also to our dear Mistress at the Novitiate who helped me to correct myself of my faults." She then added, "It is in the Missions especially that we realize that if we are not faithful to the advice which has been given us by our Superiors we shall soon go astray. I desire to assist in a special way my Superior in Japan, Sister du Saint Cœur de Marie. I am not leaving to take a rest up above; I hope to be able to do much for all the works of my dear Community. I shall ask God to preserve union and charity in our religious family so that happiness may continue to reign therein".

She asked for all the Sisters of the house each in turn to thank them for all they had done for her, recalled to them the kind words of encouragement which they addressed her during her postulate and novitiate and begged pardon for all the trouble which she feared she had given them.

She died "like an angel". Such were the words uttered a few minutes after her death by the sister who had cared for her during her illness, for she had been greatly impressed by the peaceful departure of our loving little Sister. She remained conscious up until the very last and after taking her local Superior by the hand as if to thank her for the last time, she commenced to say the little prayer which we repeat every night before going to sleep: "Father, into Thy hands I commend. . . . my spirit" but before she had finished the last words her soul had wended its way to its Creator.

We love to imagine that we still see her sweet face on which always beamed a joyful smile.

Our regretted Sister will certainly show her gratitude in heaven by remembering the precious consolations and spiritual help given her by Reverend Father Bazin during her illness and particularly during the last few days that she spent upon earth. The gay and edifying recreations which the devoted Sisters of Holy Cross afforded her as often as their occupations permitted them to do so, greatly rejoiced her. We are most grateful to them for their kind attention as also for the prayers which they and their pupils recited beside her mortal remains.

The funeral Mass for our dear Sister Marie du Perpetuel Secours was celebrated in the parish church at Nomining on Wednesday, June 6th. The Reverend Pastor and the Sisters of Holy Cross with their pupils accompanied the virginal remains of our beloved Sister to their last resting-place.

At the moment of going to press, we learn that Mgr. J. E. Paquin, procurator of the Bishop's Palace at Three Rivers died suddenly on October 16th, at the age of 58.

The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception lose in the person of Mgr. Paquin one of the most devoted friends of their works. They feel it a duty of gratitude to offer their most fervent suffrages for the repose of his soul.

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.

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

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



Enclosed please find cheque for \$6.00 as promised the Little Flower for missionaries in loving thanksgiving for temporal favors received through her all-powerful intercession. G. O'C. — Will you please place the enclosed cheque to your Burse of the Little Flower in thanksgiving for a favor received. Mrs. K. I. S., **Montreal West.** — I have just received a favor through the intercession of the Little Flower. According to my promise I am sending \$1.30 towards the Burse in her honor. A Subscriber. — With all my heart do I thank the dear little Patroness of Missionaries for the beautiful rose she has just given me. I am pleased to publish this to her honor and to contribute \$5.00 towards your needy missions. Mrs. P. B., **Ottawa.** — Here enclosed \$5.00, expression of my gratitude towards the Little Saint of Carmel. Mrs. M. A. L., **Quebec.** — Lively gratitude towards the Little Flower for a cure obtained. Miss E. B. — Thanksgiving to St. Therese of the Child Jesus for a favor received. A Subscriber, **Viauville.** — In thanksgiving to the Little Flower I am sending \$1.00 for your missionary works. Mrs. C. F. — I am most grateful towards the Little Saint of Lisieux for having obtained success for me in a business trans-

action. According to my promise I am sending \$5.00 for your missions. Mrs. B. T. — A thousand thanks for a cure obtained after promising to give \$5.00 in honor of the Little Flower. Mrs. H. D., **St. Fidele.** — My most grateful thanks to the little Saint of Carmel for a favor obtained; my offering of \$5.00. A Subscriber. — In token of gratitude for a favor obtained through the powerful intercession of the Little Flower, I am sending \$5.00 for your missions. Anonymous. — I feel indebted to the Little Flower of Carmel for a great favor obtained. — Please find enclosed \$2.00 towards the Little Flower Burse in thanksgiving for favors received. A. L. — In favor of the Little Flower Burse, you will find enclosed \$5.00 in thanksgiving. E. B. C., **Rivière du Loup.** — I am enclosing \$2.00 for the missions to thank the Little Flower for favors obtained through her intercession. Mrs. A. L. — St. Therese of the Child Jesus has found employment for my brother and it is in thanksgiving that I am sending you \$4.00. Miss M. A. L., **Ottawa.** — My heartfelt gratitude towards the Little Flower for a position obtained. J. L., **Montreal** — With the expression of my gratitude I am enclosing \$2.00 for the Burse in honor of the Little Flower. A Subscriber. — Here enclosed is \$5.00 for the little Chinese and to thank the Little Sister of Missionaries for favors obtained. Miss L., **Lachine.** — I have been cured thanks to the powerful intercession of the Little Flower. Mrs. F. P. — By this cheque for \$25.00 I am acquitting my debt of gratitude towards the Little Flower. Mrs. A. L., **Outremont.** — It is with pleasure that I am sending my offering in thanksgiving to the dear Little Flower for her kind protection. Miss A. C., **Lachine.** — Heartfelt thanks to the Patroness of Missionaries for a great grace. Mrs. R. P., **Woonsocket, R. I.** — It is with all my heart that I thank the Little Flower for having obtained the instantaneous cure of my child on the last day of the novena made in her honor. Mrs. J. Lamontagne, **Fauquier, Ont.** — I am sending \$1.00 for a novena of lights in honor of the Little Flower in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. Mrs. C. H. B. — The enclosed offering is for a High Mass in honor of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. I beg her to continue her powerful protection. Mrs. A. V., **Ste Rose.** — In token of gratitude to

the Little Flower for favors obtained, please accept the enclosed offering of \$5.00 for your needy missions. Mrs. N. L. **St. Hermas**. — I am sending \$25.00 towards the Little Flower Bourse in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. One who is interested in your works. Here enclosed is \$5.00 for a Mass in honor of the Little Sister of Missionaries in thanksgiving for a favor received after promising to publish. Mrs. E. D., **Lac Masson**. — In thanksgiving I am sending \$1.00 in honor of St. Therese of the Child Jesus for your Chinese Missions. A. L. **Montreal**. — Please find enclosed my cheque for \$5.00 for the most forsaken of your lepers. This is in thanksgiving to the Little Saint of Carmel for favors obtained. Mrs. P. A. P. — To prove my gratitude to the Little Flower I am sending \$2.00 for your missions. A Subscriber to "THE PRECURSOR"

Bourse of St. Therese of the Child Jesus for the adoption of a missionary.

A **Bourse** is a sum of money the interest of which forms a perpetual income for the support of a Missionary. **Bourses** 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 **Bourses** 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 **Bourse**.

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 **Bourse** 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 July-August	"	61.00
In September-October	"	136.60



THE MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION WHO LEFT
ON SEPTEMBER 12TH, 1930, FOR THE MISSIONS OF MANILA AND TSUNGMING

Echoes from our Missions

CANTON, CHINA

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Canton

Sunday, January 5, 1930

Among our former pupils who, at our school, have learned to know, love and serve the one true God, there are many with whom it is impossible to keep in touch, but there are several who live in the city and who are very faithful to their religion and to their *Alma Mater*. They come to see us quite often which is a proof that they still maintain their good dispositions. It is very hard for these poor girls, pagans but a few years ago, to keep the promises of their baptism intact, plunged as they are in the heart of modern paganism. Not a Catholic member is to be found among their relatives, and their social relations place them in contact with Heads of the Office for Public Education, for they are all in charge of a school under their control. Their assiduity at Holy Mass and at the reception of the Sacraments of Penance and Blessed Eucharist gives us a proof of their generous fidelity. It is in the aim of drawing tighter the ties which already unite us, that we assemble them all to-night for a modest supper. Their happy chatter and gay laughter show that everyone feels quite at home.

Monday, January 13

Our little Agnan who was blind, deaf and dumb, and who also had a very big head, has finally gone to a better land. She was a little over three years of age and during the last year and a half spent at our foundling-home, she was an angel of meekness in spite of her infirmities. It was not without reason that she excited everyone's pity and we considered her as a visible protection from heaven for our foundling-home. She had the small-pox a few months ago and became so ill that we thought she would soon pass away. After having been quarantined at the infirmary for contagious diseases and cared for by our good Asam, she returned to the foundling-home well on the road to health. One day her head opened revealing a horrible abscess where worms abounded. How carefully the wound needed to be dressed so as to hinder the worms from crawling anew into the sore. But how strange, after the abscess had festered the little one began to talk. Was it the extreme pain that hindered this child from having the use of speech? However, she did not enjoy this privilege very long, for shortly after she took her flight to heaven.

Thursday, January 16

We greatly frightened a poor woman to-day thinking that we were paying her a compliment. One of us, not yet accustomed to the ways of

the country, made use of every word that she knew of the Chinese language to tell the mother that she had a beautiful baby. And the pagans are so much afraid that in saying that the baby is pretty the evil spirits will hear them and come and seize the child... The poor mother is very uneasy... It is owing to a like superstition that little boys are dressed as girls, that they have a girl's name and that their parents say that they are girls, for in China a girl is not as precious as a boy, and the devil does not take such a liking to them. It is the same thing when there is a question of telling the child's age; with a significative gesture: two fingers, three fingers, three fingers and a half is the answer.

Friday, January 31

295 baptisms are one of our greatest consolations for the month of January.

Wednesday, March 19

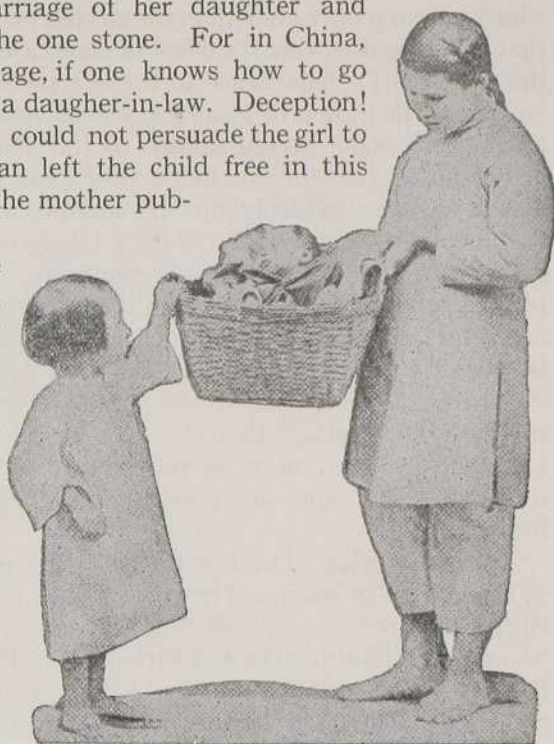
Reverend Father LeRestif, a zealous missionary, brings us a good old woman who has spent her life in a boat. In her bark she was obliged to remain in a crouched position which caused her to contract ankylosis of the legs. She has been very ill for the last few days and is now in a dangerous condition. We hastily instruct her in the principal truths of our holy Faith and according to her great desire she to-day receives, with the name of Josephine, the Sacrament which will open Heaven to her. But suddenly, after having been baptized she gets out of bed, dresses and goes to the chapel, she is cured! "I am not sorry to have come here, I am so happy now," she tells us. Before leaving her village she sold her bark for \$3.15 her only fortune during her whole life. Judging by the appearances of our risen woman she will be our "Blessing" for a long time.

