

# THE PRECURSOR



Vol. VIII., 10th Year

MONTREAL, JULY-AUGUST, 1932

No. 10

# **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. Workroom 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.

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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.

### **GRANBY, P. Q., 285 Main St. (Founded in 1931)**

Hostel "The Immaculate Conception" for young girls.

(Continued on page 3 of the cover)



## Please Help the Missionary Sisters

of the Immaculate Conception

*By procuring work for them.*

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

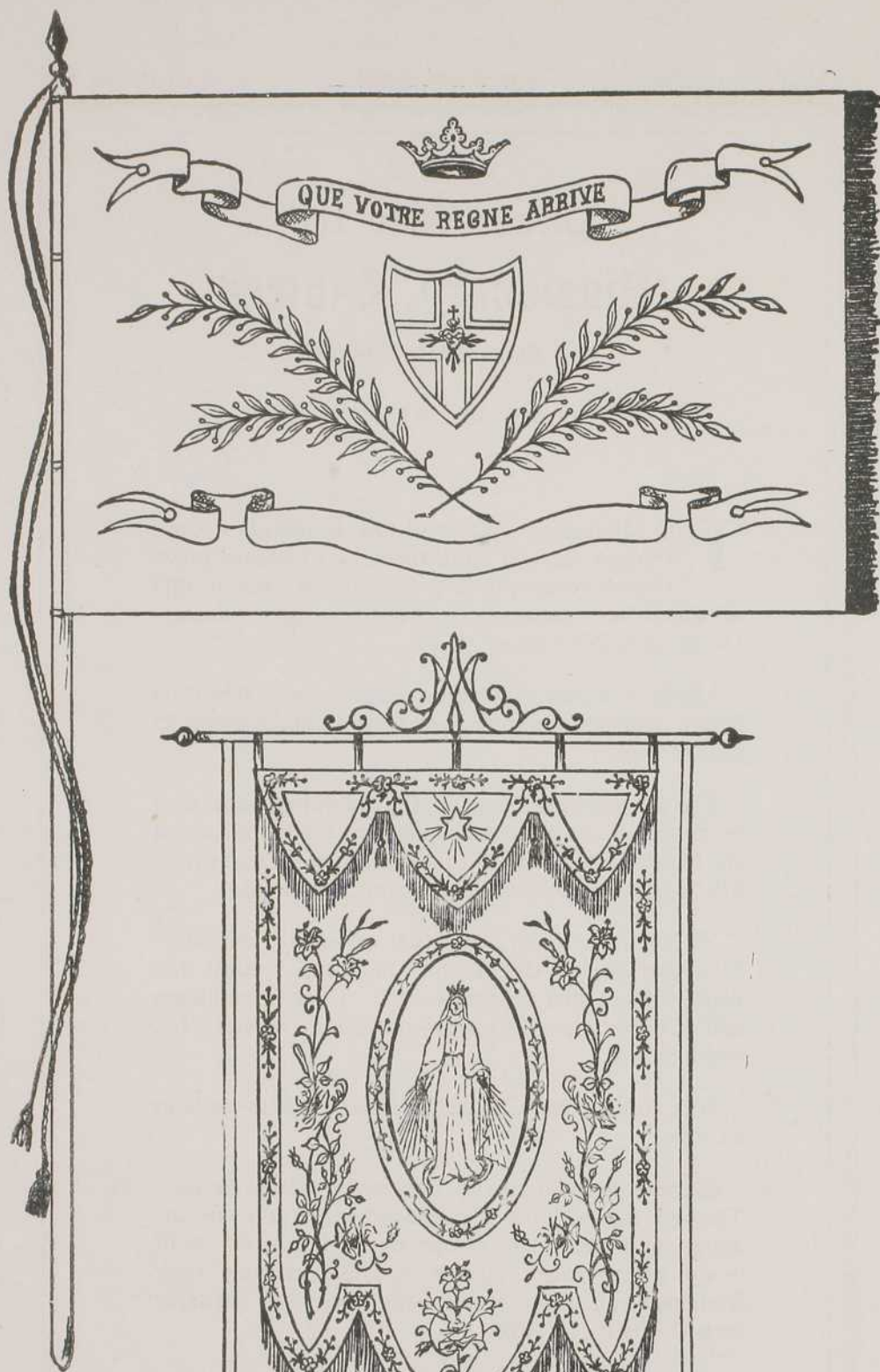
Missionaries must undergo several years' preparation before being able to commence their apostolic labors in foreign fields.

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

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

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

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





## Kindly Read Attentively

Chasuble, damask silk, silk braid .....	\$ 18.00 and \$ 28.00		
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"    gold-cloth, gold braid and emb.	50.00	"	75.00
"    fine gold - cloth, very richly hand embroidered .....	90.00	"	150.00
Dalmatics, per pair .....	50.00	"	80.00
"    gold-cloth, per pair .....	100.00	"	150.00
Benediction Veils .....	7.00	"	upwards
Cope, damask silk, silk or gold braid.....	30.00	"	50.00
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"    gold-cloth, gold - embroidered by hand with a beautiful emblem.....	90.00	"	150.00
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We supply Altar-breads at the following prices:

Small .....	\$1.20 per 1000
Large .....	0.40 " 100

## Practical Means

### of helping the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

#### *By contributing alms to:*

The erection of the Novitiate Chapel dedicated to  
Our Lady of the Missions .....  
The erection of Chapels in mission countries.....

#### *By providing for the:*

Annual supply for the upkeep of the sanctuary lamp in our houses of Canada and in mission countries	\$ 20.00
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Annual support of a maiden-catechist.....	50.00
Annual support and education of an orphan.....	40.00
Foundation of a crib—in perpetuity .....	200.00
Annual care of a leper.....	60.00
Monthly upkeep of a crib.....	5.00
Ransom of a baby, likely to live .....	5.00
Ransom of a dying baby.....	.25
Monthly support of a missionary sister .....	10.00
Monthly support of a novice preparing for the mis- sions.....	10.00
Annual subscription to THE PRECURSOR .....	1.00

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

\* \* \*

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





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"O IMMACULATE MOTHER, PROTECT OUR BENEFACTORS!"



# THE PRECURSOR

Published by the  
**Missionary Sisters**  
of the Immaculate Conception

*with the approbation of the Archbishop of Montreal*

Vol. VII, 10th Year

Montreal, July-August 1932

No. 10

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### Petition to St. Ann

*Within thy hallowed shrine there lies  
The mystery of mysteries,  
Blessed art thou of human race,  
And thy child, Mary, full of grace,  
Who pleads for us when life is done,  
And gave to earth her only Son,  
Our Father of the Trinity,  
Ask him to heal and strengthen me.*

—ADELINE LUCY.



# The Shrine of Our Lady of China

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## The Centre of Pilgrimages in the Land of the Bluegowns.

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In the little town of Tonglu situated not far to the south of Peking, in the Province of Hopeh, there is a beautiful shrine where the Blessed Mother is invoked under the title of "Our Lady of China". This little hamlet where, a century ago, not a single Christian was to be found and where to-day there are 4,000 or more with the number always growing, has an interesting history in connection with the origin and growth of this shrine of Our Lady.

All the pagans of Tonglu were struck with awe on February 11, 1840, when a mysterious glowing cross appeared to them. Unable to explain the significance, they sent envoys to the neighbouring towns and it was then learned that the cross was the symbol of the Christian religion and that on that very day a missionary had been put to death, Blessed Gabriel Perboyre. Immediately Christianity began to penetrate into the region and, from that time onward, increased steadily notwithstanding difficulties of all sorts.

During the Boxer persecutions in 1900, the vision of a beautiful Lady all clothed in white appeared to Christians and pagans above the walls of Tonglu. The Boxers, frightened by the apparition, did not dare touch the refugees who were harboured in the city. When the revolutionary strife was over a large new church was constructed and dedicated as a shrine to Our Lady for having protected the region. Over the main altar was placed a picture which Father Flament, C. M., had painted, in which the Blessed Mother is represented in the raiment of an eastern princess and in a posture which satisfies at the same time both piety and art.

The Council of Shanghai in 1924 gave this painting the title of "Our Lady of China" and caused copies of it to be spread through all the missions together with a prayer for the conversion of the country.

In 1928 the Chinese had another proof of the maternal benevolence of their heavenly Protectress. When the army of the South was advancing on Peking, the army of Chang-Tso-Lin had to fall back and retreat from the city. Everywhere along their line of retreat they left destruction and death. More than 300,000 people took refuge in Tonglu and in the neighbourhood, and all of them were providentially protected. From that time on the devotion to Our Lady of China has increased rapidly. The pilgrimages to-day are many. The Apostolic Delegate himself inaugurated them in 1930, and many mission ordinaries have led their faithful to this shrine of Our Lady at Tonglu.

(Fides.)



A TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF

**Mgr. M. T. Labrecque**

TITULAR BISHOP OF HELENOPOLIS, — FORMERLY BISHOP OF CHICOUTIMI,

WHO DIED AT CHICOUTIMI, JUNE 3RD 1932

IN HIS 83RD YEAR

To testify their gratitude, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception are offering fervent prayers for the repose of the soul of His Excellency Bishop Labrecque. This esteemed prelate took a fatherly interest in their humble Community and gave their missionary works his whole-hearted support, as we may gather from the following lines which he addressed, in 1915, to the Superior of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception:

*Chicoutimi, February 18, 1915.*

REVEREND MOTHER,

*Quite willingly do I give you permission to visit the principal boarding-schools of the diocese of Chicoutimi in the praiseworthy aim of finding subjects who feel themselves called to the missionary life. I wish you success and would be pleased to bless you personally.*

*Devotedly yours in Christ,  
† M. T. Bp. of Chicoutimi.*

May this devoted prelate, now that he has reached the heavenly abode, guard and protect the little Community of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, whom his worthy successor, His Excellency Bishop Lamarche, has deigned to establish in his diocese.



# Pagans of Indo China Carry Cross in Solemn Procession.

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Witnessing a whole pagan village carrying the Cross in a solemn Buddhist procession was the strange experience of a Catholic missionary of the Vicariate of Phat Diem, Indo China. One day, while passing through a pagan village, he found the houses draped in festive style while a procession moved through the streets. There was a band of clashing cymbals, tambourines, flutes and mandolins, followed by an important personage in full dress and, behind him, a large cross of wood held under rich parasols of yellow stuff, the royal colour of the country. A crowd of villagers followed in the rear.

The priest, naturally intrigued by the sight, stopped and watched the strange parade until it was ended and the cross was carried back to the pagoda. Then he asked the reason for it. "Once upon a time," the village folk told him, "we saw Christians carrying a Cross in procession when they were suffering from hard times; we tried the same and had excellent results. This year, since we are considerably hard put, we decided to have the procession of the cross again." The priest lost no time in questioning these people and asking them whether they should not like to be Christians really, rather than just imitate them. "Certainly," they answered, "in fact, several years ago our village was ready to be converted and a travelling missionary came to the pagoda at our request to speak to us, but he had no sooner gone away when the elders of the village decided that it would be better to wait a bit before being converted."

The conversion of this village will swell the number of Annamite Catholics in this province of Tanh-Hoa, where there are 35,000 Catholics in a total population of a million and a half.

(Fides.)

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## Congratulations

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To Monsignor Fraser, founder of St. Francis Xavier Foreign Mission Seminary at Scarboro' Bluffs, Ont., we offer our hearty congratulations on the honor that has been conferred upon him by His Holiness Pius XI, in recognition of the work he has accomplished in the district of Chuchow, China.

## New Canadian Bishop

Born at St. Hermas on July 27th, 1880, His Excellency Mgr. J. L. A. Lapierre made his classical studies at Ste. Thérèse and completed his theological course at the Seminary in Montreal. Ordained priest on July 8th, 1906, he was in turn curate at Longueuil, chaplain at St. Jean de Dieu Hospital and at Pointe aux Trembles. He entered the Foreign Mission Seminary at Pont Viau immediately after it was founded on February 2nd, 1921. On September 11th, 1925, he left for Manchuria, where his numerous apostolical labors have yielded abundant fruit for the greater glory of God and for the welfare of the Church. The priests of the Foreign Mission Seminary of Pont Viau are actually in charge of sixteen mission stations.



HIS EXCELLENCY MGR. J. L. A. LAPIERRE,  
OF THE FOREIGN MISSION SEMINARY, WHO HAS BEEN RAISED  
TO THE EPISCOPATE AND APPOINTED VICAR APOSTOLIC  
OF SZEPINGKAI, MANCHURIA, CHINA.

The district of Szepingkai, which was made a prefecture apostolic on August 2nd, 1929, was confided to the Society, and on February 19th, 1930, His Excellency Mgr. Lapierre was appointed Prefect Apostolic. On the 24th of May, word was sent from Rome, announcing that the new prefecture apostolic, to which the Sacred Congregation had added a portion of the Jehol Vicariate, was constituted a vicariate apostolic, and that His Excellency Mgr. Lapierre was named Vicar Apostolic.

The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception offer to His Excellency Mgr. Lapierre their lively congratulations. May he spend many long years of fruitful service in the mission district confided to his care.

