RECURSOR



Works of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

IN CANADA

MOTHER HOUSE, 314 St. Catherine Road, Outremont, near Montreal (Founded in 1902)

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

NOVITIATE, Pont Viau (near Montreal), Laval Co.

CHINESE WORKS IN MONTREAL, (Founded in 1913)

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

Teaching of English, French and Chinese.

CHINESE HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY, 112 Lagauchetiere St.

West, Montreal, (Founded in 1918)

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

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

CITY OF RIMOUSKI, P. Q., 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 Angelique Streets (Founded in 1919)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SILLERY, near Quebec, 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 Hely 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.

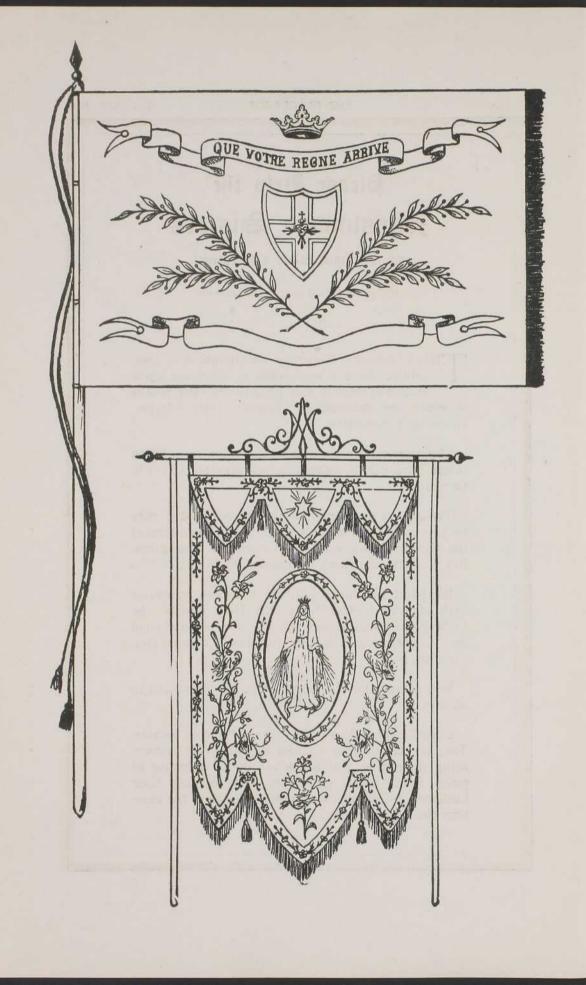
Missionaries must undergo several years' preparation before being able to commence their apostolic labors in foreign fields.

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 s	ilk, silk braid \$	18.00	and i	\$ 28.00
" moire - an	tique, with beautiful			
emblem		30.00	"	38.00
" velvet, go	old braid and emblem .	30.00	"	45.00
" gold-emb	roidered moire-antique	75.00	**	100.00
	n, gold braid and emb.	50.00	**	75.00
	l - cloth, very richly			
hand e	embroidered	90.00	**	150.00
Dalmatics, per pair		50.00	**	80.00
	h, per pair	100.00	"	150.00
		7.00		pwards
Cope, damask silk, silk or gold braid			**	50.00
	oidered moire-antique,			
gold embler	n	70.00	6.6	90.00
	old - embroidered by			
	a beautiful emblem.	90.00	44	150.00
Albs, Antependiums				pwards
Linen Surplices, Monstrance Veils		3.00	"	"
Felt Altar-Covers, green or red			**	**
Tabernacle Veils, Sick Call Burses		5.00	**	**
Reversible Confession Stoles		5.00	44	"
Ciborium Covers		4.00		44
Preaching Stoles		10.00	44	**
		2.00	**	**
		2.00	**	"
Missal Marks		1.75	**	"
Breviary Marks		1.00	**	**
		30.00	4.	**
		60.00	4.6	0.
	Altar Cloths	6.00	-66	44.
	Amices	12.00	per	doz.
	Corporals	8.50	6.6	**
Altar Linen	Finger-towels	4.50	**	"
	Purificators	5.00	44	**
	Palls	4.00	**	**
We supply Altar-br	eads at the following p	rices:		
Small		\$1.	20 p	er 1000
				" 100

Practical Means

of helping the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

By contributing alms to:

By providing for the:

Annual supply for the upkeep of the sanctuary lamp in our houses of Canada and in mission countries Foundation of a Burse for the support of a missionary	\$ 20.00
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

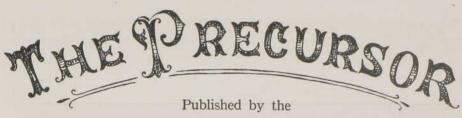
The alms that you will give to the missionaries, the help that you will bring them, will be employed for the greater glory of God, and will be for you the most certain and remuneratory investment, the "hundredfold" promised by Jesus Christ.

* * *

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



"O IMMACULATE MOTHER, PROTECT OUR BENEFACTORS!



Missionary Sisters

of the Immaculate Conception

with the approbation of the Archbishop of Montreal

Vol. VII, 9th Year

MONTREAL, March-April 1931

No. 2

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LET US, AFTER THE EXAMPLE OF JOSEPH, LOVE LABOR. DAILY DID THIS HUMBLE CARPENTER TOIL IN HIS OBSCURE WORKSHOP IN ORDER THAT JESUS AND HIS HOLY MOTHER MIGHT WANT FOR NOTHING.

The Toiler's Homecoming

Hark the noise of sawing and the hammer's din! This is Joseph's workshop, stay and enter in Where a poor man toileth, scanty bread to win.

Long the poor workman's workday — dawn to setting sun — Home he goeth weary, when his task is done; Beareth home his earning for Mary and her Son.

Some One knows his footstep! throws His game aside, Patters out to meet him thro' the door flung wide, Runs with happy laughter in his arms to hide!

Home, with happy laughter, thro' the night star-clear!
In his arms small Jesus (Ah! the burden dear!)
Whispers loving welcomes in the Toiler's ear.

Toil is now forgotten, weariness no more,

Warm home lights are playing on their cottage floor—

And round Mary, smiling, in the open door!

When our day is ended, toiler Saint, we pray,
That our Mother Mary "Welcome Home" may say,
And her Son, small Jesus, meet us on the way!

H. CONCANNON

Missionary Exposition of Montreal

FROM THE 21st TO THE 28th OF SEPTEMBER, 1930

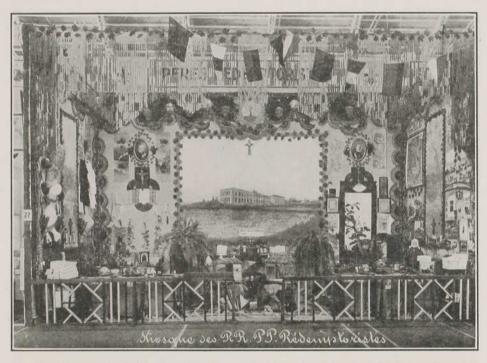
Under the distinguished auspices of His Grace Most Reverend G. Gauthier

(Continued)

THE REDEMPTORISTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Foreign Missions

After the example of their holy Founder, St. Alphonsus, the Redemptorists have always been animated with the greatest desire to spread the Faith of Jesus Christ to the countries which are deprived of it.



St. Clement Hofbauer, by his ardent zeal, attracted Schismatics, Israelites and Bulgarians to the True Fold. Following in his footsteps, Venerable Father Passerat sent his sons to assist the poor Indians in the United States as well as to Turkey to instruct the natives.

As early as the year 1858, the Redemptorists from Belgium established themselves in the Antilles, and thus became prepared for the difficult Missions in the Congo. Everyone knows of the zeal of these Fathers in favor of the Ruthenians of Canada, now under the jurisdiction of the Province of Toronto.

The Redemptorists from Holland are laboring in Guiana and Brazil, while their confreres from France are evangelizing Ecuador, Chili, Peru, Colombia and Bolivia. The Fathers who have settled in Algeria are waging continual war against Mohammed.

In Brazil and in Argentina are to be found German Provinces whose aim is to look after Japanese immigrants. The Province of Baltimore, also in Brazil, formerly replaced the Spanish and Belgians in Porto Rico and a few other islands. The Irish Fathers are laboring in the Philippine Islands and in Australia, the Austrian Fathers in Denmark, and the English Fathers in South Africa.

Moreover, the Spanish Fathers, besides their Mission in Venezuela, have three foundations in China, and the French Canadians, two in Indo-China.

The Mission of Indo-China (confided to the French Canadians).

In 1924, this Mission was confided to the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. Cardinal Van Rossum, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide, asked that it be given to the French Canadians. His proposition was enthusiastically accepted.



BOOTH OF THE REVEREND HOLY GHOST FATHERS

The booth of the Reverend Holy Ghost Fathers with its red and purple draperies, reminds us of the dense Equatorial forests of Africa. An automatic lantern brings before our eyes a series of incidents in the travels of the Fathers of Zanzibar and many interesting scenes tell us of the devotedness and care given the babies by the Missionary Sisters. Just look at the little one who is asleep in a soap box; his skin is quite white. You

did not know that negro babies are white at their birth. The Mission's hopes are set on these little folks.

To the right, a panorama of a beautiful cathedral shows us a long line of natives who accompany the intrepid missionary in his apostolic journeyings. The box, which the gravest of these negroes is carrying, contains salt. In Africa, salt is sugar for the children. Some of these negroes carry red calico and glass-ware which will be given in exchange for other merchandise, as money is unknown in the interior countries. The natives are attracted by the brightness of the articles we offer them. Once, with the bottom of a broken bottle, we bought a little girl. That day, the sun was particularly bright and the glass sparkled like a diamond in its rays.

Reverend Father Chalifoux, the first Canadian missionary, who has already founded one hundred and seventy posts each with its own catechists, knows much about the African people. All these charms that you see have been taken from sorcerers by one of the Fathers. The little fetish idol formerly belonged to a negress who believed that no children would be born to her if she had the misfortune of laying it aside.

Here is a magic stone, a piece of feldspar which formerly was held in as much veneration by one of these tribes as was the Ark of the Covenant by the Jewish nation. One day a convert, seeing it in the hands of a priest, said to him: "Father, you are rich..." Then suddenly he grew afraid, for those who have already believed in fetishism find it very hard to leave this religion aside forever.

But who is to teach the saving truths of our holy religion to these people who yet know nothing about God. In Angola the native priests have been given charge of the Missions there while the Fathers are penetrating into more remote districts in order to check the progress of the Mohammedans, who laugh derisively at them and are only waiting for them to die in order to make their homes on their graves. In less than twenty years the number of Christians in this Mission has increased from 10,000 to 110,000. In the Province of Quebec alone there are 5,000 priests; in Africa for a district covering the same area there are but 35. As no roads nor bridges exist here we are often quite exhausted.

However, the hearts of our missionaries ever remain young, and they never lose courage. Every year they witness 25,000 new baptisms and new members are constantly being added to their 1,600,000 Christians and 600,000 catechumens.

The establishment of Christian families is the constant aim of their efforts. Just lately, a novitiate for young girls desirous of embracing the married state, was founded. During the six months that they spend in the spacious dwellings constructed for them quite close to the Mission compound the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Ghost teach them how to grind the coffee, to wash, to cook, and to care for the sick.

The miseries of polygamy are gradually disappearing. Formerly natives of high rank boasted of the number of wives they had. This reminds us of a weathy native of French Congo who came to Mgr. Augouard asking to be baptized at once. When told that he must first leave one of his two wives,

he said, "I have only one wife now, I kept the one who possessed the most agreeable disposition and ate the other."

We hope that this beautiful Missionary Exposition, after opening the eyes of its many visitors, will also open their hearts, and that the Holy Ghost Fathers (St. Alexandre College, Point Gatineau, P. Q.) will receive a dozen little missionaries to labor in the field of the Father of the Household where the workers of the first hour are weighed down by the numerous sheaves which they are no longer able to carry.

Reverend Father H. GORE, C. S. Sup.,

St. Alexander's College, Point Gatineau, P. Q.



BOOTH OF THE CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS

This booth contains divers objects of Bengalese art and several paintings illustrating the work of the Holy Cross Fathers in Bengal, among others: 1° The Bishop's Palace, the residence of Mgr. Le Pailleur, C. S. C.; 2° A Missionary's hut; 3° The Cathedral of Chittagong; 4° St. Placide's School; 5° The native Apostolic College; 6° A Holy Cross Sister giving a Catechism lesson; 7° A Mussulman being treated at the first dispensary; 8° A young Christian girl.

Extract from a conference, given at the Montreal Missionary Exposition by one of the Reverend Holy Cross Fathers.

In 1927, Rome confided the Diocese of Chittagong, Bengal, to the Congregation of Holy Cross.

In 1928, four Holy Cross Sisters left Canada to go to help the Reverend Holy Cross Fathers in Bengal.

In the diocese of Chittagong, half of the inhabitants are Mussulmans, and about two million are Hindoos. There are also many Buddhists and Protestants. The Catholics number 8,622.

It would be much easier to convert the natives if they were all pagans, for the missionary would not be obliged to struggle as he does against the wicked customs of prejudiced sects.

Islamism is making rapid progress in India. At Chittagong, at least 60% of the population are Mohammedans. Their principal mosque is to be found in this city.

The Hindoos who have but a vague notion of Original Sin and of the Redemption have completely disfigured the dogma of the Blessed Trinity and honor a trinity of their own. Brahma is represented as having many faces as a proof that he is a witness of everything that happens.

The divinities of Bengal command respect according to their monstrosity. Take for instance the goddess of anger, who is given special honor for fifteen days each year. She is most disgusting to look upon, but has, nevertheless, numerous adorers who practise many acts of mortification in order to please her. One of these penitents swore that he would keep his hand closed, and hold his arm over his head for at least a month. As a result his arm withered away and his finger-nails, which had grown very long, pierced his hand. All these practices are really devilish.

Buddhism is a great obstacle to the spreading of the Gospel, for its notions of religion differ but slightly from our own. Those belonging to this religion do not feel the need of changing it for another.

The bonzes, Buddhist priests, live in monasteries. They are forbidden to eat meat, and to contract marriage. When obliged to leave the temple, they hide their face in a big fan in order to avoid being seen by women. However, if these bonzes wish to go to settle in the world, they are free to do so, and are no longer obliged to observe these rules.