Friday, March 28

For almost a year we have had at the foundling-home, a little Christian girl, Martha, who is a great help to us. It is an understood thing that she does not wish to marry, time and again have her parents been informed of this fact... Her mother lives in the village. According to what her husband says, she is not a very good-living woman. The latter lives at Hong Kong and remains away from home as he does not wish to support his family. He gambles his money according as he earns it.

Martha is asked to the parlor by her mother, who after a long conversation declares that she has come for her. In order to succeed she has recourse to promises and threats and finally goes to tell Father Chan, a Chinese priest, Martha's uncle, that we Sisters would not allow her daughter to leave. With good reason Father disapproves of such conduct which has been falsely attributed us and comes himself to see about the affair. This time Martha refuses to go to the parlor and hides up on the roof. We finally make her understand that she cannot refuse giving her mother her reasons for not following her and, after much hesitation, she comes down and everything is explained. Like a good Chinese mother she had made all necessary

preparations for the near marriage of her daughter and wished to kill two birds with the one stone. For in China, when giving a daughter in marriage, if one knows how to go about it there is a way of buying a daughter-in-law. Deception! all her well-founded arguments could not persuade the girl to change her mind. Father Chan left the child free in this important matter and accused the mother publicly for her falsehood in saying that we retained the girl. The mother drew the scene to a close by telling her daughter that she would no longer consider her as one of her own. "You think that you will always be able to earn your living," does she say. "In any case do whatever you like, but I don't want to see you coming to the house to ask for anything." She left with these words, which sounded so cruel on the lips of a mother. Poor Martha shed bitter tears. We tried to console her by telling her that her mother, though a Christian, thinks that she is doing right in acting thus. It is a part of a Chinese custom. We assure her that if her mother really abandons her we shall take her place and that the house of the Blessed Virgin will ever be hers.



Monday, March 31

Total number of baptisms during the months of February and March: 646

Saturday, April 5

Our former pupils who have been converted are real apostles among their own whenever they have the occasion. They have already baptized several children many of whom have already gone to heaven. To those who have recovered from an apparent mortal illness, they have taught their prayers and have instructed them in the principal truths of our holy faith, while informing the parents at the same time that henceforth their child must recognize a supreme Being, the one true God who does not allow the heart of His creature to be shared with another.

In the home of Frances Ha, the miraculous medal seems to give proof of its protecting power. On the Chinese New Year's a young girl suddenly felt an acute pain in her leg. She was immediately taken to the hospital for she was in a state of unconsciousness, a cold sweat covering her entire body. Frances thought of pinning the miraculous medal to her clothing

which was no sooner done than the girl felt perfectly well. The family believed that her sufferings were the effect of diabolical influence and gladly attributed the young girl's deliverance to the efficacy of the miraculous medal.

The Little Flower of Jesus also wished, and in an apparently extraordinary manner, to make herself known to this family. Frances' niece, a young girl about 16 years of age, had a very weak heart. After an almost mortal attack she was suddenly up and around, feeling better than ever before. She explained this sudden change by saying that somebody had passed beside her, that was all that she could say. But a little girl, six years old took it upon herself to explain the mystery saying that she had seen a beautiful lady pass beside the patient's bed. She felt that she resembled so little the people in the neighborhood that she never ceased speaking about her. Her answers to the numerous questions gave us to believe that she was none other than St. Therese of the Child Jesus. Though this child had probably never seen a picture of the Little Flower she was able to describe her and she takes pleasure in repeating that the lady was beautiful.

Since this celestial visit, the young girl has unceasingly sought permission to become a Christian and has often asked if she might be admitted to the Holy Ghost School, as at all costs she desires to remain with the Sisters and become a child of the Blessed Virgin. The parents, not wishing to displease the child, put her off from day to day, as her increase of health was only transient. The child felt her faith increasing daily. The day before yesterday, feeling herself growing weaker she again begged her mother's permission to go to the convent. The latter without ever having refused her daughter openly, had retained her, nevertheless, owing to certain pagan prejudices. Hoping to find in this concession a supreme resource to preserve her child's health, she decided to let her become a Christian and even urged her to do so. "Very well," did she say, "become a Christian, you will be a child of the *Holy Mother*, I give you to her." — "And after, will you reproach me because I am baptized?" asked the young girl, so as to be sure of herself. — "Oh! no, I promise you." — "And will you also allow me to go to church with my aunt, and when I am better to go and live with the Sisters?" "Oh! yes, my child you no longer belong to me, I have given you to the *Holy Mother*."

"It was a very touching scene," Frances told us, "and with a hand trembling with emotion, I poured the regenerating waters on my dear niece's brow giving her the name of Mary Teresa. I hung a miraculous medal around her neck, and pinned a picture of the Blessed Virgin on the netting that surrounds her bed so as to have the image of Our Lady constantly before her eyes." We went to see this new child of God. Her face was radiant with happiness and she expressed her ardent desire of never having but the convent for home.

Her weak state gave us to believe that before long she would go to her Father's Home to there enjoy eternal bliss. And in reality, she took her flight heavenward, two days after her baptism.

To prove the affection which they always bore for their daughter they

put aside all superstitious customs on such occasions and came to ask us what is done for a funeral in the Catholic Church. As their grief is very great, as good Chinese they delay the burial, and place the coffin in a charnel-house. There are some graves that have been in these sanctuaries for the past fifty or sixty years. According to the amount of money paid to the caretaker, the tomb is supplied with flowers, lamps, rice, wine, even servants made of paper, which are always at the disposal of the deceased, does it seem...

We foster the hope that this dear little convert will not forget, from above, as well as the Little Flower, her patroness, to let fall a shower of roses upon her family and upon poor pagan Canton.

Saturday, May 10

For some time past we have been instructing a young pagan girl in the obligations of our faith. Immediately after her baptism, she is destined to marry our gardener, who has been a widower for two years, and a good Christian. The baptism took place on Holy Saturday and on the same day the young girl received into her beautiful soul our Eucharistic Lord, and on Easter Sunday, she was confirmed. This morning, Father Ha blessed the marriage of his brother with this Christian.

As a gift, we gave the new couple a picture of the Holy Family as well as a vigil light.

Tuesday, June 3

We have had different pieces of furniture made by Mr. Liou, owner of a big store near here. Generally his work gives entire satisfaction, but either through negligence, or for his own advantage, two articles were not done according to the manner agreed upon. The work must be done over. Poor Mr. Liou sees his plans upset, and perceiving that he is going to be the loser, forgets himself and speaks to us in a rather harsh language. But he recognizes his fault and apologizes. It is very edifying to hear words such as these on the lips of a pagan: "I lost my temper the other day, I spoke to you very rudely, I was displeased in having to recommence my work, and I became angry. I beg your pardon."

Monday, June 9

A little girl, five years of age is brought to us. She is extremely thin. Here is what we have learned about her. Born of very poor parents, she was sold last year for \$100.00 to a very rich Chinese who already possessed several servants and slaves. The little newcomer was to belong to the latter, and the master, in a contract passed with the police officials, had reserved the right to freely dispose of the child in case she would not give entire satisfaction. Fortunately, the little one did not have enough talent to please her tyrannical master, which gave her the great advantage of being brought to the foundling-home and of being baptized. She was given the name of Henrietta.

Sunday, June 15

Sister Superior thinks that she had better give a souvenir-picture of Baptism and First Communion to our dear old "Blessing" with whom you are already acquainted. She gives her a beautiful picture representing St John, the beloved disciple, reposing on the heart of the Divine Master. The good old woman seizes it in her two hands, all withered by rheumatism. She examines it carefully, and with an expression of childish joy exclaims: "Is this my picture?" This question gives us another occasion of giving an explanation on Holy Scripture.

Friday, June 20

Henrietta, the little slave who was brought here last week seems to be overcoming the cruel treatment she received in her master's house. We bring her to the Kindergarten with the little tots of her own age. What a warm welcome these little ones extend her! All gather around her, show her the few rooms they have at their disposal, offer her their toys and show her how to play with them. One would think that they had already known her and that they were just seeing her again after a long absence.

May they always be as agreeable among themselves as they are to-day!

Saturday, June 21

In less than a year the Apostolic Vicariate of Canton has suffered the loss of two French priests in the bloom of youth. Reverend Father Thomas and Lesaint. The latter was at the Shameen concession not far from here. He died after a few days' illness.

Saturday, June 28

Going through the streets of Canton this afternoon, we meet a would be fortune teller who has gathered a group of people around him. His gear is his best advertisement: a full vest, his trousers falling loosely around his feet, his finger nails almost three quarters of an inch long, the placard of his valor hanging on his back, his dice-box always shaking in his worn hand, his hat on the side of his head surmounted by an owl, which seems to be the principle of that wonderful clear-sightedness which pierces the future.

Sunday, June 29

Innexi, (Agnes) is scarcely two years old but her intelligence is well developed, and she is anything but tongue-tied. She is not always an angel in the chapel and Ati, one of the older orphans who is in charge of her, has told her time and again that she must not make any noise in Our Lord's House. Again this afternoon at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament she forgets herself and thinks out loud saying that the priest has the same kind of shoes as she. All her little companions look at her so as to let

her know that she has gone too far. She stands on the bench and asks Ati in her ear, if the priest is going to scold her?

But this little girl seems to be very frank. The other day she was crying at the top of her voice. The Sister in charge went upstairs and asked in a firm tone of voice, who was crying in such a manner. Inexi came forward with her two fists in her tear-filled eyes and said between the sobs: "It is Inexi." May the Blessed Virgin always keep her a straightforward little soul for this virtue is very seldom found among the pagans!