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O Mary, vessel of purest gold, ornamented with pearls and sapphires, filled with grace and virtue, thou art the dearest of all creatures to the eyes of eternal wisdom.

*Bl. Henry Suso.*



# The Mentality of the Chinese

By Shin-Lou-Ti

(Continued)

After the death of *Chouen*, the people ceased to have recourse to *Chang-Ti*. When religion is entirely banished from a country, its inhabitants naturally practise superstition... Thus it was that every imaginable spirit was soon looked upon as a deity. The doctrine of *Ca-Kia-mou-ni*, which was established in India in the fifth century B. C., spread into China soon after the birth of Christ. The aboriginal tribes, finding that they had not a sufficient number of false gods, soon thought of worshipping a number of others. *Heou-tsi*, the son of *Kiang-iuen*, the founder of the *Tcheou* dynasty, was regarded as the god of agriculture. In a very ancient book, he is spoken of as rendering abundant the crops of wheat and rye, which the Supreme Emperor wished to be the food of the people.

Rice, the chief food of the Chinese, is not mentioned, for at this time the *Han* tribe settled in the northern part of China, where but little rice is grown. In Southern China, however, fields of rice are to be seen almost everywhere.

There are two texts in the *Se-chou*, the meaning of which has never been grasped by Chinese commentators. In this same book, *Chang Ti* is mentioned.

Confucius once remarked that the country was soon to be ruled by a very wise man whose manner of governing would be pleasing to all. The emperor who first put into practice the doctrine of *Ca-Kia-mou-ni* was at once recognized as the ruler spoken of by Confucius.

The Chinese have always been faithful to offer sacrifices to the idols and especially to the spirits of their ancestors. When the ceremony is over, the meat and other food which has been placed on little tables, is eaten by devout Buddhists.

It is related that Confucius offered sacrifices to the spirits and assisted at all the ceremonies held in their honor.

*Tse-Kong*, who once refused to sacrifice a lamb to the gods, was immediately reprimanded by Confucius. The laws of this great philosopher are observed to this very day in China. The animals offered as a holocaust to the idols are always of the same color. *Tcheou*, the son of *Ouen*, was not in favor of worshipping the Supreme Emperor and the spirits of his ancestors. He openly declared that not until his father had died would he offer a sacrifice in the temple. Once he was chosen as emperor, he decided to wage war against *Chang*, and, being victorious, he placed an offering before the tablets of his ancestors.

Nearly all the emperors acted as high-priests. In the Annals, it is stated that all the emperors of the *In-Chang* dynasty were zealous sacrificers.

When the city of *Lo* was founded, *Tcheou-Kong* advised the emperor *Tch'en* to follow the example set him by his predecessors. A messenger was sent to *Tcheou* with two urns of wine, which were kept to be offered,





TEMPLE OF THE FIVE HUNDRED GENII.

later on, to the emperors *Ouen* and *Ou*. About the same time, a bull was offered to these same emperors in the temple of their ancestors.

*Tcheou-Kong* once chided his officers for neglecting to worship their ancestors. The emperors of the *Tcheou* dynasty were the only rulers who remembered to offer sacrifices to the different spirits.

One writer has mentioned that the working-people were careful to choose their very best millet and the fattest of their lambs to offer them as a sacrifice to the earth, which they regarded as a spirit, and to the four Cardinal Points. They held celebrations in honor of *Heou-tsi*, the god of agriculture, to whom they appealed when rain was needed for their crops. Many peasants still offer sacrifices to the god of the harvest every year.

While *Heou-Tsi* was still upon earth, the people believed that it was he who distributed the different kinds of grain, especially their millet. At the opening of the year, they offered large dishes of roast beef to the spirits dwelling in the different districts of the country, believing that by so doing they were pleasing the Supreme Emperor.

Since the time of *Che-Kin*, the Chinese have respected the rites which their ancestors were always careful to observe.

When the ancient emperors noticed the Milky Way appear in the sky, they were disconsolate, for, as there were no clouds, they knew they could expect no rain. Convinced that their subjects had committed some crime in order to draw the vengeance of heaven upon themselves, they never ceased offering sacrifices to all the spirits they had ever invoked. The people themselves wondered why the gods turned a deaf ear to all their entreaties.

*Che-Kin* tells us that the emperor who acts as a high-priest, always dons a spotless silk gown. After examining the different victims offered, he fills a large pitcher with delicious wine.

#### THE CREATION

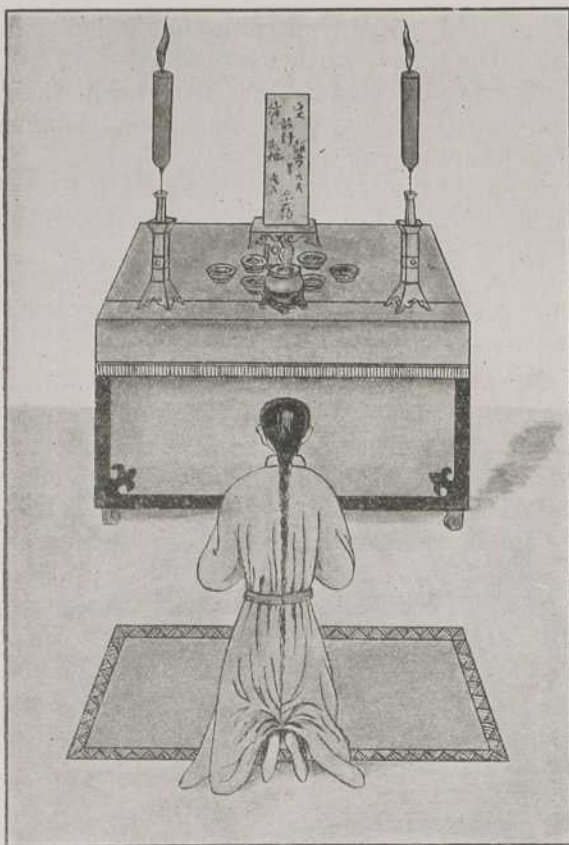
Confucius, in one of his books, speaks of the Creation. He remarks that the sky is only a little light, but that the sun, moon and stars are to be found on its surface; that the earth is nothing but clay, but it nevertheless yields all kinds of vegetation; that the mountains are composed of stone, but that they yield precious minerals and afford a place of shelter for numerous animals; and that although the seas contain only water, precious stones are to be found in their depths, and dragons and turtles live therein.

In the *Annals of Iue*, it is stated that in the *Tcheou* dynasty, there will be three emperors, *T'ai-che*, *T'ai-fou* and *T'ai-pao* who will teach the other rulers how to govern the country wisely.

In the book of poetry, we read that the Supreme Emperor, the king of the nations, is a stern ruler, and that his subjects are very weak. The author exhorts the people to be kind and not to give way to their angry passions. The *Annals* state that every creature is good when born, but soon becomes wicked.

*Kao-tse*, a famous Chinese philosopher, compared human nature to an elm tree, and the good accomplished by man, to a vase carved from the





A WORSHIPPER KNEELING BEFORE AN  
ANCESTRAL TABLET.

wood of the same tree. He declared that succeeding in getting a human being to shun evil was like carving a handsome vase. He also compared human nature to a stream, which always runs in the same direction.

*Mengtse*, however, was not of the same opinion. In one of his books, he states that man is inclined to do good. He goes on to say that if a man refuses to avoid evil, it is not because he is naturally wicked, but because something has been put in his way.

#### THE ANCESTORS

The worship of ancestors is very common in China. There is not a Chinese scholar who has neglected mentioning it in his different literary productions.

The *Se-chou* states that Confucius greatly esteemed the emperor *Chouen* because he was respectful to his parents. King *Ouen*, also, is highly praised for his fidelity in worshipping his ancestors.

In every Chinese dwelling, one room, known as the *T'ang-ou*, serves as a sort of chapel. On a small table are to be found the ancestral tablet, a few idols and some incense. All guests are invited to repair to this room to adore the idols.

The *Annals* state that it was in the temple of his ancestors that *Chouen* vacated his seat. After visiting different places in the empire, this faithful follower of Confucius returned to the same temple to there offer up a bull in sacrifice to the gods.

How mysterious has this temple dedicated to the ancestors always been! Full of respect for *Ouen-Ouang*, whom they believe is already enjoying eternal bliss, all the worshippers reverently bow before the tablet which has been erected in his honour. While the ceremonies are going on, they imagine that their illustrious ancestors are in their midst.

In a book entitled "*Ta-ia*" the worship of ancestors is often mentioned. The author exhorts his fellow countrymen to live peaceful lives.



After each sacrifice offered to the spirits of the ancestors, a banquet is held. All the old men are given seats, while the young people simply squat down on mats. While wine is being distributed to all the guests, songs are sung and drums beaten.

The one chosen to offer the sacrifice to the spirits of the departed is known as the *che*, that is, the representative of the ancestors. He is regarded as having the power of calling the spirits back to earth in order to partake of the banquet.

"The *che* has come to assist at a banquet," states an ancient author, "he has come to have a good time. Let him eat and drink and make merry... How delicious is all the food set before him! Oh! let him eat and drink, so that misfortune will be with us no longer!"

The following passage written by the same author, bespeaks his respect for his ancestors: "My granaries are filled to overflowing. I have grain to sell and to offer in sacrifice. I shall prepare a rich banquet for the *che*, and thus be pleasing to him. Reverently will I sprinkle all the victims before offering them in sacrifice. The ancestors present at the ceremony will rejoice on seeing the different kinds of food prepared for them. They will praise the *che* and grant him prosperity."

On an altar in the centre of the temple are placed several tablets, upon which are written the names of the ancestors. The poor simply write these names on a large sheet of red paper.

The emperor T'chen speaks thus to *Ou*, his father, who has been dead for some years: "The princes have arrived to seek your advice, *Ou-ouang*... I have asked them to place offerings before the tablet set up to honor my father, in order that I may have a long life and never lose my power."

After each ceremony, at least seven tablets are placed in the temple. When the eldest member of a family dies, his relatives remove one of these tablets. Sometimes, however, they are never touched after being placed in the temple. The removal of these slabs does not mean that the ancestors are afterwards forgotten. On the contrary, they are spoken of more than ever before. Their names are carefully inscribed in a book along with many others, and when it comes time for a ceremony, bundles of paper money are burned on their graves.

On the first day of the year, everyone must offer some kind of a sacrifice. We read in the Annals that on this day *Chouen* was in the habit of repairing to one of the temples erected for ancestral worship. Records of births, marriages and deaths are placed before the different tablets. Newly-married couples make a *tso-i* (bow) and lie prostrate before these tablets, which they regard as sacred.

Ancestral worship in various temples was organized by *I*, a Chinese scholar, who was advised by *Chouen* to act prudently. Towards the year 2250 B. C., *Chouen* commanded *K'ouei* to teach the young emperors to be polite, kind and modest, and to explain to the people the value of music. When *Chouen* declared that without music it was impossible to be always on good terms with the spirits, *K'ouei* exclaimed: "I shall play such lively tunes that all hearts will beat fast with joy." Music has charms to soothe

the gods, according to ancient writers; it induces the spirits to descend to earth. One spirit in particular is spoken of as coming, as soon as the first notes of a musical instrument are played, to congratulate the worshippers in the numerous pagodas for observing the rites so well. For this reason, the Chinese always insist on having music played during the different ceremonies. In order to have sufficient music in each pagoda, the bonzes invite an orchestra to play for them.

When *Ki*, the son of *Iu*, wished to subdue his enemies, he brought with him several tablets and idols. He remarked that his faithful followers would be rewarded by the gods, while his persecutors would be despised by the spirits of his ancestors.

*T'ai K'ang*, unlike the other emperors, was very disrespectful towards his ancestors and neglected offering sacrifices in their honor. For this reason, he was looked down upon by his subjects. *Mengtse* taught the people that it was necessary to offer some kind of sacrifice to their ancestors and that to worship the spirits of their dead relatives was worth more than all that they had ever done for them while they were still alive. It is related in the Annals, that *Ki*, a young prince whom a tyrant by the name of *Tcheou* sought to kill, was warned by *Ki-tse*, his uncle, to flee from the country. *Ki-tse* did all in his power to save the life of his nephew, who had always been faithful to the worship of the ancestors.

The sacrifices offered by the Chinese in the cemeteries are the same to-day as those of former years. *Che-Kin* gives the people the following advice: "Prepare sacrifices in honor of *Iao*, *Se*, *Tchen* and *Tch'ang* (the four seasons) if you wish the ancestors to grant you prosperity." Many of his followers offered wine to *Che* and his guests, believing that by so doing they would live for at least a hundred years.

Several blind musicians play the most lively tunes at each ceremony. They remain in the vestibule of the temple, where a large bell has been placed. *Song* speaks highly of these blind beggars, who earn their living by playing for their ancestors.

The Chinese believe that in return for honoring their dead, they will be given all kinds of earthly treasures. In the Annals, *P'an-Ken*, the seventeenth emperor of the *Chang* dynasty, is spoken of as leaving *Ho-lan* to settle in the province of *In*, in order to be preserved from the floods caused by the overflowing of the Yellow River. He assured his subjects that every government official who showed them the least injustice, would be severely punished by the ancestors.

