

THE PRECURSOR



Vol VIII., 9th Year

MONTREAL, JULY-AUGUST, 1931

No. 4

Works of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

IN CANADA

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

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

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

CHINESE WORKS IN MONTREAL, (Founded in 1913)

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

Teaching of English, French and Chinese.

CHINESE HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY, 112 Lagauchetiere St. West, Montreal, (Founded in 1918)

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

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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., 100 St. Louis St. (Founded in 1919)

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

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

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

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

(Continued on page 3 of the cover)

Please Help the Missionary Sisters

of the Immaculate Conception

By procuring work for them.

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

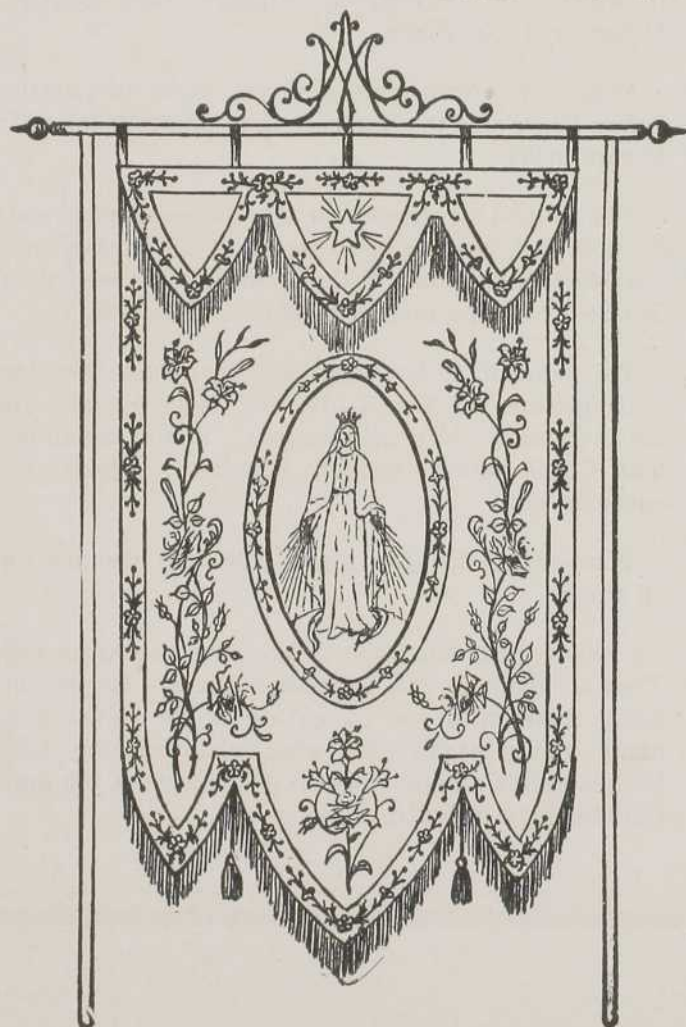
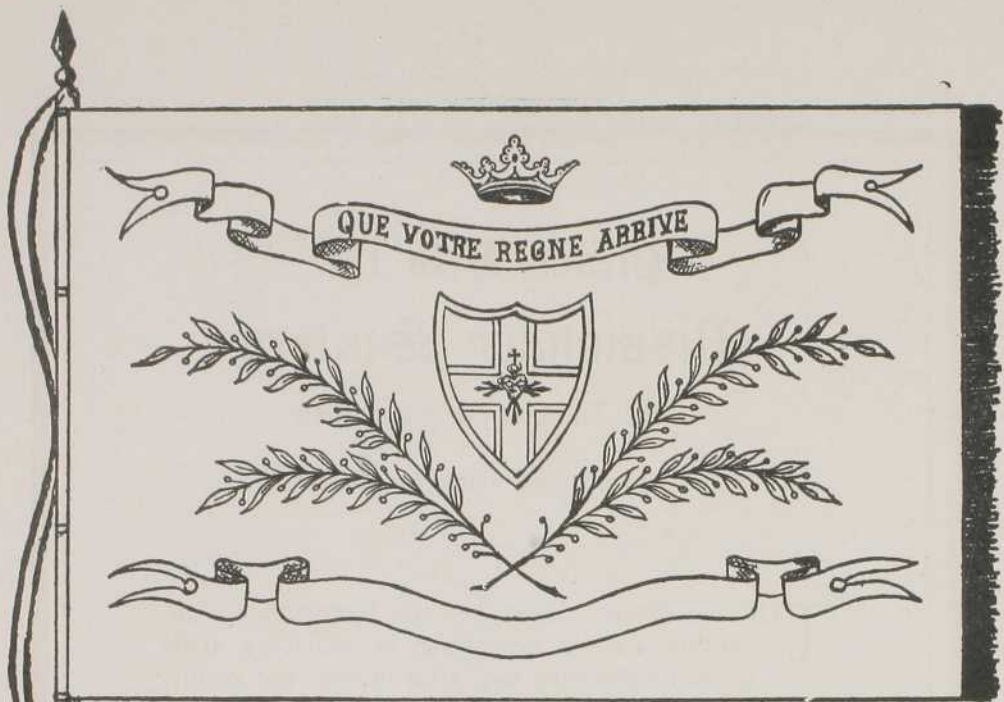
Missionaries must undergo several years' preparation before being able to commence their apostolic labors in foreign fields.

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

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| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
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The erection of the Novitiate Chapel dedicated to
Our Lady of the Missions
The erection of Chapels in missions countries.....

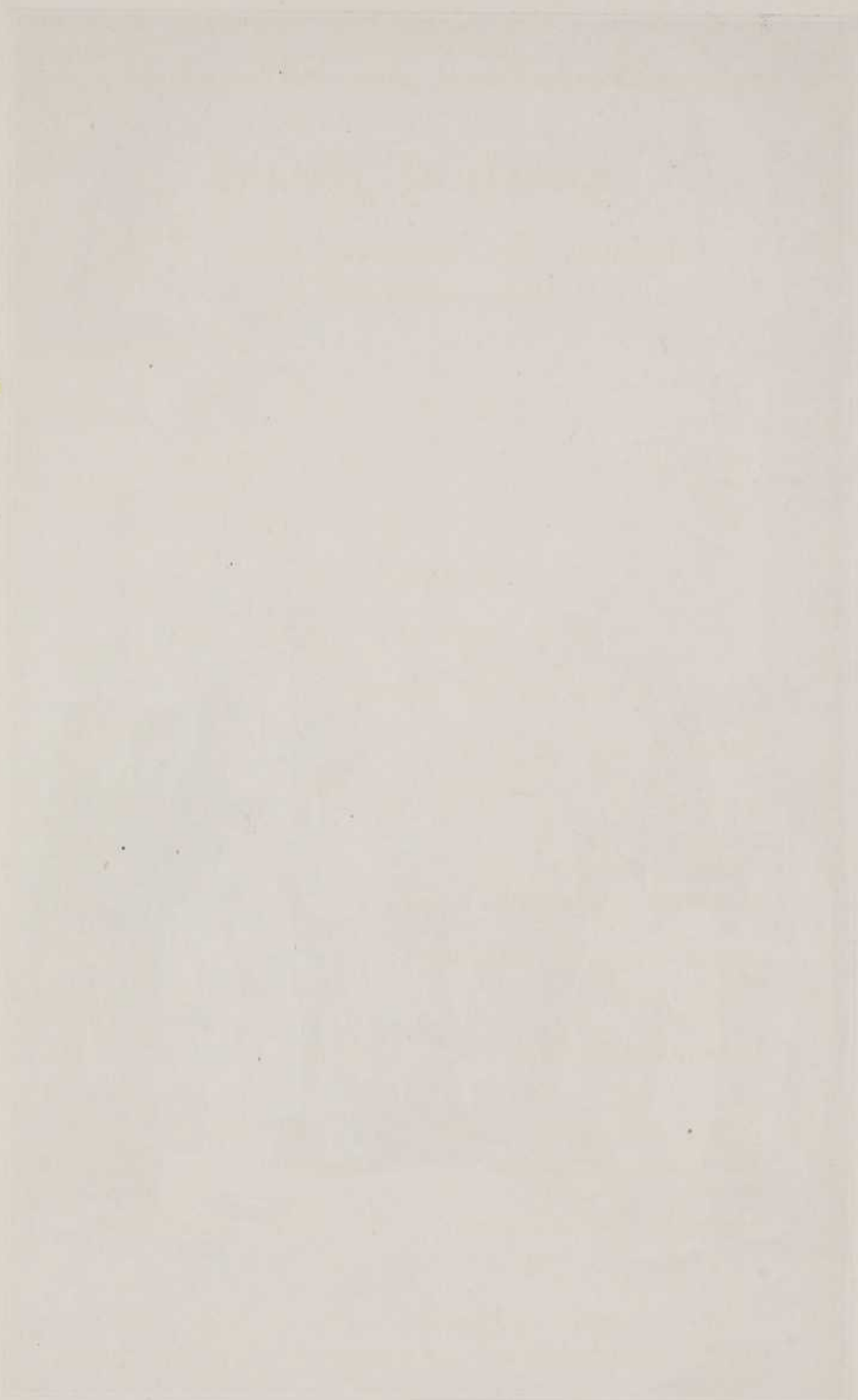
By providing for the:

| | |
|---|----------|
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| Annual support of a maiden-catechist..... | 50.00 |
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| 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.



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"O IMMACULATE MOTHER, PROTECT OUR BENEFACTORS!"

THE PRECURSOR

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His Holiness Pope Pius XI

Text of His Holiness' Speech

ON May 15th, 1931, the Sovereign Pontiff spoke in Italian, French and German to 10,000 working-men assembled near the Vatican. Our Holy Father spoke for more than an hour. Never, since his elevation to the Holy See, has he spoken such in long time in public. His intention was to give a summary of the encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*, the full text of which will be published on May 25th, but after referring to this encyclical, he also gave a few words of advice to his audience.

The following translation of the Holy Father's speech has been cabled by the Associated Press.

"To all of you, welcome, my very dear sons. To all whom the most powerful voice of Our great predecessor, in his eloquence and splendor, has affected and united here, in the home of the Father, twice and three times welcome.

"Coming from so many different countries, near and far, you bring such a wonderful representation of the workers of all the countries of the world, and it fills me with joy that you bring also as an accomplished fact, the unity of workers, and directors of work, givers of work, and organizers of work, which is so necessary to the happy organization of society.

"Our dear people of Rome have given us their welcome, also, in asking you to participate in this truly great, magnificent, memorable demonstration of faith and filial piety toward the Mother of God. The city of Rome is proud to be able to present to you a people so worthy and so pious.

"It is herself, the Mother of God herself, who wishes you welcome, a cordial welcome, smiling on you and blessing you with her immense benevolence.

"This address is in three languages, as you have heard, because after some reflection we considered that this was best not only out of consideration for the greatest group united here, but also because we have considered that throughout the world these three languages, Italian, French and German, are widely understood and more or less largely spoken, even among the other groups, notably Our dear Dutch and Polish, who are frequently and enviably polylingual.

"We have undertaken to repeat three times what we say in three languages, and therein so doing it becomes necessary that we should say little and say it briefly. We will try to do so. And while one group is listening, the other groups can be reading, not without interest. We hope, the printed documents that are distributed, because Our words will not touch on the ground of the printed paper. This will indicate to you in very summarized form, the things here repeated.

"This encyclical will be a commemoration and a continuation of *Rerum Novarum*. It has seemed to us necessary, after the vicissitudes of the years of transmutation of ideas, things and people which have taken place in the past forty years.

"It is entirely ready to be printed. It is now in the hands of the typesetters, and will be published in a few days, with the principal and entire translations.

"We have thought that this was the most suitable manner of commemorating the historic encyclical of Our great predecessor. We have thought this because this will unite the two encyclicals and their authors, and will deal with various things that have seemed to some to be excessive.

"We have promised to write few things and to write them briefly. Without controversy, the principal features of the encyclicals can be summed up in three words, three words which, without entering into the entire merit of the two encyclicals, cover in resumé all that seems necessary in the *Rerum Novarum*, and will be necessary in the new encyclical, and which will be always necessary for any Roman Catholic principle, either individual or collective, worthy of such a name. Prayer, Action, Sacrifice, there are the three words.

"It is the work of our great army of minds to carry out eternally the program of God through life.

"Prayer, the first of the three essentials, is that which brings about the elevation of the soul, as St. Thomas has so well pointed out. And in this study, profound, diligent, it is a study leading to joy and zeal, and rendering more easy and more effective the apostolate.

"The first essential that should be sought by any, is the Kingdom of God. Jesus Christ insisted upon this as the most necessary thing, the first thing to seek, the Kingdom of God, which above all and before all must be ours. The first and most essential condition to render effective and legitimate the co-operation of workers, is the seeking after the Kingdom of Christ. To accomplish this demands the seeking of the help of God, the Divine help.

"This becomes the more obligatory, the greater is the ground on which it unfolds; and the greater the need, the greater the sufferings of those who ask for help and comfort. The Church has set the example, the Church to whom has been given the mandate, by its actions of benevolence and sanctification, wherever there is an immortal soul which suffers and seeks for light; wherever there is a moral trouble and the saving of a soul is at stake.

"It is the Church which always in all times and places, demands the assistance and the co-operation, not only of her ministers, but of all her sons also.

"Naturally, we cannot define the excellence of the generous practice of sacrifice, the beauty and urgency of works which add themselves to works. In its rapid multiplying of initiatives, individual, social, the happy habit of working multiplies the strength of the soul; the noble, holy satisfaction which accompanies work always inspires in your hearts fresh courage and we know, dear children, every one of us, the beautiful words of the life in which one never becomes tired.

"But more than the quantity of work is asked of us the spirit of sacrifice, the method, perseverance, discipline in our work. And especially disci-

pline, because it is discipline which exacts of each one submission, and the subordination of personal liberty, personal initiative, to the proper and legitimate direction of the whole. It may sometimes be difficult and slow, but everyone should understand the divine sentence which assures of victory for obedience.

"Prayer, Action, Sacrifice. That is what we need in order to prolong and deepen our spiritual life; they are the keynotes of *Rerum Novarum*. They are the three things that the Holy Mother the Church asks of all those whom she calls to work with her, that is to say, in the whole divine work of redemption, whether public, private, individual, domestic or social.

"Prayer, action, sacrifice; there is what more than anything else you need, Our dear sons of labor. And because you are sons of labor, you are sons of Our predilection. You need it, you directors of work, in order that all things may develop with justice and charity, in fraternal and pacific collaboration, in practice of all good duties, and in the recognition of all rights, and of all values and rights, and especially the moral values.

"No one can say more. Principally, and above all, it is necessary in the strong and rich, and in the humble and feeble, precisely because they are feeble. And now, dear sons and daughters, may the Holy Spirit, Creator, Sanctifier, Consoler, may this Holy Spirit return and pour out on you and on the whole world the plenitude of His Grace.

"May He multiply in you, dear sons, that spirit of prayer, action and sacrifice of which you have so great a need. And in giving you your blessing, We address to you Our paternal, apostolic benediction, on all of you and on each of you, dear sons and daughters; on you and your brothers of labor; on those who give the work, and on those who to your work bring the help of the resources of their wealth; on those, again, who to your work bring the responsible direction of their intelligence."

China Catholics show advance despite poor condition

PEKING. — Statistics released by the Apostolic Delegation at Peking, China, show that, despite the unsettled conditions in parts of China, the Catholic population rose from 2,472,619 in June 1929 to 2,490,392 in June 1930, a gain of 17,773. The number of foreign priests rose from 2,011 to 2,092, a gain of 81, and the Chinese priests from 1,371 to 1,446, a gain of 75.

The actual converts totalled 50,109, but the number of deaths and emigrations reduced the gain to 17,773. The converts for the same period the year previous (1928-1929) were only 47,637.

Interesting are the figures for the young Chinese studying to become priests: those in the preparatory seminaries totalling 1,463, (as against 1,462 in 1929); those in the minor seminaries totalling 2,745 (as against 2,465 in 1929) and those in the major seminaries totalling 921 (as against 838 in 1929.) The total increase in students for the priesthood is thus 346.

— (Fides Correspondence.)



His Eminence Cardinal Van Rossum

Prefect of the Sacred Congregation
of Propaganda

The Pope surprises Propaganda

by Paul MacEvitt

ROME once more echoes to the world its catholicity. In the mighty spontaneous "Viva il Papa" that greeted His Holiness Pope Pius XI this morning as he stepped from his automobile at the new Urban College of Propaganda on the Janiculum Hill near the Vatican, there were voices of 27 nations — all represented among the students of the institution. Chinese, Japanese, Indians, Greeks, Rumanians, and a score of others — all forgot their native tongues to express the joy of their hearts that the Pope himself had come personally to bless their college, proving once again to the world that he is the "Pope of the Missions." Twice he has emerged from the Vatican; both times to visit missionary enterprises. The first was to the Mission Museum at the Lateran, December 20, 1929, after he had said Mass in that Cathedral. Today, April 24, he visited the missionary college of Propaganda.