BOOTH OF THE REVEREND CAPUCHIN FATHERS

The Capuchin Fathers' Booth, on either side of which life-like animals peep from the cavities in the imitation rocks, reminds us of a gorge in the wilds of Africa. And when, upon examining this booth, our eyes fall upon the wooden statues of an Abyssinian warrior, an Abyssinian woman, and a Mussulman, this first impression becomes all the more vivid in our minds. In this pavilion, like in many others, several interesting things are to be seen. Quaint capes and gowns, fiery-colored paintings on parchment, and baskets and mats of esparto, particularly attract one's attention. In the show-cases many little ivory trinkets are displayed and on one of the walls the head of an antelope is very prettily arranged. The many photographs of the lepers remind us of the admirable work which the Capuchin Fathers, brothers of the Franciscans, assisted by religious, are accomplishing in Ethropia. Reverend Father Euchariste states that there is a considerable number of lepers in that country.

A parchment, two hundred years old, on which the history of the Old Testament is written in the Abyssinian language is exhibited in one of the show-cases. Lovers of books are deeply interested in this manuscript.

Letter from Reverend Father E. Coté, S. J.

Canadian Missionary at Haimen, China, to the Superior General of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception

Shanghai, November 18, 1930

VERY REVEREND MOTHER,

I have just left the boat which has brought me back from Tsungming, that island which claims so much of your affection. I had gone there with His Lordship; we stayed for two days and a half. To my great happiness I had time to pay a visit to the Sisters. Since the arrival of the three religious, whom you so generously sent to this mission, perhaps at the cost of great sacrifices, their little Community has flourished wonderfully. Nothing less is needed to watch over the cradle of the young Vicariate of Haimen which Holy Mother Church cherishes with such a jealous love. As the primitive Church, the first native Vicariates must thrive in sacrifice, if not in the blood of martyrs. Your Sisters, by their daily acts of self-denial are preparing the way for Christ's reign upon this island. All are closely united and a real family spirit exists among them.

Some of the orphans have already grown quite tall; they look well, and in a few years they will be able to give the Sisters a helping hand.

The work-shop that is under construction, is still roofless. The laborers, owing to a delay in receiving bricks, fear that they will have to interrupt their task until next spring as the cold weather is about to set in. The work of your Sisters is rapidly developing. Their services are appreciated throughout the entire Vicariate.

And now, Reverend Mother, I must share with you the consolation I experienced on seeing your Sisters of Canton. We spoke of many things in the short time that we spent together. Here is a short account of my trip: I accompanied His Lordship Bishop Tsu, to Shiuchow, the Episcopal See of the Vicariate Apostolic of Northern Koantong, confided to the Reverend Salesian Fathers. There, on the 9th of November, took place the consecration of the new bishop, Mgr. Canazei, successor to Venerable Bishop Versiglia who was killed with a companion, by Communist bandits. His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate, who was the consecrating prelate, was assisted by Bishops Fourquet and Tsu. We did not meet with the least accident during our trip which lasted two weeks. His Lordship Bishop Tsu was extended a warm welcome everywhere We reached Hong Kong on the 4th of November and on the 5th, the Director of the Seminary at Macao, Superior of the Mission of Shiuhing, Reverend Father Alves, S. J., a colleague of Bishop Tsu, accompanied His Lordship to Macao where a triumphal reception was tendered him by the clergy and Chinese Christians. This was the first time that a Chinese bishop had ever set foot on the soil of Macao.

At early dawn on the 6th, we arrived in Canton, where a special train was awaiting us at the station. The Civil Authorities of Canton had placed one of the cars at our disposal and had equipped another with a detachment of sixty soldiers. His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate, Mgr. Fourquet, and Mgr, Valtorta also took the same train. The Salesians of Hong Kong, Macao, and Schiuchow provided us with music during the trip. We had a nine hours' ride across the fertile plains and mountains of China, which I enjoyed even more than a trip across the Laurentides to Nomining.

The first missionaries to China stopped at Schiuchow on their way to Peking. There the ruins of the residence in which Reverend Father Ricci, S. J., lived for seven years, are still to be seen. Close beside this pile of debris there is a lane, on the arches of which the following inscription is written in Chinese characters: "Byway of the Holy Religion".

The ceremony was a very imposing one. There was a large attendance of Christians as well as pagans. The mayor and several prominent men of the city also were present.

The ceremony over, members of thirteen different nationalities dined together. There was a real confusion of tongues, but all hearts seemed to understand one another. The following day, on our trip home, we stopped at Canton, where His Excellency and all the bishops went to see your Sisters. After this official visit I went back alone to hold a little conversation with your missionaries.

At 2 P. M., we reached Kowloon where we spent the afternoon. After taking supper with the Maryknoll Fathers, we embarked on the Empress which had just returned from the Philippines.

We arrived at Shanghai on the 14th, and on the afternoon of the 15th we were in Tsungming telling your Sisters there about our trip. On Saturday, the 22nd, we returned to Haimen to make preparations for the opening of a new seminary.

Reverend Mother, His Lordship is deeply touched to see the interest you take in his native congregation. He offers you his most heartfelt thanks for your co-operation in his work as well as for the Mass stipends which you so kindly sent him.

His Lordship and myself send you, Reverend Mother, and all the Sisters, our best wishes for the New Year.

Trusting in your fervent prayers, I beg you to accept, Reverend Mother, the homage of my religious respect.

Yours very humbly in Christ,

The First Ave

Was it sound, or was it starlight!

Past the gates, where seraph's flame
Felt the rush of angel pinions,

Strains of rarest music came;

Melody ne'er heard by mortal
Till upon that holy night
'Twas sent forth from heaven's portal,

Guarded by whole legions bright.

'Twas a message sent to Mary,
As she knelt in silent prayer,
While her head inclined in reverence
For the angel standing there.
Hope was listening at the casement,
And the echo, sweet and clear,
Of the first Divine-sent Ave
Floated past her wondering ear.

On the breezes it was carried
Over all the sin-dark earth;
'Twas up-caught by bird and river,
And all music had new birth.
And the trees and rills and ocean
Whispered with a joyous sound,—
Ave, ave, gratia plena!
Till the world was girded round
With the first rejoicing chaplet
By which earth to heaven was bound.

St. Mary's Chimes.



Feast: September 29

League of Prayer and Sacrifice

For the extinction of anti-religious societies

The Association should, each day, recite one Hail Mary.

Three times the invocation "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee."

The prayer of His Holiness Leo XIII, in honour of Saint Michael the Archangel.

And impose a daily sacrifice.

The Associates should also wear the Miraculous Medal.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle; be our protection against the malice and snares of the devil. Rebuke him O God, we humbly pray; and do thou. O prince of the heavenly host, by the divine power, thrust into hell Satan andthe other evil spirits who roam through the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.

Seen and approved March 12, 1924. (Indulgence of 100 days) † L.-N. Card. BEGIN, Arch. of Quebec.

"What shall I say or how shall I speak of the glorious and holy Virgin? God alone excepted, she is above all beings. More beautiful than the Cherubin and Seraphim and all the angelical army, an earthly voice, or even that of an angel, is too weak to fittingly praise her. O Blessed Virgin, purest dove, celestial spouse! O Mary, heaven, temple, throne of the Divinity, you possess the Sun which illumines heaven and earth, Jesus Christ... The angels accused Eve, but now they glorify Mary, who has rehabilitated fallen Eve and opened heaven to Adam expelled from Eden. For Mary is the Mediatrix of heaven and earth, uniting these two extremes."

St. Epiphanius.

It was with deep regret that we learned of the death of Right Reverend M. F. Fallon, Bishop of London.

The debt of gratitude which the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception owe to this great prelate makes it a duty for them to offer their most fervent prayers for the repose of his soul.



The Little Flower of Jesus

Litany of The Little Flower

St. Teresa of the Child Jesus

Have mercy on

Lord have mercy on us, Christ have mercy on us, Lord have mercy on us, Christ hear us, Christ graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven, God the Son, Redeemer of the world, God the Holy Ghost, Holy Trinity, One God.

Holy Mary Holy Mother of God, Holy Virgin of Virgins, Our Lady of Victory, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus, Saint Teresa of the Holy Face, "Little Flower of Jesus" Special Favorite of Mary Favored by her Heavenly Smile, Devoted Child of St. Joseph, Child of predilection from thy infancy, Angel of the cloister, Most perfect Religious, Poor in Desires. Chaste dove. Most submissive, Beautiful Flower of Carmel, Fragrant Lily of purity, Sweet Rose of charity, Modest Violet of Humility, Shedding sweet perfumes upon earth, Aid of Missionaries, Converter of hardened hearts, Kind Physician of the ills of the body, Curer of diseases,

Heavenly Healer of the afflictions of the soul, Worker of prodigies, Wonder of our age, Vessel of God's Power, Helper in our many needs.

St. Teresa who loved God so ardently, Who had such so wonderful trust in Him, Who, while immerse in the love of God, Sn

Help us in our

wert yet a "little victim",
Who said you would "let fall a shower
of roses" after your death,
Who said you would "spend your

Heaven in doing good upon earth", Who said you "would not take your rest until the last soul was garnered in.

Who told us to call you "Little Teresa" Who breathed forth your pure soul in an Act of Love of God, Lamb of God, etc.

Pray for us, Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus, That we'may follow in your "little way" and that our last words may be like unto yours:

"My God, I love Thee"

LET US PRAY

MERCIFUL Father, in the words of Saint Teresa, I beg of Thee in the name of Thy sweet Jesus, of the Blessed Virgin and of the Saints, to inflame me with Thy spirit of love, and to grant me the grace of winning much love for thee. Amen.

A Few Roses Scattered

By the Little Sister of Missionaries ...

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

St. Therese of the Child Jesus

Please accept this small amount of \$1.00 for the Foreign Missions in honor of St. Therese in return for a special favor granted me, and that my son may find work. If he secures a position I shall send \$1.00 out of his first pay to help the Missions, and if all in the family are kept busy I shall send something every month for one year. Please say a little prayer for me. Anonymous, Montreal.—Please find enclosed a postal note for \$2.00 for the ransom of dying babies in thanksgiving to the Little Flower. Mrs. A. M. W., Toronto, Ont. — As a Christmas offering to the Burse of St. Therese I am sending you \$5.00. St. Therese has been very good to me and I am glad to acknowledge it. J. T., Montreal.—I am enclosing an offering of \$5.00 for a High Mass in honor of St. Therese to thank her for favors granted me. Mrs. G. W., Montreal.—Please accept the enclosed offering of \$0.50 for the ransom of two dying Chinese babies in thanksgiving to the Little Flower of Jesus who has cured my niece. I now confidently ask her to restore my brother's

health. Anonymous, Thetford Mines.—You will find enclosed an offering of \$5.00 for the ransom of a baby likely to live. This is in token of my gratitude to St. Therese for a favor granted me. Mrs. A. D., Montreal.—I am renewing my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" to thank the Little Flower for a grace she has obtained for me. Mrs. P., La Tuque.—I owe a great debt of gratitude to the loving little Saint of Carmel for the many favors granted me through her intercession. I am sending you an offering for a novena of lights in her honor. A subscriber, Rosemount. — My most heartfelt thanks to the Patroness of Missionaries for a great favor received. I am enclosing \$0.25 for the Missions. If through her powerful intercession my husband secures a permanent position, I shall send \$1.00 for the Missions every month. Mrs. J. A. D., Montreal. — You will find enclosed a subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" as also an offering of \$1.00 to help in the upkeep of the Chinese Missions in thanksgiving for a favor received from St. Therese after promising to publish. Mrs. I., Aldenville, Mass.—I token of my lively gratitude to the Little Flower of Jesus for the many favors he has granted me, I am enclosing \$1.00 in favor of the Missions. Anonymous. — Please find enclosed an offering of \$5.00 for the Little Flower Burse. This is the humble expression of my gratitude for the favors that this dear little Saint has granted me. M. J. P., Montreal. — As I have been cured after promising to send \$3.00 in honor of St. Therese, I am now forwarding my offering Mrs. E. V., Verdun. — Enclosed you will find my humble offering of \$0.25 for the ransom of a dying Chinese baby to thank St. Therese for a favor obtained through her powerful intercession. A subscriber, Central Falls. — Offering of \$5.00 for your Works to fulfil a promise made to the little Patroness of Missionaries for helping me to find good tenants. Many thanks to this little Saint for her watchful care over my family and myself. W. C. L., Montreal. — In thanksgiving to St. Therese I am

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

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

We shall then receive with gratitude, any offerings, (thanksgivings for favors obtained or requests for new ones) for the complete formation of the **Burse** in honor of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. May the Little Sister of Missionaries inspire generous souls with the thought of adopting a

Missionary and let fall on them a shower of roses!

In November-December	1930\$	105.50
	1931	

Echoes from our Missions

En route for Manchuria, China

Gleanings from the Diary of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, who left for Manchuria, November 6th, 1930

Dedicated to our beloved Mother Superior General



Kobe, November 26, 1930

Deo Gratias!... At last we have arrived in Kobe!... After hastily partaking of our supper, we go out on deck where Reverend Father Fage, of the Foreign Missions of Paris, and his secretary are awaiting us. They thoughtfully see to our baggage and conduct us to the Customs Office. There the Sisters de l'Enfant Jesus come to meet us and extend us the most cordial hospital-

ity for the two days that we are obliged to spend in Kobe, for no Japanese boat leaves for Dairen before Friday. On reaching the convent, we have the pleasure of meeting two compatriots, one of whom, Sister St. Paul, visited our Mother House last August.

Thursday, November 27, Feast of the Miraculous Medal

In order to unite with our dear Mother House on this beautiful feast of the Miraculous Medal, we take as subject of our meditation and spiritual reading, a passage from the Life of the Blessed Virgin.

This afternoon, after visiting the boat which is to bring us to Dairen, we go to the parish church. On our way we stop before a pagan temple. Then we visit the Orphanage of the Sisters de l'Enfant Jesus. We are enchanted on hearing the Ave Maris Stella sung by little girls from five to six years of age. This orphanage is conducted by French Sisters who are assisted by native religious.

Friday, November 28

We finally set sail on the "Ural Nara" which is to conduct us to the Celestial Empire. On leaving the shore we recite the Magnificat in thanksgiving for the help given us by Reverend Father Fage and the Sisters de l'Enfant Jesus who are really the Providence of the missionaries who are obliged to stop over at Kobe.

Saturday, November 29

This morning we have neither Mass nor Holy Communion. As a compensation we make a fervent spiritual communion.

We spend the forneoon at Chimonosaki. As the weather is beautiful we go out on deck where many little barks containing passengers and baggage attract our attention. The whole day long we skirt the shores of Japan.