In ancient times, all those who were faithful to worship their ancestors, naturally believed in the immortality of the soul. The rites are the same at present as they were three thousand years ago, but the Chinese of to-day have a strange notion of death. They believe that the soul dies at the same time as the body.

( To be continued )





## The Assumption

*It was the dawn. The gold and silver light  
Came climbing o'er the mountains of the world;  
The sun's fire fought and conquered all the night;  
Earth with her heavenly dews gleamed diamond bright;  
And in the silent tomb, far from men's sight,  
The Mystic Rose her petals soft uncurled.*

*The Messengers Angelic, swift, serene,  
To fetch the fairest flower God made to bloom  
Came with love's haste; they culled, by man unseen,  
The blossom God desired; they raised their Queen  
In spirit hands, and passed the clouds between,  
Leaving all empty that once happy tomb.*

*O Rose of Sharon, sweet thy passing rest  
Within those walls that could not prison thee!  
Thy scent shall linger on the cold stone blest,  
Where for a few short hours thy light weight pressed,  
Thou couldst not wither, for in God's own Breast  
Thou art to bloom for all Eternity!*

— Selected.



# Benediction

## of the Blessed Sacrament

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St. Philip once beheld our Lord in the Host at Exposition giving benediction to the kneeling crowd, as if it were the natural attitude and customary occupation of His goodness in the Blessed Sacrament. It would be difficult to find words to express the greatness or the reality of the graces which our dear Lord imparts to us at Benediction. They fall not only on the cares and sorrows, the troubles and temptations, the faults and unworthiness, which we venture to spread before Him at the moment; but they light also on all the weak points of our soul of which we ourselves are ignorant, and on our present circumstances, the danger of which we are unable to perceive, and on the evil spirits around us, making them stupid and nerveless, and on our dear Guardian Angel, rewarding him for his charitable toils and enlightening and invigorating him in his blessed office. We must remember also that the grace of Benediction is not only in the faith and love which it excites in our souls, great as is that boon, but that it comes from Him, solid, powerful, and substantial, purifying and creative, because it participates in the reality of the Blessed Sacrament itself. Everything which has to do with this mystery enters behind the veils into this awful reality, and thus has a characteristic life, which is like nothing else in our devotions. In this reality lies the attraction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Gospels mention three especial benedictions of our Lord, and to some one or other of these we may spiritually unite all the Benedictions of the Blessed Sacrament which we receive.

One while He blesses little children, as in the tenth chapter of St. Mark, and we may in spirit prostrate ourselves beneath the shadow of His outstretched sacramental arms as if we were little ones, and desired nothing so much from Him as an increase of that childlike simplicity, with which He Himself is so intensely pleased. Again, we read that at the Ascension when He was parted from the Apostles, He lifted up His hands and blessed them, and at once their sorrow was turned into exceeding joy, and their timidity into bravest zeal for souls. There are times and duties when we are fain to have these graces of joy and zeal multiplied in our sad and weary souls. Again, there is the Doomsday benediction which He describes Himself as giving: "Come, ye blessed of My Father, enter into the kingdom prepared for you before the foundation of the world." We may unite ourselves to this benediction to obtain the grace of final perseverance, the dearest of His gifts because it is one so altogether His. There are some, if I may dare to recommend a practice myself, who are so overwhelmed with the extent and variety of their own wants and of our Lord's gifts, that at the moment of Benediction, they bow their heads, and, at each sound of the bell, repeat that prayer of one of the saints of the desert: "As Thou knowest

and willest, Lord !" and then add, remembering that we are blessed that moment by the very substance which was taken from Mary these words of the office, "And all kinds of purity with her !" as if these two ejaculations concentrated all they had to say, and all they would fain in that brief moment lay before the Sacred Heart of their dear Redeemer.

— *Father Faber.*

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## His Excellency Bishop Monaghan

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Reverend P. J. Monaghan, Pastor of St. Patrick's Parish, Fort William, Ont., was recently appointed Bishop of Calgary, Alberta. The new prelate, who succeeds His Excellency Right Reverend John T. Kidd, Bishop of London, Ont., is a native of St. Lin, Co. Joliette, P. Q.

Bishop Monaghan made his classical studies at Bourget College, Rigaud, and studied theology at the Grand Seminary, Montreal, where he was ordained priest on July 4th, 1909. For the first twelve years after his ordination, he remained in the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie, under the jurisdiction of His Excellency Bishop Scollard.

In the Diocese of Calgary, there are about fifteen thousand Catholics.

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## Another Chinese Bishop Consecrated, Bishop Chang, Vicar Apostolic of Chaosien

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His Excellency, Bishop John Chang, Vicar Apostolic of Chaosien, Hopeh Province, China, was consecrated April 24, at Chaosien, by His Excellency, Bishop Hubert F. Schraven, C. M., Vicar Apostolic of Chengtingfu. The city was transformed into a gallery of triumphal arches for the occasion, and Papal flags waved with Chinese flags in the decorations.

(Fides.)

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Devotion to the Mother of Our Lord is not an ornament to the Catholic system, a prettiness, a superfluity, or even a help, one out of many, which we may or may not use. It is an integral part of Christianity. Our Lady is a distinct ordinance of God, and a special means of grace. She is the neck of the mystical body, uniting all the members with their Head and thus being the channel and dispensing instrument of all graces.

*Father Faber.*





*Section des Dames*

**A L'ŒUVRE  
POUR LES MISSIONS!  
OUVROIR DE COATICOOK**

PRÉSIDENTE : MME ALFRED ROUSSEAU



*Section des jeunes gens*



*Section des jeunes filles*

WORKROOM IN COATICOOK. PRESIDENT: MRS. ALFRED ROUSSEAU.



## A Word of Thanks

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The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, through the medium of the Precursor, desire to express their heartfelt gratitude to the members of the Sewing Circle "St. Teresa of the Child Jesus", of Coaticook, and especially to their President, Mrs. Alfred Rousseau, who is so zealous in assisting their missionary works.

Since the year 1927, the devoted members of this Sewing Circle have sent to the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, for the children in their foundling-homes and orphanages, 12,927 articles of clothing, 172 articles for the poor chapels in their missions, and the sum of \$467.00. These figures bespeak the zeal of these kind ladies. The humble Missionaries in China are most grateful for the articles sent them for the poor little waifs snatched from paganism, these little ones to whom Our Lord referred when he said: "Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it to one of these, My least brethren, you did it to Me."

May the supplications arising from the grateful hearts of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and the childish prayers of their numerous little charges draw upon all their benefactors and benefactresses in Coaticook and their families, God's choicest graces and blessings.

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Mary is given to the world as the channel through which the grace of God should unceasingly flow to earth. How much honor and love, then, are we not bound to show to Mary, since God has deposited in her the plenitude of all good in such a manner that, if we have any grace or any hope of salvation, we owe it to Mary.

*St. Bernard.*

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No one has access to the Almighty as His Mother has; none has merit such as hers. Her Son will deny her nothing that she asks; and herein lies her power. While she defends the Church, neither height nor depth, neither men nor evil spirits, neither great monarchs nor craft of men nor popular violence, can avail to harm us; for human life is short, but Mary reigns above all, a Queen forever.

*Cardinal Newman.*

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Mary is not satisfied with assisting her servants in their last hour; but she also comes to meet their soul, and presents it herself at the tribunal of God.

*St. Jerome.*

# League of Prayer and Sacrifice



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL.

FOR GOD AND TRUTH STILL FIGHT  
O WARRIOR-SAINT!

For the extinction  
of anti-religious societies

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

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

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

And impose a daily sacrifice.

The Associates should also wear the Miraculous Medal.

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## PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

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

Amen.

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Seen and approved March 12, 1924.

(Indulgence of 100 days)

† L.-N. Card. BEGIN, Arch. of Quebec.

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## Votive lights in honor of the Blessed Virgin

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

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

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



# A Few Roses Scattered

By the Little Sister of Missionaries...

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

*St. Teresa of the Child Jesus.*



In accordance with a promise made to St. Teresa if we received a favor — the sale of property — we are sending a money order for Six Dollars, five for the purchase of a Chinese baby to be christened Teresa, and one for the ransom of four dying Chinese babies. Mr. and Mrs. T. J. B., **North Bay, Ont.** — Enclosed please find \$5.00 towards the Little Flower Burse, in thanksgiving for favors received. Please pray that my other requests may be granted. Anonymous. — I wish to thank the

Little Flower of Jesus for my great improvement in health. I am enclosing a little offering in her honor. Mrs. G. D., **Montreal.** — My most heartfelt gratitude to St. Therese for a favor received. M. C. — Offering of \$1.25 in thanksgiving for a favor obtained through the intercession of the Little Flower. R. E. L., **Indian Orchard, Mass.** — My subscription and \$2.00 enclosed as token of gratitude to St. Teresa. Anonymous. — Enclosed please find

\$5.00 for the missions, in thanksgiving to the dear little Flower for a favor granted me through her intercession. Mrs. N. B., **Montreal.** — I am pleased to state that I received the favor I requested through St. Therese. Enclosed find the offering I promised. I will send you more money if I receive a favorable

answer to another petition. Mrs. H. L., **Montreal.** — Three months ago I promised to send an offering in honor of St. Therese. I am sending you \$1.00 now, asking you to pray that we may all keep well and that I may get along alright. D. L., **Ottawa, Ont.** — I promised that I would publish my thanksgiving if I obtained a favor from the Little Flower. My prayers have been heard and I am most grateful. A Subscriber. — Enclosed please

find \$1.25 for the Missions in honor of the dear little Patroness of Missionaries, who has come to my assistance. Mrs. J. D. — Enclosed is a small offering in thanksgiving to the Little Flower of Jesus. L. H., **Montreal.** — A short time ago I received a great favor and wish to publish my thanks to the Little Flower. Anonymous. — Please accept the enclosed offering for the Missions. I wish to thank St. Therese for obtaining me a very special favor. Mrs. P. A., **Verdun.** — I promised St. Teresa that if I obtained the favors I was praying for I would publish my thanksgiving in THE PRECURSOR. I have received them all. Mrs. E. D. — Enclosed please find \$1.00 in thanksgiving to the Little Flower of Jesus who has heard my prayers. Anonymous, **Montreal.** — You will find enclosed money for the renewal of my subscription and an offering to St. Therese in thanksgiving for a favor received. Mrs. H. E. — Please find enclosed the sum of \$1.25 which I promised the Little Flower for a favor granted me. Mrs. J. L., **Indian Orchard.** — I am enclosing \$1.00 in thanksgiving for a great favor received. Please publish.

Mrs. A. L. — The enclosed sum is to help the Missions a little. It is my thank-offering to the dear little Patroness of Missionaries for the many favors I have received through her intercession. Mrs. J. L. — I wish to thank St. Teresa for answering my prayers. I am enclosing \$1.00 in her honor. Mrs. T., **Rosemont.** — I am keeping my promise by sending you \$1.00 to thank the Little Flower for helping me in my examinations. M. D. — Enclose please find \$1.00 which I promised I would send for a favor received through the Little Flower. Mrs. D. G. — I am enclosing an offering for a novena of lights in honor of St. Therese the Little Flower, to thank her for a favor granted me. Would you be kind enough to publish my thanksgiving. Mrs. J. C., **Montreal.** — Enclosed find an offering in honor of the Little Flower of Jesus in thanksgiving for a favor received. Miss R. O. — I am pleased to tell you that after praying to St. Therese I obtained a good position. Miss R. R., **Willimansett.** — \$1.00 enclosed as a thank-offering to the Little Flower. Mrs. E. S.



### The Little Flower's Act of Oblation

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That my life may be an act of perfect love, I offer myself as a victim of holocaust to Thy merciful love, imploring Thee to consume me unceasingly and to allow the floods of infinite tenderness, gathered up in Thee, to overflow into my soul, that so I may become a very martyr of Thy love. O my God! may this martyrdom, after having prepared me to appear in Thy Presence, free me from this life at last; and may my soul take its flight, without delay, into the eternal embrace of Thy merciful love! O my Beloved! I desire at every beat of my heart to renew this offering an infinite number of times, untill the shadows flee away, and everlastingly I can tell Thee my love face to face.

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I will sing always, even if my roses must be gathered from amidst thorns. But of what avail to Thee, my Jesus, are my flowers and my songs?... Trifles they are, but Thou wilt smile on them. The Church Triumphant will gather up these scattered rose leaves and, placing them in in Thy Divine Hands, there to acquire an infinite value, will shower them on the Church Suffering to extinguish its flames, and on the Church Militant to obtain its victory.

*St. Teresa of the Child Jesus.*

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### Burse of St. Therese of the Child Jesus for the Adoption of a Missionary

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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 May-June 1932..... \$98.50

We beg Almighty God to bless all those who, by their alms, help to complete the Little Flower Burse. May He reward them in heaven for having assisted His missionaries.