His coming was a surprise. Though some few insisted on being prophets after the fact, the effect on everyone present at the entrance to the tasteful new chapel was one of complete surprise. At ten minutes to eleven there were even Cardinals who did not dream the Pope was coming personally, for it had been announced that Cardinal Pacelli would represent him.

At eleven o'clock three cars wound up the curved road that leads from near St. Peter's Piazza to the hilly eminence on which stands the college. The first car was empty, sent to clear the road. The second contained His Excellency the Governor of Vatican City. And from the third, stepped His Holiness. And then that "Viva il Papa!" that had in it the hysterical enthusiasm of absolute surprise. A Japanese student grasped my arm and shouted above the din: "The Pope! The Pope! Who ever would have thought it!"

The Holy Father was smiling frankly. He was happy, here in his missionary college, in the midst of the future priests of mission lands. "This is wonderful," whispered Monsignor Zanin, Secretary General of the Society of St. Peter for the Native Clergy. "All that we have tried to do to interest priests and people in helping to train a native clergy in mission lands is as nothing to this! The Holy Father has shown practically and convincingly his great love for these native students, future native priests. Now the world will generously follow his lead."

When the Holy Father had been greeted he walked to the main altar of the chapel, followed by 17 cardinals and numerous prelates. The address of His Eminence Cardinal Van Rossum, Prefect of Propaganda, under whose jurisdiction are most of the mission territories of the world, was eloquently simple. "Your Holiness," he said, deeply moved, "I wish

to thank you for this personal visit, this new proof of affectionate love for the great missionary family, but I am at a loss for words to express our gratitude."

"It is not a bad thing to be at a loss for words," said His Holiness, smiling, "when there are such magnificent facts to speak for themselves. We, too, prefer to leave to these facts, so imposing, so enduring, so full of promise for the future, the task of expressing the sentiments that fill our hearts during an hour such as this."

The Holy Father then recalled that He himself had blessed the corner stone of the institution, which stone had been carried for the purpose to the Vatican gardens, and expressed his gratitude to all who were in any way responsible for the success of the building. "It is We ourselves who must thank Providence for the opportunity of personally inaugurating the college," he concluded, and imparted his blessing.

His Holiness then proceeded to the ceremony of blessing the building, going to the entrance, to the right and left corridors, and finally again to the chapel where the *Te Deum* was sung.

How delightfully without program was this visit of the Pope was revealed in the desperate efforts of news men to discover what would happen next. "The Holy Father is leaving now," I heard a reporter announcing over the phone, and then, frantically, "No, wait a minute, he is not leaving: he has gone to the reception hall." And the reporter, with all others present, followed the Pope to the hall. Fact was, he still had an hour and a half to go before departure.

In the college hall each student was presented to the Pope, who had a kindly word for all. One by one they kissed his slipper and his ring and listened to his fatherly voice. "Magnificent," cried a seminarian from Mesopotamia as he returned to his place. "Imagine," said an Indian from Malabar, "we arrived in September and have not yet gone to the Vatican for the yearly audience. And now, the Pope has come to visit us instead!" With the Indian were eight companions, one from the great Island of Ceylon, off the Indian Coast, wreathed in smiles, their white teeth showing in sharp contrast against their swarthy skin.

The informality of the occasion was again demonstrated when a lad from Australia was presented to the Pope. "He is a splendid violinist," said a nearby prelate. "Fine," replied the Pope, "I would be pleased to hear a selection." The young man, Mr. Lynch, brought his instrument and played "The Prayer" by Martino. "Bravo!" said the Holy Father. Before leaving the hall he made another short discourse, humorous and informal.

From the hall His Holiness walked through the corridors and inspected the entire building with its rows of simple but modernly constructed rooms with their steam heat, running water and ventilating appliances. He even climbed to the terrace for the view of the Vatican and the city. The waiting crowd spied him from below and again sent up a mighty "Viva". A group of Rumanians close by me were talking among themselves. "Who knows," said one, "but when Rumania is entirely Catholic, a future Pope

might visit our land." "But," he added, "for the present this is most wonderfully sufficient that he has come to the college where Rumanian priests are trained."

As the Pope descended again to the entrance, all thought he would depart, as he had been here more than an hour. But no. He was having his day. He would see everything. He walked across the grounds to the new lecture building with its imposing aula magna.

The passage of the Holy Father across the grounds, with the students swarming about him with shouts of "Viva", was an event perhaps unique in modern history. Absent was the solemn dignity of St. Peter's with countless guards, gendarmes and nobles with their flashing swords. Absent was the studied tread of the cameriere carrying aloft the sedia gestatoria with the Pope enthroned. The Pope walked on foot, unguarded save by two cardinals with whom he chatted. Students closed in on the Pontiff with childlike boldness. Pictures were snapped. One student waited so long to catch a "close up" that His Holiness almost touched him. But no one scolded. No one brushed the crowds aside. The Pope was in his role of loving father. His smile disarmed all fear, all ceremony. He was in the midst of the future native priests of his beloved mission countries. The "Pope of the Missions" was happy, and nothing could daunt him.

A young student from Kaying, China, turned to me and said in perfect English, "Say, isn't this great! Soon as it is over I will write to my folks and tell them all about it." And I thought of the many columns of Chinese characters that he would paint that afternoon with his quaint Oriental writing brush.

Contrasted with the smiling students was a venerable prelate in vestments of the East, the president of the Maronite College in Rome. Despite his many years he was aglow with pleasure as he recounted how he entered the College of Propaganda in 1870, the year when the Pope became the "prisoner of the Vatican". The contrast for him was beyond words as he followed along with the Pope who had broken the chains of bondage.

In the aula magna the Holy Father won the students still further by sitting down informally in the professor's chair and giving them a heart-to-heart talk. He told them the magnificent building should be to them an inspiration to magnificent accomplishments, quoting St. Charles Borromeo, who, when criticised for erecting a beautiful seminary in Milan replied that its very beauty would inspire the future priests to noble ideals. Here again the students gave vent to their love and affection in ardent cheers.

When the Holy Father had wended his way through the dense crowds and entered his automobile a last mighty "Viva il Papa" echoed through the grounds. "There he goes," sagely remarked a full blooded Negro from the Island of Jamaica, "and thus comes to an end a most historical occasion. Truly, it is the most remarkable event I ever witnessed or ever hope to witness in my life."

As the car sped down the hill I turned and looked into a sea of faces — European, Asiatic, African... the universal priesthood of a universal Church.

Scattered across the terraced lawn were groups of cardinals, the scarlet red of their robes standing out against the green. In the background was the main building, with the flags of the nations hanging from its windows. Just 300 years ago today the original Propaganda College had been opened, "to gather, educate and prepare for the priesthood and the Christian apostolate young men of every nation and then to send them forth to propagate and defend the Faith throughout the world."

Soon the cardinals and guests assembled for the formal dinner, which, following the cue of the Holy Father in his visit, became most informally intimate.

His Eminence Cardinal Van Rossum, in touching simplicity, told what a surprise the Papal visit was for him. "Why," he declared, "I even had my greeting prepared as addressed to Cardinal Pacelli the Papal representative." He then read the address, most interesting in its continued references to the Holy Father as unable to attend.

In his address His Eminence paid eloquent praise to Cardinal Peter Gasparri, who as Secretary of State, had been most helpful in the intricate negotiations connected with the new project; to Cardinal Mundelein, who had so effectively helped in advancing financial aid from his Archdiocese of Chicago; and finally to Cardinal Marchetti, who as Secretary of Propaganda Fide had been charged with all the practical details of erection. His Eminence emphasized particularly the work of the last Cardinal, praising his patient labor, his indomitable will in overcoming obstacles, and his decisive executive power which carried the work to swift and satisfactory conclusion.

The same spirit of internationality that inaugurated the day, pervaded the entire dinner. An orchestra with seminarian players from a score of nations rendered selections during the courses. Ten students from various countries, delivered addresses of welcome in their native tongues to the ten cardinals present. A copy of each speech was then presented to the Cardinal addressed. The manuscripts in Oriental characters were the most popular.

"Today," remarked Cardinal Laurenti at leave-taking, "has made history for the missions," and this was the general sentiment.

In the coming weeks an old Chinese mother, a feeble Indian Father, a Siamese brother or a Japanese sister, will read glowing accounts of how a Pope of the Catholic Church enjoyed one of the happiest days of his life among his missionary children as a loving Father with whom they felt no fear but only perfect confidence and love, — their true father in Christ, Pius XI, Pope of the Missions.

— Fides Correspondence

Our Lord promised to reward those who give a cup of cold water to one of His little ones. How infinitely greater must be the reward He will give to those who give to little abandoned children the saving waters of Baptism!

Spiritual Will

of His Eminence Cardinal Rouleau

ARCHBISHOP OF QUEBEC

SO as to obey the laws of the Church, and in accordance with the discipline of the Plenary Council of Quebec, I remake today my will, annulling thereby all prior dispositions. I remit my soul, redeemed by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the hands of God, my Creator, and I beg Him, by the infinite merits of His Divine Son, and by those of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of St. Dominic, of St. Louis of France, of all the saints, of our holy patrons, and of all the elected, to receive it in His mercy, for all eternity. I leave to the earth my sinful body, and I beg our Lord Jesus Christ, my Redeemer, to resurrect it in the glory of the last day.

"I ask that my funeral be without human glories, but that there be exactly observed all the rites of the Holy Church, and that many prayers be offered up for the soul which has contracted such heavy obligations towards divine justice. I ask that there be only plain chanting at the service, I desire that no funeral eulogy be pronounced. If there be any consideration for the wishes of the departed Archbishop, let this formal desire be obeyed, and let there be put aside those vain pretexts ordinarily invoked in order to go beyond this obligation.

"To the Eternal Father and His only Son and to the Holy Spirit I offer in most humble homage the acts of grace of the precious blood of the crucified Jesus Christ for all the blessings which heaven has accorded me so freely, and specially for the grace of baptism and my avocation as Dominican, of the priesthood, episcopate and cardinalate.

"By the all powerful name of Jesus, I implore infinite mercy of the adorable Trinity, and beg of it to pardon me all my sins, inwardly and outwardly, of commission and omission. May they be forever effaced in virtue of the Passion of my dearly-beloved Saviour. In this feeling, uniting with Jesus expiring on the Cross, I accept in the spirit of faith, hope and charity, in the spirit of justice, in penitence of humility, the end of all, what it may please divine Providence to order. Finally, I simply abandon myself, completely and lovingly to the good pleasure of the Lord.

"To the Very Holy Virgin Queen, Mary of the Holy Rosary, I acknowledge dutiful homage of my most fervent gratitude for innumerable goodnesses. In all divers, important and decisive circumstances of my life, it pleases me to recognize that I have enjoyed her maternal protection in great measure. Also, may I add, that I have never invoked her in vain. I beg of her to watch over my last moments so that my last breath may be an act of perfect charity, this through her love of her Son and solicitude



His Eminence Cardinal Raymond Marie Rouleau, O. P.

*7th Archbishop of Quebec and 3rd Canadian Cardinal,
who died on May 31st, 1931, in his sixty-fifth year.*

Born at l'Isle Vert on April 6, 1866, His Eminence Cardinal Rouleau was raised to the priesthood on July 31, 1892. On March 9th, 1923, he was named Bishop of Valleyfield, and on July 9th, 1926, Archbishop of Quebec. His Holiness Pope Pius XI created him cardinal on December 19th, 1927.

The death of His Eminence means a heavy loss to the Church in Canada, for he was its most illustrious representative and will ever remain one of its most prominent figures. Numerous apostolic works and shining examples of virtue marked his monastic and episcopal career. He left this earth on the last day of the month of Our Blessed Lady for whom he always had a most tender devotion and whose name was on his lips until he breathed his last. His funeral took place on Saturday, June 6th, in the Basilica of Quebec, his mortal remains being deposited in the new crypt of this church.

of St. Dominic. Humbly, but fully, I beg of her to care for those I have loved, who have helped me, or were my subordinates or to whom I have had obligations. I thank St. Dominic for having adopted me as his son, despite my unworthiness, and that in Heaven he may receive me as one of his true sons, and that my guardian angel help me in my last moments. May all my patron saints and protectors, specially the Holy Apostles, Peter, Paul and John, that Ste. Madeleine, Ste. Cecile, Ste. Catherine of Alexandria, the Holy Patrons and all the elected of the Order of Preaching Brothers, the dioceses of Valleyfield and Quebec, as well as the Holy College, recommend me to the mercy of God.

"I thank the Order of Preaching Brothers, and particularly my superiors, for their bounty and devotion in the formation, the correction, and the direction given me. To my brothers in religion I also offer my thanks for their forbearance. I beg them to pardon me the faults I may have committed against them, and to forget the bad examples I may have given them.

"As to the priests of Valleyfield (where the Cardinal was Bishop prior to coming to Quebec) and Quebec, I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude for the sentiments of respect, the acts of obedience and the marks of devotion which I have received. I ask them to forgive me if in my duties towards them I have been negligent. My thanks go specially to my collaborators. They have aided me with their knowledge, and with their labors accomplished even at the cost of fatigue and sacrifices in the pastoral tasks. I think of my vicar-general, secretaries and procurers, and diocesans, as well as of the members of the two chapters, and specially of Mgr. the Auxiliary Bishop.

"Addressing myself to all those who were my inferiors, or the object of my ministry or with whom I had ordinary relations of life, if I have been neglectful or sinned in any respect towards them, I ask them for generous pardon. If it be that by the Grace of God it has been given to me to do them some good, let them give the glory to God and seek His clemency in my favor. To the very dear friends who have shown me proofs of deep affection, I offer tender and faithful testimony of my thanks. Their precious sympathy has been a force for me, as well as consolation and encouragement. The daily prayers offered by them and by all others who have had a part in my poor life, I offer above on their behalf with a fervor and power accruing from the vision of bliss, and by the charity which embraces the elected of the Lord.

"Thanks to God, I hold no ill-will against anyone. I ask again for pardon from those whom I may have wounded, shocked or scandalized in any manner. Once more I thank my benefactors, my collaborators and my friends, and for all I implore the grace of God on earth, and to all I wish happiness of Heaven during eternity."

— THE BEACON, JUNE 12th, 1931.



St. Anne instructing her holy child



Hymn to St. Anne



*Dear St. Anne, our Lady's mother,
Stem of Jesse's Mystic Rod,
From that Stem there sprang a Flower,
From that Flower, our Saviour God.
Light of light, O mother blessed,
Shone upon thy daughter's bower,
When her Son, the King of Glory
Dwelt among us, Heaven's Dower.*

*Mother of the Spotless Lily
From God's Paradise above,
Look upon us, exiled children,
Take us 'neath thy sheltering love,
Dear St. Anne, do thou obtain us,
Fruits from Judah's Peerless Tree,
Fruits of Justice and of Mercy,
Faith and Hope and Charity.*

*Helper of the sad and suffering,
Patron of the Pilgrim's way,
Light to blind, and strength to failing
Guide for those who go astray,
Dear St. Anne, bless and receive us,
Bring us to that glorious Sight
Of the Tree that healeth nations,
In the Country of Delight.*

"The Poor Souls' Friend."



SEWING CIRCLE "OUR LADY OF THE HOLY GHOST"
AT THE MOTHER HOUSE OF THE MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, 314 ST. CATHERINE RD., OUTREMONT

Active Helpers of our Missions

ON June 19, 1931, the different articles made since last September by the Ladies of the Outremont Sewing Circle "Our Lady of the Holy Ghost", were exhibited at our Mother House.

The modest room in which these ladies unite every Wednesday for sewing or crochet work, was gracefully adorned, the decorations serving to frame in these treasures, the fruit of charity, a thousand times more precious and sparkling in the eyes of faith than the daintiest of pearls and the purest of diamonds.

At first, our attention was attracted by the great variety of articles all so perfectly made, and before long our hearts were touched at the thought that the altar linens, so handsomely embroidered or trimmed with dainty lace, will soon be sent to our distant missions, where they will rejoice the hearts of our dear missionaries whose bare vestimentary reminds one of Bethlehem!... With what love will they use these linens to adorn the altar of their Eucharistic King who deigns to share in their poverty, and how ardently will they entreat Him to bestow His choicest graces on their devoted benefactresses!

Yes, it is real charity to work for the poor chapels in our missions. In a pagan land, although the Missionary Sister's time is entirely devoted to the saving of souls, she never finds that the day is long enough for the accomplishment of her task. Naturally, she thinks of what Our Lord has said: "The harvest indeed is great, but the laborers are few..." She employs every moment to gather in the sheaves which are being lost: immortal souls made unto the image of God. Who will supply the needs of the chapel of her divine Lord, who in order to give her light and strength, dwells close to her in His tabernacle home? She is confident that the devoted helpers of our dear Community, the members of our sewing circles will always come to her assistance. She knows full well that the vestments and altar linens made at the Mother House are to be sold and the proceeds given for the upkeep of the Novitiate and the Sisters preparing for the Missions.

What a joy it was for us, also, to see the number of articles of clothing and knitted wear destined to the children of our foundling-homes and orphanages... Poor children, your superstitious mothers have abandoned you for a meagre sum of money, but do not cry any longer!... God who feeds the little birds and causes the grass to thrive in the meadows has given you other loving and devoted mothers: the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and the ladies and young girls who work for their missions.