Sunday, November 30

To-day, which is, in our Community, a day of thanksgiving, we unite with all our Sisters in thanking God for the numberless graces showered upon our dear Community. We also thank this loving Father and the Immaculate Virgin for the inestimable favor of our religious and missionary vocation. On this occasion we renew our resolution of making our whole life, according to the spirit of our Institute, a perpetual act of thanksgiving.

This evening during the novena preparatory to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, we entreat our ever-bountiful Mother to hasten her divine Son's reign over all hearts.

Wednesday, December 3

Yesterday we reached our new "home" in Manchuria. We debark at Dairen at two o'clock on Monday and take the nine o'clock train for Sze Ping Kai where we arrive at eleven o'clock the next morning. At the station we have the great happiness of seeing Sister St. Matthias who has come to meet us. We go with her to the Bishop's Palace where we are extended a most paternal welcome by Mgr. Lapierre. had already commenced his pastoral visit which he interrupts in order to be at home upon our arrival. After hearing Mass celebrated by Reverend Father Berichon, the first since leaving Kobe, Mgr. Lapierre has us visit his palace. After dinner we make our way to the station where we take the train for Leao Yuan Sien. Sister St. Matthias accompanies us as far as Pa Mien T'cheng where we are given the joyful surprise of meeting all the Sisters of this Mission who have come to the station to see us. Father Jasmin who is to preach a retreat to the virgin catechists at Leao Yuan Sien, acts as our guide during the rest of the trip. Finally, at half-past three, we reach our destination. After Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the singing of the Te Deum at the parish church, we repair at once to our convent chapel to there consecrate ourselves to our Immaculate Mother. Then, dear Mother, lengthily did we speak about you, of our so devoted Sister Assistant, and of our dear Mother House.

Our little convent is bright, very neat, in a word it reminds us of home... The chapel is especially pleasing to me, the altar is almost an exact copy of the one at the Mother House. We find it very pretty adorned as it is with lovely roses, for to-morrow is the feast of St. Francis Xavier. Truly, in our new home it is not hard to forget the distance which separates us,

for we believe ourselves to be in one of our houses of Canada not very far from the Mother House...

This afternoon we go to see the virgins and visit the dispensary. There, I assure you, we realize that we are in China. When we arrive at the dispensary, Sister St. Denis is treating a poor woman whose face is covered with sores. Dear Mother, I am sure you would love these poor Chinese, they are so much to be pitied.

Kindly accept, very dear Mother, the expression of my most filial affection and my heartfelt thanks for my election to the distant missions.

Your unworthy but very loving child, Sister Marie Josephine. (1)

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EN ROUTE FOR CANTON, CHINA

Letter from Sister Marie de Loyola, Missionary of the Immaculate Conception who left for Canton on December 1st, 1930, to her Superior General.



A LITTLE CANTONESE GIRL

Feast of St. Francis Xavier, December 3, 1930.

Beloved Mother,

When I think of my sojourn at Outremont I imagine that I only went there in an aeroplane, for I stayed such a short time. Blessed be the Holy Will of God!

I thank you for your great kindness in my regard during the few days that I spent with you. Many thanks, also, to the dear Sisters who made everything so pleasant for me while in their midst, and to the Sisters in the kitchen and in the sewing-room. Oh, I thank you all for your kind smiles which did me so much good. Never shall I forget those happy fleeting hours spent at the dear Mother House.

Our trip is a very plesaant one. No need have I to describe it, for many times already our Sisters on their way to the Missions have extolled the

natural beauties of our dear Canada. Covered by a coat of spotless snow, the prairies, lakes and rivers have all the same attraction. As I have not seen snow for six years I find it a new and enchanting spectacle to see the evergreens laden with snow and the frost on the trees which sparkles in the

^{1.} Eliane Gravel, of St. Prosper Champlain Co.

sunlight like diamonds. It is a wonderfully beautiful sight! Never under the *beautiful skies of Italy*, so highly praised by Italian poets, has anything of the kind been seen; neither does the Orient offer a like spectacle. The treasures of the Creator of the universe were far from being exhausted when He created the New World. Everything is magnificent in our youthful country.

Following the advice you gave me at the beginning of my religious life, when I am passing by the different cities and villages I salute the Guardian Angels therein and look for a steeple in order to adore the Sacred Host, that ever true and loving Friend. To know that He is watching us go by greatly consoles us.

Pray for me, dear Mother, for I feel that it is the time to ask for prayers. I am on my way to a country which is possessed, not only by seven devils but by thousands of them, but our Immaculate Mother will crush the heads of these all demons. If it costs us our life, so much the better!

Thursday, December 4

Yesterday evening, we were at Winnipeg and this morning, we awaken in Saskatchewan. What a distance we have travelled during the night! The train which continues to speed along is a striking image of our lives which ever glide towards eternity. Fortunately we have boarded the train of Holy Obedience in which, either while laboring or resting, we shall attain our aim, that of making our Immaculate Mother known and loved everywhere. She, in turn, as during her beautiful sojourn in Bethlehem, will present her divine Son that young and old may adore Him.

This morning, on going out on the platform of the observation car, I noticed a beautiful star shining brightly over my head. To me it was as the symbol of my heavenly Mother who watches over the missionaries of her Immaculate Conception. While gazing upon the azure blue sky, I spied two other bright little stars which reminded me of the hearts of my two earthly mothers who follow me by their prayers across mountains and plains, and even beyond the great Pacific. From my soul burst forth a fervent Magnificat followed by this thrice filial prayer: "Mother of Jesus, thou who art also my Mother, grant years of consolation to her who received me from the hands of the Creator and to her who guided me along the path of religious virtues.

The sky is beautiful this evening for the rays of the setting sun form a delicate golden frame around the fleecy blue and pink clouds. I am sorry I am not an artist. In heaven, I shall make up for it.

Friday, December 5

We are now in the Rockies. How majestic they appear. Our first glimpse of them was in the moonlight. This morning we go to the observation car for morning prayer. With the wonderful works of our Creator before our eyes we have no difficulty in becoming recollected. "O ye moun-

tains and hills, bless the Lord; bless the Lord, O ye seas and rivers." How insignificant we feel before these gigantic mountains whose summits are lost in the clouds. One after the other, they disappear from our astonished gaze. God alone remains always with us, He alone is everywhere. In His bosom I find you again, beloved Mother. Therein I find all dear to me.

Dear Mother, how I wish you could see the beauties of nature which at this moment appear before us. How beautiful are these lakes encircled by rocky peaks, the rivers whose waters flow so rapidly, the little hamlets and isolated dwellings. "All ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord: praise and exalt Him above all for ever."

At a quarter past ten, we reach the station where two of our Sisters welcome us with outstretched arms. How pleasant it is for Sisters to live together once again, be it only for a day.

Our house in Vancouver is verily a Bethany for your travelling Sisters, dear Mother. What a rest it is for us to reside with our adorable Master while our Sisters show us the most thoughtful attention.

Sunday, December 7

We have already spent a whole day on the ocean. Two-thirds of the passengers are sea-sick.

There is a Protestant bishop on board, but not a Catholic priest. We hope to refresh our souls at Honolulu, which island we shall probably reach on Thursday night. There is a Catholic church not far from the harbor.

Monday, December 8

The sea is always rough. To-day, for the first time, the sun shines brightly over the waters. Seemingly, it wishes to chant the praises of our Immaculate Mother. We also, when there is no one on deck, sing a beautiful hymn to Our Lady, our voices being accompanied by the music of the waves. The concert, although very simple, is a most pious and filial one.

We are sorry that we cannot assist at Mass. We accept God's Holy Will and in spirit visit all the chapels and churches throughout the entire world in order to gather a few drops of the Precious Blood of our Divine Saviour which is unceasingly offered to the Adorable Majesty. Three times during the day I say my Rosary. With my *Aves* and the Blood of Jesus I wish to prepare my apostolate in Canton.

Friday, December 12

Finally we have arrived at Honolulu. A good half of the passengers debark at this island which is said to be almost bewitching. I had fostered the hope of receiving Holy Communion here, but as my companions are too ill, we content ourselves with visiting our Divine Lord in the Sacrament of His Love.

This is the last occasion we have to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year rich in fruits of salvation for the poor pagans. Your three travelling children while embracing you most filially, dear Mother, beg you to bless them.

Your loving child, Sister Marie de Loyola (1)

Gleanings from the diary of our travelling Sisters

Saturday, December 13, 1930

How good God is! Such is the cry of love which unceasingly rises from our filial hearts. After leaving Vancouver the first land we sight is that of the Hawaiian Islands. How anxious we were to reach them for we had been told of all the wonders to be seen thereon. As the sea-gulls of Vancouver wished us a last Canadian farewell, in like manner those of the Hawaiian Islands were the first to wish us a welcome.

Early on the morning of the 12th, we perceive the Island of Molokai where Father Damien wished to become a leper in order to remain with

the poor lepers, and where he died a martyr of devotedness.

Towards eight o'clock, the majestic Empress casts anchor just opposite Honolulu to there await the emigration and custom officers. The passengers who debark at Honolulu are very few in number. They are nearly all American citizens. It is not long before we set sail again and at halfpast nine we enter the harbor. The spectacle that meets our gaze is quite a new and amusing one. First of all we see a group of natives, with bronzecolored skin and black woolly hair, swimming to meet the boat. They are like real fish, they dive, whirl about, and float on top of the waters as well as beneath the surface. It is stupefying to see the way they move about, just as though they were on land. Yelling at the top of their voices they look covetously at the passengers and beg them to throw a few silver coins into the sea. After taking but one dive into the water, sometimes a distance of seventy feet, they return to the surface and triumphantly show us the money. After diving thus two or three times, their sparkling white teeth are no longer to be seen, for, as we are told, they hold all this money in their mouth.

As we approach the shore we are greeted by the playing of the band and the joyous notes of national songs. Many persons are waiting at the wharf with enormous bouquets of natural flowers. As soon as the gangway is lowered they crowd the deck and decorate those they have come to see with garlands of a thousand different tints which tell the happiness of meeting once again. Each country has its own customs. Here, more than anywhere else perhaps, flowers say everything. Nobody comes to meet us, but we know that in the Tabernacle of His love, Jesus is awaiting us. We direct our steps towards the cathedral on Fort Street. On our way we stop at one of the stores to buy a few post-cards to send to our dear relatives and

⁽¹⁾ Orphise Boulay, of Coaticook.

benefactors. Then we continue on our way quite amused to see so many people of every race. At the corner of one of the streets, a clergyman comes up to us and asks us in English where we are going. When we tell him that we are looking for a Catholic church, he invites us to follow him. On learning that we come from Montreal he says: "You must speak French?" The thought comes to me that perhaps he is the Bishop. On entering the church he offers us Holy Water. It is then that I realize the dignity of our devoted guide, for I catch sight of the amethyst in his ring. He invites us to pay him a visit when we have finished our prayers. The cathedral is not a magnificent one, but it is clean and very devotional. How good it is to kneel once more before the Blessed Sacrament! We are disturbed a little in our prayers by the pupils of the parish school, who are playing just outside of the church. We decide to go at once to visit His Lordship and to come back to the church after the pupils have returned to class. But His Lordship has already traced out our day's programme: we are to be his guests. He asks Reverend Father Bruno, Provincial of the Picpus Fathers, to take us in an auto to see the wonders of Honolulu. By this you can see that His Lordship is extremely kind. As Father Bruno has been in Honolulu for the past eighteen years we could not have had a better guide. The city is built at the foot of a mountain range which forms a chain around it. It is traversed by a beautiful highway. From a promontory, 1200 feet above sea-level, we have a splendid view of the surrounding country. A few feet away from us, near a peak, a continual violent wind is blowing. We hold on to a thick wire fastened to a rock, otherwise we should be swept off our feet. Doubtlessly, it is owing to this continual wind that Honolulu has such a favorable climate. We are told that there are never any very hot days here, nor any winter. The entire island resembles an immense park, for flowers of every tint and hue are to be found even in the most remote districts. The inhabitants live in bungalows. The orange and magnolia blossoms fill the air with the sweetest perfume. We remark many trees, among others, the papaw, cocoa-nut, date, banana, ginger, sugar-cane and pine-apple. Father Bruno makes us a present of a juicy pine-apple, fifteen inches in length, which we bring to the boat with us. Nearly all the ornamental trees bear fruit the shape of a pod. Magnificent palms border the different avenues. Those growing in the palace garden of the Kanacka kings are particularly beautiful.

At dinner-hour we are invited to dine with His Lordship. Can you magine us, dear Mother, sitting down to table with a bishop. It is the first time that we have ever had such an honor and most probably it will be the last.

His Lordship, who was born at Honolulu, is of Portuguese descent. He is held in high esteem even by the Protestants. The Picpus Sisters have four houses and four schools on the island. As they are not numerous enough, His Lordship has confided one of his parishes to the Maryknoll Fathers, and twenty Maryknoll Sisters have charge of the parish school.

After dinner we visit one of the schools directed by the Picpus Sisters at the extremity of the Island. It is a magnificent building. The pupils,

six hundred in number, have spacious class-rooms, immense shady playgrounds, and especially a beautiful grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. Reverend Mother Superior kindly recites three Hail Marys for the success of our trip. We are at Waikiki whose shores are known the world over. Here there is an immense hotel where the worldly-minded, who do not know how to spend their money, pay as much as \$125.00 a day for a salt water bath in the middle of winter. What a pity to see so much money thrown away when the Missions have so much need of it! Visitors to the Island find at their disposal little boats with glass bottoms through which they can see the bed of the sea and its treasures. During the afternoon we visit the aguarium. I never believed that there were so many beautiful varieties of fish. There are some almost as beautiful as birds. There is a certain kind which have a pointed beak and are of nearly every imagineable color: red, yellow, green, blue, and a beautiful purple. Their tails and fins seem to be covered with net and the rest of their body with velvet and fine silk. If the lilies of the field are decked more magnificently than King Solomon was, I defy all the princes of the earth to rival with these wonders of God. But there are many other extraordinary kinds of fish that are not at all beautiful, especially the sea-horse which is about two or three inches long, is almost colorless and has a horse's head. I was greatly surprised, for whenever I had heard tell of the sea-horse I imagined that it was an enormous fish. On our way back from our visit to the aquarium we stop for a few moments at St. Augustine's Church. No windows are to be found therein, but the walls of the nave are of lattice-work, thus there is plenty of light and air. It is a quaint but very pretty church.