# *Echoes from our Missions*

## CANTON, CHINA

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

*Canton, February 16, 1932.*

DEAR MOTHER,

On the 2nd, we returned from Shek Lung, where we had gone to make our retreat. During my absence, Sister St. Pierre Apôtre, <sup>(1)</sup> with a few Chinese helpers, took charge of the Foundling-Home. On seeing me again, the children, who were overjoyed, cried out, "T'in chu po you" (God bless you!) They found that I had been away for a long time and told me everything that had happened since I left them.

These little ones, who are all very interesting, are sometimes quite mischievous. The other day, one of the Sisters closed the door of her cell for a few minutes. No sooner had she done so, than *Ahing*, wishing to play a little trick on her, turned the key and locked her in. While her little companions cried because they thought Sister would never be able to come out again, the little mischiel-maker squatted down in a corner, laughing for all she was worth.

February 5th was the birthday of the eldest of our little folks, whose name is Delia. For a present, we gave her a pretty dress which we had received from Canada. Some of the other children, who would have liked to have had one too, were quite jealous and one even went so far as to slap her tiny companion. After being scolded for what she had done, she went

1. Leocadie LANDRY, of St. Jean l'Evangeliste.



AT THE FOUNDLING-HOME OF THE MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, CANTON, CHINA.

over to little Delia and asked her to forgive her. I sincerely hope that this child will always be as eager to make amends for her misdoings. If these children were not obedient, I do not know what we should do, for they are now quite numerous. Not long ago, while minding the children of the orphanage, I tried to amuse the tiny tots while the Sister who has charge of them was away. They had just begun to have a good time when Sister returned, telling them that it was time for them to take their nap. All stopped playing at once and went with Sister to be put to bed.

We have so many little ones now that we are obliged to enlarge the kitchen, so as to make room for a bigger stove. This means that we shall be obliged to make use of part of the infirmary for this purpose. Everywhere we are cramped for space. We fear that in the spring there will be much sickness among the children, but we shall be thankful as long as they do not contract a contagious disease.

It grieves me to think that we are obliged to refuse a number of little waifs, owing to the exiguity of the Foundling-Home. Just to think that these babies will be deprived of a happy eternity, because we have no room for them!

Your loving child,

Sister Marie de la Misericorde, M. I. C. (1)

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## SZEPINGKAI, CHINA

*Extract from a letter written by the Missionaries of the Immaculate*

*Conception of Szepingkai, Manchuria, to their Superior General.*

*Szepingkai, March 30, 1932.*

BELOVED MOTHER,

Since writing to you last, we have had a great many consolations in our missionary work. It is especially when we have the occasion of opening heaven to a pagan soul that we realize how beautiful is the holy vocation we have chosen. Oh! if the young girls in Canada who feel that God wants them to be missionaries, only realized the happiness we experience in performing the duties of our calling, not one of them would hesitate to devote her life to save the most forsaken of God's creatures.

The novices and postulants tried their examinations on January 18th and were afterwards given a short vacation. The examiners were five in

1. Berthe DUFRESNE, of Ste. Hélène, Co. Bagot.



number: Reverend Fathers Larochelle, Berichon, Jasmin and Charest, as well as a Chinese professor, Mr. Chou Sien Cheng.

On the 19th, Sister Superior baptized a young woman and a three-year-old child at the dispensary of Koung-tchou-ling, and, with the help of the Sister who accompanied her, treated as many as seventy-nine patients. The next day, at the dispensary of Peiko, Sister Marie de l'Assomption <sup>(1)</sup> had the happiness of pouring the Saving Waters on the brows of two dying babies, besides treating twenty-three patients and visiting two pagan homes. Our Sisters are also treating Reverend Father Tardif, who is seriously ill. He is fortunate to have with him a devoted infirmarian, Reverend Brother Pineault, C. S. V. Everyone in the Mission has joined in making a novena for his speedy recovery.

On the 31st, two young ladies entered the Native Novitiate, which already counts twenty-two novices and postulants. We beg God to fill the hearts of these future native Sisters with an ardent zeal for the salvation of their brethren.

On February 2nd, we commenced our retreat. As nine Sisters from other mission stations came to make it with us, our little convent was crowded. We put another table in the refectory, and, every night, three of us slept at the Dispensary. During this time, our Sister infirmarians continued to care for Reverend Father Tardif, who is not any better.

February 5th was the last day of the year for the Chinese. It was a day of special prayer for the novices and postulants. During their New Year season, these young ladies greatly enjoyed themselves. One of their recreations was particularly amusing. It consisted of a little play in which Yang Martha, a novice, represented an aged pagan gentleman whom her companions were trying to convert. It was no easy matter to soften the heart of this wretched infidel... We intend to have our native Sisters prepare little plays like this from time to time, in order that they may become accustomed to the work awaiting them.

On February 22nd, the holidays ended and we, as well as the novices and postulants, have begun to study again. The Chinese language is very difficult, but as we feel the need of being able to speak it fluently if we wish to convert the numerous inhabitants of this pagan land, we do not lose a minute of the time given us to learn it.

Despite the fact that all our dispensaries were closed while the Chinese New Year celebrations were being held, the reports for January and February are quite consoling.

Baptisms.....	8	Treatments.....	1,101
Patients.....	1,193	Dressings.....	460
Homes visited.....	310		

Report of the Dispensary of Koung-tchou-ling, open one day each week:			
Baptisms.....	12	Treatments.....	460
Patients.....	460	Dressings.....	250
Homes visited.....	7		

1. Alice LAROCHE, of Sweetsburg.

## Report of the Dispensary of Peiko, open a half day each week:

Baptisms.....	5	Treatments.....	180
Patients.....	180	Dressings.....	40
Homes visited.....	5		

The 8th of March was a most beautiful day, and as Sister Superior knew that there would be more patients than usual at the dispensary of Koung-tchou-ling, she asked a Sister infirmarian to accompany her. Before taking the train back to Szepingkai in the afternoon, they treated one hundred and fifteen patients and baptized three others whom they found in a dying condition. All the Christians of this station are very eager to have a priest and Sisters with them. Nearly every week, a few of them come asking us when we intend to settle in their district.

As the Feast of St. Joseph is a holy day of obligation in China, we had the privilege of assisting at High Mass celebrated by Reverend Father Tardif, who is now quite well. The novices, postulants and ourselves knelt to thank our Divine Lord in the Sacrament of His Love, and our holy patron, St. Joseph, for the many favors we have received, and especially for Father Tardif's cure.

Two days later, our Sisters who had set out again for Koung-tchou-ling, found a baby lying by the side of the road. They hastened to pick it up, but, to their great surprise, the child was dead. How disappointed they were to have missed the chance of opening heaven to this little pagan soul!... However, the success they met with at Koung-tchou-ling somewhat assuaged their grief. During the short time they remained in this village, they treated one hundred and eighty-two patients and baptized three dying children.

On Holy Thursday we were asked to visit a young lady, a victim of tuberculosis. After being instructed in the fundamental truths of our holy religion, the poor sufferer begged us to baptize her. As she was in danger of death, we gladly complied with her request. We also had the happiness of baptizing her sick baby.

Her husband drove us back to the convent, and, on the way, the virgin catechist seized the opportunity to speak to him of the Blessed Eucharist. On reaching our destination, the poor man accepted our invitation to visit the chapel. On catching sight of the Repository, he prostrated himself three times and made three deep bows. It was very touching to see a pagan adoring our divine Lord, whom he had never heard of before. We hope that he will soon become a Christian.

On Holy Saturday, Reverend Father Crevier administered Holy Baptism to sixteen adults and a little boy. The happy neophytes all approached the Holy Table.

We had the happiness of assisting at two Masses on Easter Sunday and of having the Blessed Sacrament exposed the whole day long. Over two hundred Christians were present at High Mass, at which a sermon was preached by Reverend Father Jasmin.



In the Novitiate, as well as in our Convent, happiness reigned supreme. During the day, our dear novices told us over and over again how much they enjoyed spending a festivity like this in the Convent.....

.....  
Your loving children of Szepingkai.

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## LEAO YUAN SIEN, CHINA

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

### Saturday, January 23, 1932

A little twelve-year-old girl, whom we have been treating for the last two months, receives Holy Baptism to-day. As the child has a very sore foot, her brother carries her to the Dispensary every morning.

### Tuesday, January 26

The mother of the baby which was brought to us on the 16th, is dying. Every time we go to see her, she cries bitterly and enquires about her little one. She knows that it has been made a child of God, and she herself begs to be baptized so as to meet her little "Agnes" again in heaven. We are sending you her picture. She has no other bed than the brick *kang* on which she is sitting.

### Wednesday, January 27

A little girl, before going home to-day, asks one of the Sisters to give her a miraculous medal. As soon as Sister ties it on her neck, she looks at it saying, "Now I shall be no longer afraid of being bitten by the devil during the night." Many other pagans have asked us for medals so as to keep the evil spirits away.

### Friday, January 29

After trying several Chinese doctors, an aged man who has a bad attack of pneumonia, asks to see our Sister infirmarian. When we reach his home, we find that he is very low. Without a moment's delay, our Chinese catechist explains to him the fundamental truths of our holy religion and asks him if he wants to be baptized. His only answer is: "The Christian doctrine is true, there is no mistake about it." Soon after the Saving Waters were poured on his brow, he grew unconscious.

### Saturday, January 30

While visiting another patient, we learn that the old gentleman died two hours after we left him. His many friends tell us that he was a very good-living man.





A MISSIONARY SISTER OF THE IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION OF LEAO YUAN SIEN, MANCHU-  
RIA, CHINA, TEACHING CATECHISM TO A POOR  
BLIND WOMAN.

### **Sunday, January 31**

Report of the Dispensary of Leao Yuan Sien for the month of January 1932:

Baptisms.....	88
Treatments.....	2,886
Patients.....	2,228
Dressings.....	410
Homes visited.....	70

### **Monday, February 1**

While visiting a pagan home we baptize six dying children.

### **Tuesday, February 16**

Yesterday, we had the happiness of pouring the Sacred Waters of Baptism on the brows of nine sick babies, and to-day we baptize six others. A dying man also expresses his desire of becoming a Christian.

### **Thursday, February 18**

The local mandarin has asked us if we are willing to take care of his fourteen-year-old daughter, a consumptive. He has three other little girls, and does not wish to be bothered with the poor sick child. We would gladly take her back with us if we had a room where she would be away from the other patients, but we have none. We shall return before long to give her a few Catechism lessons.

### **Friday, February 19**

A patient who has come quite often to the Dispensary, sends for us to-day. He is very sick and wishes to die a Christian. We baptize him at once, for it is certain that he will only live a few days longer.

### **Monday, February 22**

Yesterday after Mass, a Christian drove us a few *li* outside of the city to a Mongolian settlement. We baptized two babies, one of whom we found lying beside a high wall.

This afternoon we are called to the bedside of one of our patients who has taken a turn for the worse. We have just time to baptize him before he grows delirious.

**Wednesday, February 24**

The aged blind woman you see in the picture we are sending you, is one of our fervent Christians. Last year, she asked us to treat her son, a young man of twenty-five, who was in the last stages of tuberculosis. We did all we could for the poor patient, who lived but a month longer. The day before his death, he asked to be baptized. He was quite resigned and promised to remember us once he reached the heavenly abode. Since then, his parents have asked us to accept them as catechumens. The old woman who was baptized a short time ago, receives Holy Communion daily.

Report of the Dispensary of Leao Yuan Sien for the month of February 1932:

Baptisms.....	95	Dressings.....	400
Treatments.....	2,516	Patients.....	1,731
Homes visited.....	80		

**Tuesday, March 1**

We have been praying to St. Joseph, and to-day he grants our petitions. We receive as many as seven sick children and have the happiness of baptizing them all.

**Tuesday, March 8**

A tubercular patient asks us to take care of her six months old baby. After bringing the little one to the church to be baptized by the priest we send it to our Sisters in Pa Mien Tchong. The mother who was baptized at the same time, returns home this evening.

**Wednesday, March 9**

A poor young man, finding that the medicine he has taken has done him no good, decides to send for us. On our arrival, he makes a deep bow, saying that he believes in Christ. He has been baptized by a Protestant minister, and shows us a Bible that has been given him. Before leaving, we offer him a miraculous medal, which he gladly accepts. While pinning it on his coat, he repeats after us three little invocations to the Blessed Virgin. We beg this good Mother to intercede for this patient, that he may soon be brought to the light of the true Faith.

Reverend Father Berichon is preaching a retreat to the Christians of Leao Yuan Sien. We are praying fervently that he may make many conversions.

**Friday, March 11**

Last week we visited an old man who was very sick with pneumonia. We had brought with us several medals and, as soon as he saw them, he asked us to put one on a string that he might tie it around his neck. A few days



later, his wife and children, noticing that he had grown worse, dressed him in his best clothes and began to sing as all Chinese do when a member of the family is about to die. The poor people, who were afraid that our Sister infirmarian would refuse to come if she knew that her patient was dying, thought of deceiving her by telling her that he was much better. On arriving, Sister lost no time in baptizing the poor old man.