Other very useful articles displayed in this exhibition will be greatly appreciated by our Sisters on pagan shores, for they are the very things they need the most: bedspreads, sheets, towels, dish cloths, etc.

After examining the work done by the zealous members of this Sewing Circle, it remains for us to offer our most heartfelt gratitude to these devoted ladies. This exhibition crowns their year of apostolic labors. We are fully confident that after the summer months, they will recommence with renewed ardor their so charitable and meritorious work.



MEMBERS OF THE SEWING CIRCLE "OUR LADY OF THE CRUSADES" OF STE. MARIE DE BEAUCE
ASSEMBLED IN THE CONVENT OF THE RR. SS. OF THE CONGREGATION DE NOTRE DAME

At the Sewing Circle

"Our Lady of the Crusades"

ON Sunday, May 24th, numerous visitors came to admire the interesting display of articles made by the Sewing Circle "Our Lady of the Crusades."

One of the spacious rooms in the convent of St. Marie de Beauce, kindly placed at the disposal of the members of this Circle by the Religious of the Congregation of Notre Dame, was prettily decorated for the occasion, with magnificent palms and dainty ferns. An onlooker could easily imagine that the banner of Our Lady of the Crusades was fluttering above his head.

In a photograph surrounded by green foliage could be seen the members of this Circle. Besides the charity workers in the sixties and those in the forties, many youthful faces could also be seen. What an interesting spectacle it was to see these women in the different stages of life united in such a charitable aim. The pretty pieces of work which attracted everyone's attention were certainly a credit to these devoted workers.

A few hundred of the dresses displayed will be sent across the seas to clothe the naked. The warm quilts, while being a comfort to the missionaries in far-off countries, will remind them of their native land. The altar linens will be sent to a humble missionary in Ontario. The stockings and underwear will relieve many a suffering little one. The baby clothing, bootees, bonnets, dresses and cloaks, will delight those who have care of the little abandoned babies. The linens and towelling will also be of use to the missionary.

The eight hundred articles of every description, which were so tastefully displayed, bespoke the charity of these devoted women. In this century of pleasure, how good it is to see generous souls doing so much to relieve those who suffer. On the Day of Judgment, they will hear with joy the words of Christ: "I was naked and you covered Me."

THE SECRETARY OF THE CIRCLE.

Arrival at Tokyo of a New Apostolic Delegate

TOKYO (Japan). — His Excellency Archbishop Mooney arrived at Tokyo to take over the office of the Apostolic Delegate, on March 26. He was solemnly introduced in the Tokyo Cathedral at Sekiguchi on Easter Sunday April 5. His Excellency Archbishop Giardini, departing delegate, left for Rome on April 5.

— Fides Correspondence.

Homage of Gratitude

THE Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, through the medium of "The Precursor," desire to offer their most heartfelt thanks to the religious of the Congregation de Notre Dame and to the aimiable members of the Sewing Circle "Our Lady of the Crusades" of St. Marie de Beauce for their generous donation of clothing in favor of their needy missions in China.

They were deeply touched on seeing the taste and skill employed by these charity workers in the making of the numerous articles. Was it not Our Lord Himself whom they helped to clothe when they set to work with their needle and crochet hook?... Yes, this good Master counts as done unto Himself all that has been done for His humble missionaries and the unfortunate pagans confided to their care: the miserable lepers and the numerous little victims of superstition and paganism in their foundling-homes and orphanages.

The articles made by the generous members of the Sewing Circle "Our Lady of the Crusades" will be sent to the missions of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception on the occasion of the departure of several of these religious for China and Japan on the 7th of next September.

Our dear Canadian Sisters, who labor among the pagans, always receive with the greatest joy the articles sent them from their native land, for they are a great help to them in their apostolic labors. As a token of their lively gratitude to their devoted benefactors and benefactresses, they offer their prayers and good works for their intentions. Powerless to do more than this for these charitable friends, they beg God to pay their debt of gratitude by showering upon them and all their dear ones His choicest graces and blessings.



SEWING CIRCLE "OUR LADY OF LOURDES"

AT THE CONVENT OF THE MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, 100 ST. LOUIS ST., JOLIETTE

Manners and Customs of the Chinese

THE Chinese have always been regarded as the most proli-gerous race in the world. Numerous are the children born in the slums of their vast empire. Unfortunately, many pagan parents look disdainfully upon their children. It is said that language reveals the spirit of a nation. In the Chinese language is to be found a symptomatic character which vividly portrays the cruel treatment of little helpless creatures. It is the character *hi* which represents two hands thrusting away a new-born baby with a pitchfork. Oh! how many thousands of children are forsaken and killed in the pagan land of China!

What is the cause of the abandonment, sale, and slaughter of pagan babies? What is the meaning of the respect shown to male children and the disdain shown to little girls?

These are the subjects of which we are about to treat. If we make known the evil existing in China, it is in order to hasten its abolishment. This short account will give you an idea of the fate of pagan children in Kouang Tong and the immense work still to be accomplished if we wish to replace the terrible pagan ideal by that preached by Christ: "*Sinite parvulos venire ad me.*" "Suffer little children to come unto Me."

The ideal of the Chinese is to procure as quickly as possible, a numerous powerful posterity which will honor them in this life and offer them sacrifices when they are dead. In order to have many descendants, they allow their children to marry while yet young. In China, we find grandfathers thirty years of age, who are treated with the greatest respect. Absolute masters over their children, parents affiance them almost immediately after their birth. Sometimes one mother will offer her new-born baby to another as a future daughter-in-law. This expedient has but one advantage, for the mother who otherwise would have killed her little one, feels herself obliged to care for it.

As the male children, alone, can keep up their father's name, little girls are regarded as a disgrace to the family. According to the Chinese, woman is a creature inferior to man: she is honored by the family ancestors only because she has given birth to male children. No attention is paid to an unmarried woman, she is not even counted as a member of the family. Of no importance is she in her father's dwelling. Only when she marries is she regarded as being in her true home.

A little Chinese boy is greatly prized. Although poor, he is able at least, to beg a bowl of rice to offer to his ancestors. Therefore, all possible care is given him in order that he may grow up strong and healthy. But, if he happens to be a cripple, he is liable to be cast away, and if he dies, his parents do not mourn his loss. If they do not throw him into the street along with his little sister, it is with the greatest reluctance that they place him in a coffin.

As a healthy little boy is such a treasure in the family, his parents make it their duty to carry out all kinds of superstitious practices before his birth.

Every year many fathers and mothers go in boats to a certain pagoda, to there ask children from the famous *Kum yam*.

On the first day which the Chinese celebrate to usher in a new year, the women of *Mau Ming* do not fail to wear white flowers in their hair in hopes that a son will be born to them. Both young and old, after gathering pea blossoms in the garden, hum gaily as they return to their respective dwellings.

In *Ng Chim*, a particular kind of orange is a sure sign of a numerous posterity. So, on the second day of the year, many men cross over a bridge to a place where many fruit dealers offer them some of their best oranges while wishing them a happy New Year and the joy of soon being the father of another son.

At *Mau Ming*, immediately after the birth of a little boy, his nostrils and ear-drums are painted red, and with a kind of rush dipped in oil, his parents prick the sole of his foot, the palm of his hand, as well as his temples, forehead, shoulders and stomach. By this operation, they wish to save their child from the terrible disease known as tetanus which claims as its victims a third of the little ones of *Ko Chau*. The reason for this scourge is that new-born babies are sometimes left a long time on the bare ground.

Several parents, in order to hinder death from robbing them of their new-born child, give it a name of some animal such as a *ngau* ox; a *kau* dog; a *mau* cat; a *chu* pig. They believe that the devil withdraws at the sight of a dog.

There is great rejoicing at *Mun Yut* on the thirtieth day after the birth of a child. On this particular day, the baby's hair is clipped, for otherwise he would be old and gray at the age of twenty. The many guests present are offered a kind of ginger beer, after which they congratulate the child's mother and offer her presents, such as necklaces, bracelets, chains, and bonnets on which wishes for health, happiness, and a long life are written in gaudy characters. In return, they are given eggs which have been painted red for the occasion.

On the fifteenth day of the second month, the ancestors are notified that an heir has been born. On receiving this news, they light the lamp in the temple which signifies that their posterity continues to increase.

In order to preserve the child's life, its parents hang on its neck, charms composed of the claws, teeth, or hairs of the tiger or the dog; on its breast they place the bones of a frog, chicken or carp; and to its little wrist they sometimes tie a duck's head or a monkey's foot. The rattling of these objects is supposed to chase away all evil spirits.

The child must also have a guardian. At Canton, the babies are brought to a pagoda, known as the *Shing wong miu*, where large red seals are struck on their backs.

If it happens that a child has been frightened by a dog, the parents pull out a few of this animal's hair with which they make a charm for their little one. A ridiculous ceremony then takes place. A sorceress hangs an article of the child's clothing on a long pole, and climbing out on the roof of the house, she waves it in the wind while calling to the spirit which is supposed to have fled from the baby's body.

A little boy in good health, or one who has recovered from a serious illness, is brought up a spoiled child. His parents have not the heart to scold or punish him. At *Tsang Ching*, when a child is of school age, his mother carries him to school on her back. In order that he may be successful in his studies, she gives him an onion or a piece of celery to put in his desk.

Naturally the child does not learn any more at school than he did at home, for the teacher is careful not to scold or punish his pupil, as he knows the parents will be displeased. Even wealthy parents do not like to be told of their son's bad conduct.

As we have mentioned before, a little Chinese girl is regarded as being absolutely useless. Living or dead, her own parents treat her as a stranger.

In the district of *Si Kiu*, if a young unmarried lady takes ill, she is driven from her father's house, and left in the street to die. Such is the fate, also, of a married woman who happens to take ill while visiting her parents.

Very little girls are treated in the same way as their grown-up sisters. If they are sick, they are placed on the side of the road or behind a clump of trees where they may be picked up by some sympathetic passer-by. In the suburbs of Canton, it often happens that these little ones are devoured by hungry dogs, pigs, and rats. Some of these children, whose tiny limbs have been partly eaten away by one or the other of these animals, have been brought to us with but little life left in their poor bodies. On one occasion an aged Chinese brought us his little granddaughter. As the rats had made a hole in one of her cheeks and had gnawed off her ears, the poor old man, in hopes of relieving the little one, had applied tobacco to her wounds.

In *Ko Chau*, children are strangled, or simply thrown into a ditch, while in *Tsung Kun* they are either smothered or crushed between two planks. One day, a woman who came with her baby to the foundling-home at Canton, told us that she had crushed the head of her first child. In the district of *Sheun Tak*, a new-born daughter is immediately thrown into the river. In other places, the little one is wrapped up in an old rag and placed on the damp earth. The child, after lying in this condition for two or three hours, usually contracts *tetanus* and dies. A few of the little ones, who live through this trial, are brought to foundling-homes wrapped up in old newspapers.

A neophyte at *Pok Lo*, wishing to banish the devil from the body of her dying son, cooked his flesh after cutting his entire body into pieces. Another pagan mother who was obliged to work in the fields with her baby on her back, one day drowned the child in a bucket which she carried. To-day, this same woman, now a Christian, would consider it a crime to steal the least thing from the convent wherein she has been given shelter.

Usually, it is the father who tries to do away with a female child. It is very seldom that a mother makes up her mind to do so. If she is compelled to kill her little one, she does so very early in the morning. In order to escape the fury of her husband, a woman, who is to-day a good Christian, smothered four babies. Now that she and her husband have been baptized, they take the greatest care of a little daughter who has since been born to them.

Here at the Foundling-Home, we often receive babies whose little hands and feet have been burned in the most cruel manner. On one particular occasion, a woman came asking to see her baby who had just died. After staying for a quarter of an hour, she quietly took her leave. Somewhat puzzled by this woman's strange conduct, one of the Sisters approached the dead baby, and upon examining it, found that not an inch of skin remained on its body.

In the district of *Kouang Tong*, the parents blacken the faces of their dying children. In other parts of the country, the children's ears are cut off for the simple reason of giving the devil such a fright that he will never return to annoy them.

The Chinese greatly dread the thought of a child being born on one of the days which they consider as being unlucky. If a mother gives birth to a little boy on an unlucky day, she does not hesitate in keeping him, but nothing can excite her to pity if a little girl is born at this period. Without a moment's delay, she is mercilessly put to death or thrown out on the roadside to die. This is the reason why we receive so many babies at the Foundling-Home at certain times during the year.

As 1914 was, in China, the year of the tiger, no parents could be persuaded to keep a new-born daughter, fearing that when she would be of an age to marry she would bring her husband bad luck.

Certain wealthy Cantonese, instead of doing away with a little girl born on an unlucky day, offer her to a bonzess who will choose her, later on, as a partner and successor.

The Chinese believe that a mother who dies after giving birth to a child, will certainly bring a curse upon the family. The new-born infant if not killed at once, is placed alive in its mother's coffin. There are even some superstitious Christians who look with horror upon the dead mother of a new-born child and even go so far as to deprive her of a Christian burial.

The inhabitants of *Sanning* have very stange customs. Before a baby who is beginning to creep, they place a small wooden bowl, a few silver coins, a knife, and a little flour. If the baby touches the bowl first, it is a sure sign that he will become a beggar; if he picks up the money, he will one day be a man of wealth; if he tries to play with the knife, he will become a robber; and if, mindless of all the other objects placed before him, he seeks to scatter the flour, he will grow up full of pride.

We shall now return to our subject of child-slaughter. When the construction of a public building or a bridge is begun, a healthy little baby boy is placed in the foundation. Some thirty years ago, Father Serdet related that when the bridge at *Pou Neung* was constructed, healthy babies were placed under the pier. The inhabitants of the district believed that by offering this sacrifice to the spirits, which are supposed to dwell in the river, the bridge would never fall to pieces.

Usually, it is a young grandfather, thirty-two years of age, who is the first to cross over the bridge. Sometimes, however, this is the privilege of the oldest man in the district who has the greatest number of children and grandchildren.

In 1912, when the Si Kiang River overflowed its banks, the superstitious owners of riverside property threw their furniture and even their children into the waters of this river in order to appease the angry spirits dwelling therein.

Some lepers eat the dead babies that they find in the river, while others make broth with the bones of children whom they have dug up. Not many years ago, the lepers of Canton purchased many old coffins, the wood of which they used to cook their vegetables. They believed that food cooked on a fire made from such wood would certainly do them much good.

As we have said before, the Chinese greatly fear death. Those who have not the heart to throw out a dying child bring it to a foundling-home. An odd time they return to see their little one, bringing it cakes and dainties. Not long ago, a mother came to visit her child. Finding it dead, she ran away as quickly as she could, throwing the cakes in all directions.

In the district of *Tung Kun*, dead babies are thrown into a grove where they are soon devoured by wild animals. Some parents wrap their dead child in an old mat which they cover with a few inches of earth. Others pay a man a small sum for taking away their little one who is often thrown in the gutter or in a heap of rubbish on the roadside. In *Lii Chau*, a dead baby is buried with all its clothing, and the little basket which has served as its cradle is placed on its grave.

Some years ago, the number of children slaughtered was much greater than at present. At *Luk Fong*, one woman alone killed two or three hundred babies. At *Mau Ming* at least a thousand little girls were sacrificed each year.

What is the actual state of affairs in China? Evil exists everywhere. The abandoning of new-born babies is nearly always due to superstition and poverty. Many poor parents, who cannot bear the sight of a dying child, carry it outside, where it is left to die. Others, not quite so heartless, kill their little one immediately, in order to put an end to its sufferings. Many mothers abandon their own babies so as to be able to earn their living by caring for strangers' children.

The number of babies killed in China has greatly diminished since foundling-homes have become more numerous. It is estimated that the children brought to these homes in Canton, form one-seventh of the population of that immense city. Forty per cent of these little ones die daily.

In the districts of *Sheun Tak* and *Nam Hoi*, 30% of the girls are sold as servants. The price paid for them varies according to their age. It sometimes happens that these poor servants are most cruelly treated by their mistresses. One of these little girls who had bought some sweets for herself, without permission, was punished by having her lips sewn together. Many of these ill-treated creatures commit suicide.

A priest in charge of the mission of *Pok lo* tells us of a sickly twelve-year-old girl being buried alive. In October, 1919, another missionary heard someone crying not far from his residence. A servant, who was sent to see what was the matter, found a poor little sick girl in a basket. The priest gladly took her in and sent for a doctor. She died three days later, after having been made a child of God.

It sometimes happens that little boys, also, are sold and compelled to marry while yet young. Their work is to look after the temple of their ancestors. Moreover, in China there are many brigands who steal away little boys in order to exact from the parents large sums of money. We know of some parents, who, not wishing to pay the price asked for their child, found his little body cut up into pieces just outside their door. Some of these lawless men, before returning a dead child to its parents, cut off its limbs and sprinkle them with a kind of seasoning. In 1904, a child was thus put to death at *Shiu Hing*. The inhabitants of this city were greatly terrified on hearing of this murder and for a long time after not one little boy was to be seen outside of the house.