I shall add a few words which will perhaps be of interest to some of our Sisters. The Hawaiian Islands are volcanoes, two of which are still smouldering. They extend about 13,000 feet above sea-level. The region covered by the lava from these volcanoes is very fertile. Coffee is extensively cultivated thereon and, with the production of the sugar-cane, forms the principal industry of the Island.

The language here is very simple. It consists of twelve letters, five of which are vowels, consequently there are many words which resemble the following: Kaaawa meaning fish; kamaaina, residing for a long time in the country; malihini, stranger, newcomer; kanaka, man; wahine, woman. We are told that there are only ten thousand words in this language. But there are many languages spoken in this region, one for each race, and for each mixed race. In all there are about fifty mixed races. Broken English is spoken all over the island. For instance when they go to see one of their lady friends, they say: "Missus stop?" the meaning of which is: "Is the lady of the house at home?" The little maid smilingly answers, "Yes, I zink zo, she stop top side," by which she means to say: "She is at home, but she is upstairs." When you come to Honolulu, Sisters, you will know how to take these people. When you pray for the pagans, stop and think a little of the natives of the Hawaiian Islands, for many of them have never heard of the one true God.

Saturday, December 13

To-day, on going out on deck, we are surprised to see the waters of the Pacific which appear as one immense sheet of oil. About a hundred feet away from the steamer many fish frolic in the sunlight. It is amusing to see these little creatures diving in and out of the waters. Sometimes they jump nearly four feet into the air and a short while after skim lightly over the waves. They must be at least two feet in length. On the ocean, as one day is as monotonous as the other, we take great pleasure in watching the capers of our *brothers*, the fish.

Monday, December 15

To-day we give the pine-apple we brought from Honolulu and a few candies to eleven Chinese and Japanese children. As all of these children speak English fairly well, we are able to hold a little conversation together. They are all very bright and seem to be well brought up. I forgot to tell you that the Anglican bishop celebrated *Divine Service* Sunday morning. For this ceremony he had but a little table, on which a cloth had been spread, a cruet, two silver chalices, and a few pieces of bread. He wore a purple soutane, a net alb and a kind of chasuble. His wife was the only one who assisted at the ceremony.

Wednesday, December 17

We have had no Tuesday this week for when we reached the 180th degree of longitude we had to skip a day.

Thursday, December 18

I am enclosing a few very amusing Japanese legends which I have just been reading.

I. — Once upon a time, in the Province of Izumo, there lived a god named Isunu. One day he cried out: "This Province of Izumo has always been but a narrow plain. As it is still young I must seek elsewhere for land to add to it."

He examined a cape on the shores of Korea. "Here is a nice piece of land," he said to himself. With a pickaxe and a rope he tried to draw it towards Izumo. Pulling the rope he thus addressed his coveted treasure: "Move along gently like a boat." Seeing that it willingly obeyed, he made up his mind to draw along in the same way, the Provinces of Hokoriku, the districts of Saki and Yonami, and the Cape of Tsutsu. Thus Izumo, instead of remaining a narrow stretch of low-lying land as in former days, now possesses its hills and mountains. It is one of the most fertile provinces of Japan.

II. — The god of the ancestors.

The sun had already gone down behind the hills and darkness had spread over the earth when the god of the ancestors arrived at Fuji-yama. He asked

to be given hospitality for the night, but the god of Fuji-yama replied that he could not receive him, as that very night he was preparing to celebrate the harvesting of the rice. The god of the ancestors was displeased in thus being refused, and with tear-filled eyes said: "Why do you refuse to receive me? As a punishment you will suffer from the cold in summer as



MOUNT FUJI, JAPAN

well as in winter, for you will have ice and snow the whole year round. Nobody will come to this mountain to offer you the least tribute." He then travelled on to Tsukuba-yama where, as at Fuji-yama, he asked shelter for the night. The god of Tsukuba-yama explained to him that he, also, was preparing to celebrate the harvest, but that he would extend him hospitality just the same. He also offered food and drink to the weary and way-worn god who was deeply touched.

Thus it is that there is always so much ice and snow on Mount Fujiyama that it useless to attempt to climb it, while Tsukuba-yama is a tourist resort.

III. - The dragon with eight heads and eight tails.

Susanoo-no-Mikoto, who descended from the skies, first made his home at Torikami, situated on the Hinokawa River, in the Province of Izumo. One day, as he saw a kitchen utensil floating on the waters, he began to think that the place must be inhabited. He rowed up the river at the source of which he found an aged man with his wife and little daughter. The old man was called Ashmazuchi, his wife, Tenazuchi and his daughter, Kushimada-Hime. As the aged couple were crying bitterly, he asked them what was the cause of their grief. They told him that they had had eight

daughters, but that a dragon with eight heads and eight tails had come every year to steal one of them away. Their remaining child was to be devoured by this dragon in a few days.

"Will you give me your daughter?" the Mikoto asked. The father, after hesitating a little, replied, "You must first tell us your name." "Quite willingly," rejoined the Mikoto, "I am the brother of Amateratsu-Omikami. I shall deliver you from the dragon if you consent to give me your daughter. "Yes, indeed, we shall gladly give her to you," was the father's reply.

The Mikoto then ordered the old couple to fill eight barrels with wine and to place them all in a row. When the dragon with the eight heads and eight tails arrived, it drank so much of this foaming liquor that it became quite intoxicated. Suzanoo-no-Mikoto, at once began to cut it into pieces. In one of its tails he found a glistening sword which he offered to his sister, Amaterazu-Omikami. This is this sword which is kept with the three sacred treasures of this nation. Suzanoo-no-Mikoto built a palace in the Province of Izumo in which he lived with his wife. This palace was known as Suga-no-mija.

As the Japanese do not believe in God, their religion is made up of fables and legends. We are told that in this country, old traditions, such as legends, are always in vogue.

I shall now add a few geographical notes which will perhaps be of as much interest to you as they were to me.

The Japanese Empire comprises four large islands and many small ones. It covers a territory of 260,323 square miles. The area of Japan alone is 147,078 square miles. It is fourth in rank among the most thickly populated countries of the world. It extends a distance of 2,200 feet along the eastern coast of Asia. Owing to its position, this country possesses a most varied climate. Japan Proper has a temperate climate. In August the thermometer marks 82° Fahrenheit, and in January, the coldest month of all, 35° Fahrenheit.

Be assured, dear Sisters, that in spirit we shall ever remain united to you.

The three travelling Sisters of December 1st,

per Sister Marie de Loyola

It seems as if God granted to other saints to free us from some particular needfulness; but I know by experience that the glorious St. Joseph assist us generally in all necessities.

St. Teresa

He who at the hour of death finds himself protected by St. Joseph will certainly experience great consolation.

St. Teresa

SHEK LUNG LAZARETTO

Letter from the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, hospitallers at the Shek Lung Lazaretto, to their Superior General.

Shek Lung Lazaretto, November 30, 1930

VERY DEAR MOTHER,

The echoes from the Lazaretto will not be very long, still we shall give a summary of the principal events which have occurred during the last two months.

On October 3, "The Little Sister of Missionaries" whose feast we were celebrating, sent us three new patients one of whom was a poor woman in an advanced stage of leprosy. We just had the time to have her accept Baptism; four hours later she was in eternity.

The next day, our poor leprous woman invited Sister St. Francois d'Assise to pay them a visit. Wishing to show their gratitude to this dear Sister on the occasion of her patronal feast they crowned her with red roses and little white flowers which they had gathered in the garden, and then made three deep Chinese bows, offered her little presents, and especially their fervent prayers. It was most touching.

On the 24th, feast of St. Raphael, our dear Sister who has this great archangel for protector, was also obliged to submit to the enthusiastic demonstrations of her dear patients and the same scenes of gratitude took place. If our dear Sister infirmarians did not allow their patients to act thus and if they did not accept their gifts, they would be deeply grieved. They already regret to be unable to do more for them. Most probably you are wondering what these presents consisted of. Well, six handkerchiefs, two eggs, green peas, an umbrella...

During the same month a great event occurred for the inhabitants of Shek Lung. It was a visit of His Lordship Bishop Deswasieres, former director at the Lazaretto, who, this year celebrated his Silver Jubilee. Everybody set to work with their whole heart to make the necessary preparations. His Lordship seemed to be deeply touched by the proof of joy and filial gratitude that he received everywhere. Many a time did he repeat how happy he was to be among his children again. He thanked us effusively for the care and devotedness that we lavish upon these poor unfortunates, and then added: "I have left my heart here in your midst; remain closely united, and I hope that in heaven we shall one day be together... His Lordship spent a few days at the lazaretto.

About the same time we also received a visit from the Belgian Consul; he seemed to be astonished at the work that is being done on this leper island, and heartily congratulated each and every one of us.

Have you heard, dear Mother, that we are actually trying a remedy which is supposed to cure leprosy?... Our patients seem to be somewhat

relieved since we have made use of it. Oh! it we could but relieve the sufferings of these poor people!!...

There is one thing that would make them forget a little their sad fate, that is reading, which they love passionately, but we have no library and we would need at least \$50.00 to begin one. What good it would do them! We must admit that they find the time long for they suffer such excruciating pain, and then the devil is not idle!...

The month of November was inaugurated by a pilgrimage of all the lepers to the cemetery, where the remains of more than a thousand victims of leprosy are to be found. After the blessing of the tombs, they all fervently sung the *Libera*, then each one went to some particular grave to there breathe a prayer for the repose of the soul of a dear one.

On the 4th, a woman who escaped some time ago was arrested and brought back to us by the soldiers. She wanted to go to Canton for her clothes, especially to get a blanket, for she was afraid that she would be given one that had been used for the dead. She was brought back in chains, and was forced to tell who it was that brought her across the river. After much arguing, threatening and promising on the part of the police officers, she finally made the declaration. They immediately relieved her of her chains which they put on the boatman who had so grievously violated the law. He was soon released after having paid a fine.

On the 24th, two discouraged women, drowned themselves. They were both pagans, and it seems that one influenced the other. The poor pagans who are stricken with leprosy are convinced that by committing suicide they will become devils and, according to their own ideas, they will be free to return to earth to molest their relatives who now neglect them. One day we asked a dying patient if she wished to be baptized. "No," she replied, "my mother has not been good to me at all, she has taken everything from me, money, dresses, etc. I wish to become a devil and then I shall go to scold her for she is too heartless. After listening to what we told her about our holy religion and of its law of charity and pardon, she consented to be baptized. Shortly after she grew a little better, and she is now a good Christian.

The day after the drowning of the two leprous women we found their dead bodies. All our other lepers were afraid to look at them and not one of them dared to help us to put them in their coffins. Before drowning themselves these two unfortunate creatures told several of our leprous women, who were not willing to follow their example, that after their death they would come back to carry them away. This explains for the terror of all the inhabitants of the island on seeing the loathesome bodies of these women. One of them was so swollen that there was no way of putting her in her coffin.

Dear Mother, if we wished to go into details, we should have many other things to tell you, but this letter would be too long. It is with the greatest happiness and consolation that we continue our work among the most disjointherited members of the human race. We treat our patients, dress their sores, and very often cut away their decayed flesh. Just lately, we were

obliged to cut off the heel of a poor unfortunate who had already lost part of his leg and foot. We have no need of telling you that such operations are a cause of much suffering to ourselves as well as to our patients, but we so often have the happiness of baptizing these suffering creatures who, if they had not been stricken with this terrible disease, would never have had the privilege of being made children of God and heirs to the kingdom of heaven, that our sufferings soon turn into joys.

Au revoir, dearly beloved Mother. Be assured of the ever-increasing affection of

Your humble daughters,

The servants of the lepers.

MANCHURIA, CHINA

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries at Leao Yuan Sien

Monday, October 6, 1930

On October 3rd, we received a baby a month old, whose mother had just died. Reverend Father Jasmin, who baptized it, gave it the name of Teresa. The child was half frozen for it was brought to us in the pouring rain. At the mother's death the little one was given to a relative who, being too poor to keep it, decided to leave it in one of the cold rooms of the house to there freeze to death. A little girl who had heard about the dispensary of the Mission advised her to bring it to the Sisters who would take good care of it. After a bad fit of coughing it seems as though the little one will now live.

Thursday, October 23

The Chinese virgins, who spent some time at Leao Yuan Sien and who are now in other missions, continue to write to us. It greatly pleases us to think that they have not lost this family spirit which we always try to impress on the minds of all our virgin catechists. One of them, Su Magdelena, who helped our Sister infirmarian last year, now has charge of a little dispensary at Reverend Father Berger's Mission at T'ou Tch'uen. Another Joo Tiala (Clara) is now at the Mission of Sze Ping Kai. Both of them often write the most affectionate letters to one or the other of us.

Friday, October 24

For some time past a young soldier has been coming to the dispensary for treatment. While Sister St. Anne dresses his wounds he becomes quite pensive and looks at her as much as to say: "How am I going to thank her for all this?" Suddenly a beautiful smile beams on his pale face... He has found a way!... Putting his hand in his pocket he draws forth a box of



CATECHIST AND PATIENTS OF THE DISPENSARY AT LEAO YUAN SIEN, MANCHURIA, AND THE INFIRMARIANS, THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

cigarettes and proudly offers one to our Sister infirmarian. In China, anyone who offers a cigarette to a woman is regarded as a very thoughtful person!

Saturday, October 25

Sister Marie de la Charité goes to the dispensary for the first time. She has the great happiness of pouring the regenerating waters on the brow of two little dying babies giving them the names of two very dear relatives.

Friday, October 31

During the past month: Patients: 2511. Dressings: 1524. Divers treatments: 3072. Visits to the homes: 31. Baptisms registered: 77.

Thursday, November 20

At the dispensary, the afternoon is reserved for the men. While waiting for the patients, our aged professor walks up and down the waiting-room, praying. The patients arrive and one by one take their places on the benches. There in complete silence they gaze upon the good old white-haired man who is piously saying his beads. It is a most edifying sight for the Christians as well as for the pagans.

PA MIEN T'CHENG, MANCHURIA

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Pa Mien T'cheng, Manchuria, China.

Sunday, September 7, 1930

Martha, aged six, one of our little orphans was successful in the Catechism examination which is required of all the little ones who are to make their First Communion. Reverend Father Turcotte tells her that she will receive Jesus into her heart for the first time to-morrow, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin. The child, who is usually very frolicsome, becomes very attentive and does not lose a single word of the Catechism lessons that are given her.