* * *

LEAO YUAN SIEN, MANCHURIA

*Extract of a letter of a Missionary Sister of the Immaculate Conception of
Leao Yuan Sien, Manchuria, to her Superior General*

July, 1930

DEARLY BELOVED MOTHER,

Before relating to you a few details gleaned here and there in our diary during the last few months, I shall say a word about your happy daughters of Leao Yuan Sien. All are enjoying good health and are supporting the hot spell bravely. All are very cheerful and the recreations as well as the hours of work are full of enthusiasm.

There is always great activity at the dispensary. Despite the hot weather the patients are numerous: 75 to 80 in the morning and 50 to 60 in the afternoon.

A little family of orphans was admitted to the orphanage in the beginning of June. The mother, baptized at Easter, died a few weeks later, we may say of misery. The father, unable to work through illness, was almost out of his mind from grief. He mentioned giving his children to pagans but we told him that we would gladly take them back with us. These poor little ones were in a very dirty condition.

And how many unfortunates around us are in a similar state.

One morning a little boy about six or seven years of age was sitting among the patients at the dispensary who were waiting for their turn. Every now and then he turned away and with the back of his hand wiped away the falling tears. To the Chinese virgin who asked the cause of his grief he said that he was an orphan and that he lived with his uncle who has adopted him. "Does your uncle love you?" — No, he does not love me" was the sad answer, and the child quickly brushed away the tears so that the uncle in the adjoining room would not notice them.

A few days ago we went to visit a woman suffering from tuberculosis. Noticing that her little boy was not with her, we asked the reason why. "I had him thrown away, as I was no longer able to take care of him," she said. The poor child thrown away alive must have perished from



A Missionary Sister of the Immaculate Conception and her two Chinese helpers, at the Dispensary of Leao Yuan Sien, Manchuria, China.

hunger or have been devoured by dogs who wander through the cemeteries in search of corpses.

It is not a very cheerful letter that I am sending you since from the very beginning I have related only pitiful incidents. Still I have not finished and I would not soon finish were I to stop before the sufferings and misery of all kinds that our office of nursing sister puts us in contact with.

There is actually a great famine in the region of Ho Nan. It has not rained for five years, and the inhabitants are actually devouring the dead bodies of their own brethren and are even killing one another as a means of subsistence. Trains pass filled with emigrants going to different regions. Not a week goes by

without entire families coming to ask for help from the Leao Yuan Sien Mission.

As I mentioned above, the heat is intense. How the poor patients in their beds are to be pitied! Besides having to endure the hot weather and their own sufferings, they are obliged to sleep on a *k'ang* that is heated three times a day at meal-time. Can you imagine a poor consumptive devoured by fever surrounded by people who come and go talking and laughing. The patient would certainly prefer sleeping on the ground but to do this he would be obliged to go on the street for the houses are so close together that there are seldom any yards or gardens.

During the hot season the Chinese do not work in the middle of the day. Up before sunrise, as soon as it begins to get a little warm they come into the house and sleep until three o'clock. They then have dinner and again take up their work. Generally the Chinese have but two meals a day.

On June 25, we witnessed the death of a tubercular woman who had been baptized but a short time previous. We cared for her during a short while last year. The poor woman wanted to be cured at all costs. As she did not find that she was getting any better, she decided to consult a Chinese doctor who, in a short while, caused her to go to much expense and that without changing her state of health. Feeling her last moments approaching she remembered that she had always been well received at the Catholic Mission. She sent for us and asked to become a Christian. Her religious instruction was soon completed and the patient was baptized. Before her death she begged her parents to send for us that we might pray beside her and assist her in her last moments. Seeing in how many ways God permitted the devil to tempt this humble child, who had so greatly edified us by her meekness and patience, we understood that this soul must

be very dear to the Heart of Almighty God. When she would become too restless, we would suggest to her different ejaculatory prayers to the Blessed Virgin and we would tell her to encourage her that the Blessed Virgin would not delay in coming to bring her Home. Thinking that this good Mother would come visibly, she would keep asking, "But when is she going to come? I cannot see her." We were confident that Our Lady would not fail to come for her child. Her pale face suddenly took on a joyful expression and she exclaimed: "Oh! you do not know what I have just seen! But her strength failed her, and she kept her secret for herself.

Towards the end of the month of June, Reverend Father Charest was summoned to baptize Mr. Lee, a former soldier, who was about to breathe his last. The priest also administered the Sacrament of Confirmation and a few minutes after, the patient's agony began. He expired during the night. The Fathers of the Mission give the greatest possible pomp to these funerals and this one was the most solemn that we have seen since our arrival here.

The different treatments given and the dressings made at the dispensary during the month of June, 2,400; 110 visits to the homes; but what consoles us the most is that we have had the happiness of pouring the regenerating waters on the brows of 116 infidels.

One incident, among many others shows that the sowing of good seed bears fruit sooner or later. A pagan woman, who had no children, bought a little girl six years old. She cost her fifty dollars (Mexican Money). The little one fell dangerously ill, but the adoptive mother hired a vehicle and came in all haste for Sister to go and baptize the dying child so that it could go to heaven. This pagan woman had never received any other Catechism lesson than the one given her at the dispensary.

Another conquest for heaven, another soul snatched from Satan's grip!

A woman who had been baptized in the beginning of July had been sold to the devil and carried the fatal paper in a little bag tied around her neck. Beside it hung a miraculous medal. How could the infamous paper remain beside the image of the purest of creatures. Moreover the poor creature repeated day and night: "Holy Virgin Mary, come to my aid." When the bag was discovered the husband all abashed answered the Chinese virgin saying: "I did not know what I was doing." Alas! how many are the poor ignorant people that the devil holds in his grip!

Dear Mother, before closing, permit me to heartily thank you for the many fatigues that you impose upon yourself for us all. After a day of hard work we know full well that our exhaustion cannot be compared to yours. The responsibilities incumbent on us owing to our little charge sometimes seem heavy: what are yours, dear Mother!

With all my heart, I beg Our Heavenly Mother to strew your pathway with the choicest of blessings.

Your humble and very unworthy child,

Sister S. Luc (1)

1. Maria Bourdeau, St. Luc

PA MIEN TCH'ENG, MANCHURIA

Pa Mien T'cheng, Manchuria

August 31, 1930

VERY DEAR MOTHER,

In our little mission of Pa Mien T'cheng one day very much resembles the other. We have the happiness of often pouring the regenerating waters on the brows of many pagans, of caring for many patients, etc. Still, I should like to-day to give you a summary of our register.

First of all here is the report of our dispensary from April 1st to August 31st, 1930:

Patients	11,602
Treatments	11,766
Wounds dressed	2,458
Teeth extracted	68
Children vaccinated	135
Visits in the homes	67

On April 26, Feast of our Lady of Good Counsel, towards five o'clock we are called upon to assist a dying man. We leave in all haste and find an unconscious man on the roadside. We do our best to revive him, the Blessed Virgin blessed our efforts, at the end of half an hour the patient was conscious.

After having thanked us, he told us his name, his age, his address and how he came to be in such a state. Coming from one of the Southern provinces, he is an absolute stranger in the city. He was rooming in an inn about 15 *lis* from here. He had left early in the morning, and not feeling very well had not taken any breakfast. He soon grew exhausted by the long walk and fell unconscious on the roadside where we had found him.

One would wonder how it was that since morning nobody had noticed the poor man nor come to his assistance. It is owing to the fact that, according to the laws of the country, if you extend hospitality to someone and this person happens to die while under your roof, in your yard or on your property, you are held responsible for his death. This act of charity might cost you your life. Thus it is easily understood how it is that even the kindest among the pagans are so little inclined to imitate the Good Samaritan. The catechist at the dispensary, to whom we confide the patient, fills this charitable office. From her own poor savings, she hires a vehicle and sends the stranger to a place of shelter in the city. We tell her that this man is very ill and that she may give him a summary instruction on our holy religion and administer the sacrament of Baptism if he should manifest the desire. She begins by speaking to him about God and soon notices that he has a few religious notions which he derived from certain prayer books. After having listened attentively to her different explanations he asked to be baptized, which was immediately granted him.

Another baptism was administered this morning in our dispensary.

So, to-night we have two new Christians to offer as a festal bouquet to our Immaculate Mother.

On the morning of the first Sunday in May, a young catechumen, fourteen years of age, was also made a child of Holy Church. He is one of the patients whom we had treated. Having obtained his parents' permission to study Christian Doctrine, he set to work with all his heart and in a short time was instructed enough to receive the regenerating sacrament. He also had the happiness of partaking of the Bread of Angels. How happy he appeared.

The beautiful month of Mary was to bring us many other conquests for heaven. On the 9th an old man came to receive his passport. I am sure that his story will interest you. Early in the morning we are asked to go and see a patient who lives 7 *lis* from here. We leave accompanied by a catechist, and what is our surprise to recognize the old man as one of our patients who had already come to the dispensary to have his eyes treated. During these visits he would always wait until all his companions had left, and then he would draw near to the catechist and ask her to kindly repeat the Catechism lesson given that morning saying that he was a little deaf. This was always gladly done, and then our good old man would leave quite contented. And now, he is very very ill... The catechist asks him if he wishes to save his soul. "And why not"? does he answer. Then begins the Catechism lesson. The patient listens to every word, and then asks to be baptized. We strive to excite him to contrition, the Saving Waters are poured on his wrinkled brow and he is given the name of Eugene. When the catechist told him that he would go to heaven after death, he immediately asked if it would be forever... We assured the poor man that nothing could ever ravish his happiness. He thanked us by a smile and we then took our leave while entreating our heavenly Mother to be there herself at the gates of heaven to receive her aged child.

Our good father St. Joseph certainly has some project of apostolate in view since on the day of his Patronage, he brought to our chapel a young pagan teacher accompanied by her pupils, about thirty little girls from 8 to 17 years of age. The teacher whom we had already treated at the dispensary asked permission to assist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with her pupils. Needless to say that this request was readily granted her. Dear Mother, if you could have seen how recollectedly these children heard Mass and how vivid was the astonishment written on their childish faces!

On the same day we sent a little angel to heaven who, do we hope, will be a protectress for her unfortunate compatriots. The child was brought to the dispensary towards noon in a very critical condition. His father, too poor to ride, was obliged to walk at least 20 *lis* in order to reach the Mission. He certainly deserved that his little one should be given admission to the Celestial Court and surely once that she possesses eternal bliss she will obtain the same favor for her father who, without knowing it, was conducive to her happiness.