The Chinese are masters in their own household and no one dares to interfere with them. The police in Canton and other cities find that they have work enough keeping order in the streets. As long as paganism continues to reign supreme in China, its inhabitants will never abandon their superstitious customs. Only when this country has been evangelized will its people treat the little ones in a human way.

A prominent man of *Tsang Shing* once complained of the conditions in one pagan foundling-home stating that the guardians, in order to sleep quietly, give the babies biscuits which have been soaked in water drained from boiled rice. While the children are sleeping, the rats gnaw off their little ears.

Let me give you another example of the cruel treatment of Chinese children. The dying nephew of a neophyte was taken by its grandmother to a pagan foundling-home. The uncle, being notified of the little one's departure hastened to baptize it. He found the child still alive, but suffering intense pain, for its grandmother had torn one of its ears in a most cruel manner in order to secure a little ear-ring.

The conditions in China have grown somewhat better in these latter years. In 1916, the successor to Chan Kwing Wa, a Protestant, confided the foundling-home of Tong Shan to the Catholic Mission of Canton. Two Sisters of the Immaculate Conception immediately took charge of this new work.

Now that we have given you a somewhat vague idea of the cruelty shown to the weakest and most innocent of suffering humanity, we have but one wish to make, and that is that relief will soon be brought to these disinherited little creatures. The Catholic religion is, alone, capable of assuring man of his sublime destiny and of giving parents and masters a clear idea of their duties and responsibilities.

While awaiting the day when these poor pagans will be brought to the knowledge of the true faith, let us at least help to save the souls of those of whom these divine words were uttered: "*Sinite pueros venire ad me, talium est regnum celorum*. Has not our Blessed Lord assured us that it is Himself whom we receive in the person of one of His little ones. Therefore, be generous in giving alms for the ransom of poor little Chinese babies and God Himself will reward you.

A Few Roses Scattered

By the Little Sister of Missionaries...

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

St. Teresa of the Child Jesus



Enclosed please find \$1.00 for the Little Flower Burse which I promised for a favor granted me. V. W., **Montreal**. — Enclosed find money order for \$5.00 for the ransom of a Chinese baby likely to live. This is to fulfil my promise to St. Therese through whose intercession I have regained my health. Please pray for two special favors. If I obtain what I am asking for I will send other offerings for the same purpose. G. H., **East Windsor, Ont.** — The enclosed offering is in thanksgiving to the Little Flower for favors received. Mr. and Mrs. L. P. M., **Montreal**. — I am enclosing an offering for a High Mass in honor of St. Therese to thank her for a favor obtained through her intercession, and \$1.00 for a novena of lights to be burned before the statue of our Blessed Lady. Mrs. J. P., **Northbridge, Mass.** — Some time ago I suffered terribly from heart trouble. The doctors had no hopes for my recovery. After commencing a novena in honor of the Little Flower, the sores on my legs gradually healed. Oh! a thousand thanks to our dear little Saint. Mrs. W. M., **West Shefford**. — Please have lights burned for nine days in honor of St. Therese in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. Mrs. A. T. — As a token of

gratitude to the little Scatterer of roses, I am enclosing \$1.00 for the Missions. M. M. V., **Montreal**. — I am gladly renewing my annual offering of \$5.00 in thanksgiving to the Little Flower who continues to scatter rose petals on all the members of our family. Mrs. J. H., **Willimansett**. — Offering of \$1.00 in honor of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a favor obtained. Mrs. A. S. L., **Verdun**. — I am enclosing an offering of \$1.00 for the distant missions in thanksgiving to St. Therese. Anonymous. — I am making this donation of \$5.00 to thank the little Patroness of Missionaries for a favor granted me through her intercession. Miss E. D., **Montreal**. — St. Therese has obtained us a long-desired favor. This offering of \$6.00 is for the Burse in honor of this dear Saint. A subscriber, **Montreal**. — A thousand thanks to the Little Flower of Jesus through whose intercession I have been successful in holding my position. H. M. M. R., **Montreal**. — My offering of \$5.00 for the Little Flower Burse in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. Miss H. G. — I thank St. Therese for the favor she has granted us and I am enclosing \$4.00 for your missions in her honor. Mrs. D., **Montreal**. — \$1.00 for the Missions in honor of the Little Flower for a cure obtained. Mrs. F. T. — My offering of \$5.00 for a High Mass in thanksgiving to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. M. B. — In fulfilment of my promise, I am enclosing another offering of \$2.50 to thank our powerful little Saint for obtaining me better health. I beg her to obtain me other special favors. Mrs. L. M., **Amos**. — My most grateful thanks to St. Theresa of the Child Jesus who continues to protect my son. He is sending his monthly offering in honor of his benefactress. Mrs. X. G. — I am enclosing \$2.00 to thank the powerful little Patroness of Missionaries for a favor granted me. M. A. L., **Ottawa**. — I obtained a special grace after making a novena in honor of the Little Flower. Please accept my thank-offering of \$3.00. Mrs. E. K., **Montreal**. — You will find enclosed an offering of \$1.00 in thanksgiving to St. Teresa for a favor granted me through her intercession. I am soliciting another favor and promise to send a donation of \$10.00 if my prayers are heard. A subscriber. — The enclosed donation of \$50.00 is in favor of the Little Flower Burse in thanksgiving for success in the sale of property. We beg our dear little Saint to help us to sell other property. A. H. R. — My most sincere thanks to the Little Flower of Jesus for a favor obtained through her intercession after promising

publication. Miss D. D. — I am enclosing a cheque for \$28.00 in favor of the Little Flower Burse in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. One interested in your Works. — Please accept this cheque for \$40.00 for the needs of your missions in China. I am making this offering to fulfil a promise to St. Teresa through whose intercession I obtained a favor. I promise another contribution if all the members of my family continue to enjoy good health and if I meet with success in the sale of property. A subscriber. — I am enclosing an offering in thanksgiving for favors obtained. May I solicit your prayers for the success of a serious operation. Mrs. J. B. M., **Ottawa**. — I am most grateful to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for the many rose petals she has let fall on our family. Kindly accept this offering of \$1.00. Mrs. O. E. C., **Montreal**. — I wish to offer my most heartfelt thanks to the Little Patroness of Missionaries. I am enclosing an offering of \$5.00 in her honor, asking her to continue to protect me. Mrs. O. L. — In fulfilment of my promise I am sending my monthly offering of \$1.00 for the Missions in honor of the little Patroness of Missionaries. Mrs. A. A., **Montreal**. — I wish to return thanks to the Little Flower of Jesus for the precious rose petal she has let fall upon me. Mrs. C. P., **Central Falls, R. I.** — Offering of \$1.00 for the distant Missions in thanksgiving to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. Anonymous. — With my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" I am enclosing an offering for a novena of lights in honor of St. Therese and an offering of .25 in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. Mrs. E. T., **Montreal**. — I am gladly fulfilling my promise to St. Therese by sending you this offering of \$1.00. Mrs. J. T. — In thanksgiving for a favor obtained through the intercession of the Little Flower, I am sending a cheque for \$5.00 for the Burse in her honor. M. J. P., **Montreal**. — I am enclosing stipends for a High Mass in thanksgiving to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a favor obtained. Anonymous. — Please accept this offering of \$20.00 for the upkeep of the sanctuary lamp in a mission dedicated to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus to thankher for a favor obtained through her intercession. Miss B. L., **Montreal**. — Enclosed please find a postal note for \$3.00 for the ransom of dying babies in thanksgiving to St. Therese the Little Flower. Miss M. W., **Toronto, Ont.** — Please find enclosed a money order in favor of the Little Flower Burse in thanksgiving for favors asked and granted. Remember to say a little prayer for our intentions. Mr. J. L. L., **St. Henri, Montreal**. — My most humble gratitude to St. Therese for favors obtained. Kindly accept my offering of \$1.00. May I ask you to pray for a special intention. Anonymous, **Seaforth, Ont.**

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**.

OFFERINGS FOR THE "LITTLE FLOWER" 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 |
| In January-February | 1931..... | 157.50 |
| In March-April | 1931..... | 119.75 |
| In May-June | 1931..... | 100.50 |

Echoes from our Missions

SHEK LUNG LAZARETTO

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

Tuesday, January 27

God increases our interesting family of lepers by sending us twenty-one new patients. We extend them a most hearty welcome. As all of these newcomers are poverty-stricken, we rely on Divine Providence to help us to feed and clothe them.

Thursday, January 29

On the island, there is a government prison for lepers guilty of crime. To-day, one of these poor unfortunates tried to make his escape by attempting to break through the iron bars which held him captive. The guards, noticing by the condition of these bars that such an attempt had been made, threatened to scourge all the prisoners if the guilty one was not accused. One of the youngest of the condemned men, afraid of being beaten, made the desired declaration, and the culprit, who is but thirty years of age, was condemned to life imprisonment. This evening, after supper, this desperate pagan tried to stab himself to death. But as his knife was a very dull one, he grew unconscious before wounding himself fatally. When the soldiers noticed what had happened, they permitted us to have him brought to the infirmary where we dressed the ugly wound as best we could.

Friday, January 30

This morning, we go again to treat the poor prisoner. He is perfectly conscious, and begs us to finish killing him. We speak kindly to him for some time, and as our words calm his passions, he begins to shed bitter tears.

Saturday, January 31

Our miserable patient is getting better. To-day while we are dressing his wound, we speak to him about God. He believes all that we tell him and is sorry for what he has done. Little by little, he becomes resigned to his fate and readily forgives his accuser.

Friday, February 6

This evening, sixty-seven of our catechumens, thirty-two men and thirty-five women, begin to make a retreat preparatory to the reception

of the Sacrament of Baptism. Reverend Father Tsan, a Chinese priest, is the preacher.

Wednesday, February 11, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Our sixty-seven catechumens, after being cleansed from Original Sin, receive their God for the first time. It is truly a most beautiful feast day. Both chapels are decorated in white and blue and there are many little lights of the same color. We remark that happiness beams on the faces of all our dear neophytes. May our Immaculate Mother keep them ever as pure and happy as on this day of their baptism and First Holy Communion.



A MISSIONARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, HOSPITALLER,
AND A GROUP OF LEPERS OF SHEK LUNG, CHINA,
BAPTIZED ON FEBRUARY 11th, 1931

Thursday, February 19

Doubtlessly, you are wondering what became of the poor prisoner who attempted to commit suicide towards the end of January. We are still treating him and shall continue to do so until the Chinese New Year celebrations are over, when he will return in chains to his dungeon. From day to day, we notice a great change in him. He eagerly awaits the time for the dressing of his wound that he may hear something more about God. The poor unfortunate! As we can do nothing to deliver him, we hope that we shall succeed in preparing him for Holy Baptism in order that his soul may be freed from the bondage of Satan. Please assist us by your prayers.

Tuesday, February 24

A young leprous woman, who arrived not long ago, is suffering the most excruciating pain. Her hands and one of her legs are a most pitiable sight to behold. She cries bitterly on seeing her body gradually eaten away by this terrible disease, for she greatly dreads the thought of death. One of our helpers, a Christian woman, is very kind to our poor patient, who

has already learned to love her. To-day, when this same helper came again to her bedside she said: "I am very glad when you come to see me, and it does me good to hear you speak about God. The other day, you told me that I must believe in Him in order to go with you, because you are a Christian. I, also, wish to be baptized, so please instruct me and I shall no longer fear death, since heaven is so beautiful!..."

Sunday, March 1

As Father Director is absent, we have not the happiness of assisting at Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament on this the first day of the month of our holy protector St. Joseph, but our patients go to the chapel, just the same, to say their prayers.

The young leprous woman of whom I spoke a short time ago, has grown worse and begs to be baptized. We do not delay in complying with her desire and give her the name of Josephine. The charitable infirmarian is chosen as godmother to the dying woman whose happiness knows no bounds. We offer this soul as a gift to St. Joseph on the first day of his beautiful month.

Monday, March 2

At the Dispensary, Sister Marie Bernadette is treating a little girl who has very sore eyes. As the mother of this little one is afraid of losing her, she has tied a child's skull on her back, for someone told her that this was a means of saving her life. Poor superstitious mother and child!!!....

Tuesday, March 10

The little patient we received on March 2nd has been baptized. After speaking to her of God and His Blessed Mother, we told her that it would not be long before she would fly to heaven. Several times last night, she said to one of her little companions: "When I go to see God, I shall ask Him to bless and protect you." This morning, while repeating the name of our Blessed Mother, she quietly left this land of exile.

* * *

MANCHURIA, CHINA

Extract from the Diary of our Sisters, missionaries to Leao Yuan Sien

Wednesday, February 11

On this beautiful Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, our little Community in Manchuria counts three new members, who have devoted their lives to their divine Spouse and their dear Institute by pronouncing the formula of Perpetual Vows: Sr. Marie de la Charité (Corine Bourassa, St. Barnabé);



GROUP OF POSTULANTS AT THE NATIVE NOVITIATE OF LEAO YUAN SIEN, MANCHURIA, CHINA

Sr. St. Lazare (Juliette Rainville, Beauport); Sr. Marie de la Protection (Cécile Roberge, Quebec).

As we are a day ahead of Canada, this happy feast is only dawning for our companions at the Mother House. We do not forget our dear Sr. Marie de la Reparation (Marie Ange Provost, Sherrington) at Nominig, and Sr. Ste. Justine (Cleona Robitaille, Glenada) in Japan, for they also, on this day, realize their greatest desire, that of being chosen as the ever-faithful Spouses of Christ.

Thursday, February 19, 1931

We have just received an organ purchased at Mukden for the native novitiate. It cost \$45.00 Mexican money. It is too bad that it is anything but musical. Reverend Father Superior desires that the aspirants learn music.

Thursday, February 26

Mrs. Liou, who has been sick for over a month, comes back this morning to teach us Chinese. It is easy to see that she has been very ill, for she has grown very thin. The poor woman was unconscious for eight days and clothes had been prepared for her burial. "When I was conscious enough to realize that I had not much longer to live," she tells us, "I thought of how Catholics pray to God when they wish to obtain a favor, and I asked Him to cure me. I felt relieved immediately and gained strength every day." She asks us for a picture of the Blessed Virgin and the Sacred Heart. We are confident that she will soon embrace our holy religion.

Saturday, February 28

Report for the month of February:

| | | | |
|-----------------|------|-------------------------|------|
| Patients | 1132 | Treatments | 1458 |
| Dressings | 940 | Visits to the homes.... | 45 |
| Baptisms | 24 | | |

Friday, March 6

Five new aspirants enter the native novitiate to-day. Four of them are from the Mission of Hwaite Sien, and the fifth from Tung Leao. It is no small event for the six who arrived first, who already consider themselves as quite important!...

Sunday, March 8

His Lordship has permitted us to have the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the first and second Sunday of each month, the day of our monthly retreat and that of the aspirants. Another postulant arrives this afternoon. After Benediction and the singing of the *Veni Creator*, Reverend Father

Superior says a few words to the six new postulants and gives each of them a medal.

Monday, March 9

To-day, at the Dispensary, we have the occasion of performing many corporal and spiritual works of mercy. We treat 170 patients and open heaven to 10 little dying babies.

Tuesday, March 10

The postulants are busy making candles. Already, they have made as many as 300, as well as fifty floats. These they will burn before the statue of the Blessed Virgin each Saturday. They will begin their studies tomorrow. Three of the last six to enter have no education.

Friday, March 13

Reverend Father Berger has expressed the desire of having Sisters at Taonan for the Feast of St. Joseph.

A trunk and four mattresses are sent, this morning, to the new Mission.

Monday, March 23

Sister St. Denis leaves for Taonan this morning. At half-past nine, she takes her place in the train beside Sister St. Mathias, Sister Ste. Jeanne de Chantal and Sister Ste. Elizabeth, who have come from Pa Mien Tch'eng. They will not reach their destination until half-past five this afternoon.

Tuesday, March 24

A sixteen-year-old girl, who has been most cruelly treated by her mother, arrives, this morning, from Tung Leao. She will remain with us until one of her relatives comes for her.

Thursday, March 26

A little boy of six, who was baptized yesterday morning, died a few moments after the departure of the Sister infirmarian. To-day, two little girls are also made children of God.

Saturday, March 28

We have had nearly two hundred patients daily at the Dispensary this week.

Report for the month:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------------|------|
| Patients treated at the Dispensary.. | 3,328 | Divers treatments..... | 3996 |
| Dressings | 2,666 | Homes visited..... | 82 |
| Baptisms | 112. | | |

Saturday, April 4

After Mass, this morning, Reverend Father Lacroix administers Holy Baptism to five catechumens. One of them, the good old cook at the native Novitiate, has been trying to learn her prayers since last December, but as she has a very poor memory, she is only able to make the Sign of the Cross and repeat: "Hail Mary, pray for me." Her morning and night prayers consist of these few words: "Our Father, who art in heaven." However, she understands the principal mysteries of our holy religion and she is most grateful for the gift which has just been bestowed on her.

Sunday, April 5

At early dawn, the joyful notes of Easter music resound throughout our modest chapel.