### Wednesday, March 16

Ten dying children were baptized at the Dispensary yesterday. To-day, we visit three young pagan girls, who are all consumptives. We teach them a little catechism and confide them to the loving care of our Immaculate Mother.

### Palm Sunday, March 20

In Chinese, Palm Sunday is known as "the Sunday of holy branches". The bare branches of the *yu chou* tree are distributed to all the faithful.

The man who had cut the number of branches required, did not forget to keep a few of the very nicest ones for all the Sisters. When we approached the altar-rail, a small boy hastened to hand the priest the little pile which had been carefully put aside for us.

Report of the Dispensary of Leao Yuan Sien for the month of March 1932:

Baptisms.....	136	Patients.....	3,268
Dressings.....	1,171	Treatments.....	6,403
Teeth extracted.....	49	Homes visited.....	85

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## PA MIEN T'CHENG, MANCHURIA

*Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries  
to Pa Mien Tchong, Manchuria, China.*

### Thursday, February 4, 1932

Our orphanage is well filled. Yesterday a new-born baby was brought to us, and to-day we are asked to take in a little girl eighteen months old.

### Saturday, February 6

It is the Chinese New Year, but there are no celebrations going on, for the Japanese soldiers who are still in the city allow nothing of the kind.

### Sunday, February 7

We receive letters from the Mother House and the Novitiate. During recreation, we speak about our Sisters in Canada. We are thankful to our dear Mother for thinking of her little missionaries in far-off China.

**Tuesday, February 9**

As the crops were a failure last year, many of the inhabitants are poverty-stricken. Just lately, four babies whose parents are in dire distress, were brought to the Orphanage. We soon noticed that one was dying, and had just the time to baptize it before it winged its flight to heaven.

**Wednesday, February 10**

At a quarter past six this evening, we receive word that Mrs. Lee, a newly-baptized Christian, is very sick. This patient, who suffers from asthma, often has violent fits of coughing. Accompanied by the priest, we set out for her home. It is quite dark when we reach our destination. As the poor woman is in a dying condition, Father administers Extreme Unction. Before leaving, we entreat our Immaculate Mother to watch over this old lady who, for some time past, has been trying to persuade others to become Christians. While she was still a catechumen, she baptized several sick babies and an adult in danger of death. May all the souls, who, thanks to her zeal, are now enjoying eternal bliss, intercede for her before the Throne of God.

**Thursday, February 11**

On awakening this morning, we breathe a fervent prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes, whose feast is celebrated to-day. Some of our Sisters have just returned from Szeping kai, where they had gone to make a retreat. We unite with them in thanking God for the favor He has granted them. Many times during the day we go in spirit to the Novitiate to there rejoice with our dear Sisters who have just pronounced their vows. We ask our divine Lord to give them all an ardent love for souls.

We hear that Mrs. Lee is much better. Every time the priest brings her Holy Communion, the other members of the family, who are all pagans, draw close to him, wishing to see all that is going on. God, on entering the lowly dwelling of these poor pagans, has surely softened their hearts.

**Saturday, February 13**

In company with Agnes Chang, our virgin catechist, we go again to visit Mrs. Lee. Her husband invites us to take dinner with them, but our catechist tells him that we cannot accept his kind invitation. All the members of this family, who have always been bitter enemies of the Christians, now take an interest in our religion. They are very grateful for everything we have done for the sick woman.

**Sunday, February 14**

We pay a visit to a family of fallen-away Catholics, who live five *li* from the Mission. Only two of their five children have been baptized. We look around us, hoping to catch sight of a holy picture or a crucifix, but, alas! there are none. The next time we come to see these poor people, we shall



remember to bring some with us. There are many such families in this part of the country.

### **Monday, February 15**

As the Chinese New Year celebrations are over, our patients return to the Dispensary. We have the happiness of baptizing two dying babies.

### **Wednesday, February 17**

In one of the four pagan families we visit to-day, we find a sick child wrapped up in some straw, ready to be thrown out. Our first thought is to baptize the little one, who will doubtless be dead before evening.



HUTS INHABITED BY THE WANDERING TRIBES OF MONGOLIA.

### **Wednesday, February 24**

This afternoon, we are asked to treat a poor patient suffering from dropsy. The unfortunate young man, who had no money to pay a doctor, simply tried to get along without one. He has so many horrible wounds that he can neither stand up, sit down, nor stretch himself on his miserable *kang* without suffering great pain. Not a friend has he in the world, and had it not been for a few sympathetic neighbors, we perhaps would never have heard tell of him. How thankful we are that even in a pagan land charity is not unknown! We are certain that we shall never succeed in curing our new patient, but we hope to save his soul.

### **Thursday, February 25**

At the Dispensary, we baptize a dying baby and call it Matthias after the great apostle whose feast we are celebrating to-day.

### Friday, February 26

To-day, we witness a queer ceremony. As we are about to enter a dwelling, our attention is attracted on hearing some very strange music. On turning to see who is playing, we catch sight of an old woman bowing down before an ugly-looking Buddha. On a little table, on which two red candles are burning, there are a few incense sticks and some dishes of food. The poor creature is so engrossed in her prayers that she does not see us passing.

We remain a long time with our patients, and, on taking our leave, we are quite surprised to see the aged worshipper still prostrating herself before the hideous idol. The people who sent for us are Christians. They tell us that their neighbors are fervent Buddhists, who spend their time worshipping all kinds of deities. Poor benighted infidels! How we wish we could teach them to love and serve the one true God!

### Saturday, February 27

We sing a fervent *Magnificat* this evening to thank our Immaculate Mother for the great favor she has obtained us. Mr. Sing, whom we have been treating since last Wednesday, has expressed his desire of becoming a Christian. Our catechist, after briefly explaining to him the principal truths of our holy religion, baptizes him, giving him the name of Paul.

Report of the Dispensary of Pa Mien Tchong for the month of February 1932:

The Dispensary was closed during the Chinese New Year celebrations, which lasted fifteen days.

Baptisms.....	9	Dressings.....	208
Patients.....	785	Homes visited.....	49
Treatments.....	926	Teeth extracted.....	3

### Tuesday, March 1

A very young woman, whom we treat this morning, looks very sad. We notice a piece of black cloth on her back about six inches square on which some perforated Chinese coins are fastened. Instead of hair-pins, a number of long needles are stuck in her hair. We are told that all this means that this person is possessed by the devil. Only a month ago, she called in a sorcerer, whom she believed would cure her after having had recourse to Satan. Since then, she has grown worse from day to day. Our catechist urges the unfortunate woman to embrace our holy Faith if she wishes the devil to flee from her wretched body. She promises to come back with her husband to study the Catholic doctrine.

### Sunday, March 6

A pagan gentleman whose child is too sick to be brought to the Dispensary, asks us to come to see the little sufferer. We must walk eight *li*



before reaching our destination, but as it is a beautiful bright day, we enjoy our trip. On entering the pagan home, the heart-broken mother begs us to cure her little one. Without a moment's delay, we pour the Sacred Waters of Baptism on its brow.

While on our way back, a relative of the young lady who accompanies us, tells us that in one of the neighboring houses there is another dying baby. After praying fervently to St. Joseph, we go, in company with the young man we have just met, to see what we can do for the sick child. We arrive just in time to baptize the little one before it dies.

As we drive homeward, we are startled by the cries of a poor woman whose baby is being torn to pieces by angry dogs. Just as we are getting out of our cart, we see one of these cruel animals gnawing at the child's head, which is completely separated from the rest of the body. Oh! what sad things occur in pagan China!...

### Tuesday, March 8

A short time ago, a pagan mother asked us for some medicine for her sick baby. The child has grown worse and, as we are afraid that it will die at almost any time, we hasten to baptize it.

### Monday, March 14

This evening, Reverend Father Berichon of Szepingkai begins to give a retreat to the Christians of Pa Mien Tcheng.

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## FAKOU, MANCHURIA

*Extract from a letter written by Sister Marie Josephine, Superior  
of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception  
of Fakou, to her Superior General.*

*Fakou, March 25, 1932.*

BELOVED MOTHER,

A young girl who arrived at the Mission a few months ago, has undertaken to teach us Chinese. We are giving her \$7.00 a month, but do not expect that she will remain with us more than a year. Our Reverend Pastor hopes that he will succeed in persuading her to marry a good Christian gentleman before her pagan parents decide to sell her.

Besides baptizing many patients at the Dispensary, we also have the happiness of receiving a few more catechumens. To-day, an old man for whom we have been praying for over a month, comes to the Mission, asking to become a Christian. The three brothers of this aged pagan have all

been baptized, but none of them are living up to their religion. In spite of the bad example given him, our new catechumen is very eager to embrace our holy Faith. Now we hope that the other three will soon return to the one true fold. The virgin catechist feels sure that it will not be long before they will repent of their evil lives. How beautiful is our holy vocation! When I was small, dear Mother, I was very sorry when I thought that I could never be a priest, but now that I am in China, I find that we are able to save just as many souls as a priest, and, sometimes, even more. Oh! how many more young people would gladly embrace the missionary life if they only realized the happiness there is in saving even one soul for all eternity. Dear Mother, on this happy anniversary of my religious profession, I feel that I must thank God and the Blessed Virgin for the blessings they have showered on me. How much, also, am I indebted to you, dear Mother, for having received me into this dear Community, where I have found such happiness.

March 19th brought with it the greatest of joys. Our holy patron St. Joseph granted us a very special grace on his beautiful feast day. I had asked him to bless all our Sisters of Fakou, and I think that my prayers were heard.

Your affectionate child,

Sr. Marie JOSEPHINE, M. I. C. (1)

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

**Saturday, February 13, 1932**

At last, we are back in our Mission after being away in Szepingkai for two months. The fighting has ceased and it is with renewed zeal that we begin our work all over again.

**Monday, February 15**

A dying woman to whom we gave a medal yesterday, asks us to baptize her. She certainly will not live many days longer.

**Thursday, February 18**

There are many cases of diphtheria in the city and numerous are the deaths among the children. To-day, we baptize five babies at the Dispensary.

**Friday, February, 19**

We learn that the young woman we baptized last Monday has left this land of exile.

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1. Elianne GRAVEL, of St. Prosper, Co. Champlain.



We pay a visit to one of our patients, who has had no one to take care of her since we left for Szepingkai. She desires to become a Christian, and is delighted when we tell her that we shall baptize her in a few days.

### **Saturday, February 20**

This is the fifteenth day of the month for the Chinese and one of great rejoicing for all the inhabitants. A Christian woman has persuaded her pagan friend to bring her baby to the Dispensary to be baptized.

As we have had a very mild winter, the Chinese believe that there will be much sickness this spring. We are of the same opinion, for the weather has not been cold enough to kill the microbes in the many filthy dwellings.

### **Tuesday, February 23**

Our catechists have just returned from Mukden, where they had gone to make their retreat. We are glad to see them back again, for they are a great help to us. While we are treating our different patients, these devoted young ladies tell them of the happiness which will be theirs in the life to come if they are but willing to be baptized. Many souls would certainly be lost if we did not have these zealous virgins with us.

### **Thursday, February 25**

We have had no electricity for three days and each evening we are obliged to light candles to find our way around. We naturally think of our happy days in the Novitiate, when the same "little misfortune" befell us. But, when we were novices, we were never sorry to see the lights go out, for, during this time, our dear Mistress always took the opportunity to speak to us of the founding of our dear Institute and of our Sisters labouring in the far-off mission fields.

### **Friday, February 26**

On the brow of one of the four babies we baptize to-day there are a few Chinese characters, which are supposed to keep death from approaching. After Baptism, there is no trace of them, for they have all been washed away by the Saving Waters we poured over them.

### **Monday, February 29**

To-day, a girl of fourteen, realizing that she is dying, begs her mother to send for us. She wishes to be baptized so as to enjoy forever the eternal bliss which she has so often heard tell of at the Dispensary. We immediately comply with her request, for death is fast approaching.

Report of the Dispensary for the month of February:

Baptisms.....	34	Dressings.....	217
Patients.....	908	Teeth extracted.....	9
Treatments.....	1,223	Homes visited.....	105

**Tuesday, March 1**

On this first day of the month dedicated to St. Joseph we have the happiness of opening heaven to two pagan children.

Just before leaving Szepinghai, Sister Superior gave us a few sprigs of a pretty plant which our dear Mother sent her last October. We thought that perhaps they would be withered before we had the chance of planting them, but, to our great surprise, they were still quite green when we reached our destination.

**Friday, March 4**

As it is the First Friday of the month, we have the privilege of assisting at Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament this evening. It is with the greatest confidence that we implore the Sacred Heart of Jesus to bless all the members of our dear Community, our beloved parents and kind benefactors.

**Saturday, March 5**

A funeral procession is passing... A number of musicians are playing a march appropriate to the occasion while right behind them are pushed along a cardboard horse and ox hitched to a queer kind of paper cart. These, when burnt, are supposed to be a great help to the soul of the deceased. What a pity that so many poor Chinese still believe in such ridiculous superstitious practices!