A few minutes after supper we are asked to hasten to the bedside of a young woman who is dying from tuberculosis. Though the patient is

no longer able to speak, she is fully conscious. The catechist of the dispensary who has accompanied us, tells her that she is very ill, and that there is no hope of recovery, but adding that if she so wishes there is a way of procuring for her an eternal happiness and this happiness will be given her if she consents to be baptized. She also told her that if baptism will not restore her to health it will not make her die any sooner. Then she explained to her the principal truths of faith. From time to time she would stop and ask the patient if she hears her. "If you understand me," did she say, "open your eyes." The dying woman did so immediately. When the catechist asked this question: "Do you wish to be baptized?" again her eyes opened and in that look we could easily read her longing to become a Christian. The Cleansing Waters then made her an heiress to the Kingdom of Heaven. She was given the name of Mary.

The ceremony terminated, the happy Christian again opened her eyes fixing them upon her neighbor as if to thank her for the great favor she had just obtained for her, for it was this catechumen, a patient at the dispensary, who came for us.

If we are not always as powerful as we would like to be in relieving all corporal ills, the Immaculate Virgin admirably compensates for this, as you can easily see, dear Mother, in giving us to distribute the marvellous celestial medicine that of holy Baptism.

Here is another example all to the glory of our heavenly Queen. During the course of the afternoon of May 23rd, we had just commenced to dress the wounds of our patients when a woman came to the dispensary and asked that a Sister infirmarian go immediately to visit a little boy who was very ill. Sister Superior suggested that she wait until 4 o'clock when all the patients would be dismissed. "Ah!" replied the poor mother, "come immediately for I am afraid that at 4 o'clock it will be too late!" Sister Superior left immediately accompanied by Sister Ste. Jeanne de Chantal and a catechist. Upon their arrival our Sisters soon perceived that no human cure was possible. Sister Superior did not conceal the truth from the parents. It was pitiful to see their grief, but we assured them that if they so wished, their child could leave this world to take possession of a infinite happiness, if they consented to have him baptized. The catechist added a few words of explanation to the parents, who, broken-hearted at the thought of losing their son but happy to be able to give him "heaven forever", readily consented to have him baptized.

The next day, May 24th, we are called to the bedside of a patient, 50 years of age, who is suffering from a disease which the Chinese doctors declare incurable. Still, we believe that with great care we shall be able to restore him to health. He tells us that he and his wife wish to become Christians as well as his aged mother and brother. The neighboring family being Christian, having been in contact with them, the patient's family had a knowledge of religion. Encouraging these good people to continue in their good resolutions we confide them to the care of our Blessed Lady, whose feast the Church to-day celebrates.

Among the conquests which our Heavenly Mother made at Pa Mien

T'cheng at the close of her beautiful month, was that of a tubercular patient at the dispensary. The infirmarian realizing that he had not long to live, advised the catechist to instruct him, and according to the desire of the catechumen administered the sacrament of regeneration. The new Christian was most happy and gladly accepted the miraculous medal which we offered him. The poor man is entirely alone in his room, having no friends he has no one to soothe him in his sufferings. But now he will find in Mary, a Mother who will replace the tenderness of a family while waiting to introduce him into his eternal home.

One of our patients, Mr. Pai, being too poorly to come to the dispensary, we visit him regularly. Professor Tchong accompanies us in order to act as interpreter when needed... As the patient suffers greatly from heart-failure and may drop off any minute, we advise the professor to baptize him. He is already instructed in the christian religion and for some days past has manifested the desire of being baptized. Mr. Tchong pours the baptismal water on his head giving him the beautiful name of Joseph.

A few days later, again paying a visit to Mr. Pai, we find him much better. How delighted is his poor aged mother! "I am going to the second Mass," does she tell us, "to there make the *ko to* (solemn bow) to the God in whom my son believes..." She kept her word. On entering the chapel, she knelt down and prostrated herself to the ground. We offered her a place, but before being seated she turned and bowed to each of the Sisters whom she had not yet seen. As we made her a sign not to continue, she immediately obeyed, knelt down and attentively followed the Holy Sacrifice. We have confidence that this good woman will die a Christian.

A beautiful picture of the Sacred Heart and a Catholic calendar now replace the images of false gods in the home of our new Catholic. Mrs. Pai herself seems to be quite satisfied but is deeply afflicted over the mortal illness of her husband. May the Blessed Virgin realize the hope that we foster that one day she also will become a Christian.

On the 20th of June, the workmen begin to repair the roof of our new dispensary. It is interesting to see them at work. First of all they take off their shoes and stockings and then trample on the earth which has been mixed with water, straw and salt with which they make thick mud. Over the beams of the roof they spread a large mat made of "choukai" (sorgho) leaves, which they cover with the mud that I have just mentioned. And behold! the roof is waterproof for a year. Next year mud and salt will be again added which will last for another year. Such a country, such a custom!...

On July 5th God's angel came in search of a beautiful little soul, that of Louise Anna, aged ten years. Her death was most edifying. Although she suffered greatly from tuberculosis she would never utter a complaint, and would console her father saying: "Do not cry, I am going to see God and the Blessed Virgin. I am glad to die for I shall be eternally happy!..." This joyful confidence which the little patient showed during her illness was drawn from the Sacrament of Baptism which she had received some time previous and in the promises of eternal life which the Catholic religion

gives... We hope that from heaven she will obtain for the members of her family, still pagan, the precious gift of faith.

Another passport for heaven has just been given by one of us. It is a little boy twelve years old who is the privileged one. Complying with the parents' request we went to visit the child who had been sick for the last two weeks. As it is not very far and the family is very poor we go thither on foot. The father apologizes for having obliged us to walk thus, saying that he waited several days before asking us, fearing that we would not consent to go. The poor man does not know how to express his thanks. "I know that my son is very sick but still I am sure that you will do all you can to restore him to health." Poor father! we assured him that we would do our best, but that his child was really very ill and that we could not give very much hope. We explained to him the happiness that we could procure his child if he allowed us to pour a remedy on his head. The answer was favorable and Sister Superior baptized the little one giving it the names of Marie Joseph.

Another incident and then I shall end this long talk. A mother came to the dispensary carrying her baby in her arms. When her turn came, either through her eagerness to answer the call, or else through lack of attention, she let the baby fall. The poor child struck its head on the cement floor. Fortunately it was more frightened than hurt. We gave him some medicine and assured the poor mother that no harm had been done, for she was very uneasy. The treatment over, when she was leaving the place we noticed that she stooped and picked up some of the earth in the very spot where the baby had fallen and slipped it into his clothing. Malea, our Chinese helper, explains this superstition to us: this dust will hinder the evil spirit from causing the child's death in case the latter has been hurt mortally.

May the Immaculate Virgin abolish all these pagan practices and extend over this entire land of China the reign of her Divine Son!

This is your greatest desire, Beloved Mother, and it is also that of

YOUR LOVING CHILDREN OF PAMIEN T'CHENG

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TSUNGMING, HAIMEN VICARIATE, CHINA

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Tsungming

Wednesday, May 28, 1930

Sister Marie de Sion leaves with a Chinese virgin this morning for Shanghai. Our dear Sister is an object of curiosity for the majority of the passengers who have never seen a religious before. An old woman who is selling cakes picks up courage and offers Sister one, which she accepts so as not to hurt her feelings, then noticing the little girl who is accompanying her, she offers her one also from which she has already taken a good bite. All goes well until

the time comes for landing, then another scene takes place. Seeing a man who is very kindly taking the baggage from the passengers and helping them out of the boat Sister, not surmising anything, allows him to do likewise but instead of lending her a helping hand he takes her valise and is off. Without a moment's hesitation Sister follows him in and out of the different boats. A short distance away she notices an old man and woman sitting in a small junk, and after many signs succeeds in making them understand that the man she is following has stolen her baggage and that he must be caught. Then the race begins. But the thief has made good headway, it is not an easy question to reach him. Poor Sister is sitting in the bottom of the boat holding on with all her might for she is certainly tossed about, and sprinkled many a time, but what matters as long as they reach the



A MISSIONARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION VISITING A FAMILY OF THE MISSION OF TSUNGMING, CHINA

culprit... this is effectuated after one half hour's rowing. While the old couple are disputing with the thief and while both boats are rocking with the waves, Sister puts one foot into his boat, seizes the valise, places it in her own and then shaking the villain by the "pousset" shirt sleeve demands two dollars in compensation. He would not hear tell of such a thing at first but finally agreed to pay one dollar. "It is two dollars that I want," said Sister. As he refused to consent, Sister said: "Alright, you are going to come with me to Shanghai, and the question will be settled there." Hearing these words pronounced with such determination, without saying a word he took the second dollar out of his pocket and handed it to Sister who immediately gave one to the old man and one to the old woman and then came back into their own boat. Our traveller's two companions continued to scold until they were on their way back to shore. When they were a safe distance away they both took out their dollar and began admiring it. They rowed quietly back to Shanghai in the very best of humor chattering with Sister the while.

Saturday, May 31

The babies received and baptized at the foundling-home during the month number 21; baptized in the homes by the virgins: 40; at the dispensary 3 baptisms, 745 dressings, 11 teeth extracted and 280 vaccinations. During the month of April 71 babies were received and baptized at the foundling-home, 43 baptisms in the different homes, 3 baptisms at the dispensary, 152 dressings, 3 teeth extracted and 23 vaccinations.

Tuesday, June 17

Although it is raining, a woman comes thirty *lis* to bring us her baby. She had tied the child solidly around her and in spite of the bad weather and the four different times that she fell, the baby was still alive when she handed it to us. We had time to have it baptized and confirmed before it took its flight to its heavenly home. At the dispensary a little Mary Delia Albertine is also baptized.

Thursday, June 19

Our *dentist* has had good practice lately... One of the patints asked to have her teeth filled with gold... One woman had a tooth extracted which caused an abcess. She also had a hemorrhage, but without losing courage, as soon as the blood stopped she had another extracted saying that she would be so glad after, as she would be able to eat anything when in the fields. It was the bad condition of her teeth that hindered her from doing so last year. Patients even come from the City of Tsungming. Before long another name will have to be added to the dispensary that of, "Dental Institute."

Friday, June 20

A little pagan comes to the dispensary in search of his passport for heaven. There is no medicine that can give health to his body, but we do not delay in giving that which will give health to the soul...