In the afternoon, we take the postulants to see the Mission cemetery. After skirting the wall of the city for a distance of about three miles, we cross a field from which we have a view of the pagan burying ground. The coffins are simply covered with a heap of earth. We see a skull lying on the ground not far from us and on approaching one of the coffins, we find that it is open at one end. Another, which is without a lid, is completely empty. Continuing on our way, we notice a few wooden crosses at the foot of a hill. This is where the Christians are buried.

Tuesday, April 7

A young lady from Li Chou Sien enters the native Novitiate to-day. She is eighteen years of age.

Wednesday, April 8

For a few days past, one of the postulants has been employing all her spare moments in making tiny petals. This evening, she shows us a pretty wreath of roses with which she will crown the statue of the Blessed Virgin to-morrow. This young lady is very delicate but as she has a great devotion to our Blessed Lady, she hopes that this good Mother will help her to persevere in her vocation.

Thursday, April 9

The good old cook, of whom we have already spoken, is not yet well enough prepared to receive Holy Communion. This morning, seeing all her companions approach the Holy Table, she decides to follow them. A postulant notices her and pulls her back. The poor old woman is heart-broken and cannot understand why one of her companions, who is very quick-tempered, is allowed to receive Holy Communion daily while she is forbidden to do so!... Before long, dear old Granny, as she is called, will also receive her Eucharistic Lord.

PA MIEN T'CHENG, MANCHURIA

*Extract from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries
to Pa Mien T'Cheng, Manchuria, China*

Friday, February 6, 1931

Mrs. Pai, the cook at the Orphanage, asks us to visit her mother-in-law who is very sick. She is an old acquaintance of ours. Last summer, her son was baptized just before dying. As this poor woman is deaf, it is very hard to instruct her. We give her some medicine, promising to come back to see her in the afternoon.

On visiting our patient for a second time towards four o'clock, we notice she has taken a change for the better. After speaking to her about God for a few minutes, we ask the young Mrs. Pai to notify us if she happens to grow worse. We confide this good woman to our Immaculate Mother, trusting that she will assist us in bringing her to the light of the True Faith.

Saturday, February 7

Just as we are locking the Dispensary, we are asked to go to see a very sick little new-born baby. Sister Superior pours the sacred waters of Baptism on the child's brow, giving it the name of Marie Delia.

Sunday, February 8

We again go to visit Mrs. Pai, who is very low. Fearing that she will not live over night, we ask her if she wishes to be baptized. She tells us that this is her desire and that she will not be afraid to die after she has been made one of God's children. We send for Reverend Father Turcotte who hastens to baptize our patient, who is longing to see God. "I am not the least afraid of death," she tells us.

Sunday, February 15

Mrs. Pai, who was baptized last Sunday, has grown no better. She is very cheerful this evening. "You know that I have no more *mouo-koui* (devils) in me," she says to Sister Ste Jeanne de Chantal, they are all gone, and I am not afraid to die, for I have been baptized.

Tuesday, February 17

We have Mass for the first time in our little chapel. A table covered with a plain white cloth serves as an altar, which we adorn with tiny white lilies. During the Holy Sacrifice, we sing the *Veni Creator* and the *Magnificat*. How happy we are to possess our Divine Lord in our poor dwelling. He will remain night and day upon our little altar. We entreat this good Master to shower His choicest blessings upon our beloved Mother and upon all our Sisters.

We spend part of the day in adoration before our Eucharistic King in order to make reparation for the outrages committed during the few days

which precede the holy Lenten season as well as for those committed by the poor pagans on the occasion of the Chinese New Year.

For the first time, the Church honors the Chinese martyr, Francis Clet. May this glorious martyr obtain the gift of Faith for his fellow-countrymen!

After breakfast, we distribute presents to our orphans. Each receives an apron, a handkerchief, a pair of garters, some yarn with which to tie her hair, a pair of stockings, a few candies and little Chinese cookies. They wish us a happy New Year and make us three deep bows. While we are at dinner, they go to the chapel to say their beads.

Thursday, February 26

A heart-broken mother brings us her sick baby. The Sister infirmarian, after giving it some medicine, pours the Regenerating Waters upon its brow and names the little one Joseph Alphonsus.

Report of the Dispensary of Pa Mien T'cheng for the month of February, 1931: The Dispensary was closed from the 14th to the 28th of February during the Chinese New Year celebrations.

| | | | |
|------------------|-----|--------------------------|---|
| Patients | 472 | Baptisms | 6 |
| Treatments | 505 | Teeth extracted..... | 5 |
| Dressings | 245 | Visits to the homes..... | 7 |

Saturday, March 7

An orphan, fourteen years of age, comes to make her home with us.

Sister St. Jean d'Ephèse has the privilege of baptizing a little girl, three years of age. She gives the little one the name of Marie Delia Eva.

A young woman suffering from a very sore eye comes to the Dispensary for treatment. She tells us that at first there was but a tiny speck under the lid and that an old woman applied a fresh fish to it, telling her that this was a sure cure. We rub her eye with a little salve and tell her that we have not much hope of relieving her. We confide her to St. Joseph, asking him to obtain her the grace of one day being brought to the light of the True Faith.

Wednesday, March 11

To-day, at the close of the novena in honor of St. Francis Xavier, we place two tiny lilies before the picture of this great missionary. Oh! our little chapel is very modest, it is true, but it contains our God and we do not ask for anything else.

Friday, March 13

Another little orphan, Fong Elizabeth, is brought to us this evening. She soon makes friends with all her little companions of the Orphanage. We give her some dolls to play with, telling her that they are real babies. "Oh, no," she says, "they look like babies, but they are only dolls." She is a very intelligent little girl and is already quite at home with us.

Sunday, March 22

Our dear Sister Superior is about to leave us for Taonan. Her companions will be Sr. Ste. Jeanne de Chantal, Sr. Ste. Elizabeth and Sr. St. Denis. They will be replaced by Sr. Marie Josephine, Sr. St. Lazare, Sr. St. Jean d'Ephèse and Sr. Ste. Rosalie.

Our dear orphans, wishing to show their gratitude to Sister Superior and the other Sisters who are leaving Pa Mien T'cheng, invite them to come to the Orphanage. Suzan, the eldest orphan, reads them an address in the name of all her companions and assures our Sisters of their continual prayers. The little ones promise that they will be good so as to always please the Sisters who will look after them in the future.

Monday, March 23

To-day, we go to the station to see our Sisters off. Miss Yu, our Chinese teacher, and Suzan accompany us. When we are almost out of sight, one of the other orphans decides to follow us. After bidding our Sisters a last farewell, we entreat our Immaculate Mother to bless her humble Missionaries and to grant them success in their new mission.

Tuesday, March 24

A poor man, who was attacked by the brigands, comes to the Dispensary for treatment. As he had no money to give these lawless men, they beat him in the most cruel manner and fired at him, the shot piercing his arm. He has also a cut in the head. After we have bandaged his wounds, he leaves us full of confidence.

Wednesday, March 25

To-day, the Feast of the Annunciation, we are asked to go to see a sick baby. The mother tells us that when the child was but a few days old it was cured by foreign *doctors*. To-day, she is quite confident that we shall restore it to health. We give it some medicine which we hope will do it good.

At noon, a baby but two months old, is brought to us from Tung Leao.

Thursday, March 26

A baby suffering from tubercular sores is brought to the Dispensary. We immediately send for Sister Ste. Rosalie, who baptizes the little one, giving it the name of Joseph Arthur.

Report of the Dispensary of Pa Mien T'Cheng for the month of March 1931:

| | | | |
|------------------|-------|--------------------------|----|
| Patients | 1,231 | Baptisms | 11 |
| Treatments | 1,309 | Teeth extracted..... | 7 |
| Dressings | 572 | Visits to the homes..... | 5 |

FAKOU, MANCHURIA

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

Saturday, February 14

Sister Ste. Catherine d'Alexandrie goes to visit a poor consumptive, twenty-seven years of age. She finds her patient stretched on a *kang* in a filthy little room. Sister speaks a few kind words to him, but as he does not understand what she is saying, he only looks at her and smiles.

His parents, after watching all that is going on, are quite surprised and ask the virgin catechist if Sister is not afraid of dirtying herself. When our faithful companion explains to them the aim of her visit, they are quite pleased.

Sunday, February 15

This morning, our tubercular patient receives the Last Sacraments. When the priest offered to anoint him last night, he refused, saying that he wished to wash himself first.

Wednesday, February 18

Sing Tin, a patient whom we have visited very often lately, died last night at eleven o'clock. This afternoon, we go with the virgins to pray beside his mortal remains. On entering, we find the dead man stretched on a board in the kitchen. On his head is a little black cap, and his face is hidden in a large handkerchief. In his hands, he holds a pair of rosary beads. After the recitation of a few prayers, six men place the corpse on a quilt and carry it outside. Then the usual scene takes place. The dead man's wife hides her face in her hands and weeps bitterly.

Saturday, February 21

The Dispensary, which has been closed since February 1st owing to Sister Superior's illness, will re-open on Monday. We spend the entire day in preparing medicine.

Wednesday, February 25

This afternoon, we pay a visit to two patients. The priest kindly sends his servant with us, for it is still the Chinese New Year season and the streets are crowded with comedians. Everyone makes the greatest racket. On our way, we meet a noisy throng, whose leader carries a multicolored paper dragon about thirty feet in length. A little farther on, a musician is beating an immense drum. The passers-by ask us if we are on our way to see the amusements. Our companion tells them that we are going to visit the sick. As we advance, we notice that a sweet odor fills the air, and soon our eyes rest on three coffins, before which, on a little table, incense is burning. What the meaning of all this is, we do not know, but there is one thing

of which we are certain and that is that the devil has absolute control over these superstitious people while our Divine Lord is still unknown to them.

Thursday, February 26

At two o'clock, a very little old lady whom we treated this morning, comes to the Dispensary with her husband who is almost totally blind. As soon as we have finished giving him treatment, his wife loses no time in telling us that his ears are sore also. "No, no," the poor old man hastens to reply, while holding his hands over his ears like a child whose is afraid of having them cut off, "my ears are not sore."

Saturday, February 28

Report of the Dispensary for the month:

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Patients | 349 | Treatments | 374 |
| Dressings | 81 | Visits to the homes..... | 20 |
| | Baptisms | 1 | |

Sister Ste. Catherine d'Alexandrie is a little vexed because the babies that are brought to us are not in danger of death and therefore she cannot baptize them. To-day, however, a mother brings us a very sick baby. We immediately make the little one a child of God.

Wednesday, March 4

Some of our patients have great faith in our medicine. To-day, a woman who brings two of her children here for treatment, asks us if we are able to cure her twelve-year-old son who has a very poor memory.

Thursday, March 5

Three months ago, a poor Chinese suffering from chilblains came to us for treatment. To-day, this same patient comes again to the Dispensary. One of his feet is terribly swollen. "Since last December," he tells us, "I have been suffering day and night."

We secretly pin a medal to one of his socks, and as we are afraid that he will throw it away as soon as he sees it, we explain to him that it is the image of the Mother of God, telling him to ask her to cure him. As his socks are not clean, he takes the medal off and proudly pins it on his coat.

Tuesday, March 10

One hundred and twenty patients come to the Dispensary this morning. At half-past eleven, thirty are still waiting to be treated.

Wednesday, March 11

To-day, an idiot is brought to us. Her mother tells us that she was alright until someone ill-treated her three weeks ago.

We do not believe that this poor girl will ever regain the use of her reason. We shall baptize her when we are certain that she will never recover.

Thursday, March 12

This is the last day of the Novena of Grace. St. Francis Xavier favors us by sending us a young child to be baptized.

Monday, March 16

This morning, we are touched on hearing an old man, totally blind, repeat the words of the Our Father and the Hail Mary to one of the patients. This new catechumen is the poor man who is suffering from chilblains.

Tuesday, March 17

In order to be the first served, a number of patients come to us fasting. They have taken no food since three or four o'clock yesterday afternoon. The Chinese eat only twice a day in winter, spring and part of the autumn. Moreover, many have to travel a long distance before reaching the Dispensary.

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*Letter from Sister Ste. Anne, Missionary of the Immaculate Conception,
Superior of the Mission of Fakou, Manchuria,
to her Superior General.*

Catholic Mission, Fakou, March 29, 1931.

BELOVED MOTHER,

I imagine that this is going to be a letter full of disconnected ideas, for I am sure that I shall not finish it before a week's time. The last time I wrote to you, I had just begun to go to the Dispensary for a few hours each day. Doubtlessly, I overdid myself, for I was obliged to remain at home two days last week. I am again back at my work, which I hope will be for good. Our time is always well employed. Last Thursday, we baptized 4 dying persons, and treated 192 patients. Yesterday, 217 persons came to the Dispensary for treatment, and nine others asked us to visit their homes. Not long ago, we had the happiness of baptizing a young girl of fourteen.

When the Chinese ask me to go to their homes, I make a point of having a virgin catechist accompany me, for it often happens that we meet persons who, after being followed up very closely, finally consent to be baptized.

After Easter, I intend to continue my study of the Chinese language, which I was obliged to interrupt on account of my poor health.

April 12 1931

It is not only one week, but two, that I have taken to write this letter. The Dispensary was closed on Good Friday, and on Holy Saturday

very few persons came for treatment. Thus we were able to assist at the different ceremonies in the church.

Everything is going on well here in Fakou. Every day, we pray for your intentions, beloved Mother, and for the spiritual and temporal needs of our dear Institute, as well as for those of our little Mission. The number of persons who come to be treated at our Dispensary increases daily. One day last week, we counted as many as 235. Luckily, I have two capable Sisters to help me. It sometimes happens that I am obliged to spend nearly the whole day away from home. I meet all kinds of people. A few tell me that I am a very skilful *doctor*, while others say that I am good for nothing. Yesterday, the virgin catechist, after accompanying me to the home of a wealthy Chinese family, tried to persuade me that my visit was useless, as these people did not appreciate what I was doing for them. We make no distinction of persons, we visit the poor as well as the rich. Just lately, we heard someone say that all classes of people, even brigands, are treated at the Dispensary. True enough, for soldiers often bring us brigands who have asked to be treated before being shot.

The day before yesterday, while visiting the homes, we found a woman, twenty-seven years of age, who was in a very weak condition. She told the virgin catechist that she believed in God and wished to become a Catholic. As she was not in danger of death, we decided to wait until she is sufficiently instructed before baptizing her.

We were given another great consolation last Monday. A woman, fifty-six years of age, asked us to baptize her so that she might go to heaven. One day last winter, she had come to the Dispensary, where she heard a little about our holy religion. The poor woman, who is almost completely paralysed, did not wish to die a pagan. I gave her some medicine, but it was not a bodily cure that she desired. She listened attentively to the Catechism lesson which was given her, and when we asked her if she really believed in God, she replied in convincing accents that she believed everything that we told her. I was deeply impressed on seeing how grace had done its work in the soul of this poor woman, and on pouring the Regenerating Waters on her brow, I thanked God with my whole heart and soul. On my return home, I again repeated my gratitude to this all-merciful Father. Was it not worth while sacrificing my life for even one such consolation?

God has been very good to me and to thank Him I shall endeavor to do more and more for Him each day. It is thanks to you, also, dear Mother, that I enjoy such happiness.

Do not worry in the least about me, for I am beginning to feel strong again and I am very careful not to overtire myself.

My companions are well. When I see that they are tired, I make them take a rest. They spend all their spare time studying Chinese.

Good-bye, dear Mother. I remain your ever-loving and dutiful child,

Sister STE ANNE, M. I. C. (1)

1. Marie Louise Gosselin, Ste. Sophie d'Halifax.

TAONAN, CHINA

*Gleanings from the Diary of the Missionary Sisters at Taonan,
Manchuria, China*

Monday, March 23, 1931

After having placed ourselves under the protection of our Immaculate Mother and her dear Spouse, we leave for a new mission. It is not without emotion that we bid farewell to our dear companions of Pa Mien T'Cheng and to all the little orphans.



CHURCH IN THE TAONAN MISSION, MANCHURIA,
ERECTED BY THE REVEREND FATHERS
OF THE FOREIGN MISSION SEMINARY

At 8.45 A. M., we take the train which is to bring us to our new home, three hundred miles distant. Towards 10.30, Sister St. Denis from the Mission of Leao Yuan Sien, accompanied by two virgin catechists, joins us. The country lying between Pa Mien T'Cheng and Leao Yuan Sien is a little hilly. There are also a few rivers. For some miles however, we skirt many sandy uncultivated stretches of land. We almost believe ourselves to be in the Canadian West. No trees, houses, nor a living person can be seen. Near Taonan, many oxen and horses are grazing along the side of the railroad.

We arrive at Taonan at 5.15 P. M. On leaving the train, we breathe a little prayer to the Guardian Angel of this large city, and ask him to protect us. Reverend Father Berger, the pastor, is waiting for us at the station. After extending us a welcome, he invites us to take our places in his carriage. We immediately make our way to the Catholic Mission which is three miles distant. It is at full speed that we pass the gates of the city, for as the inhabitants of this region look very unfavorably upon strangers, it is preferable that we arrive *incognito*.