Monday, September 8

To-day, Martha partakes of the Eucharistic Banquet. In order that she may ever keep a sweet souvenir of this great day, we do all in our power to make the ceremony as solemn as possible. During Mass, her *big sisters*, (the other orphans) sing hymns in Chinese, and at the time for Communion, a Sister accompanies the little first communicant to the Holy Table. The little one dressed all in white has become as recollected as an angel. To all

appearances she fully understands the importance of the act she is performing. May the kind and loving Jesus, in taking possession of the soul of this young child make His abode therein forever. After Mass we go to the Orphanage where a little family celebration has been prepared in Martha's honor.

Thursday, September 11

Another baptism is added to the September list. A little four-year-old boy, dreadfully thin and pale, and blind for over a month, has been unable to take any food for four days past. We have difficulty in opening his lips, even to give him his medicine. As it is certain that he will die to-night, or early to-morrow, we make him a child of God before he is carried back home.

Saturday, September 13

The grandmother of one of our employees died two days ago, at the age of 85. This morning the mortal remains are brought to the church where the *Libera* is sung. The little grandson of the deceased heads the cortege carrying the cross. Right behind him is the coffin placed on a stretcher which is of such a *respectable* size that there is no way of bringing it into the church. It is covered with a scarlet cloth. In China red is the mourning color for old people. The grandchildren and great-grandchildren wear white outfits trimmed with red for this occasion.

We are almost deafened by the music which accompanies the funeral procession. As the six o'clock Mass is not yet finished, a crowd of curious onlookers peep through the windows of the chapel to see what is going on inside.

We entreat Aimighty God and our Blessed Lady to enlighten the souls of these poor pagans that they may one day embrace the true faith.

After the singing of the *Libera* the pall-bearers take up their heavy burden and make their way to the cemetery accompanied by a group of musicians. Then after much laughing and talking the crowd disperses.

Saturday, September 20

This morning we are called to the bedside of a little eight-year-old girl suffering from tuberculosis. Her parents are in deep despair for she is an only child and the doctors give no hopes for her recovery. As she has but a short time to live, we confide her to our dear Heavenly Mother on this day dedicated to her, and we are confident that she will not let the little one leave this earth without being baptized.

Sunday, September 21

We are asked to go again to see the little consumptive whom we visited yesterday. The dispensary catechist, who accompanies us, tells the parents of the eternal happiness which they may procure their child if they are willing to have her baptized. As they at once consent, we lose no time

in pouring the Regenerating Waters on the child's brow giving her the name of Marie Antonini.

Monday, September 29

Everybody is busy harvesting. Once the *sorgho* has been cut, the ears must be separated from the stalk and the grain taken out. Even children five or six years of age are employed. The poor carefully gather up the sheaves left by the gleaners and lay them aside for the winter. Nothing is lost, not even the tiniest pod.

Report of the dispensary of Pa Mien Tcheng for the month of September, 1930:

Patients	1026	Treatments	1026
Dressings	363	Teeth extracted	2
Baptisms	12	Visits to the homes	3

Wednesday, October 1

To-day is the opening of the month of the Holy Rosary, the exercises are made in common. We fervently beg our Immaculate Mother to grant that, during this month, not a single soul in the city or neighborhood will leave this world without its baptismal robe.

Sunday, October 5

We make our monthly retreat to-day. To the noon exercises, we add the procession and the singing of the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, just as formerly at our dear home at Outremont. The ideal weather permits us to make the procession in our modest garden. This reminds us of the time when, as postulants, novices or professed Sisters, we wended our way through the garden paths of our Novitiate or Mother House.

Wednesday, October 8

Good St. Joseph sends us three souls to be regenerated. We beg him to send us all the patients from the neighborhood, so that we may apply to their souls that medicine which will make them happy forever.

Among our patients at the dispensary there are several who come with infected sores. If we ask the patient how it began, nine times out of ten he will answer, "I had a very little "ka ta" (pimple) there a few days ago, I rubbed it and it turned into a sore." If we could only make these poor Chinese understand a little hygiene how much sickness would be avoided.

Thursday, October 9

More than forty patients are treated to-day, and we have the happiness of baptizing a baby ten days old. She is brought to the dispensary by her big brother. Little does he doubt of the happiness that he is procuring for his little sister who will soon take her flight to her heavenly home. May

she obtain from the Infant Jesus and His holy Mother that one day her big brother, who is the cause of her happiness, will be associated with her in praising the infinite goodness and mercy of God.

Saturday, October 11

We have the honor of receiving a visit from Bishop J. L. A. Lapierre. To-night the orphanage welcomes a new little baby a month and a half old. We receive it with affection and wish it to live many long and happy days among her new little sisters.

Friday, October 17

A little "Joseph Marie" is baptized at the dispensary.

We have just finished the night prayer when somebody knocking at the gate, attracts our attention. Sister Superior and Sister St. Elizabeth hasten to see what is the matter. A most pleasant surprise, they are handed a little baby about three weeks old.

Tuesday, October 21

A little girl five years old "Ursula" and a little boy four years old "Ernest" received their passport for heaven.

Wednesday, October 22

The baby that was admitted to the orphanage Friday night was confirmed this afternoon. Sick since her arrival, she grew worse to-day. Towards four o'clock, we thought it well that she should receive the Sacrament that makes one a perfect Christian. It seemed as though little "Lucienne", this is her name, was waiting for that before leaving this vale of tears for a better life. Just as the Mission bell was ringing the Angelus, her soul went to contemplate eternally the beauty of her Creator. As soon as she had breathed her last, a beautiful smile came over her little face, until then contracted by suffering. Whenever we looked at her we felt that she possessed eternal happiness. Wearing a white dress, she was laid out on a table. We placed two blessed candles near her head and two lilies at her side. We joined her hands and pinned a miraculous medal to her clothing. She reminded us of an angel for her little features bore a most candid expression.

"Dear little Lucienne, now that you enjoy eternal bliss, do not forget your little sisters of the Orphanage. Obtain for them numerous favors from God and the Blessed Virgin. Intercede also for your pagan brothers and lead to the dispensary all the little dying babies, so that like you, they may receive holy Baptism before leaving this world."

Thursday, October 23

The mortal remains of our dear little Lucienne are brought to the chapel this morning, where the prayers for the burial of babies are recited. Little Lucienne wishes to show that she has not forgotten her little sisters in sending two babies to the dispensary to be baptized.

Saturday, October 25

For some time past Mrs. Li has been our cook at the Orphanage. She was one of our first patients at the Dispensary. She used to come regularly every day and on hearing about our holy Faith, she presented herself as catechumen. The catechist gave her several lessons and taught her how to baptize. Filled with zeal, this good woman baptized during the summer months, four dying babies and an old woman eighty years of age. "Whenever I heard of anybody who was dying," did she tell us this morning, "I would go immediately and baptize them. The five that I baptized died a short while after."

This woman is well known and, as she is almost sixty, her words are very efficacious. Everybody has great confidence in her. Most probably this valiant catechumen will soon become a fervent Christian. She desires with all her heart to be baptized, but she is not instructed enough as yet. May our heavenly Mother prepare her for this great act and cover her with her maternal protection.

Sunday, October 26

To-day, the Feast of Christ the King, an adult consents to be baptized. Our happy patient had made up his mind to become a bonze, when he met a Christian who said to him: "Instead of adoring these idols, why do you not serve the one true God by embracing the Catholic Faith?" These words touched his heart and he decided to become a Christian. After a thorough study of our holy religion, he is made an heir to the kingdom of heaven. His ten-year-old son, who is present at the ceremony, quietly observes all that is going on. On his smiling face we can read his desire of one day sharing this same happiness. We confide this family to our Blessed Lady asking her to grant that one day all its members will follow the father's example and embrace the true Faith.

Monday, October 27

This morning, our newly-baptized patient receives Holy Communion for the first time. Our Lord must have joyfully taken possession of this soul, depositing therein His richest treasures.

Friday, October 31

To-day, the end of the month of the Holy Rosary, the Blessed Virgin sends us a little ten-year-old boy who has been sick for two months past. The poor child, who has just lost his mother, is heart-broken. As Sister Superior notices that death is near at hand, she baptizes her little patient, giving him the name of Joseph.

The child's uncle had been told by a young Christian that there were doctors at the Catholic Mission who would do all within their power to restore his nephew to health. The fervent Christian, seeing that his friend still hesitated, said to him: "If you do not want to go yourself, I shall go." The latter finally decides to place his son in a big basket, and accompanied by our Christian, brings him to the dispensary.

Report of the Dispensary of Pa M	ien T'c.	heng for the month of October 1930:
Patients	1194	Teeth extracted 7
Treatments	1188	Baptisms 17
Dressings	573	Visits to the homes 6

Saturday, November 1

To-day, while visiting a young man whom we baptized yesterday, we have the happiness of baptizing his baby brother, five months old. It will not be long before this little one will take its flight to heaven.

Monday, November 10

The native Seminary opens this morning. The pupils are not yet very numerous.

Thursday, November 17

At noon, we are asked to go to see a very sick little new-born baby, who seems to be awaiting Holy Baptism in order to fly to heaven with the angels. We are told that the child's parents are fallen-away Christians,

In the couse of the afternoon, we are sent for by the relatives of a certain Mrs. Li whom we treated last spring. We quickly hire a pousse and leave for her home. On arriving we find our patient lying on a kang (a Chinese bed). Her relatives tell us that she had taken a weak spell shortly before our arrival and as they thought she was dying they had placed her on the floor. According to the custom of the country a dying patient is never left on the kang, but is placed on a special bed or on the floor. The poor woman, who had come several times to the dispensary, had learned a little catechism. We speak to her of God, of the bliss of heaven, and of Holy Baptism which she must receive if she desires to one day enjoy this happiness. After listening attentively to everything we tell her, she turns to her husband asking him if he will permit her to be baptized. As he has no objections, Sister Superior baptizes her at once. When we leave her she appears to be very happy. We offer most heartfelt thanks to this loving Mother who, on the beautiful Feast of the Miraculous Medal, permitted us to present these two newly-baptized souls to her Divine Son.

Report of the dispensary of Pa Mie	n T'che	ng for the month of November 1	930:
Patients			
Baptisms	6	Dressings	576
Teeth extracted		Visits to the homes	20

TSUNGMING, HAIMEN VICARIATE, CHINA



LITTLE ORPHANS OF TSUNGMING, CHINA, GOING TO SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TIME

Tuesday, September 23

To-day Sister Ste. Helene has much pleasure at the Foundling-Home. She brings with her a box of candy and all the little ones must come themselves to get some. It is a good way of teaching them how to walk, for these little tots are very fond of candy, and we must add that it is not often that they have this treat. And if you could have seen them trying their little legs, reaching for a chair here, for a little stool there. to help themselves along, for Sister is in the middle of the room... Suddenly they think of a little plan: each takes a hold of the

hand of her little companion in order to more easily attain the desired goal... This is alright for a few steps, but suddenly the scene changes, and plank!!!! on the floor... Sister hastily picks them up, and the candies so well earned quickly dry all tears.

Thursday, September 25

To the children who need a tonic in order to keep healthy, we give a little medicine which we have sweetened so that they will like it. To-day, as one little tot had not been good and had slapped her little companion, Sister told her that for her penance she would not get any. She takes it all to heart and silently sobs in a corner seeming to envy the others all the while that the good tonic is being distributed. Not being able to hold out any longer, she creeps up behind Sister and gently pulling her by the dress says in a soft little voice: "I shall not do it any more, Momo!" This sentence had been taught to the older children. Though the child had not yet said it, she had learned it just the same, since she knew just the time to make use of it. The poor little one was immediately forgiven...

Tuesday, September 30

Children received and baptized at the Foundling-Home during the month: 69; those baptized outside of the Foundling-Home: 35. At the Dispensary: 3 Baptisms, 240 dressings, 43 teeth extracted.

Wednesday, October 1

On this first day of the month of the Holy Rosary, we receive seven babies from the St. Paul's Foundling-Home: a nice little family is it not? Last week they sent us fourteen in four big baskets. In the enclosed photograph you will see our new little darlings.

Sunday, October 12

The men are still busy constructing the work-room which they began in September. As they lacked bricks it will not be completed until December instead of in November, as we had hoped. Many women already have applied for positions. May the hopes we are building on this work-room, with the help of God, be one day realized.

Fifty Christian pupils, two pagans, and seven day-scholars attend our school. It is more than was ever heard of before. At the Foundling-Home there are always children more desirous of heaven than of earth. The other dear Sisters who are coming to help us will greatly relieve Sister Ste. Helene and they will be the cause of the saving of the lives of many little creatures. We find that we have real heavenly assistance at the dispensary. The people do not find us as cross as they were told we were: one visit is proof enough for our patients.



THE FUTURE HOPE OF THE MISSION OF TSUNG MING.

Letter from a Missionary Sister of the Immaculate Conception of Naze, Japan, to the Novitiate, Pont Viau.

Naze, November 10, 1930.

Dear little Sister Novices.

Our dear Sister Superior has asked me to take a little trip to the Dovecot to offer you the wishes of the Sisters of Kyushu. She would like to come with me, but has not the time to spare. So as a very polite Japanese I thus greet you: "O Jama ni agarimashita" (I am making you an honorable visit in order to give you a little trouble).

At the present time we are three Sisters at Kagoshima and four at Naze. Sister Superior teaches English and music, Sister St. Angele looks after the boarders, Sister Marie de Gethsemani does the cooking, and I am writing to you.

Our house at Kagoshima is dedicated to the Little Flower. As it is a Japanese custom to have a sign at the front door of each dwelling, last September we had the following inscription written: "Sei Teresia Ryo," the translation of which is St. Theresa's Boarding-School or Home. Ryo is a very pretty word in the Japanese language. Visitors nearly always ask us the meaning of "Sei Teresia" which gives us the occasion of telling them a little about God.



YOUNG JAPANESE GIRLS STUDYING FOREIGN LANGUAGES, SCHOOL OF NAZE, JAPAN

Ours is a real Japanese dwelling with its straw mats and paper doors. It contains 81 mats, each measuring 3x6 feet. It is perhaps no larger than your work-room, but the Japanese regard it as a good-sized house. In winter, as there is no heating system here, the houses are very cold. It begins to freeze in the month of November and a thaw does not come until the middle of April. Last winter our dear Sister Superior suffered much

from chilbains and spent many sleepless nights.