Sunday, June 22

The woman in charge of the foundling-home at night, a pagan, has the care of a little girl about three years of age, suffering from cancer of the face. This morning we heard the pagan consoling the poor little one telling her that she would soon go to heaven, and pray for the "momo" (Sisters). The child who understands and talks like an adult, seems to listen to her nurse with great attention. What surprises us mostly is to hear this pagan woman speak about God and heaven to the little patient. May we not hope that once this little one has reached the eternal shores she will obtain for her who was so kind to her, the grace of all graces, that of holy Baptism. We pray for this with all our hearts.

For some time now, the teachers come every night during our recreation to speak Chinese with us. It is an excellent exercise, and we do our best

to profit by it. We have our lessons regularly every day and hope to be able to put them into practice soon.

Sunday, June 29

Two visitors asked the oldest of the foundling-home if they would like to go away with them, promising them toys, candy, etc... but the children refused. When they were asked why, they answered that they wanted to help the "momo". Then Sister Ste. Helene said to one little girl who had not been any too good: "You can go with them, you are always a naughty little girl..." Big tears began to roll down her cheeks and like a flash she ran and threw herself into Sister's arms.

Monday, June 30

During the month we have the happiness of registering 28 children received and baptized at the foundling-home and 37 in the different homes. At the dispensary 1 baptism, 180 dressings, 22 teeth extracted.

Thursday, July 3

Early this morning a virgin comes to tell us that there is somebody in the dispensary who wants medicine for a person who has been poisoned. Sister Superior would like to have the patient brought to us but it seems that he is too ill, so a Sister leaves immediately for his residence accompanied by a virgin, and well supplied with medicine. The family lives at a distance of eight *lis*. Upon their arrival the patient's son makes them three deep bows and then shows them into the room where the poisoned man is to be found. His eyes are closed and his mouth wide open. Little by little Sister succeeds in having him take an antidote which soon produces its effect. The patient gradually gains consciousness and treats the visitors with the greatest respect. He seems to have a great affection for his sons who are around him, but his poor wife... According to appearances it is not the most agreeable household in Paochen. As soon as Sister sees that her services are no longer required and when she expresses the desire of coming again to see him, he serves her eggs which one of his sons had cooked in wine purposely for her. Sister looks at her companion and as she, eats her three eggs so as to comply with the exigencies of Chinese politeness. The patient again expresses his satisfaction and sends Sister a dollar by one of his sons.

Sunday, July 6

The patient who was poisoned on Thursday comes to pay us a visit and brings us some eggs to prove his deep gratitude. He says that he is perfectly well.

Tuesday, July 8

A good old Chinese woman comes to the dispensary to be treated. Oh! how she suffers! We bandage her legs and arms and extract some teeth.

This takes us two long hours. The poor woman is accompanied by her daughter-in-law who does not seem to be very kind to her. Before leaving, while the latter has her back turned, she offers us in payment, a pink cookie which she had hidden in her belt.

Saturday, July 19

It is most probably St. Vincent de Paul who so loved the poor and needy who to-day sends us a little blind boy to receive, not bodily sight, but the regenerating waters of Baptism which will give him to enjoy the sight of his Creator throughout all eternity. Born of pagan parents, he lost his sight through sickness and now he is no longer wanted. He is sent to us in a basket, so small that we wonder how it can hold a child of that age. Despite the distance that was covered in such a position and the crushing heat, he will most probably have time to be baptized, confirmed and perhaps will live a few days before going to enjoy heavenly bliss.

Tuesday, July 22

The thermometer marks 98 degrees in the shade and 119 in the sun, consequently fans of every description are being used by all our neighbors. The people are very poor, but for them a fan is not a luxury. For their fabrication different things are used, even hen feathers.

Saturday, July 26

A little dying baby is brought by her father to the dispensary to be treated. Our first care is to baptize the little one for we perceive that its sojourn in this exile will not be of long duration, and as it is the time for solemn baptism at the church one of the Chinese girls brings the child thither. Besides receiving this regenerating sacrament it also receives that of Confirmation. And it was not any too soon, an instant later the spotless soul of this little angel was introduced into its heavenly home. The father seeing nothing else but a corpse, no longer wanted it so it was buried with its other little companions who the same day had followed it to heaven.

Monday, July 28

A pagan, blind for the last three years, comes for medicine which will cure her. She says that she has burned paper and made different offerings to the gods, but all in vain. She has six boys who did not have time to take care of her, as they were busy working in the fields. We give her a miraculous medal and also a medal of the Little Flower while the Chinese virgin teaches her to recite an ejaculation to be said with confidence every morning and night. The patient promises to become a Catholic if she is cured... It would certainly be a striking miracle, but is there anything impossible to faith?

KORIYAMA, JAPAN

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Koriyama

Thursday, June 12, 1930

One of the teachers from our school having received a bunch of lilies of the valley from a friend at Hakodate, kindly shares them with us. How welcome are these little sweet-smelling flowers! What souvenirs of our dear Canada do they evoke! They remind us of those we used to gather in the garden of our dear Mother House to adorn the altars of our little devotional chapel.

Sunday, June 15

For at least a month, we no longer hear the voice of our neighbor and proprietor either praying or singing hymns. It seems that he is very ill. He sang from morning till night, his only musical instrument being a hammer with which he kept time. His continual prayers gave us to believe that he was a bonze, but no, he acted thus through love of Buddha. Poor unfortunate! if he had only known the true God!...

At noon, learning that the patient was growing worse, we threw a miraculous medal into his yard, asking our Immaculate Mother to assist him at his last moments. It was impossible for us to procure for him the assistance of Holy Mother Church, for the expression on the faces of his sons gives us to understand that no stranger is to cross their threshold. We must, therefore, content ourselves with praying for him. While we were at meditation, he passed away. Let us hope that our dear Lady obtained the light of faith for this poor soul before he undertook his last voyage.

His eldest son came to the convent to-night to announce to us the death of his father and to invite us to the funeral service which will take place in one of the neighboring temples. The deceased is one of the pioneers of Koriyama, and has greatly contributed to the welfare of his fellow-citizens, for he was very wealthy and very charitable. He gave up work in his old age, and devoted his time solely to prayer. He had a numerous posterity and was surrounded by his relatives until the last minute. We could see that he did not lack care during his illness. Doctors came to visit him several times daily and nurses were constantly in the house to execute their orders. The members of his family would remain long hours at his bedside. The meals were taken beside the corpse.

Monday, June 16

As it is not permitted that we assist at our neighbor's funeral we call to offer the expression of our sympathy to the afflicted family. The whole is very simple; there is only a word to say. We sit down on a *zabuton* (cushion) and then retire in silence. The family is very popular; the house is filled with visitors, everybody bows to us but not a word is uttered.

Wednesday, June 18

Our neighbor's funeral was to take place yesterday, for generally a corpse is not kept longer than twenty-four hours, but as the weather was not favorable it was postponed. It is easy to see that it will take place to-day. Servants are busy dressing the ladies' hair. One of them has been sitting in the parlor for the last hour and a half undergoing this operation. How many ounces of perfume and oil have been used?... In any case one needs to have a strong head to be able to endure so much brushing and shampooing.

During the forenoon big trucks arrive loaded with wreaths of flowers and finally, the coffin, a wooden box about five feet long; we expect to see a box in the form of a cube as is the custom in Oshima, but a young girl tells us that in order to place a corpse in such a box it is necessary to break the knees, and it is for this reason that in many cases the oblong box is preferred.

At last the funeral train sets in motion. It is sumptuous, or rather it is imposing. The men in black uniforms, with coat of arms, lead the procession some carrying gold or silver bouquets, others wreaths of different colors. Others, most probably the relatives, carry sticks of incense and a variety of other objects to be employed as offerings; their heads are covered with white caps. The women have donned their white mourning kimono, and their heads are covered with a white veil. The young girls wear pretty purple dresses with very long sleeves. Men carrying the coffin in a kind of Buddhistic temple close the procession.

After the funeral, all return to the room where the corpse was laid out, which is still decorated with flowers, and there a great banquet takes place. Until half past nine at night, prayers are said in common while one of the men keeps time with the traditional hammer.

Thursday, June 19

This afternoon, three automobiles come to take the members of the family to the cemetery. The latter bring different articles: a new tea-pot, rice, incense, etc... even a hot water bottle. Upon their return home, before entering the house, they must be purified. Each one takes what seems to be a pinch of ashes and then rinses his mouth with water which he is careful not to swallow.

Monday, July 7

We receive, to-day, two pieces of beautiful white *kaya* (netting) with a blue border. We arrange them around our beds; henceforth the *ka* (Japanese mosquitoes) will no longer have control over the *seyo jin* (strangers).

Friday, July 11

We are busy the whole day long preparing a room that will be transformed into a chapel. First of all, we must needs remove a miniature temple,

two gods and several tablets. The young girl who is helping us, tells us what these gods represent. Poor pagans! how they are to be pitied in believing such ridiculous things.

Towards three o'clock all is ready and the priest brings the Blessed Sacrament into our new chapel. Previously, it was but a very small room that served as a sanctuary for the Divine Prisoner of Love.

Friday, July 25

Reverend Father Proulx, O. P., of the neighboring mission who is here at Koriyama on a rest for a fortnight, has the great kindness of coming to say Mass in our chapel every morning. He gives us a conference to-day.

Sunday, August 3

Mrs. Shimojima having undergone an operation, we made it our duty to go and see her. Doctor Shimojima happened to be there at the time and kindly offered to let us visit the hospital. It is an immense building. With regard to surgical instruments and medical treatments, this institution resembles our hospitals of Canada but with regard to order and hygiene as well as for modesty, there is yet much to be done. The first-class rooms are rather large and well lighted, but the furniture is not very elaborate. The patients have no beds, they sleep on *futons* (heavy covers). The poor patients look miserable lying on the floor. There are neither tables nor chairs. The patients bring their *futons*, their bed-clothes, and provide their own food. There is a little store in the hospital where they can procure what is necessary. Some patients who pay extra have their meals brought to them. There is no public ward.

Friday, August 15

What a happiness for us to see nearly all the Christians at Mass to-day, feast of the Assumption. Several pagans are also present.

Around 6 o'clock in the evening, we took a little walk near the cemetery. On our way back we stopped at one of the temples in the city. One must climb several staircases before reaching the first floor of the building. Two enormous cages are placed at the entrance, each containing a god. The very sight of these gods makes one draw back with horror. Two gigantic red idols with flaming eyes are posed as conquerors. They are terrible to behold; one would believe that their eyes move. Surely the devil could not be better imitated. We are told that they are the gods of strength, and that people who have a rather weak constitution come here on pilgrimages to obtain strength.