Once at the Mission, our first visit is to our divine Lord. Reverend Father then conducts us to our new home. It is in our Immaculate Mother's name that we take possession of our humble abode. In the evening, before retiring for the night, we consecrate ourselves anew to this good Mother and ask her to continue to protect us and to help us to act in conformity with the Holy Will of her divine Son.

Taonan is a large city over four hundred miles north of Mukden. It has a population of more than 100,000 souls, of whom about 200 are Catholics. Some of its inhabitants have emigrated from the Southern Provinces of Honan, Chantong, Tcheli etc., during the twenty years of its existence.

Tuesday, March 24

We unpack our trunks and put everything in order, taking recreation the while. Then we examine the house. It is a very neat dwelling. The exterior greatly resembles that of the lower flat of the House at Leao Yuan Sien. At the Southern extremity is to be found the virgin catechists' home and the girls' and catechumens' school. About twelve feet to the east of these buildings, stands a pretty little church. Not a tree is to be found on the entire compound.

We have good drinking water here. We pump it from a covered well which is very clean.

The climate is very dry. As in all other parts of Manchuria, the wind blows continually. In the forenoon, one feels but a slight breeze, but in the afternoon, this same breeze has become a hurricane.



RESIDENCE OF THE CANADIAN FATHERS OF THE FOREIGN MISSION SEMINARY
AT TAONAN, MANCHURIA, CHINA

As we are in an important city, Reverend Father Berger must go to the *Yamen* (the official residence of the mandarin) in order to present our passports and enregister our names in Chinese.

Monday, March 30

Towards four o'clock this afternoon, Mgr. Lapierre, accompanied by Reverend Fathers Larochelle and Berger, comes to bless our dwelling.

Friday, April 3

The chief of police comes to notify Reverend Father Berger that the mandarins of the city do not permit us to settle in Taonan. They have many pretexts, one being that they do not wish to be obliged to protect us against the brigands, etc. The same evening, the priest goes to ask Mr. Su, a sympathetic Chinese, to look into the matter.

Saturday, April 4

We learn that permission has been granted us to take up our abode in Taonan. As we are also given the permission to have a dispensary, we open it to-day, Holy Saturday.

Easter Sunday, April 5

At the beginning of Lent, when we were in our little house at Pa Mien T'Cheng, we were far from thinking that we should be in Taonan for Easter,

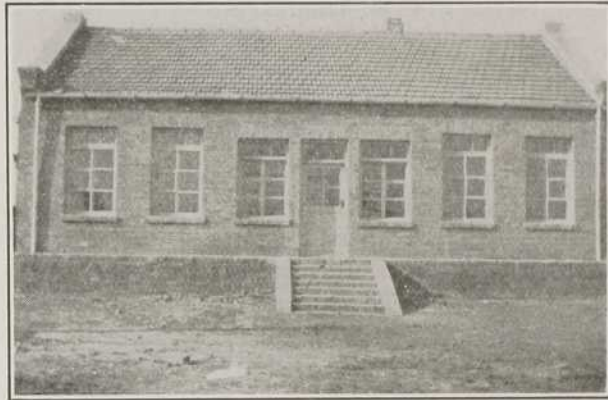
but as it matters very little to us what place we are in, it is with gladsome voices that we sing "*Regina cœli, Alleluia.*" The very skies seem to rejoice with us. The weather is beautiful. There is much sunshine and it is not windy. Numerous Christians come to assist at Holy Mass, more than one hundred and fifty of them receiving Holy Communion. The fifty little children, who have come with their parents, give the preacher a little distraction. A few of them play, while the others either cry or chatter.

Reverend Father Berger tells us that, last night, one hundred and twenty persons were given hospitality in the Catholic Mission. In one room measuring 20 x 15 feet, over forty-five were crouched together. Many of these Christians had travelled 100 *li*, and some even 200. (The territory belonging to the Catholic Mission extends more than 600 *li* north of Taonan).

In the afternoon, we take a few pictures: the different dwellings on the Mission compound, and a group of Christian children.

After supper, we spend recreation with the virgin catechists. We play one of the Chinese games which are not at all like ours. We are given a pierced thimble which we turn by means of a match. We have before us four figures: 1-2-3-4.

If 1 is the number we play, we place a checker in the first little square which is marked *ouai kiao* (pagan), if it is 2 we place it in the second square *paocheou* (Catechumenate), 3 and 4 give us a right to the third and fourth squares marked *ling si* (Baptism) and *pang ko kai* (Confession). There are also many other little squares in which a title is written in Chinese characters. In this game we can be priest, cardinal, pope, archangel, etc... we can have the best qualities as well as the worst faults. When our checkers have reached the squares marked Last Judgment we learn what is to be our fate: heaven, purgatory, hell or limbo. This Christian game is a very interesting one.



DWELLING OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
AT TAONAN, MANCHURIA, CHINA

Monday, April 6

A mother brings us a very sick little baby boy, but six months old. Sister Superior has the happiness of baptizing the little one. She gives it the name of Joseph Eugene. Several patients come to the Dispensary for treatment. One of them, a poor old man, has a very sore thumb, the nail of which he tore off while at work. Not wishing to lose this nail entirely, he tried to stick it back in its place with some sawdust mixed with mud. As a result his whole thumb is badly infected.

We continue to prepare medicine. We also spend some time in arranging the Dispensary. It is a hundred feet to the south of our residence. The room in which we treat our patients is 10 x 20 feet, and the waiting-room 20 x 20.

Tuesday, April 7

Our Sister infirmarians receive over forty patients to-day. There are some of every class. The *Se tchang* (the most prominent military mandarin in the city) comes with two of his wives. After their visit, several ragged Chinese arrive.

Our Sisters are assisted by two virgin catechists, Sr. Magdalene Su and Sr. Clara Jou. We are well acquainted with them as they are former teachers of our Sisters at Leao Yuan Sien.

Wednesday, April 8

Sister St. Denis has the privilege of baptizing a baby, a year old. St. Joseph is chosen as this little one's patron saint.

A little four-year-old girl is brought to us to be baptized before leaving for the other world. Her parents, who live far from the Mission, fortunately heard tell of the opening of the Dispensary. We return thanks to our merciful heavenly Father who chooses the souls upon which he wishes to bestow His graces and who procures His humble missionaries such happiness.

Saturday, April 1

Eighty-four patients come to the Dispensary for treatment. Of this number, a little boy is baptized, receiving the name of Joseph Marie.

Sunday, April 12

This is the day for correspondence. We answer the kind letters sent us by our parents and which we received on Easter Sunday. We do not fail to tell them of our arrival at Taonan. The mail, which will leave tomorrow, will be a heavy one, as we have much news to send to our dear Mother House and to our kind and devoted parents.

Monday, April 13

The patients are becoming more and more numerous. To-day, we have as many as one hundred and two. Sister Superior baptizes a little girl to whom she gives the name of Jeanne. Sister Jeanne de Chantal has also the happiness of baptizing a little boy, six years of age.

The *Se Tchang* (a captain in the army) continues to come to the Dispensary. He asks us to treat all the members of his family: sons, grandsons, etc...

Tuesday, April, 14

As it is snowing and the weather is very cold, our patients, this morning, are mostly men. Towards ten o'clock, we are asked to go as quickly as

possible to visit a neighbor's dying baby. Sister Superior leaves at once with Sr. Clara, a virgin catechist. Once inside the gate, they are invited to return home as preparations are being made to have the child thrown away. As Sister Superior is acquainted with the customs of the Chinese, she continues on her errand of mercy and finds the child on the floor, wrapped up in a straw mat which is to serve as its coffin. As the little one is still breathing, she hastens to baptize it. The parents then quickly tie up the package and carry it outside so as not to have the child die in the house and bring misfortune on all the members of the family.

Happy little one! Do not forget to ask our divine Lord to bestow upon your parents the precious grace that you have received to-day.

In the course of the forenoon, Sister St. Denis, also, has the privilege of baptizing two babies. While we are at dinner, another dying child is brought to the Dispensary. Sister Superior goes immediately to baptize it.

Wednesday, April 15

Our Sister infirmarians treat one hundred and twenty-six patients at the Dispensary. Among these patients, we remark four mandarins with the members of their family. Two babies receive Holy Baptism.

Reverend Fathers Larochelle and Berger have returned home. For some time, they have been exploring new districts, more than a hundred miles north of Taonan. They intend to buy new land on which they will establish new missions. As many emigrants are flocking to the cities of Northern Manchuria, Reverend Father Berger tries to find all the Christians, whom he invites to settle on the land belonging to the Church. Thus, whole villages of Christians are being formed.

We receive Chinese letters from Pa Mien T'Cheng and Leao Yuan Sien. They are from our dear orphans. Little Suzan's letter is really very touching. At Pa Mien T'Cheng, Sister Superior always went to see the children before retiring for the night. Suzan mentions this in her letter and thanks her for the good care she took of them.

Friday, April 17

How thankful we are, this evening, when we see by the register that we have baptized as many as eight patients during the course of the day. One of them, a certain Mrs. Yang, is suffering from an incurable disease and will



THE FIRST FRUITS OF THE MISSION OF TAONAN,
MANCHURIA, CHINA

die before long. After giving her some medicine, which she can hardly swallow, Sr. Clara continues to give her lessons in Christian Doctrine. The patient understands and willingly believes all that is told her. It is with the greatest joy that she bows her head to receive the Regenerating Waters. While Sister Superior is baptizing her, she gazes upon a crucifix, and in a loud voice asks God to forgive her all the faults she has committed during her life. We give her a miraculous medal. When she sees that we are about to leave, she bids us good-bye. May our Blessed Mother ever keep this newly-baptized woman's soul as spotless as it is to-day.

In the course of the afternoon, we visit a poor man, who was wounded, some time ago, by brigands. He is about fifty years of age.

One hundred and ninety patients were treated to-day at the Dispensary. One of these patients, an aged bonze, is almost blind.

Saturday, April 18

Reverend Father Berger kindly plants some willows on our grounds. We hope that, despite the fact that the land here is covered with saltpetre, they will soon bear green leaves.

Sunday, April 19, Feast of the Good Shepherd.

Towards half-past ten, the Good Shepherd leads to our Dispensary one of His strayed sheep: a poor consumptive, who, although only thirty years of age, appears to be in the sixties. To-day is Sunday, it is true, but as the poor patient has travelled thirty *li* in order to obtain a little relief, we must, through charity, make it our duty to treat her. When her companion, an aged woman, asks us if one must become a Christian before taking our medicine, we at once ask a virgin catechist to teach our patient a little Christian Doctrine. Mrs. Linn listens attentively to the instruction given her and tries her best to understand every word of it. She has never before heard anything of the kind. She is astonished and delighted at the thought that such a poor creature as she may enjoy eternal bliss if she so wishes. "How could I not wish for such happiness?" she asks herself. This poor pagan woman, who was so sad but a short while ago, is now beaming with joy. As she asks to be baptized as quickly as possible, we pour upon her brow the Regenerating Waters which make her a child of God and an heir to the beautiful kingdom of heaven of which she will soon take possession.

Report of the Dispensary of Taonan: From the day of our arrival, March 23, 1931, to the day when the Dispensary was opened, April 4, 1931: 46 patients, 73 treatments, 14 dressings.

For the month of April 1931:

| | | | |
|------------------|-------|--------------------------|----|
| Patients | 3,390 | Baptisms | 82 |
| Treatments | 4,486 | Teeth extracted..... | 6 |
| Dressings | 900 | Visits to the homes..... | 4 |

TSUNGMING, HAIMEN VICARIATE, CHINA

*Letter from a Missionary Sister of the Immaculate Conception of
Tsungming, China, to her Superior General*

Tsungming, April 26, 1931

BELOVED MOTHER,

I would like to have the time to write you a nice long letter, but as it is already four o'clock and the children take their supper at five, I must be content with writing you but a few lines to wish you a happy feast day. One thought consoles me, and that is that you know full well, dearly beloved Mother all the love and affection there is in the heart of a grateful child for a kind and tender Mother.

I have just come back from the little parish church where I am the policeman each Sunday. How I thank God, dear Mother, to have been born in Canada, when I stop to think of the strange things that happen here. At the church door, I am given all kinds of eatables: cakes, potatoes, boiled eggs, peanuts, etc. I also carry home with me a number of insects which, in Canada, are known as parasites.

Some of our helpers ask me to whom I am writing. When I tell them, they say to me, "Tell *Ta Momo* in Canada that we love her, that we shall take good care of the children and that we shall always be good to one another so as to never make her sad. Are you able to write that?" "Certainly," I answer, "and *Ta Momo* will be very glad because she loves you all. Go and amuse the children while I write a nice letter."

It is not easy to write here, for the little ones are always climbing up on the table. I have begun to teach them to sing. For this purpose I have an old organ which squeaks like a wagon wheel. I recommend these little folks to the prayers of all the Sisters. They are all in good health, but I am afraid that a few will not be able to live through the hot season. When I have a minute to spare, I help in the Dispensary. I am very glad that I learned how to care for the sick during my novitiate, and I am most grateful to you, dear Mother, for the different kinds of medicine that you so kindly sent us.

You cannot imagine how pleased I was when Sister Superior told us that we were to have coal next winter. The children will no longer suffer from the cold. I thank you in their name, dear Mother, and when they have learned to write, they will thank you themselves. Six of these little tots will make their First Communion in May. I ask the Blessed Virgin to keep their little souls pure and white so that her divine Son may ever dwell therein.

Last month, a poor Chinese woman came here asking for employment. I think we can rely on her, for she never loses her temper like most of our other helpers. And she seems to be quite conscientious, for she said to

me, yesterday: "Momo, I could not go to Holy Communion, this morning, because I was a little vexed when A me spoke unkindly to me."

I must now bring my letter to a close, beloved Mother, for someone has come for me to settle a dispute between two of the helpers... If I had time to relate all the amusing incidents in our everyday life, I am sure you would laugh heartily and so would all the Sisters.

Your loving daughter,

Sister MARIE D'EPHESE, (1)

*Extract from a letter written by a Missionary Sister of the Immaculate
Conception of Tsungming*

I have been asked if the roof of our House is the same as the model shown at the Montreal Missionary Exposition. Yes, exactly the same. It is covered with rows of thin rounded tiles which are placed very close together.



A GROUP OF PUPILS OF THE SCHOOL OF TSUNGMING, CHINA

The enclosed photograph illustrates what I have just been describing to you. The manner in which these tiles are arranged protects the rain from entering the dwellings. The two-storey house, which you see in the picture, is the school. During the course of the summer, another such building, a native novitiate, will be constructed.

Although we are quite happy in the Missions, we cannot help from feeling a little sad, sometimes, when we are brought into contact with the poverty-

(1) Jeannette Luneau, Princeville

stricken Chinese. A few days ago, one of our Sisters went to see a man who was dying of tetanos. His wife, not realizing that he was in such great danger, hoped that he would be cured after taking a little medicine. In this same house which consisted of but one room, three families made their home. A pig was tied to a couch and goats were lying under one of the beds. There were also a few hens and a dog. Two little children were in the dying man's bed. Sometimes in trying to raise himself up, the poor father would give his little ones a blow. Sister nearly fainted, as it was the first time that she had witnessed a like scene. A few hours after her visit, the patient breathed his last. All the members of this family are Christians. Despite her poverty, the poor afflicted woman gave us a small offering to have some candles burned in honor of our Blessed Lady. When we see what suffering exists in this pagan country, we return God thanks for the gifts He has bestowed upon us.....

Sr. MARIE DE L'EPIPHANIE, M. I. C.

* * *

KORIYAMA, JAPAN

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Koriyama

Sunday, March 29, 1931

A certain Mr. Hashimoto comes to ask us if we are willing to teach French to his young daughter who has just arrived from Tokio. He asks us what our conditions are and if his daughter will have to learn the Bible in coming for her lessons. We tell him that we teach religion only to those who desire to be instructed and that it is never mentioned during class. The gentleman seems quite satisfied and promises that he will soon send us his young daughter. Perhaps, the latter will not be as bigotted as her father. We confide her to our Immaculate Mother, trusting that in coming here she will learn more than French.

Holy Thursday, April 2, 1931

We go to the church, this morning, to hear Holy Mass which is celebrated a little later than usual in order that all the Christian may assist at it. In spirit, we take part in all the beautiful ceremonies which are to-day taking place throughout the Catholic world. In our missionary hearts, we form the wish that before long Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament will be adored and honored by numerous fervent Christians of Japan.

This afternoon, we make it our duty to go to sympathize with a Christian family which has been visited by death. We find the corpse in a blanket on the floor covered over by a sheet. At her head, on a little table, there are two candles, a crucifix and a statue of the Sacred Heart. It is a great consolation to see these pious objects taking the place of the table laden with provisions which the pagans offer to the souls of the deceased.



A MISSIONARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND A YOUNG GIRL OF KORIYAMA, JAPAN

This evening, we spend an hour in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament which we have the privilege of possessing during Holy Week.