**Monday, March 7**

One of our patients, after being treated, turns to us saying: "You are all good people here. You give us the best of medicine, for which you do not charge us a cent. In the other dispensaries it is altogether different." The virgin catechist explains to him that it is because we love God and desire to save souls that we treat all our patients free of charge.

**Tuesday, March 8**

Five children are baptized at the Dispensary to-day.

**Friday, March 11**

Each one of us, while watching the beautiful snow falling in large flakes, thinks of her loved ones in Canada, who always hail with delight a snow-fall of the kind at this time of the year, as it means that there will be plenty of sap... Although maple sugar making is unknown in Manchuria, we are, nevertheless, very glad to see that the ground once more is spotlessly white.

**Saturday, March 12**

We treat a number of patients this morning, but are disappointed on not receiving even one child to baptize. We pray to St. Francis Xavier,



and in the afternoon he sends us a dying baby, which we hasten to make a child of God.

### Tuesday, March 15

A poor man, whose features are horribly distorted, asks us if we are able to cure him. The catechist tells him this afternoon not to worry about his health but to think of saving his immortal soul.

One of our catechumens, who is blind, spends all his leisure moments walking up and down the verandah, reciting his catechism. The poor man is surely one of those to whom our divine Lord promised peace such as is not of this world.

It is surprising to see how many pagans come asking to study the Catholic doctrine. Most of our catechumens are former patients of ours.

### Saturday, March 19

As the Feast of St. Joseph is a holy day of obligation in China, we spend much time in prayer before the statue of our holy patron. Together we recite the Litany, a Hail Mary, and a few invocations for our beloved Mother, and, at the same time, thank St. Joseph for watching over our Community.

In the evening, we have the happiness of seeing three of our catechumens received into the Church. One of them, Mr. Liou, has a great devotion to St. Joseph. When he came to the Dispensary for the first time, over a year ago, our Sister infirmarian noticed that one of his feet had been badly frozen and was afraid that he would have to have it amputated. All the Sisters joined in making a novena, and their patient gradually improved. To-day, Mr. Liou is back at his work and does not feel the least pain. We are most grateful to St. Joseph for the great favour he obtained this gentleman who, while yet a pagan, had recourse to his protection.

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## TAONAN, CHINA

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

### Monday, February 15, 1932

After calling in a number of Chinese doctors to treat her little nine-year-old daughter, Mrs. Tchang, the wife of a wealthy mandarin, decides to send for us. We find the child in a dying condition and deem it prudent to baptize her at once.

### Tuesday, February 16

Reverend Father Berger has just returned from T'ou Tsuen. He has brought back with him a Chinese girl, Miss Tch'en, who, a few years ago,

was betrothed to a Christian of Taonan. Both have been well educated in Catholic schools. The pious youth's only thought is to be a priest, while the young girl wishes to enter a native Sisterhood. Most probably they will have difficulty in obtaining their parents' consent. Miss Tch'en will help us at the Dispensary until things are settled.

### **Friday, February 19**

Some friends of a poor man who was wounded by bandits two weeks ago, ask us to do all we can to help their unfortunate comrade. The shooting took place on the highway leading to T'ou Tsuen. Five of the thirteen persons in the autobus were mortally wounded by the bullets fired by the bandits, the patient we are treating, slightly injured, while the seven others got off with a good fright. Despite the fact that the car was badly damaged, the chauffeur drove on at a breakneck speed and, before long, was miles ahead of his pursuers. Once out of danger, his first thought was to attend to the poor sufferer, who had lost much blood. The young man is still very weak. We have placed him under our Blessed Lady's protection.

### **Saturday, February 20**

To-day, which is only the fifteenth of the month for the Chinese, is known as the "Kouo Kie" and is even a bigger holiday for the pagans than New Year's Day. We thought that we would have time during the day to prepare some medicine, but we have more patients than usual to treat at the Dispensary. We are even asked to go to see a few patients who are too sick to come for treatment. The citizens of Taonan are certainly not as super-



TEACHERS AND PUPILS OF THE GIRLS' SCHOOL OF TAONAN, MANCHURIA.



stitious as they were formerly. They have always believed that if they had the misfortune of falling sick or of sending for the doctor on this day when everyone should rejoice, they would be obliged to remain in bed for the rest of the year.

### **Sunday, February 21**

Our Reverend Pastor asks us to visit a number of poor starving immigrants, who are living in miserable earthen huts. Although we are not in the habit of leaving the Convent on Sunday, we gladly comply with Father's request. On reaching our destination, we see several of these poor ragged creatures sitting outside. Although this is one of the coldest days we have had this winter, they find it much warmer outside than in their damp dwellings. And what a sight meets our gaze once we step inside the door! Men, women and children are squatted on the bare floor. Most of them are sick. No wonder!... What a pity we did not come sooner! Twenty children have already died, and ten others are seriously ill. After giving some medicine to the little sufferers, we hasten to baptize them. We have also the happiness of baptizing a young woman twenty-seven years of age, who certainly will die before long. As we have not brought enough medicine with us for all the sick we find in this wretched hovel, we ask those who are only ailing, to come to the Dispensary to be treated. It is with grateful hearts that we take our leave, repeating over and over again the Magnificat to thank our dear Lord for permitting us to do a little good to the most despised of His creatures, and for all the spiritual and temporal favors He has granted us since our childhood days.

### **Thursday, February 25**

Miss Liou, a pagan lady who teaches us Chinese, tells us that she intends to embrace our holy Faith. If she continues to be as religiously inclined as at present, we are certain that it will not be long before she will be one of our catechumens. May our Immaculate Mother watch over her soul!

### **Friday, February 26**

We are called to the death-bed of one of our first patients, a girl of seventeen. The heart-broken parents have done all in their power to nurse their sick daughter back to health, but all their care has been of no avail. Since God has sent sickness to their home, they have become poorer than ever before. Five little children, scantily clad, are huddled together in a corner of a very dingy room... How wonderful are God's ways! Since their daughter's illness, these poor people have given up all their superstitious practices. Not even on their New Year's Day did they make the least offering to the idols. The young girl has become perfectly resigned. "If I live," she tells us, "I shall devote my life to God's service, and if I die, well, I shall see God and His Blessed Mother." And when we think of the hard time we had in getting her to listen to a catechism lesson the first time she came to the Dispensary! As she was not very sick then, she seemed to

think that there was no hurry to learn about her Creator. However, when she heard us reciting the Hail Mary, she asked us to teach her this beautiful prayer, which she has recited many times every day since then. She tells us that just lately she saw in her room a beautiful lady dressed in pale blue, with a white veil covering her head and shoulders. When we tell her that it was doubtless the Blessed Virgin who appeared to her, she exclaims: "Oh! how I would like to see her again! Will she come back soon?..." At times she is afraid of death; she believes that she will be obliged to spend a long time in purgatory. We exhort her to bear her sufferings patiently, in order to earn her heavenly crown. When we tell her that we must leave her, she sighs and begs us to stay with her a little longer.

Towards five o'clock this evening, the dear child is called to her reward. We are confident that now that she is enjoying eternal bliss, she will help us to make God and His Blessed Mother better known and loved in the pagan land of China.

### **Saturday, February 27**

All the citizens of Taonan are very polite. One woman, before leaving to-day, tells everyone she meets that she has only come twice to the Dispensary and is already feeling much better. She asks her daughter-in-law to thank the Sisters for her.

To-day, another patient who had never before seen a Sister, is quite surprised to hear us speaking Chinese and asks the virgin catechist what kind of people we are. She cannot understand why we wear veils.

### **Monday, February 29**

Report of the Dispensary of Taonan for the month of February 1932:

Baptisms.....	40	Dressings.....	607
Patients.....	1,501	Teeth extracted.....	7
Treatments.....	2,274	Homes visited.....	47

### **Tuesday, March 1**

It is to St. Joseph that we offer the five little souls which we have just rescued.

### **Saturday, March 5**

A poor woman, who is seriously ill, asks one of the Sisters if she thinks she will die soon. We try to cheer her up a little by telling her that she has probably a long time yet to live, and are surprised when she tells us that she wants to die and that if it had not been for her children, she would not have come to be treated. When we ask her what she expects will happen to her after she has left this earth, she says that she has no idea, but that she has heard that death is the end of everything. Our catechist hastens to tell her of the happiness awaiting all good Christians in the other life. Let us hope that her words will take some effect on this poor woman.





A BONZE'S RESIDENCE.

**Sunday, March 6**

Although it is Sunday, we are called twice to the Dispensary to treat two very sick babies, whom we do not delay in baptizing. We are most grateful to St. Joseph, for we feel that it is due to his loving solicitude that these two little ones were brought to us.

**Monday, March 7**

It is very windy to-day, but Sister Superior goes just the same to visit a pagan home. The patient to whom she gives treatment, asks to be baptized at once, but, as he is not seriously ill, we shall give him a few Catechism lessons before pouring the Sacred Waters on his brow.

**Tuesday, March 8**

We are very glad to see that many of our former patients are attending High School at Taonan this year. As soon as they heard that there was a school here, they asked to be admitted, in order to learn more about the Catholic religion. As there is not room for them all, only seventy-five have been accepted. We hope that with God's help, their teachers will succeed in giving them a good Christian education.

**Thursday, March 10**

All the citizens are making a great racket to-day, the first day of spring. Throngs of people in holiday attire go to the city gates to usher it in. The children of a pagan school walk twenty *li* in procession. May our Immaculate Mother take pity on these poor pagans and make them realize how useless are all these superstitious practices.

**Sunday, March 13**

We are asked to treat a young man who is in the last stages of tuberculosis. His parents, who are wealthy, have just brought him here from Peking, hoping that the doctors in Manchuria will be able to cure him. As he has been under instruction for some time, he knows much about the Catholic religion. He is greatly pleased when we give him a little miraculous medal. We are fully confident that our Blessed Lady will not only lead this patient into the True Fold, but that she will also intercede for the other members of the family, that they, too, may decide to study the Catholic doctrine.

**Tuesday, March 15**

We go again to visit our patient from Peking. This time we find him in a very weak condition. He has great faith in the Blessed Virgin and proudly shows us the medal we gave him on Sunday. The pagan father, who is pleased to see us again, inquires if there is any way of having the priest come to baptize his son. After the catechist has reminded the young



man of the duties of a Christian, we entrust him to the care of our heavenly Mother, asking her to prepare him herself to receive Baptism.

### **Wednesday, March 16**

Early this morning, we receive word that the dying man wants us to visit him again. This time, Reverend Father Berger accompanies us. After asking the patient a few questions, he administers Holy Baptism. The happy neophyte, who is too weak to make the Sign of the Cross, asks his mother to help him. We are grateful to our Immaculate Mother for this conversion.

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## **TSUNG MING, HAIMEN VICARIATE, CHINA**

*Letter from Sister Marie de l'Epiphanie, Superior of the  
Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception of Tsung Ming, China,  
to her Superior General.*

*Tsung Ming, February 21, 1932.*

BELOVED MOTHER,

Since the latter part of January, there have been continual riots in Shanghai. I was very lucky to have left the city before the fighting began. The steamer that brought me back to Tsung Ming is still here, for no boats are allowed on the river. For the last two weeks, we have heard nothing but the roar of cannons, which was loud enough at times to shake some of the small dwellings. It seems strange that there is so much noise to be heard on the island, for Tsung Ming is quite a distance from the scene of the trouble.

A missionary priest has just been telling us how the trouble started. The Chinese in Shanghai, wishing to take revenge on the Japanese, strictly prohibited the sale of their merchandise in the city. The result of it all was that there was quarrelling everywhere and, finally, war was declared.

We have always gone to Shanghai for our provisions, but since there is now no means of communication, we are obliged to make our bread out of Chinese flour. We prepare our own yeast. Twice lately, mail from Canada was brought without any delay, but I do not think we receive everything that is sent here, for it took over a month for a letter from our Sisters of Hong Kong to reach us. It is surprising that we receive any mail at all during such a troubled period.

When I returned to Tsung Ming on January 29th, I was surprised to find that His Excellency Bishop Tsu was on board also. He left Haimen a little earlier than he intended, in order to preside at the clothing ceremony of our first group of native novices. It was indeed providential that he thought of coming when he did, for, a little later on, he would not have found

江蘇海門教區新立“德嬰”女修會第一班初學生

一九三一年



HIS EXCELLENCY BISHOP TSU, VICAR APOSTOLIC OF HAIMEN AND THE FIRST NATIVE SISTERS OF TSUNG MING.



a boat to bring him to our island. His Excellency spent twelve days in our midst. On February 1st, he blessed the new costumes prepared for our nine privi-



LITTLE TOTS OF THE FOUNDLING-HOME OF TSUNG MING, CHINA.

leged postulants and some medals of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, which he gave them the next morning when they knelt before him, asking to be accepted as novices in the first native Sisterhood of the Haimen Vicariate.

We had expected to begin a retreat on February 2nd, but the missionary priest who was to preach for us did not arrive until late in the evening. As he had much trouble with the motor of his boat, instead of making the trip in two hours, he was all day on the water. After spending eight days in recollection and prayer, we thanked God for the many graces He has bestowed upon us. All the inhabitants were somewhat frightened the other day on seeing some Japanese aeroplanes hovering over the island. The aviators, however, had no intention of harming them.