At the entrance to the cages, *guelas* (shoes) of all sizes are suspended.

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.

Sunday, July 27, 1930.

Solemnity of the Feast of St. Ann.

Since we are the daughters of the Immaculate Virgin, St. Ann is truly our "grandmother" so we delight in celebrating her feast as solemnly as possible. Our hymns express our gratitude towards her who has given us the incomparable Virgin Mary and we entreat her to make our hearts like unto that of her holy Child. A cheerful holiday is the exterior manifestation of the intimate happiness we experience and towards evening an amusing little concert, exercised in secret, brings this beautiful day to a close. We believe that we are over at Grandma's when we see each one of our younger sisters taking her turn to sing, recite or play a piece of music. We go back a few years and imagine we hear the sonorous voices of little brothers and sisters who on Grandma's birthday, timidly come forth to say their little pieces or to sing some sweet refrain in her honor. A charming scene representing a grandmother who manifests great solicitude for her grandchild, tends to increase the love and confidence we already bear for our dear grandparents. Oh! yes, how good and kind they are!... Have they not the reputation of spoiling their grandchildren a little!... And we are pretentious enough to believe that our saintly Grandmother has a special affection for the daughters of her Immaculate Daughter, and we take advantage of this to expose all our needs to her and to solicit numerous favors.

Monday, August 4

At an early hour this morning the Divine Master called to Himself our dear Sister Marie du Perpetuel Secours (Lucienne Gagnon) who was but twenty-eight years of age.

Having returned ill from Japan a year ago, she prepared herself religiously and cheerfully, in our peaceful "Bethany" of the Laurentides, for the great voyage which she realized was not far distant, as she suffered greatly from lung trouble. If it is painful for us to see the evangelical laborers leave us so soon, especially when the harvest claims reapers, we must never forget that what God does is well done... If the day of our young missionary was short, it was, do we believe, well filled, and the salary must be a magnificent one.

Friday, August 8

From the very moment that we awaken this morning the "Benedicamus Domino" mounts heavenward with an accent of filial gratitude. Yes, let us bless and thank the Lord for the inestimable favor that He bestowed upon our dear Institute twenty-five years ago!... August 8, 1905!... date forever memorable for all the members of the Society of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, for it was then that God gave it the kind and loving Mother that it now possesses and that it hopes to possess until her Golden Jubilee... and for many years after...

Very touching ceremonies take place at the Mother House. Needless to say that at the Novitiate, as in all the houses of the Institute, it is a day of great rejoicing. The Silver Jubilee of a Mother Foundress comes but once in the history of a religious family!... Although four Professed Sisters from the Novitiate assist at the beautiful celebrations which takes place at the maternal home, we shall, nevertheless, leave the pleasure of relating the programme to our Sisters of the Mother House who will certainly delight in giving the details of this blessed Jubilee to our different missions.

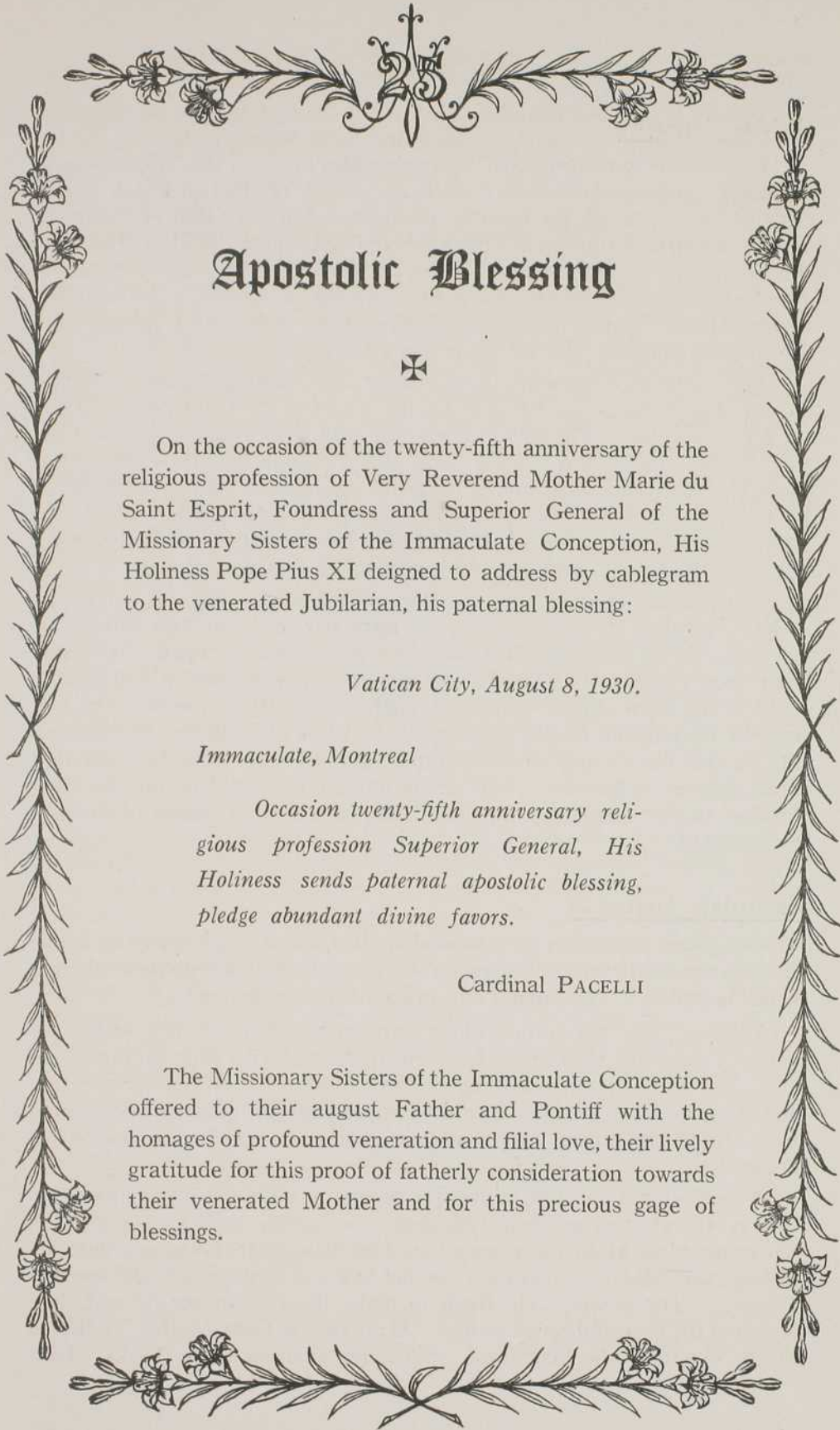
Towards the close of day, the Immaculate Virgin offers to our dearly beloved Mother, as a festal bouquet, forty new children who will be, do we hope, living jewels destined to adorn her immortal crown. It is said that good children in a family are precious diamonds which will form a halo on the brow of their parents throughout eternity. And will it not be moreso in a religious family. So, dear little sisters who embrace the religious life on this blessed day of our Mother's Jubilee, ever bear in mind that rank imposes obligations. You are an offering presented by our heavenly Mother to our earthly Mother, for both, be forever a source of joy and consolation!

Saturday, August 23

Our young postulants grow in wisdom, in age and... in importance before their Sisters and in their own eyes, for this morning they take up their charges which is certainly not a small event in the life of a postulant!...

Wearing their big aprons which somewhat embarrass their walk (not yet very religious) they hustle here and there, and with what an important air... Just think, it is something to have a charge!... When towards the end of the forenoon a "Deo Gratias" is given the same question goes around from one to the other: "What is your charge?..." And each one relates her exploits...

A very simple but ever impressive ceremony takes place this afternoon. The postulants receive their veils and blue girdles. After having asked our Immaculate Mother to place all our new little sisters under her maternal mantle, Our Mistress gives each one her veil and girdle which she receives kneeling. The novices help them to make the transformation and then is recited the beautiful consecration: "O my Queen, O my Mother" followed by the singing of the Magnificat. Silent tears fall on many cheeks... How



Apostolic Blessing



On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the religious profession of Very Reverend Mother Marie du Saint Esprit, Foundress and Superior General of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, His Holiness Pope Pius XI deigned to address by cablegram to the venerated Jubilarian, his paternal blessing:

Vatican City, August 8, 1930.

Immaculate, Montreal

Occasion twenty-fifth anniversary religious profession Superior General, His Holiness sends paternal apostolic blessing, pledge abundant divine favors.

Cardinal PACELLI

The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception offered to their august Father and Pontiff with the homages of profound veneration and filial love, their lively gratitude for this proof of fatherly consideration towards their venerated Mother and for this precious gage of blessings.

significant is this first donation to Mary on the threshold of the religious life. May it become more complete and more absolute day by day!...

Tuesday, August 26

His Excellency, Mgr. Andrea Cassulo, Apostolic Delegate, deigns to honor us by a visit this morning. He is accompanied by Reverend Father Superior of the Foreign Mission Seminary. After a visit to the Blessed Sacrament His Excellency enters the hall where we are assembled while bestowing his blessing on us. "As I was coming back from the Congress at Thetford," said he, "I was asked where I was going to spend the night before returning to Ottawa, and immediately I answered, 'At the Foreign Mission Seminary'... And I wanted to bring to you also, the Blessing of Our Holy Father. You form one and the same family as it were, since you are engaged in the same work. You know that the Pope and his representative love the missions and the missionaries. At the Seminary, priests are prepared to carry the light of faith to the poor pagans who are still plunged in the depths of paganism, and here, at the Novitiate of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception you are prepared to co-operate in this great work.

Your Sisters of China have sent me letters and photographs of little children whom they wish to bring up in the Catholic religion. I answered them immediately sending them the Apostolic Blessing. I have had the occasion several times of appreciating the work you are doing in your different missions. I am very much pleased and I wish to congratulate you and say: Continue!... Our Lord loves souls since He came upon earth to save them. Our Holy Father the Pope, His Vicar, also loves them and it is in his name that I encourage you to work for the salvation of these poor people who are sitting in the shadows of death. To succeed one must be humble, cultivate the spirit of sacrifice, and above all, pray unceasingly. It is not necessary to utter many words, Our Lord teaches us, but we must have our heart full of desires: desire of loving God, desire to suffer for Him, desire of saving many souls..." His Excellency then addressed a few words to the postulants: "Our Lord has called you also, He said: 'Come,' and you came... Be grateful for this great grace, but that is not all, you must work now, for the crown is not awarded to the idle... You must not be afraid of difficulties; this world is a battle-field, but the struggle is short and the recompense will be eternal and magnificent for those who have been victorious."