Friday, April 3

As is the custom in our dear Community, we to-day compassionate with the heart of our Mother of Sorrows. As we have neither a statue nor a picture representing the sad scene which took place on Calvary, we try to imagine that we have before our eyes the statue of Our Lady of Seven Dolours of our dear Mother House in its sombre decoration for this sorrowful anniversary.

At half-past six, the Way of the Cross is made in the church. After the singing of a Passion

hymn in Japanese, Reverend Father Reid, O. P., explains to the many Christians present the sublime mysteries of the day.

Easter Sunday, April 5

A few of the Christians will look upon this great feast as the happiest day of their life. A little boy and girl, after being made children of God, receive Him into their hearts for the first time. A little seven-year-old girl, whose parents are Christians, also makes her First Communion during Mass. The little one is beaming with joy in her white attire. Her long veil is held in place by a pretty wreath of natural flowers. She returns from the Holy Table as recollected as an angel and for a long time remains with her head inclined in Japanese fashion. The happy mother of this child appears to share in her joy. It also rejoices us to see this dear little one so happy, for, for some time past we have been preparing her for this blessed day.

Reverend Father wished to render this feast as solemn as possible, but, unfortunately, he had difficulty in finding enough singers for the Mass. Finally, however, a young pagan offered to play. The singing was nothing

very wonderful, but we must admit that it was better than we expected. Besides, we know that God was much less attentive to the music than to the fervent prayers of the numerous Christians who filled the church. Let us hope that the many pagans who assisted at the Holy Sacrifice through mere curiosity be one day brought to the light of the true Faith. We had invited a woman to whom we have been teaching English for some time past, to come to Mass on this great feast. When all was over, she accompanied us to the convent. She asked us if we were willing to teach her little girl Catechism. Needless to say, we replied that it would be a pleasure for us to instruct her little one.

Our holiday commences by the distribution of numerous letters and the "Precursor". Without leaving our little Community, we have the happiness of taking a nice long trip across the ocean. On our return, after pleasantly conversing with one another for some time, we repair to the chapel to sing the praises of our Divine Risen Saviour.

A young Christian kindly offers us a beautiful bouquet of flowers which greatly resemble those of our native land. We are deeply touched, and place this thoughtful gift before the statue of our Immaculate Mother.

Sunday, April 12

It is quite a surprise to us, on awakening this morning, to see the ground covered with snow. Thanks to the warm rays of the sun, last week, the plum trees are all in bloom. One of them in particular is very beautiful. Its branches are completely hidden by dainty pink blossoms which peep from under the snowflakes. The Japanese have a great liking for the plum blossom for it reminds them of the virtues with which their lives should be filled. This symbolical flower is often painted on handsome porcelain vases or on carved woodwork. It is when the trees are in bud that the branches are cut off for decoration, as the natives delight in seeing them blossom forth in their homes. The calyx of these buds seems to be made of dainty red straw which harmonizes with the pale pink tint of the petals and the rough bark of the branch. We gather many of these beautiful blossoms with which we adorn our humble chapel. Thus we offer God His own works.

REPORT OF ST. JOSEPH'S ORIENTAL HOSPITAL OF VANCOUVER FOR THE YEAR 1930

| | | | |
|--|-------|------------------------|-------|
| Patients..... | 55 | Operations..... | 3 |
| Days spent by the patients in the Hospital..... | 5,435 | Solemn Baptisms..... | 12 |
| Baptisms <i>in articulo mortis</i> | 27 | Dressings..... | 1,075 |
| Patients at the Dispensary.... | 31 | Prescriptions..... | 206 |
| Visits to the homes | | First Communions..... | 9 |
| since June..... | 171 | Patients anointed..... | 4 |

Extracts FROM THE Novitiate Chronicles

Dedicated to our dear Parents



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

St. Bernard.

Holy Thursday, April 2

This is the day which we have chosen *to make our Easter Duty*. It is true that we have the privilege of approaching the Holy Table every morning, but on Holy Thursday we wish to make reparation for the negligence of so many unfortunate Catholics, who refuse to receive their Creator at least once a year. We also offer our Communion in reparation for the outrages which, since the time of the traitor Judas, have unceasingly wounded the Heart of Jesus as well as in thanksgiving for the many times that we have received the Sacred Body and Blood of Christ since the day when He first took possession

of our hearts. On this happy anniversary of the institution of the Blessed Sacrament, we kneel before our Eucharistic King to thank Him for the innumerable graces and blessings which He has bestowed upon us and to beg forgiveness for our lack of generosity in returning Him the love which is His due.

Wednesday, April 8

In the course of the afternoon, we receive a visit from our beloved Mother. Several times since the arrival of the new postulants, she had planned to come to the Novitiate, but something always happened to hinder her from taking this trip. But at last the long-awaited day has arrived, and our Dovecot resounds with merry laughter. Our Mother says a word or two to each of our new little sisters, who are all very cheerful... "Cheerfulness is a good sign," our dear Mother tells them, "for where there is joy, there is also fervor..." As she is obliged to leave them for the rest of the day, she comes back again in the evening with a box of holy pictures, which is soon emptied, as the novices, also, are present.

After our Mother has addressed us a few kind words, we begin to tell her different little stories which she finds quite amusing.

Thursday, April 9

We have recreation all day long. When our dear Mother happens to come near where we are working, she stops for a few moments to speak to us, reminding us to labor unceasingly for our sanctification. "It is so easy," does she say, "to love God, surrounded as you are by beautiful nature. As everything speaks to you of the Creator, at every moment of the day, you should repeat these words: 'Thanks, thanks, dear God!'"

And following our Mother's advice, we express our gratitude to the God of heaven and earth for the tender love He shows us in calling us to live for Him alone.

Sunday, April 19

As the Feast of the Annunciation, this year, occurred during Passion Week, the Church transferred its solemnity to the second Sunday after Easter. So it is to-day that we consecrate ourselves anew as faithful slaves of the Blessed Virgin.

At half-past eight, we take our ranks outside in front of the Novitiate to greet our beloved Archbishop, who, on his way back from the Foreign Mission Seminary gives us his blessing. His Lordship was called this morning to ordain a young deacon who is evidently at death's door. This young missionary was to be ordained in June, but as he is obliged to undergo a serious operation, he has anticipated the happy day of his priestly anointing. He will leave for the hospital to-morrow... God alone knows if he will come back alive or in his coffin...

We fervently entreat Almighty God to cure this young priest, if such be for His greater honor and glory.

At the noon recreation our Mistress assigns each of us a certain mission which is to be the special object of our prayers and sacrifices. At first, the youngest among us are inclined to believe that the mission which falls to their lot is to be their future field of apostolate. But when our Mistress explains to them their obligation of praying for the missionaries in the territory assigned them, they resolve, at once, to be second guardian angels to their Sisters in the Missions.

Friday, April 24

One would wonder on seeing us entering the chapel to-night, why a happy smile beams on every countenance. It is because we perceive, on the wall, a new statue of the Infant Jesus — the prettiest one that we have ever seen. He is quite young, scarcely two years of age, and it seems that the Blessed Virgin has put on His nicest little gold-embroidered pink dress. A divine smile lights up His childish face. On His left arm, He carries a bundle of wheat and some grapes while His right hand is raised to bless us. How happy He seems to perform this act. And why is he so happy? Is it not because our beloved Mother addressed Him a beautiful prayer when she had these words written below His statue:

“ Dear little Jesus
bless us! ”

This is the prayer which springs to our lips each time that we gaze upon this adorable Child. Moreover, have we not already learned this prayer, when, years ago, kneeling in our long white nightgowns near our dear mother, our joined hands resting on her knees and our eyes tightly closed, we repeated

with childish fervor: "Dear little Jesus, bless us... bless Papa and Mamma, my little brothers and sisters, all those whom I love..."

Since then, days and years have gone by, but the habits of our childhood days ever remain. Ah! yes, dear Infant Jesus, how many times a day do you not hear us repeat the prayer of our childhood?... It is true that circumstances have caused us to change our expressions a little and to lengthen the list of those whom we wish to place under Divine protection, but is not the theme of our ardent supplication always the same? Yes, bless all those who are dear to us!...

Saturday, April 25

Reverend Father Tardif, who was ordained at the Foreign Mission Seminary, last Sunday, comes to celebrate Holy Mass in our chapel. He relates to us, in a few words, his miraculous cure after making a pilgrimage to St. Joseph's Shrine on the day of his ordination. After spending three days in the hospital, the doctors stated that there was no need of an operation and that after a good rest, he would be able to leave, next September, for the distant missions.

"Oh! how thankful I am to God," he said. "I asked Him to let me say but one Mass before dying, and instead of this, He has cured me and permitted me to celebrate seventy Masses more than my confreres."

Friday, May 1

The sunrise is beautiful this morning... The birds warble gayly in our pretty woods where little flowers blossom forth to greet the Queen of May.

And we, the privileged children of this beloved Mother, her humble missionaries, feel our souls filled with renewed ardor. Gladly would we hasten to the most obscure parts of the earth to sing her praises and make her known to all nations. But we are only humble novices whose hour has not yet come to labor in distant lands. Therefore, we shall content ourselves with offering her the few souls which we, by our prayers, win daily for her Divine Son.

Thursday, May 7

"Why, it is just like heaven here!" exclaimed a little four-year-old girl, who followed a few of the Sisters into our little grove to pick flowers. Dear little one, what you say is true, for it is really like a little corner of heaven. The scenery is magnificent: the blue sky which appears between the budding foliage, the limpid waters which flow close beside us, the little birds whose chirpings fill the air with the sweetest melodies, the immense carpet of green grass strewn with dainty little flowers, and amid all these charms of nature, this sweet little voice which is heard to exclaim: "It is just like heaven here!..." How pleasing must these words be to the Creator.

In union with this dear little one, we also, most loving Father, wish to praise and thank Thee for having made our earthly exile a little like unto paradise!...

Sunday, May 10

More than one hundred and thirty young ladies, all members of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin, come to our Novitiate to pay homage to their loving Patroness.

As we assisted at an early Mass, we leave our visitors our places in the chapel. During the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice by Reverend Father Dubé, C. S. S. R., these pious young ladies sing the praises of their beloved Queen and Mother.

We had prepared several tables in the garden for our guests, but as the weather was not at all favorable, they were obliged to remain indoors for breakfast. They leave us towards noon quite satisfied with their short visit to Mary's Dovecot.



As it is impossible for one who is not devoted to Mary, and consequently not protected by her, to be saved, so it is impossible for one who recommends himself to her, and consequently is beloved by her, to be lost.

St. Anselm.

After the love which we owe Jesus Christ, we must give the chief place in our heart to the love of his Mother Mary.

St. Alphonsus.



Votive lights in honor of the Blessed Virgin

*In the chapel of the Missionary Sisters
of the Immaculate Conception*

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

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

Thanksgivings to the Blessed Virgin for favors obtained

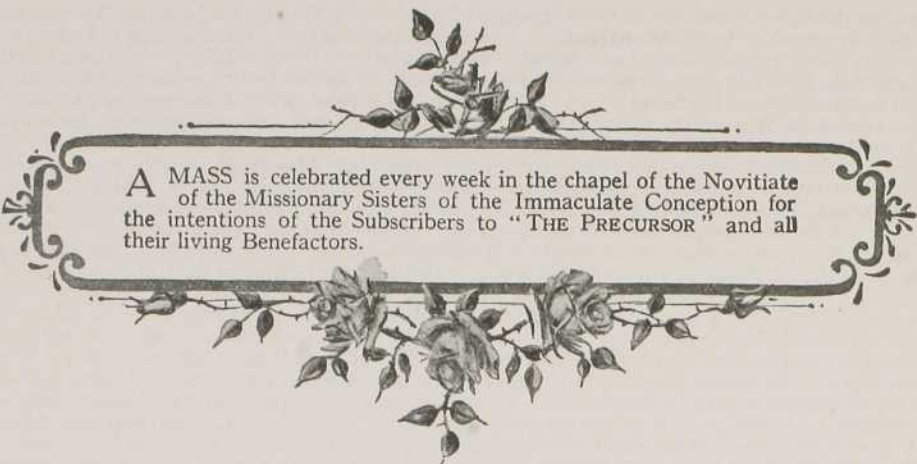


"O MARY, the entire universe would perish before you refuse your assistance to those who, with all their heart, implore your help and protection."

BL. HENRY SUZO.

I am sending \$5.00 in honor of the Blessed Virgin for the ransom of a Chinese baby in thanksgiving for a favor granted me. A subscriber, **Montreal**. — My most grateful thanks to our Blessed Lady and the Little Flower of Jesus for a favor received through their intercession. May they again come to my assistance by obtaining me a position. Mrs. J. M. S. My offering of \$5.00 for your missions in thanksgiving for having been preserved from danger. Mrs. L. C., **Quebec**. — As I no longer suffer from terrible pains in my head as formerly I am sending you my last payment to complete the promised sum of \$25.00. I am now asking for the cure of my two daughters. Mrs. G. G., **Manville, R. I.** — Enclosed you will find \$1.50 in thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart, the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph and St. Teresa for two favors. Please pray for my intentions. G. E., **Chambly**. — My most grateful thanks to the Blessed Virgin for having been cured through her intercession. Mrs. C., **Three Rivers**. — After subscribing to "THE PRECURSOR" for one year, I obtained a great favor for which I am most grateful. Mrs. J. A. L., **Three Rivers**. — I am gladly fulfilling a promise that I made to the Blessed Virgin by sending \$1.00 for the ransom of little pagan babies. A subscriber, **Montreal**. — I wish to thank the Blessed Virgin and the Little Flower for having protected me. Please accept this offering of \$2.00 in their honor. A. C., **Lachine**. — I am sending you a money order for \$5.00 in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. I promise to renew this offering if my husband is successful in securing a position. A subscriber, **Holyoke**. — The enclosed offering of \$5.00 is in thanksgiving to our Blessed Lady and St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a favor received through their intercession. A subscriber, **Montreal**. — My most grateful thanks to Mary Immaculate and the Little Flower of Jesus. This offering of \$1.00 is to help in your Works. Please pray that I may be granted the favor I am now asking. Mrs. H. B. — Please find enclosed the sum of \$5.00, which is a token of my gratitude for a favor obtained. Mrs. B. — Kindly accept this small offering which I am sending in honor of the Blessed Virgin to thank her for helping me in my studies. I beg this good Mother to continue to assist me that I may be successful in my examinations. A sodality member. — I have received a special favor through the intercession of our Blessed Lady. To thank her, I am sending an offering for the ransom of a Chinese baby likely to live. A. M., **Lachine**. — The enclosed sum of \$1.00 is a thank-offering to the Blessed Virgin. May this good Mother continue to bless and protect me. Mrs. A. L., **Montreal**. — I wish to return most grateful thanks to Our Blessed Lady and St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a favor obtained through their intercession. Please accept the enclosed offering for your Works. A subscriber, **Montreal**. — The Blessed Virgin has interceded for me and I have received many desired favors. To thank this good Mother, I am sending you an offering of \$6.00. Mrs. J. C., **Taunton**. — I am enclosing an alms in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. Please pray for our intentions. M. L. F. — In fulfilment of a promise made to the Blessed Virgin, I am forwarding the sum of \$4.00 for your missions. A subscriber, **Ottawa**. — I wish to return most grateful thanks to the Sacred Heart for the obtaining of a very special favor through the intercession of Our Blessed Lady and "The Little Flower of Jesus." I beg your prayers for the obtaining of some other favors. Mrs. A. P. — I am sending \$5.00 for your missions in fulfilment of a promise made some time ago. Mrs. A. V., **Montreal**. — Most grateful thanks to the Blessed Virgin for a cure obtained. A subscriber. — Please accept my offering of \$5.00 for the ransom of a Chinese baby in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. Please pray that my sons may be successful in their examinations. Mrs. M. C., **Ottawa**. — Some time ago I promised to send an offering of \$6.50. I am now gladly fulfilling my promise. A subscriber. — I am sending you two subscriptions to "THE PRECURSOR" in thanksgiving for a favor obtained after promising publication. Mrs. D. L., **Dalkeek**. — As a thank-offering to the Blessed Virgin, I am enclosing an alms for the missionaries. L. C. — Please accept this small offering which I am sending you in thanksgiving for a position obtained. Mrs. R. H. — I wish to return most heartfelt thanks for my child's restoration to health after I subscribed to "THE PRECURSOR". As I have obtained several favors, I hasten to send an offering in thanksgiving. Mrs. L., **Stanford**. — The enclosed offering is for a Mass to be celebrated in thanksgiving for a favor received. I beg your prayers that a young man may attend to his religious duties. Mrs. L. N. L. — Please accept the enclosed alms, my thank-offering for a favor granted me. Miss M. M., **Montreal**. — After praying to the Blessed Virgin, my father has been cured. In loving gratitude to this good Mother I am sending an offering of \$5.00. Mrs. H. L., **Te-cumseh**. — Praised be our all-merciful heavenly Mother for the conversion of one of my