In September we began to give "koshukwai", that is language courses which last about three weeks, a month as announced by the papers. A course in French began on September 15th and lasted until October 4th. At the present moment we are teaching knitting. We hope that the young girls who follow these courses will soon form a circle, the aim of which will be to help the poor. It is very hard to establish a work in Japan. The Japanese, as you already know, are naturally proud. If they knew that we went to help the poor in their miserable homes without being accompanied by a distinguished Japanese girl, they would say: "These people must belong to the same class as our poverty-stricken countrymen." Thus our apostolate among them would be a failure. But if they saw that young ladies of high rank accompanied us, they would at once be assured that it is a good thing to help the poor, since Miss X. does so. They would admire our devotedness and little by little, desirous of learning the motive for such conduct, they would ask us questions about our religion, and with the help of your charitable prayers their conversion would surely follow...

Besides these courses we give private lessons in English, French, embroidery, music, etc. The private courses have one particular advantage. The pupils find themselves free to ask questions that they would never think of asking before their companions. For the course in English, we had eleven pupils, all pagans, except one who is a Methodist. In October I was obliged to leave them on account of ill health. I was very sorry, for I could sometimes speak to them about God and the Blessed Virgin. Perhaps you find it strange that I say, sometimes: in Japan conversions are brought about very slowly, imperceptibly, so to speak. Our dear Sister Superior deems it prudent not to mention religion to the pupils until they themselves ask to have it explained to them. Experience has taught us that this is the best way. Therefore, we must take as weapons, incessant prayer and fidelity to duty while relying on the prayers and sacrifices of our beloved Sisters.

Not long ago, being slightly ill, one of the pupils came to offer me her sympathy. I invited her to come up on the "tatami". After conversing for some time on different subjects she suddenly asked me if one could go to the Catholic church without permission. I told her that she could go whenever she liked. She thanked me, saying that she never ventured to visit a Catholic church for she thought that she had no right to do so as her parents are Shintoists.

I then showed her illustrations of the Life of the Little Flower. She found them all very beautiful, especially the one showing the little Saint on her death-bed. "Why do you like that one more than the others?" I



A LESSON IN LACE-MAKING AT THE SCHOOL OF NAZE, JAPAN

asked. Thoughtfully gazing upon it she replied: "She looks so peaceful. Watakushi mo noso mama ni shinitai." (I also would like to die like that.) When I asked her if she knew why the Little Flower had such a peaceful death she said that she did, as she had read her life several times in Japanese. Let us hope that the Little Flower will watch over her little pagan friend and shower upon her this priceless rose, the gift of Faith.

A young teacher who comes here to learn French told us that she felt herself overcome with the deepest and strangest emotion while assisting at Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Beginning this week His Lordship is to give a Catechism lesson twice a month to the pupils who are desirous of learning about our holy religion. We are careful not to tell them that it is a lesson in Catechism, for that would be enough to keep them away, but we invite them to assist at a conference on Catholicity... Please help us, by your daily sacrifices, to lay these snares of salvation.

A pupil, who is anxious to learn about our religion, told us one day that she was afraid of God. A Sister remarked to her that, without doubt, fear was necessary, but that our love should always exceed our fears. "Ah!" she at once exclaimed, "it is because He loves me that I am afraid of Him. I am not able to love Him as I should." Grace does its work very slowly in these souls, but what matters provided that it be accomplished in the end.

As my letter is on the point of becoming a volume it is only right that I apologize for its length: "O isogashii tokoto wo o jama itashimashita" (I have honorably disturbed your noble occupations). When our Japanese

have nothing to say, they make use of this expression: "Hanashi no tane naku narimashita" (we have no more conversation seed). As for me, I still have some seed left, but, so as not to delay my letter, I shall keep it for another time.

In closing, permit me to again offer you the wishes we have formulated for you. We entreat our Immaculate Mother and Patroness to obtain for you the grace of responding to our beloved Mother's desires in being true and fervent religious.

Your Sisters of Southern Japan, per Sister Marie de la Redemption (1)

KAGOSHIMA, JAPAN

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Kagoshima

Wednesday, July 30, 1930

This morning, one of our pupils, a pagan, told us that just lately she had read about a noted French atheist, who, during all his life, believed that he could do without God, and who at the hour of death cried out: "O God, have mercy on me!" She asked us why it was that he did not believe in God when he was happy and that in his sufferings he asked help from this same God whom he had despised. She added that she regarded this as pure selfishness. Her teacher seized the opportunity to tell her how infinitely good and loving is this merciful God who never refuses pardon to a contrite soul. Even though this soul had committed every imagineable crime, God forgets all and opens heaven to him, if at the hour of death, he sincerely repents of the evil he has done. "There is but one infinitely good God who can do such wonderful things," replied the little Japanese girl.

Friday, August 1

Miss Akahoshi told Sister Marie de la Redemption, this morning, that she had received a letter from one of her friends who had been forced to marry against her will. In her deep despair this poor young lady wrote: "Do not pray for me any longer, for it is too late. Leave me alone. My unhappiness will not last long, perhaps, for I am thinking of killing myself." Poor woman! How pitiful it is to be deprived of the priceless gift of Faith!.. What moral misery exists in this country which boasts of its civilization! Japanese parents plan the marriage of their children without consulting them in the least. Here there is nothing sacred about marriage. There is nothing to protect it, neither religion nor the laws of the country. The bonzes boldly state that if husband and wife cannot agree, they need only to separate, and parents tell their daughters that they may return

⁽¹⁾ Basilisse Maillet of Bathurst, N. B.

home if they are not happy, but that they must first try. Suicide is a common occurrence in Japan: all are so used to hearing about it that they no longer find it alarming!!! The greater majority of the present day generation, especially in the cities, does not believe in any religion. Everywhere are to be found books on atheism, articles entirely useless to those who suffer without any hope of a better life to come.

Monday, August 4

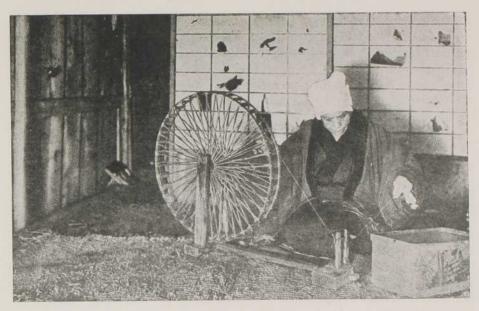
This morning, Takaki San told us about a young girl who appreciates the beauty of our holy religion but who still hesitates to make a final decision. "It is because she has everything she wants, in her whole life she has never suffered the least privation," remarked Takaki San. "Before I became a Christian myself," she added, "I felt that there must be something more than material happiness in life, that everyone must have an ideal to realize at the cost of many incessant struggles. But I always tried to drive away this thought from my mind, for I found it very annoying. I thought to myself that there was no use being uneasy for nothing. But the moment that I understood what this ideal was, all hesitation quickly disappeared and I regarded my former happiness as but a shadow of that which the Catholic religion gives me."

Tuesday, August 5

This evening, while the Japanese girls were helping us to weed the garden they told us just what to do if an earthquake were to occur. First of all



A MUSIC LESSON AT THE SCHOOL OF NAZE, JAPAN



JAPANESE SPINNER

we must open all the doors, or rather the panels which fit into grooves and which replace the doors. If we delay in doing so, the wainscotting falls to pieces, and there is no way of opening the panels in order to escape. One must not remain indoors, but take refuge in a bamboo grove. As the roots of these trees are thick and strong they keep the earth from opening. Let us hope that God will preserve us from these calamities so much feared in a country of volcanoes.

Wednesday, August 6

In the spring, Takaki San planted some *ku chinachi*. This evening she shows us a little shoot which will develop only in the fall. This kind of shrub blooms in the month of May. The velvety snow-white blossoms exhale a most delicious perfume and even when faded retain something of their beauty. The Japanese make delicious tea with the petals of these flowers when dried and rolled.

Thursday, August 7

Throughout Japan, to-day, *tanabata* is celebrated. This is a popular feast of Vega, a star very close to the Milky-way and which the Japanese look upon as a god. Bamboo branches decorated with papers of various colors and planted at the gate of every dwelling give the city a fairy-like aspect. The little girls cut out dresses, coats, etc., in order to become skilful in sewing, and the boys write verses of little popular songs on strips of paper in order to become experts in the writing of ideographic characters. These papers are hung on the bamboo or other trees.

For several days past we have been wondering where we should procure white flowers for the feast we are to celebrate to-morrow, for at this time of the year Japan scarcely deserves its title of "The Flower Kingdom". Yesterday evening, Takaki San told us not to be uneasy, promising to procure flowers for us. This afternoon, after going to the city on an errand, she triumphantly brings back with her a beautiful bouquet of white campanulas. As these flowers are the shape of bells, they will ring in their own way, to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of our beloved Mother! In little, as well as in big things, God always gives us the hundredfold He has promised us. Thanks, thanks, dear God, for this divine thoughtfulness.

Friday, August 8

On entering the chapel, this morning, we almost believed that we were stepping into a little corner of paradise. Dainty pale blue decorations from which silver stars sparkled, reminded us of the canopy of heaven. In the very centre, the Morning Star gracefully beamed forth. Our modest altar was adorned with the pretty campanulas we received yesterday and beautiful blue lights, a gift from a priest in the Joliette diocese. Surmounting the statue of our Immaculate Mother could be seen a lovely symbolical crown of twelve stars, which, although made of silver paper, appeared in the sunlight as one of real silver. Although the whole was very poor and simple, it was, nevertheless, beautiful.

Like all other happy days, this one, too, quickly steals away from us. We all group around our dear Sister Superior who recalls to us the sweet souvenirs of bygone days, and then the bell which in the morning, rang out the joyful *Deo Gratias* calls us to the chapel for prayer. After singing hymns of gratitude we kneel before our Adorable Master to terminate this heavenly day in the same manner as we commenced it. At the time that we are retiring, you, happy Sisters of Outremont, are greeting our beloved Mother. In spirit we unite with you in repeating to her our love and "everlasting gratitude."

Monday, August 11

This evening we are obliged to fill up every crack in the house for a violent wind has arisen. The "shoji" (the inside doors which serve as a wall during the day when the "amado," the night doors surrounding the gallery are open) are driven out of their grooves by the wind. We watch, each in turn, during the night, for we feel that we are in danger. We certainly cannot take too much precaution as it is a typhoon that is raging.

Tuesday, August 12

The storm ceased this afternoon towards three c'clock. The whole island of Kijushu, on which Kagoshima is situated, was badly shaken. At Nagasaki, the steeple of a church, near the station, was blown away by the wind. In other places the tramways were driven off their rails, etc... This evening as the lights suddenly flash off, we group around Sister Superior

who speaks to us of former days spent in the novitiate at Outremont under the watchful care of our belover Mother. It is so good to hear about our Mother that we almost forget about the lights until they suddenly flash on again... Benedicite lux et tenebrae, these are the words that fall from all lips, for we are always grateful for whatever God sends us.

Friday, August 15

Miss Akahoshi makes us a present of some *mochi* and cooked vegetables. The Feast of the Assumption always coincides with the last day of *O Bon*, a pagan feast in honor of the dead. Takaki San tells us that in former days the Buddhist bonzes could eat no other kind of food than that served on this feast, and that they were also forbidden to eat meat and fish. She describes to us a visit which she made to a famous Buddhist temple near Kyoto. Formerly the Buddhistic rule was very strict, but to-day it is no longer the same. Over the stone on which the Japanese place their *getas* (wooden sandals) there used to hang a notice, written in large characters,



IN THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN

requesting the bonzes to place their right *geta* in a straight line, for if they were faithful in doing so, they would afterwards find it easy to do what was right. Our dear Sister Superior remarks to us that if even the pagans believed that if they were faithful in little things they would not neglect things more important, how much more should we, the chosen children of God, take this for our rule in life. After spending a most pleasant recreation together we render thanks to our Immaculate Mother at the close of this beautiful day of her triumph.

Wednesday, August 20

We are given a little distraction during our Japanese lesson. An aged man with a long white beard comes into the yard and while ringing a little bell piously begins to sing a series of prayers in honor of *Hotoka*

Sama, a Buddhist. He wears a Manju, a big Japanese hat resembling a dish turned upside down, a long white cloak dotted with red characters, and sandals of straw. In his hand he carries a long staff. Miss Onaga tells us that he is a professional pilgrim, and that the red marks on his coat recall the famous Buddhist pilgrimages he has made. Poor old man who is wearing himself out in Satan's service!... O, God, hasten Thy reign over this pagan land!

Monday, August 25

We receive a beautiful bouquet of pink asters: the Divine Child Jesus does not let the 25th of any month go by without supplying flowers for a decoration in His honor.

Tuesday, August 26

As a few of our pictures had been wet by the rain we placed them in the sun to dry. This evening, a pedlar, while waiting to see if we would buy something from her, begins to examine them very closely. Pointing to Our Lord on the cross, she asks us if He is the Christo Sama, and if He is the man who became God, for she had heard tell of Him when she was at school. We tell her that He was always God and that He came down to earth in order to save us... She then asks us if it is true that He was killed by his own fellowmen. We assure her that it is all very true. As the poor woman listens with the greatest interest, we give her a little lesson in Catechism telling her about the creation, of Original Sin, and of Jesus and His Mother. Before she leaves, Sister Superior offers her a little framed picture of the Holy Family which she gratefully accepts. "Thank you very much," she says, "for a long time past I knew a little about the Christo Sama but I always wanted to hear the whole story of His life. Although I do not know Him very much I, nevertheless, firmly believe that I am greatly indebted to Him, since He took upon Himself the sins of all men." We then invite her to come back just as often as she wishes to hear about God and His holy Mother, and she cheerfully picks up her two baskets and is on her way again singing the same song: "Do you want to buy some lemons?"...

Friday, August 29

The same old woman who came to us with vegetables a few days ago comes back again to-day. She tells us that she always keeps a bouquet of flowers before the holy picture we gave her.

Far reaching, even unto the borders of eternity, is the deep silence which surrounds Mary's Spouse. Daily he toiled and by his labor sustained the Holy Family. His work was humble among the humble. He mingled with men constantly. His life was like that of many others of his own station.

KORIYAMA, JAPAN

Thursday, August 21

On our way home from Mass this morning, we meet a bonze who is very richly dressed. He wears a black silk Chinese costume with a purple cloak and a pointed hat. We notice that he is extremely thin. The Japanese bonzes are very mortified, they eat neither meat, fish, nor eggs. It seems that this custom of the bonzes was a source of great inconvenience to the first missionaries who came to Japan, for the Japanese were determined to have priests do likewise.

Monday, August 25

The numerous lanterns placed here and there give us to understand that the *Bon Matsuri* is beginning. Although this feast is to take place only in September, in every family where there has been a death lately, this day is anticipated. On a long rod, decorated with foliage, an electric lantern is hung... Our fervent Buddhist who died two months ago will be one of the first to receive the honors of the *Bon Masturi*. With the pagans nothing is spared when there is a question of honoring their dead.