Our retreat-master returned to his mission on a sail-boat. Pootung, the district over which he has charge, is just opposite Shanghai.

Dear Mother, I would like to tell you about our workshop, but as all my time is taken up just now, I shall give you news of it in my next letter. We thank you for the pretty pictures you so kindly sent us and are most grateful also to our Sisters of the Novitiate for their letter, telling us of their different little pastimes.

Please pray for us all, dear Mother.

Your loving and dutiful child,

Sister Marie de l'EPIPHANIE, M. I. C. (1)



O Mother of God! if I place my confidence in thee, I shall be saved; if I am under thy protection, I have nothing to fear; for the fact of being thy client is the possession of a certainty of salvation which God grants only to those He means to save.

*St. John Damascene.*

1. May MOQUIN, of Eastman, P. Q.

## KAGOSHIMA, JAPAN

*Letter from Sister St. Francois Xavier, Superior of the Missionaries  
of the Immaculate Conception of Kagoshima, to her Superior General.*

*Kagoshima, March 27, 1932.*

BELOVED MOTHER,

Here in Japan, we are kept busy all the time. Besides giving private lessons to a number of pupils and paying a visit each week to the hospital, we spend many hours studying. We have not as yet made many conver-



SISTER ST. FRANCOIS XAVIER, M. I. C., AT THE FOOT OF THE VOLCANO  
OF SAKURAJIMA, KAGOSHIMA, JAPAN.

sions among the pagans here, but it is consoling to see how fervent are the few whose hearts have been touched by the rays of divine grace.

Miss Gichi, a High School teacher, who comes here to learn French, asked us one day why we had chosen such a vocation. When we told her our reason for becoming Sisters, she exclaimed: "Oh! what a beautiful life!... Willingly would I follow your example, if I only knew more about your religion." We assured her that she could still learn to know and love God. We hope that she will soon decide to embrace our holy Faith.

Soon after this, two little girls stood for awhile looking up at the picture of the Blessed Virgin which you sent us some time ago, dear Mother. As they wanted to know all about it, Sister seized the opportunity to give them a Catechism lesson. Another pupil, after her music lesson, took a little Japanese prayer-book from the book-rack and began to examine it. As the bell rang for our spiritual exercises before we were through explaining to the child the meaning of a picture which had attracted her attention, she asked us to tell her more about it some other time and expressed her desire



of studying the Catholic doctrine. We thank God for the numerous occasions we have of making our holy religion loved by the poor pagans of Kagoshima.

Every week we bring Catholic papers and a few dainties to the poorest patients in the hospital. During a recent visit, one of these poor unfortunates told us that since very early in the morning he had been rejoicing at the thought that some very "noble Catholic people" were coming to see him. Another patient, who was also very glad to see us arrive, kept telling us that our visit always did him good, and a third, after reading a Catholic paper, told us that he wanted to know more about the religion we professed, as he had no use for Buddhism, the religion practised by his parents. We are confident that this pagan gentleman will soon be a fervent Christian.

A young lady who has been in the hospital for some time, has begun to study her catechism. Every time we go to see, she asks us to explain to her some of the most difficult questions. The other day, a patient who had just arrived, asked us for a book containing the Gospels. Would that we had but a more ardent love for God, in order to enkindle some small flame of it in the hearts of these wretched pagans, who as yet know so little about the loving Saviour who died for their salvation!

Every day we visit a poor beggar in his miserable hut, in order to teach him a little catechism and prepare him to receive Holy Baptism. One morning when we asked him if he remembered what we had told him about thanking God for all His benefits, he exclaimed: "Yes, indeed I do! Usually, my beggings each day amount to three or four *sen*, but, yesterday, I collected as many as twelve. As soon as I reached home in the evening, I made a profound prostration to thank Him for the good luck He sent me." Very often we speak to this poor old man of the happiness awaiting him in the life to come. He is always very eager to learn more about God.

.....  
Your affectionate and grateful child,

Sister ST. FRANCOIS XAVIER, M. I. C. (1)

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Mary began where others end, whether in knowledge or in love. She was from the first clothed in sanctity, destined for perseverance, luminous and glorious in God's sight, and incessantly employed in meritorious acts.

*Cardinal Newman*

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How great is the beauty of Mary, He only knows who gave this beauty; it is seen by the Creator but it is known to no creature. And because He alone knows it, He only can make its description and encomium.

*Richard of St. Lawrence*

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1. Antoinette JODOIN, of Worcester, Mass.

## Manila, Philippine Islands

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



### Sunday, February 14 1932

Reverend Father Roman baptizes one of our patients this morning. The poor man, who is but thirty-four years of age, is wasting away with consumption. Before coming to the hospital he had never heard of God. One of our Sister infirmarians, while treating him, told him of the beauty of our holy Faith. He receives the priest with the greatest respect.

### Sunday, February 21

The mother, wife, and seven children of Doctor Go Kee are received into the Church to-day.

Since the death of our kind benefactor, we have tried to keep in touch with the members of the bereaved family, who, owing to financial circumstances, were obliged to sell their home and to go to live at Cebu, with the Doctor's mother. Fearing that one of the little girls, a cripple, would be forsaken by her mother, we asked a charitable surgeon to do what he could for the child. The little one, who was brought to the hospital to be operated on, remained with us for over a month. During this time, we often had the occasion of speaking to the grandmother, mother, and children, who, being deeply touched on seeing the trouble we went to for our little patient, finally asked to enter the Church. The old lady informed us that she had been baptized while in St. Paul's Hospital, but as the Sisters there can show us no certificate, we decide to have her baptized conditionally. After all the members of this family had been instructed, His Excellency permitted them to be baptized in our chapel. Our Reverend Pastor, who presided at the ceremony, was assisted by Reverend Father Rector of the Society of the Fathers of the Divine Word.

One of our employees comes, this evening, for some medicine for his mother, who is dying. We are acquainted with the sick woman, who, although baptized, has not been living up to her religion. Her children do not even know how to make the Sign of the Cross.

We ask the young man if his mother wishes to receive the Last Sacraments. He tells us that she expressed the desire of seeing a certain priest if she were obliged to make her confession, but that he was sure that he would not be well received. The doctor, who overhears the conversation, offers to go at once for the priest, but our employee objects, saying that the other members of the family will not be pleased. He does not know enough about religion to understand what a misfortune it is for a Christian to die without being fortified by the Last Rites of the Church. "Poor woman!" do we say to ourselves, "she is reaping what she has sown!"





MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AMUSING THEIR LITTLE PATIENTS  
OF THE CHINESE GENERAL HOSPITAL, MANILA, P. I.

We cannot think of having a priest visit her, when we know that he is not wanted.

The next day, the doctor visits the poor woman, and, before leaving her, declares that she will have to be taken to the hospital for special treatment. This was just a little plan he thought of, but it worked out well. This evening, Sister tells her patient of the necessity of dying in peace with God and gives her a miraculous medal. Shortly after, the priest comes to hear her confession.

### Monday, February 22

On awakening this morning, the poor woman is beside herself with joy. After giving her Holy Viaticum last night the priest anointed her and imparted to her the Plenary Indulgence *in articulo mortis*. When she saw Sister preparing to leave her, she took hold of her hand and kissed it to show how much she appreciated all that had been done for her.

Just lately, a poor unfortunate man was brought to us. A charitable lady who visited him in his miserable hut was moved to pity and offered to pay his hospital expenses. As our new patient was very weak when he arrived, we did not delay in sending for the priest. It seemed as though he were only waiting to receive the Last Sacraments, for he died towards eleven o'clock the same evening. This kind lady, in wishing to relieve the sufferings of one of her unfortunate fellow-men, was thus instrumental in saving his immortal soul.



STRAWS HUTS INHABITED BY THE POOR OF MANILA.





CONFIRMATION CEREMONY OF NINETEEN AGED CHINESE BY HIS EXCELLENCY MOST REVEREND W. M. DUKE, ARCHBISHOP OF VANCOUVER,  
AT ST. JOSEPH'S ORIENTAL HOSPITAL, CONDUCTED BY THE MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

## VANCOUVER

*Extract from the Diary of our Sisters of St. Joseph's Oriental Hospital,  
Vancouver.*

### Wednesday, April 20, 1932

The Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph this year will remain forever memorable in our mission in Vancouver. It was the day set aside by our kind Archbishop, Most Reverend W. M. Duke, for the confirming of nineteen of our dear Oriental charges.

The ceremony took place at 4 P. M. in one of the large wards which served as an oratory. On this occasion, a life-sized statue of St. Joseph over the altar was prettily adorned with ivy, ferns and dainty flowers. The happy old men, the sickest in wheel-chairs, in deep recollection awaited the solemn hour. His Excellency entered preceded by the cross-bearer and escorted by members of the clergy, including Reverend Father Nichol, Chancellor, Reverend Father Sweeney, Reverend Father Millay, O. S. M., Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish; Reverend Father Forget, Pastor of St. Patrick's Parish; and Reverend Father Kelly. Two hundred persons assisted at the ceremony, among whom were two sisters of His Excellency, the Misses Duke.

Our beloved Archbishop spoke a few words to all present before administering the Sacrament of Confirmation to the poor patients, whose ages range from seventy to ninety-two. On seeing a successor of the Apostles in the midst of these poor creatures, we could easily imagine that a scene from the Gospel was being presented to us.

Confirmation over, His Excellency deigned to congratulate the Sisters for the work they are accomplishing in their hidden life of poverty. This ceremony is the fruit of incessant labor, for it is a difficult task to instruct the poor Chinese, on account of the difference in their language and customs. With fatherly kindness, His Excellency invited our friends and benefactors to continue their generosity in behalf of our Work.

We were especially privileged in having Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament take place in the oratory. From His altar throne, our divine Lord bestowed His blessing upon all our benefactors and friends, reserving, without doubt, a large share for the newly-confirmed patients. The singing was rendered by the Reverend Sisters of St. Ann. The Blessed Sacrament, which was carried to the oratory just in time for Benediction, was brought back again to our little chapel, beaming from the golden monstrance. The altar was decorated with fresh roses, carnations, and narcissi. Most of the latter had been plucked from our own flower-beds. Thanks are due to our benefactors who procured us so many bouquets of natural flowers.

Praised be our tender heavenly Mother and her chaste spouse for the many blessings showered on our little mission in Vancouver.



# 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.*

## Monday, March 21, 1932

Monsignor Lapierre, Prefect Apostolic of Sze-kingkai, Manchuria, who arrived to-day at the Foreign Mission Seminary, pays us a visit this afternoon. After giving us news of our Sisters on the missions, he speaks of the havoc wrought in Manchuria by the brigands. Oh! what suffering there is in poor pagan Chira. We shall redouble our prayers for its many unfortunate inhabitants, who are still sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death.

## Holy Thursday, March 24

Kneeling before the Repository, we express our gratitude to our divine Lord for His tender bounty in instituting the Blessed Eucharist as food for our souls. The King of heaven and earth remains ever in our midst and we can come at all times to praise Him and crave His protection. Dear Jesus, how good Thou art to continue to linger near us in Thy cell of love!

## Holy Saturday, March 26

"This day thou shalt be with Me in Paradise". While pondering over these words spoken by our dying Saviour to the Good Thief, we seemed to hear them again being repeated to one of our companions, who has been seriously ill for the last ten days.

Our dear Sister St. Francois de Paule (nee Cecile Girard, of Montreal), was called, this morning, to her reward. Despite the careful attention given her by our devoted physician, Dr. L. E. Fortier, and the affectionate care of her Sisters, she left to spend Easter in heaven.

As our dear Sister grew unconscious even before she appeared to be in danger of death, she did not have the privilege of pronouncing her vows. Nevertheless, we trust that we shall meet her in heaven with all our Sisters, since she died in our Novitiate.

During the twenty months she was with us, she was to be remarked for her cheerfulness and love for the interior life. While sick, she was just as patient and cheerful as when she was well; when in great pain, she would repeat with the greatest fervor: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us now and at the hour of our death", and, as soon as she felt better, she would smile and begin to sing.