uncles through the medium of her Miraculous Medal. It is thirty years since he has received the Sacraments. **A. A., Montreal.** — I promised publication of thanksgiving if I obtained a cure. My prayers have been heard. A subscriber. — While fulfilling a promise made some time ago, I beg your prayers for the obtaining of several favors, especially restoration to health. **Mrs. A. L., Sorel.** — As I have obtained a great favor, I am sending an offering for your missionary work. Anonymous. — A favor has been granted me after promising to subscribe to "THE PRECURSOR". **Mrs. A. V.** — Please accept my thank-offering of \$15.00 for the ransom of Chinese babies. A subscriber, **Montreal.** — My most grateful thanks to Mary Immaculate through whose intercession I obtained a favor. **Mrs. F. H. L., Montreal.** — I am sending you \$1.00 in thanksgiving for having been granted a special favor. I am now praying for another intention. Please ask God to hear my prayers. I will send \$2.00 a year in favor of your Works if He deigns to answer me. **Mrs. T. F., Pawtucket, R. I.** — In fulfilment of two promises made some time ago I am sending you \$6.00 for your Works. **Mrs. H. L., Tecumseh, Ont.** — Enclosed find an offering of \$1.00 for the Missions in thanksgiving for a favor. **Mr. F. H. M., Verdun, P. Q.** — I am writing to tell you that my husband has started to work. He is wearing the Miraculous Medal which you sent him. When he gets his first pay I will send you an offering for the Missions. **Mrs. J. A. F., Cote St. Paul.** — Enclosed please find a money order for \$3.00 in thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mary for a great favor received. I promised to send a donation if my husband obtained a position. Please pray that his work will be steady. **Mrs. J. F. L., Springfield, Mass.** — Enclosed please find the small offering I promised to send you for your Works. **J. A. F., Cote St. Paul.** — I am sending you a money order for \$2.00 in favor of your Missions in China. Several weeks ago I sent you \$1.00 for a novena of lights in honor of our Blessed Mother that we might be able to sell a new house that my husband had built for sale. We succeeded in selling this house. **Mrs. H. G. M., Norwick, Conn.** — Enclosed you will find \$1.00 for renewal of subscription to "THE PRECURSOR", \$5.00 for the ransom of dying Chinese babies sent by Mrs. Decoteau in thanksgiving for favors received, and \$5.00 sent by Mrs. Blanchet in thanksgiving for a cure. **Mrs. D. D., Montreal.** — Please accept my offering of \$2.00 for your good work. This is to fulfil a promise made. I have received the favor I desired. Please pray that I may be soon able to pay my debts. I will send you another donation if I obtain enough money for this purpose. **Mr. E. B., Kirkland Lake, Ont.** — My most grateful thanks to the Blessed Virgin for favors received after promising a donation of \$5.00. **Mr. and Mrs. A. B., Montreal.** — I am enclosing \$3.00 in honor of our Blessed Lady in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. **Mrs. D. L., Montreal.** — I am sending an offering of \$1.00 which I promised if my little girl regained her health. **Mrs. R. G., Vimy Ridge, Mines.** — In fulfilment of my promise I am sending you \$1.00 for your Works. **Mrs. E. L., Fall River.** — My offering of \$5.00 in honor of our Blessed Lady to thank her for a favor granted me through her intercession. I now beg this good Mother to cure a child suffering from bronchitis. **Mrs. E. D., Montreal.** — My daughter has secured a good position. In thanksgiving for this favor I am enclosing \$2.50. I promise to renew this offering if my husband and myself regain our health. **Mrs. A. P., Bridgeport.** — My humble offering in honor of our Mother of Mercy for a conversion obtained. **Mrs. H. C., Verdun.** — I am most grateful for a favor granted me. Kindly accept my renewal subscription to "THE PRECURSOR". May our Immaculate Mother continue to protect us. **Mrs. A. L., Montreal.** — My subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" in thanksgiving for several favors granted me. **Mrs. D. D.** — I wish to offer my most heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin and the Little Flower for a favor received through their intercession. **Mrs. A. B., Montreal.** — \$10.00 for the ransom of two Chinese babies in thanksgiving for a favor received. **M. E. R., Woonsocket.** — My most heartfelt gratitude to our Blessed Lady through whose intercession I have succeeded in finding tenants for my houses. Please accept this offering of \$6.00 for your missionary work. **D. S.** — To thank the Blessed Virgin for a favor granted me, I am enclosing \$5.00 for the Missions. **Mrs. T. P., Willimansett.** — Offering of \$1.00 to thank Almighty God for His goodness to me. **Mrs. J. D. A., Pelletiers Mills, N. B.** — My grateful thanks to the Queen of Heaven for a favor granted me through her intercession. May this loving Mother help me to keep my position. **Miss A. M. F., Montreal.** — I am sending an offering of \$10.00 in thanksgiving for success in an undertaking. **M. U. C.** — \$15.00 for your missions in thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a favor granted me. **Mrs. P. M.** — I have obtained a favor. Please accept my thank-offering of \$1.00. **Miss A. C., Quebec.** — My subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" in thanksgiving for a favor received. **Mrs. L. P.** — I return most heartfelt thanks to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and our Blessed Lady for a grace accorded me. **M. H. C., Three Rivers.** — As a token of gratitude to our Immaculate Mother for a favor granted me, I am sending you an offering of \$1.00. **J. L.** — I am gladly fulfilling my promise by sending you \$5.00 for your missions in China. I am making this offering in honor of our Immaculate Mother to thank her for a favor granted us through her intercession. A friend of missionaries. **Mrs. T. B. R., Montreal.** — I am most grateful to our Blessed Mother who has always come to my assistance. I now confidently ask her to grant that two persons very dear to me be converted. **Mrs. C. C., Woonsocket.** — I am subscribing to "THE PRECURSOR" to thank the Blessed Virgin for a favor she has obtained me. I am now asking for a position for my husband through her intercession. If I obtain this favor I promise to send an offering. **Mrs. G. D., Rosemount.**



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

Petitions

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

I am out of work. Please pray to the Blessed Virgin that I may be given my former position by the end of the week or obtain a new one. B. P., **Montreal**. — Please have all the Sisters pray that I may ever be kept safe from harm. I will send \$5.00 every year for the ransom of dying children in China as soon as I feel that a certain party will do me no harm. Mrs. A. P., **Hebronville, Mass.** — Please find enclosed the renewal of my subscription and \$1.00 for a Low Mass for the Souls in Purgatory in honor of our divine Lord, the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph and the Little Flower that I may obtain the grace of a happy death. Mrs. P. S., **Dublin, Ont.** — I wish all the Sisters would make a special novena for my intention. If I obtain the favor I am asking I will send \$5.00 for your Works. Mrs. H. F., **Ottawa East, Ont.** — I am enclosing here with my cheque for \$1.00 being my regular monthly offering towards your missions. May I ask you to continue to pray for a young man who is a heavy drinker and who has not been to Confession or Communion in seven years. I. M., **Montreal**. — Will you kindly ask our Blessed Lady and St. Teresa to obtain me a great favor which I have been asking for three years. I promise to subscribe to your review if I meet with success. Mrs. J. E. A., **Hull, P. Q.** — Kindly pray for me that I may sell my house so as to be able to pay my debts. I promise \$10.00 for the Missions. Mrs. M. C., **Montreal**. — I am enclosing .25 to have two candles burned in honor of our Blessed Lady. I beg this good Mother to help me to overcome our financial difficulties and that my husband may be taken back on the work he was doing. Mrs. T. C., **Fitzroy Harbor, Ont.** — May I ask you to make a novena and to burn a light every day in honor of the Blessed Virgin and St. Teresa for a very special intention. If I meet with success in a transaction I will send you a generous donation. J. M., **St. Sophie**. — Please pray that my husband may have steady work and that we may be successful in selling our property if God wills it. Mrs. W. J. C., **Chatham, Ont.** — Enclosed please find my renewal subscription and an offering of \$1.00 for your Works. May I ask you to commence a novena for the cure of my little girl's nose, throat and chest, also for another special intention. If I obtain these favors I will send a generous donation for the Chinese Missions. Mrs. F. K., **Longueuil, P. Q.** — Please ask the Sacred Heart to grant me some very special favors. B. P., **Montreal**. — Kindly make a novena for my husband that he may stop drinking. I will send you as much money as I can to help along your good Works. Mrs. I. P., **Leominster, Mass.** — Please accept the enclosed cheque for my intentions. R. S. W., **Fitchburg, Mass.** — I am writing to ask your prayers that my daughter may give up bad company and that I may have better health. Mrs. J. T. B., **Montreal**. — I am asking the Blessed Virgin to obtain me two great favors, the conversion of a sinner and success in finding a good home. I promise to subscribe to "THE PRECURSOR". Client. — I would like to sell my property and obtain a suitable position. Please pray for these intentions. I promise to send \$12.00 for your missionary works if I obtain these favors. L. D., **Windsor, Ont.** — I am coming in all confidence to ask the help of your prayers that I may be granted two special favors. I am a subscriber to "THE PRECURSOR". M. P. Q., **Frampton, P. Q.** — I am renewing my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR", asking our Blessed Lady to obtain steady work for my husband and health for myself. Mrs. A. J. M., **Meteghan**

Centre, N. S. — With the renewal of my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" please accept my regular monthly contribution towards your missions. Please remember me in your prayers and continue to pray for the young man I mentioned in previous letters. **I. M., Montreal.** — Please pray for a special request and have the little orphans pray that I may obtain this favor. I promise to send a donation for these poor children in the Missions if their prayers are answered. **Mrs. G. S., Breche a Manon, P. Q.** — I am enclosing an offering for the ransom of four dying babies. Please pray for my intentions. I promise to renew my offering if I obtain the favors I am asking. **Mrs. R. B., Windsor, Ont.** — Enclosed please find \$1.00 for the renewal of my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR". May I ask you to pray to the Sacred Heart, Our Blessed Lady and St. Therese for two special intentions of my husband and myself. **Mrs. H. E. M., Montreal.** — I beg your prayers to the Blessed Virgin that my father may be successful in selling his business and the mortgage that he holds. I will send a donation if he meets with success. **B. M., Carleton Place, Ont.** — I am sending you \$2.00 for the ransom of eight babies. Please pray for my special intention. **M. J. R., Toronto, Ont.** — I am writing to ask you to kindly pray for me. I would like to secure a permanent position as soon as possible. I will send you a donation as soon as I obtain this position. **A. E. A., Montreal.** — Enclosed find \$1.00 for lights to be burned before the statue of the Blessed Virgin for my intention. **F. G., Senneville, P. Q.** — Enclosed find \$1.00, an offering for the foreign missions. May I ask your prayers that a brother may secure a position, that a sister may have better health and that a nephew may be more successful in his studies. **M. G., Zurich, Ont.** — Enclosed please find cheque for \$1.00 for your Works. May I ask you to continue to pray that a young man may give up drink and make his Easter duty. **I. M., Montreal.** — Please make a novena for my intentions. If I obtain the favor I am asking I will continue to subscribe to "THE PRECURSOR" as long as I am able and will send a donation for your Works. **Mrs. J. M., Montreal.** — I am asking a special favor and beg your prayers for my intentions. Please make a novena to St. Joseph for me. Kindly accept this offering of \$1.00 for your Works. **Miss B. S., Cleveland, Ohio.** — Please make a novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary for my special intention. I am enclosing \$1.00 to help you in your good work. **Mrs. K. C., Sarnia, Ont.** — I am a new subscriber to "THE PRECURSOR" and ask your prayers for a special intention. Should this favor be granted, I promise a donation each month, also to continue to be a subscriber for many years to come. **Mrs. S. R., Ottawa, Ont.** — I humbly ask for prayers that, through our Blessed Lady's intercession, I may be cured of eczema on my hip. **Mrs. Mc G., Montreal.** — Please accept my humble offering in honor of the Blessed Virgin and St. Teresa. If I secure a particular position that I have in view, I promise \$10.00 for your needy missions in honor of the Blessed Virgin, \$5.00 for the Little Flower Bursar, \$1.00 a month for the rest of the year and a subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" for the next three years. I will also become an associate for three years. **R. D., Montreal.** — Please accept the enclosed offering of \$1.00 for your Missions. Please ask the Blessed Virgin to obtain me help and strength. **Miss C. D., Stratford, Ont.** — I am sending \$2.00 for "THE PRECURSOR". Please make a novena for me that I may have better health. I will send \$25.00 for your Works if I obtain this favor. **P. H., Dwyer Hill P. O., Ont.** — Enclosed please find \$2.00 for "THE PRECURSOR". Please pray to the Sacred Heart and Our Blessed Lady for my special intention. **E. M. W., Windsor, Ont.** — Please find enclosed \$2.00 which you may use as you see fit. Will you please say a prayer for my intentions. **H. J. T., Montreal.** — I beg the help of your prayers that my husband may obtain steady employment soon and that he may be cured of drink. I will send a donation in aid of the Chinese Missions as soon as possible. **Mrs. P. B., Hurdman's Bridge, Ont.** — I am enclosing \$2.00 for my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" as well as for a subscription for one year for a friend. Please commence a novena for a very special intention. **Mrs. L., Verdun.** — I confidently ask that my little girl be cured of nervous trouble. **Mrs. F. H. N., Verdun.** — I will send an offering of \$5.00 for your missions if our Blessed Lady relieves me from insomnia. **Miss S. B., Amherstburg.** — I promise to donate the sum of \$25.00 if I receive an answer to my prayers from Almighty God. **Mrs. C., Montreal.** — A mother asks prayers for her son addicted to drink. She also solicits a temporal favor and promises an offering of \$2.00 if she obtains both these favors. **M. O. L.** — I promise to subscribe to "THE PRECURSOR" for many years to come if I obtain a very great favor through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph. **Mrs. T. V.** — I am asking for several favors. If I obtain them all I will send an offering of \$5.00 and subscribe to "THE PRECURSOR" for six years. A future subscriber, **Montreal.** — If I secure a position I will send an offering for the ransom of a Chinese baby. **P. L., Montreal.** — I am a poor mother of eight young children. I am asking for sufficient health to bring up all these little ones. **Mrs. J. B.** — I beg the Blessed Virgin and the Little Flower to obtain my little girl health and to cure my son who has very poor eyesight. I also desire three other favors. I promise to subscribe to "THE PRECURSOR" for five years if I obtain these favors. **Mrs. S. B.** — I promise a sum of money for the next departure of missionaries if I obtain a position and another favor. A subscriber, **Montreal.** — I promise to send the price of the ransom of four dying Chinese babies if I secure a position. **L. L., Montreal.** — A special favor is solicited. I promise an offering of \$10.00, and as long as I am able, a yearly donation of \$5.00 for the ransom of a Chinese baby likely to live. A subscriber. — I desire that my husband and daughter obtain positions and that we may be successful in our under-

takings. I promise to subscribe to "THE PRECURSOR" and to send an offering for a novena of lights. Anonymous. — I promise twenty-five new subscriptions to "THE PRECURSOR" and a substantial sum of money if the Blessed Virgin and the Little Flower deign to cure me and obtain me another temporal favor. M. B. L. T. — I promise to give a donation of \$10.00 if, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin and St. Therese, I make a successful sale. Anonymous, **Waterloo**. — A mother solicits prayers for her little girl whose eyesight is very poor. Mrs. J. A. D., **Gardner, Mass.** — I am asking Our Lady of the Missions to intercede for me and obtain my cure. I promise to send an offering and to make publication. Mrs. A. B. — A generous offering is promised for the obtaining of a great favor. Mrs. J. S., **Montreal**. — I solicit some very special favors for myself and family. A subscriber. — An afflicted person asks prayers for a brother who has become a drunkard and has left his wife. — A special favor is solicited. Anonymous. — I am sending \$1.00 in thanksgiving for a favor granted me and promise a second offering if I obtain another. A subscriber. — With the renewal of my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" I am enclosing an offering of .25. I hope to obtain a special grace through our Blessed Lady's intercession. Mrs. T. G., **Verner**. — I solicit health for my husband and the successful sale of a piece of land. Mrs. H. G., **Te-cumseh, Ont.** — I am asking the grace to know my vocation and will make an offering of \$5.00 as soon as I receive an answer to my prayers. A subscriber, **Montreal**. — I promise \$5.00 for your Works and to subscribe to "THE PRECURSOR" for five years if, through the intercession of our Blessed Lady and the Little Flower, I obtain the means to meet financial difficulties and if my husband secures a position. Mrs. C. C., **Montreal**. — I beg our merciful heavenly Mother and St. Joseph to intercede for us and to obtain my husband a position. A. F., **Montreal**. — I promise \$5.00 for the ransom of a pagan baby likely to live, an offering for a High Mass and a subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" if I recover a certain sum of money. M. J. L. — I am asking our Immaculate Mother to grant me a favor and promise an offering of \$1.00 if I receive a speedy answer to my prayers. Miss L. L., **Thetford Mines**. — I beg your prayers for the cure of sore feet as well as for two other special intentions. If I obtain the favors I am asking I promise to renew my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR". Miss Y. L. — I solicit health for myself and a permanent position for a friend. Miss E. P., **Montreal**. — I promise to subscribe to "THE PRECURSOR" for five years if my aged parents obtain the favor they are asking. Mrs. A. P.



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



NECROLOGY

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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.