Monday, December 8

At last has dawned that long-desired day so dear to all hearts, and especially dear to the heart of the Missionary of the Immaculate Conception. We prepared for this feast by a triduum, begging our Immaculate Mother to prepare our hearts, herself, to receive with gratitude all the graces that she will bestow upon us on this blessed day.

Our little chapel is very poor, but the altar of the Blessed Virgin is decorated with a few flowers and little blue and white lights which remind us of our dear Mother House.

Wednesday, December 24

Miss Okasaki was telling us how hard it is for the Christians to practise their religion in pagan schools. When young, she herself went to a school directed by bonzes. In these schools there is a special room reserved for the gods where the children are obliged to repair twice a day to offer tea and food to these hideous idols. They there recite long prayers together.

Miss Okasaki was brought by one of her friends to see the Sisters of St. Maur where, for the first time, she entered a chapel and learned to make the Sign of the Cross. She is to-day a fervent Christian and a zealous apostle.

Wednesday, December 31

What a consolation Almighty God reserved for us on Christmas Day. During Midnight Mass which was celebrated by Reverend Father



REV. FATHER REID, O.P. REV FATHER LEDUC, O.P., MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND THREE NEW CHRISTIANS, KORIYAMA, JAPAN.

Proulx, O. P., three adults and two children were made children of God and received their Creator for the first time. Miss Takazaki, to whom Sister Superior has been giving Catechism lessons since last May, was among the number. The dear child was delighted, and to-day her happiness knows no bounds, for her young brother, who assisted at the baptismal ceremony, consented to become a catechumen. Words fail to express the happiness we experience, dear Mother, when we see the Regenerating Waters flow on the brow of our dear Japanese. If the young girls who hesitate in embracing the missionary vocation could enjoy this happiness, they would not fear to leave their country, nor would they withdraw before the sacrifices that are inherent to the missionary life.

The modest and touching ceremony of December 25th has left a pious impression on our minds which will ever be for us a source of great encouragement in our apostolic works.

Reverend Father Reid, O. P., had given us 30 yens to prepare a little feast for the children. With the amount, we were able to decorate a Christmas tree which made many a little one happy. About sixty people, including the children, were here on the evening of the 25th. The majority were pagans. Before uncovering the Christmas tree to distribute the presents and cakes, we presented a living tableau: the adoration of the Infant Jesus at the Crib. Owing to the lack of Christians, a little pagan was chosen for an angel. The recitation of a dialogue in Japanese by the children was greatly enjoyed by all the auditors who went home enchanted with their evening.

Extracts 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!

Thursday, November 13

This evening we commence a novena preparatory to the feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin, a day very dear to the hearts of all novices. The account read to us in the refectory of Mary's adolescence is of a nature to stimulate our devotion to the Virgin of the Temple, so fittingly called "Mater Admirabilis." Our life in the sweet solitude of the Novitiate, far from the tumult of the world, bears a striking resemblance to her life here on earth. Oh, would that we were as attentive, recollected and perfect in all our actions as was our loving Patroness!

It is therefore, in order to obtain this precious favor, that commencing this evening and continuing until the twenty-first of the month, we shall in a special manner implore this holy Maiden's assistance. May she look with tenderness upon her blessed dwelling and lovingly transfrom all who inhabit it into faithful and fervent virgins.

Friday, November 14

Our good Mother makes us a gift of a beautiful statue of the Guardian Angel. The postulants lose no time in claiming it for their dormitory, but the novices maintain their rights... A little fraternal discussion then arises. Our "baby" sisters declare that it is especially over the cradles that the angels should keep watch, but we tell them that "babies" having naught but "angel dreams," are less needful of the protection of the celestial guardian...

We know that our dear Mother, as soon as she hears of this, will quickly establish peace in the Dovecot by giving us an "Angel" for each dormitory when circumstances permit her to do so...

In the meantime, let us hope that the one that she has just sent us will not refuse to spread its wings over the little "Crows," as well as over the white "Doves" since both bear the title of "birds of Mary".

Thursday, November 20

This is a most significative date for most of the novices, but for the youngest among us, who have not yet spent the Feast of the Presentation at the Novitiate, it is somewhat mysterious. To-day there is no class nor music lessons and we are told not to disturb ourselves in our work in the sewing-room. But it does not appear that our little sister postulants have



MINIATURES OF THE HOUSES WHERE IN THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION LABOR IN THE MISSIONS OF CANTON, LEAD YUAN SIEN, TSUNGMING, TSENG SHING, CHINA, KAGOSHIMA, JAPAN, AND WHICH COULD BE SEEN IN THEIR BOOTH AT THE MONTREAL MISSIONARY EXPOSITION.

been told the same thing, as a goodly number of them make their way to the music-room, and they seem to have right of way throughout the whole house. A few, however, remain with us at the sewing... most probably to save appearances...

After supper the mystery grows even more obscure. Just think! even the recreation bell remains silent! Happily it is not late before the enigma is explained to us. As to-morrow is the feast of the little Virgin of the Temple, the Patroness of novices, our little sisters, the postulants, assisted by our Mistress, have secretly prepared a pious and interesting programme for this evening.

As a prelude to the little concert a gay duet is played followed by a song entitled: "The Doves of the Temple." in which the Infant Jesus gives kind words of counsel to His white doves, in order that they may succeed in imitating their loving Patroness, the Virgin of the Temple. Then in a little play, consisting of three acts, we are shown St. Stanislaus Kostka entering the novitiate despite the objections of his parents, the edifying conduct of the young novice, his tender and filial love for the Queen of Heaven, and finally his holy death on the beautiful feast of the Assumption.

Piano and violin selections played between the acts and a recitation fitting to the occasion contribute to the evening's entertainment.

Doubtlessly, angels had brought messages from heaven and had placed them before the statue of our loving Patroness, who had donned the costume of a novice and who presided at the entertainment, surrounded by lilies, verdant foliage and tiny azure blue lights.

At the end of this recreative evening, our Mistress presents to us the tray containing the mysterious little papers on which is written the work Mary has allotted to each one of us. We shall be very careful not to reveal the sweet duty which has been imposed upon us, or rather we shall disclose our secret by acting in such a way that one may easily know that we are angels of such and such a virtue.

It is with hearts overflowing with gratitude and zeal that we repair to the chapel to there implore our loving Master and sweet Patroness to bless our resolutions and our happiness.

Friday, November 21

It is a most cheerful and beautiful day. This morning in union with the sweet little Virgin we offer ourselves to our Divine Lord, after which we sing hymns expressive of filial love to our Queen and Patroness, fervently entreating her to guide us along the path of perfection. Then begins our holiday which we all greet with the greatest enthusiasm. But hardly have we been enjoying ourselves for half an hour when a cloud of sorrow overshadows our happiness: one of our sister novices is suddenly taken ill. The doctor, who comes immediately, states that the patient is in a critical condition and that it is necessary to have her anointed at once. Does our

dear companion, after the example of St. Stanislaus, wish to terminate in heaven the beautiful feast of our loving Mother?... Everything fore-tells it!...

As there is no time to lose, our good Mother who has been told the sad news and fearing not to have the time to reach Pont Viau before her dear child's death, names Sister Superior to receive the vows of our dying Sister. With saddened hearts we take our ranks in the room adjoining that of our dear companion in order to assist at the touching ceremony. In a voice depressed by suffering and emotion, but with a beaming countenance, the happy novice on the threshold of eternity pronounces the holy engagements which will procure her a chosen place in the cortege of virgins. Then our Reverend Chaplain gives her Holy Viaticum and anoints her. Tears flow from all eyes, but seeing that she is so happy we almost envy her joy and load her with with messages for the celestial abode.

In the course of the afternoon, our Mother comes to see her dear child who is unable to express her deep gratitude for the great favor accorded her, that of pronouncing the vows of religion, and unceasingly does she repeat how happy she is to die a religious.

Towards five o'clock, we believe that death is close at hand... Our dear patient again passes through the crisis, but we greatly fear that she will not last over night. Her companions who entered with her obtain the privilege of watching by her bedside, each in turn. May the sweet and loving Virgin Mary cover her with her maternal protection.

Saturday, November 22

Deo Gratias! Our patient has spent a rather good night which inclines us to believe that she will recover. Oh! if God would only spare her to us!... There is so much work to be done in the Lord's vineyard!!... However may His Holy Will be done, for He is the Master and He alone knows what is best!...

Wednesday, December 3

After having meditated on the sublime virtues of St. Francis Xavier we sing his praises and implore his assistance. We entreat him to bless the efforts of our missionaries in foreign fields and to enkindle in us an ardent love for souls.

This afternoon as if in answer to our prayer, our celestial protector sends us two distinguished visitors whose authoritative voices fill our hearts with apostolic zeal. One of them, Very Reverend Father Langlais, Provincial of the Dominicans, speaks to us of Japan where he went last year with some of our Sisters. He tells us all the good yet to be done in that distant country and the necessity of making a careful study of our religion in order to bear the light of faith to this nation still sitting in the shadows of paganism.

Reverend Father concludes by telling us that in his opinion Japan is the most beautiful of all mission countries.

A few minutes after, Very Reverend Canon Roch, Superior of the Foreign Mission Seminary, introduces to us Mgr. Gaspais, Bishop of Kirin, Manchuria. His Lordship hoped to procure religious for his diocese, but unfortunately, our dear Mother is not able to respond to his desire, for we are not yet numerous enough to answer all the demands that are made us. This good Shepherd is deeply grieved at the thought of the souls that are being lost owing to the lack of devoted missionaries. As the worthy prelate proclaims the many advantages of the territory over which he has charge we come to the conclusion that all missionaries are satisfied with what has been confided to them. The old saying, "There is no place like home", proudly finds an echo in all apostolic hearts. However, this country which they call home is but their country of adoption. How often have they watered its soil with their sweat and even with their blood! It is this country which procures them such abundant and immortal harvests.

Monday, December 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Oh! how beautiful are the feasts of the Blessed Virgin at the Novitiate... the Feast of the Immaculate Conception especially.

In the chapel, numerous little blue lights in the midst of clusters of spotless lilies sparkle like the stars of the firmament. After High Mass, which is rendered as solemn as possible, we sing a beautiful hymn to our Immaculate Mother.

At nine o'clock the bell again calls us to the altar of our tender Mother to there recite the first part of our rosary.

Then we joyfully begin our holiday, which nevertheless is of a most serene character. Seemingly our joy is too profound to be exuberant, and every year on this blessed anniversary, our hearts overflow with the same sentiments. We feel ourselves surrounded by an atmosphere of unforetold happiness, and with all our hearts we rejoice in the thought that we are the privileged children of such a pure and beautiful Mother!!

The evening recreation is also spent in Mary's honor. By hymns, recitations and little plays we proclaim the bounties of the Immaculate Virgin while a tender love grows in our souls for this most loving of Mothers.

Friday, December 12

Another conference is given us on the Chinese Missions by Reverend Father Fraser, Founder of the Foreign Mission Seminary of Ontario.

As the Missions are our sublime ideal, nothing rejoices us more than to hear them spoken of, so much so that this afternoon when our distinguished visitor describes to us the manners and customs of his adopted children we do not notice the time passing.

Wednesday, December 24

As in our childhood days we impatiently await, although in a more silent manner, the return of the joyful Christmas festivity. At three o'clock

we begin to recite our thousand Hail Marys which we continue until bedtime which is at an earlier hour this evening.

Christmas, December 25

What is this melody which, in the silence of the night, seems to come from heaven... these angelical voices accompanied by the sweet strains of the violin and the silvery notes of tiny bells... these dazzling waves of light which penetrate the pale blue curtains of our cells... this throng of virgins who glide through the aisles of our dormitories sweetly inviting us to follow them?... Is it all a dream?... Oh, no, it is only too true, and with joyful hearts we greet the blessed Christmas feast and our little "shepherdesses" (the elder novices) who so sweetly announce it to us.

Shortly after, joining the merry group, we wend our way to Bethlehem... What happiness we experience while kneeling before the Crib of our Infant Saviour!...

During the three consecutive Masses, beautiful notes of Christmas hymns joyfully resound throughout our little chapel. The altar, adorned with lovely ferns and an abundance of blushing roses, presents a most charming aspect.

The Holy Mysteries terminated, we repair to the refectory where a dainty revel is awaiting us. Then the little doves return to their nests to close their eyes and dream of heaven.

The day has already dawned when other musical strains fill the dormitory. We hasten to the chapel for prayer and meditation. After breakfast we put the house in order, and the bell calls us once more to the chapel for the recitation of the beads and the pious singing of each mystery. Then entering the recreation-room preceded by our Mistress, a prettily decorated Christmas tree in which a little cradle has been placed, meets our gaze. Surrounding the Divine Infant is a heap of packages and letters. The distribution of these treasures affords us much pleasure, and we are so happy the whole day long that we hardly notice the time passing.

In the evening, faithful to our tradition, and desirous of expressing our gratitude to our dear Sister Procurator, we celebrate her patronal feast by executing an interesting programme in her honor.

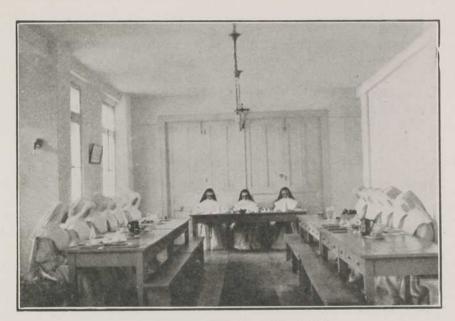
Before retiring we render thanks to God for the happiness He deigns to shower upon us every day of our lives.

Thursday, January 1, 1931

The programme of our life in the Novitiate is not a very varied one, nevertheless, beloved parents and dear Sisters in the Missions, we know that you appreciate hearing of the little everyday occurrences, for they bring you into closer contact with us. And as it is for you that we are writing, we feel quite at ease ever in repeating what perhaps you already know...

It is the beginning of another year. New Year's Day!... a day apprehended by parents who think of their absent daughters, and also a little apprehended by the children who for the first time spend this day far from home... But all would be quickly reassured if they only knew how family-like this festivity is here. Let us give you a little detailed account of it.

First of all we prepare to receive the gift of the New Year sent us by God, by a day of recollection, prayer, reparation and gratitude. At midnight we unite before the tabernacle in order to offer God the last moments of the fleeting year and the first of the one that is just opening. There is nothing more solemn and impressive than this Holy Hour.