Then after having given us the Pope's Blessing he said: "Adieu! Adieu! Pray for the Pope!..."

Canon Roch had the happy inspiration of asking for a holiday for us. "Yes, yes," answered the august visitor, "take a good holiday, a holiday of the Holy Father!..."

We heartily thank him and promise that this day will hold a special charm... a "papal charm"!...

Sunday, September 7

The retreat preparatory to the ceremonies of Profession and the taking of Holy Habit which opened August 30, will soon draw to a close. Fifty-two of our professed Sisters who have come from the Mother House and the different houses of the Province make a total of 166 guests at the Cenacle and the entire personnel sheltered beneath the roof of the Novitiate numbers 217. United in the same prayer, we find that these days spent in peace and solitude go by too quickly. Still, according as the great day of the mystical alliance approaches many are tempted to exclaim: "O, if the hours would only fly more rapidly! O, if the long-desired day would only dawn!" How recollected and happy each one appears! The last few hours are spent in company with the Immaculate Virgin, for the retreat-master consecrated the closing instruction to the glory of our divine Mother. Moreover is it not Mary who should lead us to Jesus?...

Monday, September 8

The sunrise is radiant this morning, but long before its appearance the happy birds of the Novitiate are awake and it is with a sigh of contentment that they answer to the "Benedicamus Domino" by a fervent "Deo Gratias", when the first sound of the bell is heard. Yes, it is the dawn of a beautiful day for forty-seven among us, for they hear in the distance the "Veni" of the Spouse of virgins. In a closely united family the happiness of one is the happiness of all, it is thus to-day at the "aviary" of the Immaculate, all hearts jubilate. But this jubilation must be kept intimate until after the ceremony which takes place at 2.30 P. M. and which is presided over by Very Reverend Canon Mousseau, of the Archbishop's Palace, Montreal.

The throne of our Divine King and the statue of our Immaculate Queen are gracefully adorned with spotless lilies whose sweet corollas exhale the most fragrant perfume. Our little chapel is overcrowded with parents and friends who are deeply touched at the happiness of to-day's elect. Reverend Father Trudel, O. P., retreat-master, who delivers the sermon points out the grandeur and necessity of missionary vocations as well as the duty of parents to favor and even to cultivate these vocations.

Then take place the solemn promises: Twenty-six postulants promise fidelity to the Divine Spouse; eighteen novices bind themselves to Him by temporary vows and three professed ratify forever their donation to the service of God and of souls.

The following received the Holy Habit: Misses Graziella Langlois, of Quebec (Sr. St-Charles-Garnier); Marie-Therese Sansfaçon, of Charlesbourg (Sr. St-Tharsicius); Marguerite Demers, of N.-D.-de-Grâces, Quebec (Sr. St-Louis de France); Lucienne Ayotte, of St-Barthelemy (Sr. Ste-Chretienne); Genevieve St-Pierre, of Montreal (Sr. Genevieve-de-Nanterre); Angelina Poulin, of Adamsville, Brome Co. (Sr. St-Hugues); Albertine Lachapelle, of St-Bonaventure d'Upton (Sr. St-Bonaventure);

Jeannette Pinard, of Nicolet (Sr. Ste-Christine); Marie Pigeon, of Quebec (Sr. Marie-du-Carmel); Helene De Serres, of Cartierville (Sr. Dominique-du-Rosaire); Rachel Gerin, of Coaticook (Sr. Marie-Leonise); Emilienne Cantin, of Quebec (Sr. Marie-Ruth); Irene Champagne, of Montreal (Sr. Marie-de-Lourdes); Blandine Simard, of Roberval (Sr. Blandine-de-Jesus); Florence Delaney, of Havre-aux-Maisons, Iles-de-la-Madeleine (Sr. Madeleine-de-la-Passion); Therese Forest, of St-Paul, Joliette (Sr. Ste-Catherine-de-Sienne); Ida Brochu, of St-Benoit-Labre, Beauce (Sr. Ste-Solange); Sylvia Bedard, of Montreal (Sr. Antoine-de-Jesus); Marie-Blanche Fortin, of St-Frederic, Beauce (Sr. Marie-Noemi); Adrienne DeGrandpré, of Pawtucket, R. I. (Sr. Ste-Lucile); Monique Dussault, Les Ecureuils (Sr. Ste-Louise); Jeanne Sanschagrin, of Charlesbourg (Sr. Ste-Rose); Jeanne-d'Arc Champagne, of St-Prosper (Sr. Marthe-du-Sauveur); Rollande Menard, of Ahuntsic (Sr. St-Nicholas); Marie-Paule Sauvé, of Montreal (Sr. St-Bernard); Rita Fréchette, of Levis (Sr. Ste-Colombe).

For religious profession: Sr. St-Alphonse-Rodriguez (Cecile Anctil, of Montreal); Sr. Marie-de-la-Merci (Marie-Ange Pothier, of Three-Rivers); Sr. Ste-Emilie (Cecile Baillargeon, of St-Anselme, Dorchester); Sr. Marie-de-l'Enfant-Jesus (Fleur-Ange Crevier, of Montreal); Sr. Marie-Gertrude (Gertrude Paradis, of Levis); Sr. Therese-d'Avila (Therese Sauvé, of St-Scholastique); Sr. St-Alban (Marguerite Dionne, of Joliette); Sr. St-Jean-du-Cenacle (Yvonne Couillard, of Montreal); Sr. St-Augustin (Adrienne Pottie, of St-Liguori); Sr. St-Basile (Jeanne Piché, of St-Basile); Sr. Marie-des-Oliviers (Elianne Laramée, of Aldenville, Mass); Sr. St-Albert (Alice Lalonde, of Montreal); Sr. St-Cesaire (Germaine Ouimet, of St-Cesaire); Sr. St-Irene (Marthe Giguere, of Ste-Marie, Beauce); Sr. St-Pierre-aux-Liens (Therese Dufresne, of Shawinigan Falls); Sr. St-Ulric (Lea Gendron, of St-Ulric); Sr. Agnes d'Assise (Lucienne Renaud, of Montreal); Sr. Ste-Rita (Rita Drouin, of Princeville, Arthabaska).

For perpetual vows: Sr. Therese-de-Lisieux (Marie-Therese Vezina, of St-Joseph, Beauce); Sr. St-Edouard (Rose Allaire, of St-Edouard, Framp-ton); Sr. Marie-des-Anges (Alice Pepin, of Warwick).

Sunday, September 14

Immediately after Mass Our Mistress accompanied by another Sister leaves for the Mother House. It is a solemn day at Outremont for it is the day dedicated to honor Divine Providence, consequently, the patronal feast of our beloved Sister Assistant General.

Not only at the Mother House, but in all the houses of the Institute it is a day of great rejoicing in her honor. We have so many reasons for thanking God for the precious helper He has given our venerated Mother in her painful and incessant labors. Also, when our Mistress repeats: "You are not aware, dear little sisters, of all that we owe to our good Sister Assistant," there is in the accents with which she pronounces these words, something which means very much.

So it is with all our heart that we beg Heaven to preserve the health of her who unceasingly devotes herself for us and for our entire religious family.

Thanksgivings to the Blessed Virgin

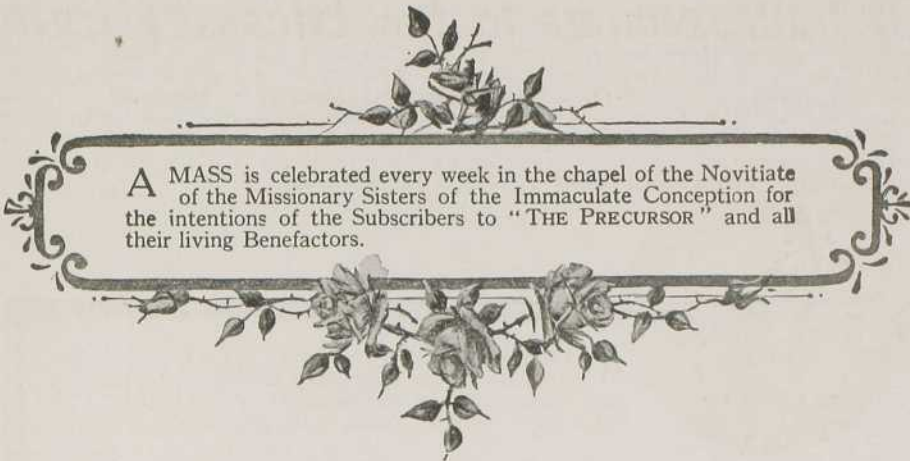
for favors obtained



"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.