AT THE NOVITIATE, PONT-VIAU

In the morning, during Holy Mass, we renew the wishes that we have formulated for the extension of God's Kingdom and for the happiness of all our dear ones.

Thus imbued with a spirit of supernatural joy, this day will certainly bring us the purest and holiest happiness.

When the holiday begins, Sister Superior reads to us our dear Mother's wishes. For each one of her children she asks purity, fear of sin and fear of even the appearance of evil which is so befitting to our title of daughters of the Immaculate!... Yes, venerable Mother, we wish to heed your voice, willingly shall we follow in the path you indicate to us, and according to the wish of our Mistress, we desire to be a consolation to you.

We are filled with gratitude on beholding the thoughtful and precious gifts which this good Mother sends us. How beautiful are the candelabra for our altar, the books of religious music which will help us in the study of this art and add to the solemnity of our ceremonies, the pretty calendars from which, each day, we shall read pious thoughts just as attentively as if we heard you utter them, dear Mother. Now, all that we wish for is your presence in our midst and we hope that this request will be granted us.

After exchanging wishes for health, holiness and perseverance, we show the sincerity of our affection by fraternally embracing one another.

The distribution of many letters then carries us back home to our dear parents. And since we share in one another's happiness, let us add that we all enjoy the privilege granted to the professed Sisters of the Mother House who have a little sister in the Novitiate. Our good Mother invites them to spend the day at Pont Viau. To complete their pleasure our Mistress reserves a special table in the refectory for this "family reunion".

You can easily see that we had not much time to be lonesome or sad. At every moment of the day one or the other of us is heard to exclaim. How pleasant is the Christmas season in the convent!!... All this, we feel, is the realization of the hundred-fold promised by our Divine Lord to those who leave all in order to follow Him.

Tuesday, January 6, Feast of the Epiphany.

Despite the real Canadian storm which arises during the night the three Wise Kings do not fail to come to our poor stable. This morning we notice them kneeling near the Divine Infant of the Crib. How well their recollected and modest posture reveals their great spirit of faith... We never grow tired of contemplating them. How faithful they were in following the star!... Oh! may they, on this Feast of the Epiphany, obtain us the grace of always following our own pure and beautiful star, of never wandering from its luminous way... and more than this, may they help us to be ourselves stars and lights for the poor pagan souls which we wish to conquer for the King of kings...

Tuesday, January 27

On the 21st of last November, our dear companion, Sister Eugenie de Jesus (Meledine Caron) heard a first call to the eternal joys of heaven, and since then she has been peacefully awaiting the solemn moment of her departure... At times she seemed to find that the Celestial Spouse delayed in coming for her, but her sweet resignation to His Holy Will kept her calm and joyful up until the very last evening.

Before commencing this night which was to be so bright for her, since she was to enter into the splendors of her home beyond the skies, our dear dying Sister joyfully renewed her three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience which she had made privately at the beginning of her illness. After reciting acts of love and conformity to the Holy Will of God, as she had done before commencing to renew her vows, she spoke a few last words to us, promising that up above she would remember us all. At a quarter to one in the morning, she gently expired after gazing heavenwards in astonishment and admiration.

Her mortal remains were placed beneath a statue of our Immaculate Lady who seemed to wish to shelter her child in her long blue mantle, while in her outstretched hands she held a wreath of white lilies. Surrounding the statue, also, could be seen a symbolical decoration and upon the coffin, three of the most beautiful natural lilies.

We entered this pious sanctuary each in turn to offer our prayers as a token of fraternal and religious affection while repeating with the Church: *Requiescat in pace*. May Eternal Light shine upon her and may she help us to happily reach this endless day to which we all aspire!!

Thursday, January 29

The funeral of our dear companion, Sister Eugenie de Jesus took place at half-past eight this morning, in the chapel of our Novitiate.

Mary Immaculate

LARU-

(Pope Pius X.)

"Let all the children of the Catholic Church hear our words, and with most ardent piety, religion and love proceed to invoke the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God conceived without original sin. Let them go with entire confidence to this most sweet mother of mercy and of grace in all dangers, difficulties, doubts and anxieties. For nothing is to be feared, nothing despaired when we are acting under the guidance and protection of Her, who loves us with a mother's love. She is negotiating the work of our salvation, she is solitious for the whole human race; she is appointed by God, Queen of heaven and earth; and exalted above all the choirs of Angels, and Orders of Saints, stands at the right hand of the Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. She intercedes most powerfully and cannot fail to obtain what she asks."

To St. Joseph fell the singularly joyous honor of providing for and protecting the Mother of God and beauteous Child Who is God Himself. With loving devotion we contemplate the faithful guardian of Jesus and Mary in his life and still more in his glorious death. We piously envy his beautiful, peaceful Home-going, and we ask him with deep fervor to obtain for us a like grace.

Thanksgivings to the Blessed Virgin

for favors obtained



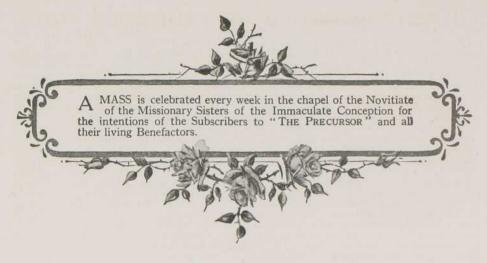
"O MARY, the entire universe would perish before you refuse your assistance to those who, with all their heart, implore your help and protection.

BL. HENRY SUZO.

The enclosed offering is in thanksgiving for a favor granted me. Please have a Mass said for my intention. D. W. J., Montreal. — I am enclosing a money order for \$25.00 as promised, for I have received a great favor through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. You may publish this in "THE PRECURSOR". Please pray that I may obtain another great favor. A subscriber. — Enclosed you will find \$1.00 for my annual subscription. I have received a favor and wish to have it published in "THE PRECURSOR". Mrs. W. K. C., Chandler. P. Q. — My offering of \$2.00 is in honor of the Blessed Virgin and the Little Flower of Jesus to thank them for favors granted me during the past year. This money is to help along your good work. Mrs. J. L., Indian Orchard, Mass. — Enclosed you will find an offering for a Low Mass to be offered for my mother's soul in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. Mrs. L. R., Hawlev, Mass. — Please accept this donation of \$5.00 for the ransom of dying babies in fulfilment of a promise made some time ago. I cannot find a better occasion than Christmas to make my offering to the Infant Jesus. Please pray and have the children pray that God may bless my family. Mrs. A. L., Worcester, Mass. — As my son secured a position a week after he asked you to pray for him.

BL. Henry Suzo.

pray and have the children pray that God may bless my son secured a position a week after he asked you to pray for him, he is sending you \$5.00 in favor of your Works as promised. Please pray for a very special intention. E. J., Leominster, Mass. — With my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" I am sending you an offering of \$1.00 for your Chinese Missions in thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for favors received. Mrs. B. F., Riverside. Ont — Kindly accept this offering of \$5.00 in honor of our Blessed Lady to thank her for a favor granted me through her intercession. Mrs. J. C., Waterloo, P, Q. — Please find enclosed \$1.00 which may be used to have lights burned before the altar of our Blessed Mother in thanksgiving for favors received, and also for a very special intention. Miss F. D. — The enclosed \$5.00 is to help along your good works in thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart and our Blessed Mother for the many favors granted us during the past year. Mr. and Mrs. G. H. R., Fitzroy Harbour, Ont. — This cheque for \$5.00 is a token of my gratitude for having received a favor. I hope it will help you a little in your mission work. Please pray for my sister who has been in ill health for the last ten days, and also that I may have success in business. M. B. G., Holyoke, Mass. — I am sending you \$10.00 for the Missions. Please remember me in your prayers. M. P., Westmount. — This offering of \$1.00 is for a Low Mass in honor of our Immaculate Mother in thanksgiving for a favor obtained and that I may secure a position. Miss E. G. S., Warren, R. I. — Enclosed you will find a money order for \$2.00 for two Masses to be said in thanksgiving for favors received through the intercession of the Holy Souls. W. L., Adams, Mass. — About a week ago I wrote to you, asking you to pray that I might obtain a position, and also that my father might be cured of nervous trouble. I am very happy to tell you that one of my requests has been granted, for I have obtained a permanent position. My father is also a little better. I

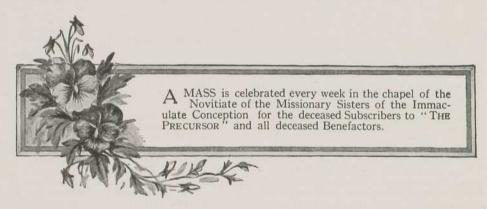


Petitions

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

Enclosed you will find \$0.75 in stamps for which I wish you to burn a votive light every day during the novena in honor of the Purification of our Blessed Lady. Please pray for my daughter who is sick and also for three other favors. Mrs. T. M. C., Westmount. — Please accept my offering of \$5.00 to be used in your good works. Will you please make a novena to our Immaculate Mother Mary for my special intention. If If receive the favor I am asking I promise to send another donation for the ransom of a baby. Mrs. R. B., Windsor, Ont. — With the renewal of my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" I am sending an offering for lights to be burned in honor of our Blessed Lady, and \$1.00 to help your Missions. Kindly pray with me that I may receive a special favor. Mrs. G. B., Notre Dame de Graces. — I hope this offering of \$5.00 will help you in your good work. Please say a prayer for me. A. C., Waterbury. — The enclosed offering of \$1.00 is for a novena of lights that we may find a good location for a store as we are compelled to move. Please make a novena in honor of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph for this same intention. I promise a donation if this favor is granted soon. Mrs. W. J. T., Montreal. — I am writing to ask you to kindly pray for me as I am the mother of six children and have been sick since last November. This offering of \$2.00 is for your Works. If I am granted relief I shall send you an offering of \$5.00 later on to have a High Mass celebrated. Mrs. P. L. O., St. Odilon, P. Q. — I am sending you an offering to have a Mass said for a special intention and \$1.00 for lights in honor of our Blessed Lady. I promise to send you a little donation for your Missions. Please pray for me. Mrs. J. N., Lachine, P. Q. — Enclosed please find money order for \$2.00 which is an offering for two Masses for the Souls in Purgatory in honor of the Infant Jesus and our Blessed Mother that I may be granted two special favors. Kindly remember me in your prayers. A. W.,Bridgeport, Conn. — I have not been working for some time and

Works. Mrs. L. L., Montreal. — Kindly accept \$1.00 for lights in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary that a very particular friend may regain his sight which he lost three weeks ago in an aerop ane crash. I am a subscriber to "THE PRECURSOR" and place all my trust and hope in the Blessed Mother of God. Mrs. J. C., Verdun, P. Q. — Your prayers are requested for some very special intentions. I am sending \$2.00 for your needy Missions. M. M., Montreal. — I am renewing my promise for the year that has just commenced. If I obtain the favor I am asking I shall send \$5.00 to help the Missions. Please pray for me as I greatly need the help of your prayers. Mrs. F. D. L., Kapuskasing, Ont. — I am coming to ask your prayers that I may secure a position. If my request is granted I shall send you a donation. O. L.. Montreal. — Enclosed you will find an offering of \$1.00 to help in your Works. May I ask you to make a novena and to burn a light each day at Mary's shrine that I may get boarders and thus be able to pay what I owe, and also that I may be successful in renting a flat to good tenants. Mrs. C. A. O., Vine Villa, P. Q. — My little girl has something wrong with her nose which prevents her from breathing as she should. As she has undergone an operation already for adenoids I do not want another operation. I promised if she were cured to send \$5.00 for the ransom of a Chinese baby girl to be called Mary Teresa. She is some better, but not really over it yet. I trust by sending the money and asking for the help of your prayers that she will be completely cured. Mrs. P. M., Haileybury. Ont. Please pray for my special intention. If I meet with success in a work I have undertaken I shall send a generous donation to help you in your Works. Mrs. I. Y., Montreal. — Will you kindly make a novena that my husband may secure a permanent position and that my son may continue to have work. Mrs. L. B., Vankleek Hill. Ont. — Enclosed find \$5.00 to help along your splendid work. I beg your prayers for my family and myself. Mrs. F. S., T





NECROLOGY

Reverend J. D., Pinsonneault, Windsor, Ont.; Mrs. H. Downie; Mrs. P. M. Wickham, St. Lambert, P. Q.; Mr. Michael Henchey, Notre Dame de Grace; Mrs. A. Kimball, Mrs. Doran, Mr. Patrick H. Ryan, Mr. Martin Egan, Westmount; Mr. Stephen Hickey, West Monkton; Mr. George P. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Wm. Deehan, Mr. John Taugher, Mr. T. Wilkinson, Montreal; Mrs. J. Thiel, Cleveland, Ohio; Mr. William Lambert, Sillery Cove; Mrs. L. Paterson, Mr. Edward Hewitt, Notre Dame de Grace; Mrs. Jean Marie Ouellet, St. Anselme, Dorchester Co.

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- 1. Founders, those who donate \$1,000.00 or more.
- 2. **Protectors**, those who, by the donation of \$500.00, provide the dowry and trousseau of a poor novice. By combining their alms, a parish, community or family may have right to this title.

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

- 3. Subscribers, those who give an annual offering of \$25.00
- 4. Associates, those who give the sum of \$2.00 per year.

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

Privileges Accorded to Benefactors

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

Besides, Benefactors are entitled to the following spiritual advantages:

- 1. A special intention in all the Masses heard and Communions received by the Sisters.
 - 2. A Mass offered every month for their intentions.
- 3.—Every Friday in the year, the Sisters offer, for their Benefactors' intentions, their hours of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the chapel of the Mother House. (The names of Founders and Protectors are deposited on the Altar of Exposition).
- 4. For the same intentions, the members of the Community make, every day, the Guard of Honor to Mary, which consists in the continual recitation of the Rosary before the altar of the Blessed Virgin. The evening hours of Canada corresponding with the morning hours of China, as the Guard is closing here, it commences at the Lazaretto of Shek-Lung, where the poor lepers, in succeeding groups of fifteen, continue the Perpetual Rosary for the intentions of the Society's Benefactors.
 - 5. A Requiem High Mass is sung every year for deceased Benefactors.
- 6. A share in the merits of the Way of the Cross, made daily by the Sisters, is also accorded to deceased Benefactors.
- 7. In the Novitiate Chapel of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, two Masses are celebrated every week for all Subscribers to "The Precursor" and for all living and deceased Benefactors.