Kindly accept the enclosed offering, \$6.00, in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. A Friend, **Detroit, Michigan** — In thanksgiving for past favors, please accept my offering of \$1.00 as well as my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" I. McC., **Montreal**. — In token of gratitude to our Blessed Lady for favors received, kindly burn some votive lights at her shrine. The enclosed offering, \$1.00, is for that purpose. Mrs. J. L., **Ottawa**. — Enclosed please find \$1.00, a thank-offering to the Blessed Virgin to be used for your mission works. One who has a great devotion to the miraculous medal. — You will find enclosed cheque for \$1.00 in thanksgiving for past favors. Please remember me in your prayers. I. McC., **Montreal**. — The enclosed money order for \$2.00 is for two Masses to be said in thanksgiving for favors granted me just recently. W. L., **Adams, Mass.** — Enclosed find money order for \$5.00. Please buy a forsaken baby in honor of St. Jude, in thanksgiving for a favor received. Kindly publish. P. MacD., **Sand Point, Ont.** — It is with pleasure that I am sending you an offering of \$12.00 towards your missions in thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin for favors received. M. M., **Fitchburg, Mass.** — In thanksgiving for favors received, please accept the enclosed \$2.00 for Masses. A. W., **Bridgeport, Conn.** — May Our Blessed Lady be forever praised for the great favor she has obtained for my husband. K. A., **London, Ont.** — As a token of gratitude please accept the enclosed offering of \$2.00 for Masses in honor of the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. T. W., **Spencer, Mass.** — Some time ago I asked that you make a novena to Our Lady that my husband might sell a house. I am pleased to say that it was sold on the Feast of the Assumption. The enclosed offering, \$5.00, is for your needy missions of China. Mrs. A. M., **Norwich, Conn.** — I enclose \$1.00. I wish it were more to thank our Blessed Mother for great favors I received. C. S. S., **Verdun**. — Kindly have two Masses said for the Holy Souls in thanksgiving for favors received. Miss A. M., **Windsor, Ont.** — Grateful thanks to Our Lady for favors received. Find enclosed \$1.50. Mrs. J. V., **Angliers, Que.** — I am sending you a cheque for \$1.00 covering my monthly contribution to your missions and in thanksgiving for past favors. I. McC., **Montreal**. — Enclosed please find cheque for \$5.00 for the benefit of your missions. I offer this for a favor that has been granted me. Mrs. H. E. H., **New York City**. — My son has obtained a good position thanks to the help of our dear Lady. I am sending you \$2.00 for your missions in gratitude. Mrs. M. J. D., **Lauzon, Que.** — While sending you my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" I am enclosing \$3.00 for the missions in honor of the Blessed Virgin for graces obtained through her intercession. A Subscriber. — My cheque for \$1.00 in thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for favors obtained. B. A. V., **St. Jerome**. — Kindly insert in your review: My grateful thanks to Our Blessed Lady and the Little Flower for favors obtained through their intercession. Mrs. C. B. — Please publish to the praise of the Blessed Virgin: Gratitude for favor obtained, offering of a subscription to "THE PRECURSOR". Mrs. C. G., **Three Rivers**. — Please find enclosed \$2.00 for your missionary works in thanksgiving to Mary Immaculate for graces obtained. Mrs. C. F., **Verdun**. — Offering of \$5.00 for the ransom of a pagan baby in thanksgiving for a favor obtained and to solicit another. Mrs. M. C., **Ottawa**. — \$0.75 for lights in honor of the Blessed Virgin and \$1.00 for your missions in token of gratitude for favors obtained. Mrs. J. St. G., **Port Alfred**. — A successful operation: offering of \$175 in thanksgiving. — Kindly find enclosed the sum of \$5.00 to contribute to the support of the little Chinese babies ransomed in your missions. My prayers were heard after having made the promise that I am accomplishing to-day. Mrs. J. M. — Gift of \$10.00 for the missions in thanksgiving for the sale of property. Mrs. M. C. M., **Montreal**. — Offering of \$35.00 for your missions in thanksgiving for favors received. A Benefactor. — I am sending \$1.00 for my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" in thanksgiving for my prompt recovery. Mrs. T. B., **Montreal**. — I am fulfilling my promise in sending you \$5.00 for the most urgent needs of your missions. I shall renew this offering each year, just as long as our Heavenly Mother favors us with this grace. Mrs. A. L. — Our little boy has been cured through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin and I promised to subscribe to "THE PRECURSOR" for the rest of my life to prove my gratitude to this good Mother. Mrs. A. M. — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for favors received. A Subscriber. — Offering of \$10.00 in honor of the Blessed Virgin and the Little Flower in thanksgiving for favors received. Miss C. B., **Montreal**. — Grateful thanks to Mary Immaculate for favors obtained after promising to publish and to subscribe to "THE PRECURSOR". Mrs. C. L., **Ramore, Ont.**



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".

Kindly accept \$1.00 for a novena of lights in honor of the Blessed Virgin and the Little Flower for a special intention. Mrs. L. W. T., **Windsor, Ont.** — Kindly pray that I may obtain three favors if it be God's Holy Will. C. D., **Montreal.** — Please accept the enclosed offering in honor of the Blessed Virgin and the Little Flower for my special intentions. R. S. W., **Fitchburg, Mass.** — Please make a novena to the Little Flower for my intentions. Mrs. J. L., **Ottawa.** — May I solicit the help of your prayers for my recovery? If I am cured I shall send you \$5.00 yearly for your missions. **Arvida, Que.** — I would like to sell my property. Will you join your prayers with mine that my request may be answered? I promise to send \$50.00 for your missionary works if this be granted. A Subscriber, **Montreal.** — I suffer greatly from indigestion and nervousness. Beg our dear Lady to obtain from Almighty God that I may be spared for my poor children's sake. **Montreal.** — Will you please make a novena to the Blessed Virgin and the Little Flower that I may enjoy better health? I promise \$160.00 to your missions for this cure. Emma B., **Montreal.** — I am coming in all confidence to ask the help of your prayers that my husband may have work this winter. Mrs. P., **Valleyfield.** — I am sending \$1.00 in honor of the Blessed Virgin for a novena of lights that my son may have steady work. Mrs. M. J. D., **Lauzon.** — In your prayers, kindly recommend my intention: that I may succeed in entering Seventh Grade in September. I shall contribute an offering in honor of Our Immaculate Mother for your missions if I am heard. A. A., **Montreal.** — A special favor is requested by I. M., **Montreal.** — My daughter has been in poor health for some time. Would you make a novena for her prompt recovery? I am enclosing \$1.00 for lights to be burned in honor of Our Lady. Mrs. J. A. L., **Verdun.** — The enclosed \$2.00 is in honor of the Blessed Virgin and the Little Flower for favors that I have obtained and to ask for better health. Mrs. R. L., **Indian Orchard, Mass.** — Your prayers are requested for my very special intentions. I am sending \$5.00 for your needy missions. Mrs. M. D. — Please accept the enclosed offering for my intentions. R. S. W., **Fitchburg, Mass.** — I am enclosing \$1.00 for a novena of lights that I may obtain a position that I have in view. I shall send another Dollar if my request is granted. J. A. B. — Kindly accept this small offering, \$5.00, to help you in some way in your missions. We should like to have a novena made for two great favors. Will you help us by your prayers. Mrs. J. H. M., **Douglastown.** — Prayers are requested for a wayward boy. **Stratford.** — My son is not in very good health, please pray for his speedy recovery. I shall continue to help your missions. Mrs. M. J. B. — Enclosed please find my renewal subscription and \$1.00 for lights in honor of the Blessed Virgin for special favors. Mrs. J. E. V., **Quebec.** — I am sending \$0.75 for lights in honor of the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin that my son may obtain a good position. Mrs. E. B., **Hemmingford, Que.** — I am coming to ask your prayers that I may have boarders all winter. I shall send a small donation if my request be granted. Mrs. C. A. O'B., **Ste. Agathe des Monts.** — I am sorely in need of prayers. My husband has been out of work for a long time, truly I get discouraged at times. Please pray for us. Mrs. D. B., **Central Falls, R. I.** — May I solicit your prayers for two special favors. Mrs. W. P., **Montreal.** — It is in all confidence that I am coming

to Our Blessed Lady for help. My father is addicted to drink, which makes our home very unhappy. If this good Mother deigns to answer my prayers I shall send a generous offering for your missions. **Hebronville.** — I am enclosing \$0.75 for a novena of lights in honor of the Blessed Virgin for the recovery of my health. A Subscriber. — Please unite your prayers with mine that I may undergo a successful operation. Mrs. W. B., **Montreal.** — I shall forward you \$100.00 for the missions if our Immaculate Mother grants that I sell my property. I also ask health for my husband. Mrs. A. P., **Montreal.** — That I may obtain my cure and the sale of property I promise an offering for the poor lepers of China and to continue subscribing to "THE PRECURSOR". Mrs. A. B., **Montreal.**



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



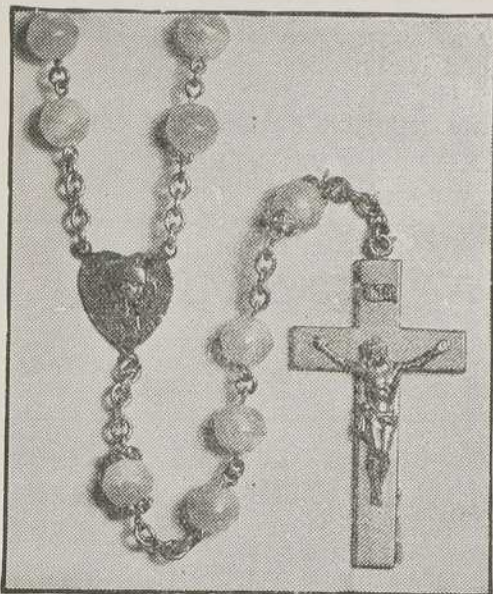
NECROLOGY

Mrs. Wilfrid POITRAS, Quebec, mother of our Sisters Therese du St-Sacrement and St. Wilfrid; Mr. Edgar GAUTHIER, Outremont, brother of His Grace Most Reverend G. Gauthier; Mr. D. BRUNO, Montreal; Mrs. Katherine KENNY, London, Ont.; Mrs. L. LEPAGE, Windsor, Ont.; Mrs. Margaret GILL, Orillia, Ont.; Mrs. Andrew MCCARTHY, Windsor, Ont.; Mrs. Edwin O'CONNOR, Saint Alphonse, Co. Joliette; Mrs. P. O'NEILL, Quebec; Mrs. H. McDONALD, Mrs. Winifred FLYNN, Kinkora, Ont.; Mrs. Emile L'ECUYER, Mackayville; Mrs. J. McGRAIL, Mr. Michael DWYER, Kinkora, Ont.; Mr. Michael RYAN, Logan, Ont.; Mr. J. DWYER, Kinkora, Ont.; Mr. H. MORRISON, Park Hill, Ont.; Mr. P. HAGARTY, Logan, Ont.; Mr. M. REGAN, Logan, Ont.; Mr. John J. CONNELLY, St. Lambert; Mr. H. LEGARE, Sarnia, Ont.; Mrs. Alice GLAAB, Mrs. H. McDONALD, Sarnia, Ont.; Mr. Michael MOORE, St. Mary's Ont.; Mr. James RYDER, Lucan, Ont.; Mr. L. P. BRADY, Fingal, Ont.; Mr. J. LAUGHLIN, Zurich, Ont.; Mrs. P. FINNEGAN, Kinkora; Mr. J. McINTYRE, Stratford; Mr. Frank BAKER, Stratford, Ont.; Mr. J. NEVILLE, Sarnia; Mrs. Thos. McFADDEN, Seaforth, Mrs. J. J. CARTHLIDGE, Stratford; Mr. W. SCOTT, Windsor; Mr. Michael EGAN, Mr. C. McELHARTY, Mr. J. E. BUCKLEY, Mr. M. PIDGEON, Stratford, Ont.; Mrs. John RICHARDSON, Mr. John RICHARDSON, Mrs. Anna Vera McCool Sessenwein, Mrs. William MURPHY, Mr. Wm. REYNOLDS, Montreal; Mrs. M. BERINGHAM, Westmount; Miss Annie STACE, Westmount; Mrs. J. J. WHELAN Philadelphia.

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

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

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

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