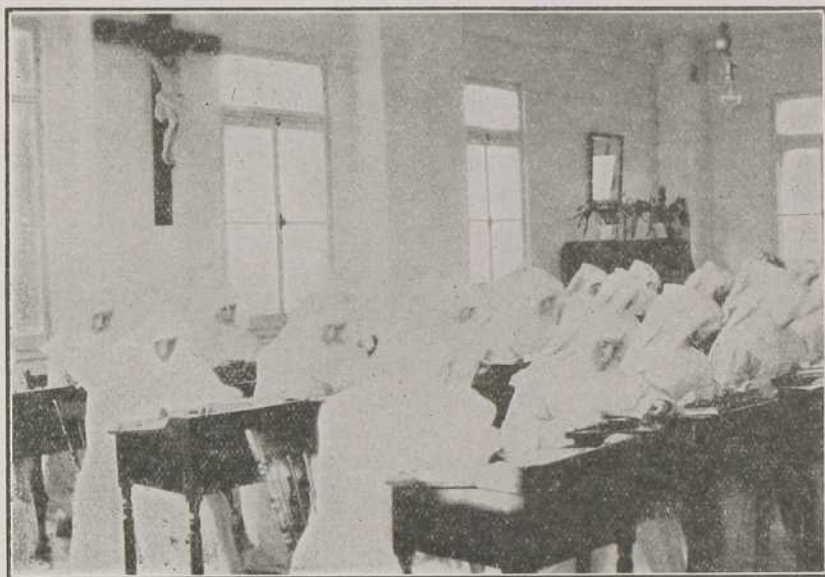
She was anointed on Holy Thursday. While the novices took their turns in going two by two to the chapel, all the Sisters at work in the

different rooms throughout the Novitiate prayed that the dying novice might have a happy death.

Very early on Holy Saturday, Mary, the sweet Morning Star, beamed gently on our dear Sister while her soul peacefully flew to its Creator.

As we gazed upon her in her coffin we felt that she was resting in peace. In her hands had been placed her beads, and, over her heart, a delicate lily.

The parents having expressed the wish of being given her mortal remains, the coffin was sent to their home after the *Libera* was sung this afternoon in our chapel, by Very Reverend Canon Roch, Superior of the Canadian Foreign



NOVICES STUDYING.

Mission Seminary. As soon as the Paschal Season is over, we shall have a Requiem Mass celebrated for the repose of her soul.

As the corpse was borne away from us, we did not bid our dear Sister "farewell" but only "good-bye", for in heaven we shall surely meet again.

### **Easter Sunday, March 27**

Although we have just been visited by death, we, nevertheless, spend a very joyous Easter. The name of our dear departed Sister is very often on our lips during the course of the day, but, instead of being sad, we rejoice at the thought that she is now enjoying eternal bliss. We know that our mirth is pleasing to our divine Risen Lord and to our beloved companion, who, we feel sure, is smiling upon us from the heavenly abode.

### **Sunday, April 10**

The Church is celebrating the Solemnity of the Annunciation. We prepared for this feast by making a triduum. To-day, each one of us conse-



crates herself anew to the Blessed Virgin, this tender Mother whom God has appointed treasurer and universal dispenser of all graces. How happy we are to be the servants of such a loving Mistress!...

### **Wednesday, April 13**

We intend to make several novenas in honor of St. Joseph for the unemployed workmen, whose children lack even the necessities of life. We have also resolved to make the best use of our time, and, in order to spur ourselves on, we shall ever keep uppermost in our minds the thought that we are especially privileged in always having something to do. Each one of our actions we shall offer to God, asking Him in return to send help to the numerous families affected by the long period of depression and unemployment. While thus assisting these poor unfortunate people, we shall acquire a good habit, which will prove very useful to us when we shall be called to labour in the mission fields later on.

### **Sunday, April 17**

This morning, our chapel is the scene of a very touching ceremony. Four children, relatives of our Sisters, have the happiness of making their First Holy Communion.

Although it is already late in the spring, the ground is covered with snow, and, up until noon, dainty sparkling flakes are to be seen floating in the air. Can it be that St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, the patron saint of two of the happy communicants has sent us this snow? As this dear little Saint herself was privileged to see snow fall on the day she received the Holy Habit, she perhaps asked the same favor for these little innocent souls.

Radiant with joy and as recollected as angels, the privileged children approach the Holy Table.

Needless to say, this First Communion ceremony evokes many a pleasant memory. How many graces did we not receive on the day when our dear Lord deigned for the first time to come into our heart! In thanksgiving for these favors, we beg this loving Saviour to look just as tenderly on these little ones. May they also, later on, share the happiness which we now are enjoying!...

### **Sunday, May 1**

This year, we could find no little white lilies in our grove to deck the altar of our tender heavenly Mother, but, Divine Providence intervening, one of our benefactors thoughtfully offers us some lovely bouquets of lilies, roses, tulips and hyacinths. Our prayers for this pious donor will be as numerous as the dainty corollas which exhale their sweet perfume at the feet of our Immaculate Queen.

### **Sunday, May 15, Pentecost Sunday**

During the novena preparatory to the Feast of Pentecost, we prayed very fervently to the Holy Ghost that He might bestow upon us all His

gifts and fruits. This morning, we realize that we have received one fruit in particular, that of joy. We hope that the Blessed Virgin has obtained us the others as well.

As to-day is also the patronal feast of our beloved Mother, we ask the Divine Paraclete to shower upon her the choicest of heavenly graces. Our Mistress and a few Professed Sisters go to the Mother House, where a little celebration is being held. This evening, we group around our Mistress, who tells us that she enjoyed her visit, and that on Tuesday our dear Mother is coming to see us. We are all very glad to hear this news and with the greatest enthusiasm we set to work to prepare her a fitting reception.

### Tuesday, May 17

At last it is our turn to express our gratitude to our dear Mother. We do not try to compete with the Sisters of the Mother House, for we are only novices, and, besides, we know that our Mother will appreciate the reception we have prepared in her honor, even though it be a very modest one.

After a piano selection and singing, we put on a little play in which a group of Christians are represented as being cruelly persecuted by Roman tyrants. The drama, which is a very pathetic one, teaches us many an important lesson. In the closing scene is portrayed the ascension into heaven of three young maidens crowned with lilies and bearing in their hands the palms of martyrdom which they have won. They proclaim the triumph of Christ, for love of whom they gave up their lives.

Between the acts there are violin selections, singing and a recitation. When all is over, we offer our Mother our very best wishes and listen attentively to the kind words she addresses us.

As we are to have a holiday to-morrow, we shall spend it with our beloved Mother and with our dear Sister Assistant, who has also come to visit us.



Blessed Bernadette of Lourdes Burse for the erection of a chapel at the Novitiate of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception.  
Offerings received . . . . . \$26.00

The charitable donors will share in all the Masses celebrated in this chapel dedicated to Our Lady, as well as in all the prayers recited therein by the religious.



Blessed are the actions enclosed between two Hail Marys.  
*St. Alphonsus.*

Oh! happy indeed are they who live under the protection of the Queen of Heaven!



# 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.

Please find enclosed \$1.00 for the renewal of my subscription, also \$1.00 in thanksgiving for favor received. Mrs. K. S., **Dublin, Ont.** — I wrote to you last October, requesting you to make a novena that my son might obtain a position that he had in view. Please continue to pray for him. He has now obtained this position and is making good. Enclosed please find \$2.00 in thanksgiving to our Immaculate Mother, whom I invoke in all my wants. I have not been very well myself. Would I be asking too much from you to remember me in your prayers. Mrs. N. F., **Montreal.** — I have received a very great favor and am subscribing to THE PRECURSOR as promised. Mrs. A. M. — I am sending \$5.00 for the ransom of a Chinese baby, in thanksgiving for a special favor received. Mrs. E. M., **Verdun.** — Some time ago I was obliged to undergo a very serious operation. I had recourse to Our Lady and I firmly believe that it was through her powerful intercession that I recovered from it. I beg our dear Mother to grant me a complete cure. A Subscriber. — I am sending you \$1.00 for four dying babies in fulfilment of a promise made some time ago to St. Jude. Please pray that my husband and son may find work soon. If I obtain the favor I am asking I will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR. Mrs. E. L., **Windsor, Ont.** — Enclosed find \$1.00, the offering I promised for the Missions if I regained my health. I would like you to publish this. M. D., **Montreal.** — I wish to express my gratitude to Our Lady. My request has been granted. I am enclosing a small offering for your missionary work. Miss C. — I have received many favors through the intercession of our Immaculate Mother. To thank her I am renewing my subscription to THE PRECURSOR. I am now praying for three other special requests. Mrs. J. F., **Montreal.** — I have obtained the favor I asked for and am sending you the offering I promised. I wish the little children would pray once more for me during this month. E. L., **Oakland, R. I.** — In this letter I wish to express my gratitude to our Blessed Mother for two special favors received through her intercession. Mrs. J. R. B. — I promised Our Lady that I would send \$20.00 if I secured a position. My prayers have been heard. Miss R., **Willimansett.** — I wish to state that I have received several favors from the Blessed Virgin after promising to send an offering for the ransom of four dying babies. A Subscriber. — I am enclosing a money order for \$10.00 for your needy missions, in thanksgiving for two great favors granted me. Miss C. P. — My heartfelt thanks to our Blessed Lady through whose intercession I have been cured of goitre. Miss R. L., **Montreal.** — I am enclosing .25 for the Missions as a small thank-offering for a favor received. Will you please pray that I may succeed in an endeavor I am undertaking and that the business my husband is in may pick up, so that he may not lose his position. I promise to send a good donation and to subscribe to THE PRECURSOR if I obtain these favors. Please remember me in your prayers especially during the month of our Blessed Lady. M. B., **Outremont.** — Thanks to Our Lady my request has been granted. I am enclosing \$1.00 for my renewal subscription. A Subscriber. — I am enclosing \$5.00 for the ransom of a Chinese baby, in thanksgiving for a favor obtained through our Immaculate Mother. Mrs. G. D., **Montreal.** — Please find enclosed \$2.00. I wish to renew my subscription to THE PRECURSOR and the extra dollar is in thanksgiving for having secured a good position. M. B. — The enclosed \$10.00 is to be used for the monthly upkeep of a crib in a missionary home, in thanksgiving to the Immaculate Mother and the Little Flower. Mrs. G. H. R., **Fitzroy Harbor, Ont.** — I am renewing my subscription to THE PRECURSOR, in thanksgiving for a favor received. Please pray for my son that he may soon know his vocation. Mrs. J. T. — My most grateful thanks to Our Lady, through whose intercession I have obtained a favor. Mrs. D., **Montreal.** — Please find enclosed \$2.00 for lights in honor of our Blessed Lady, in thanksgiving for a favor received. Kindly make a novena for me. Mrs. R. M. — I am enclosing \$1.00 as a thank-offering for a petition granted. Please publish my thanksgiving, which I promised to do if my prayers were heard. A Subscriber. — Please find enclosed \$1.00 for lights to be burned in honor of the Blessed Virgin in thanksgiving for favor received. Miss F. P., **Senneville, P. Q.** — My mother was very ill and thanks to our dear heavenly Mother she has regained her health. A. D. — I promised to renew my subscription for another year if I secured the position for which I had applied. Enclosed you will find \$1.00. Mrs. H. C., **Montreal.** — Enclosed please find the sum of \$1.00 as promised. Will send \$1.00 per month if my husband secures steady employment. Mrs. M. M., **Montreal.** —

I offer my most grateful thanks to our Blessed Lady for the recovery of my sister from a serious illness. Mrs. L. G. — I am enclosing herewith my subscription to THE PRECURSOR which I promised in thanksgiving for a great favor received. Mrs. W. D., **Montreal**. — I wish to thank our Immaculate Mother for curing my little boy. Mrs. J. C. — I am coming again to ask you if you would make another novena for me the way my flat may be rented to a good tenant and that I may get a few paying guests so as to be able to pay what I owe. I am enclosing \$1.00 for your missionary work as promised. Should I receive this favor, I shall again forward you the same sum. Do pray for me, as I really need your prayers. Mrs. C. A. O'B. — Enclosed you will find the sum of \$1.00 for the renewal of my subscription to THE PRECURSOR and for a special favor I have received from Almighty God. Mrs. H. G., **Montreal**. — My most grateful thanks to our Immaculate Mother and St. Joseph for the cure of my little daughter after promising publication. Kindly pray that I may get better health and that my husband may find work. Mrs. L. R., **St. Odilon, P. Q.** — Your prayers have helped me in the past and I wish to thank you. I am sending you a small donation, hoping to send more soon. C. R., **Muskegon, Mich.** — Would you kindly publish the granting of my prayers for my husband's conversion. Mrs. W. — Enclosed please find a postal note for \$4.50, in thanksgiving for a favor received. Mrs. R. D., **Montreal**. — To fulfil a promise made some time ago I am sending you an offering of \$2.50 and am also subscribing to THE PRECURSOR. Mrs. P. G. — I wish to express my gratitude to the Blessed Virgin. My request for my husband's conversion has been granted. Mrs. F. W., **Rosemont**. — Will you kindly publish my sincere thanks to Our Lady for a very special favor received. Miss R. D. — I am enclosing a little offering in thanksgiving for a great many favors bestowed on me. I beg you to pray fervently for myself and children. Mrs. Q., **Verdun**. — Enclosed find \$1.00 which I send to thank Our Lady for a favor I received through her intercession. Miss A. C. — I offer my most grateful thanks to the Blessed Virgin for my recovery from a dangerous illness. I was obliged to undergo an operation, but am now feeling well again. I am enclosing an offering as promised to help in your good work. Mrs. A. B., **Montreal**. — I wish to thank our Immaculate Mother, St. Joseph, and the Little Flower of Jesus for a great favor obtained through their intercession. I would like you to publish my thanksgiving. A Subscriber. — Many favors have been granted me through our Blessed Mother and St. Therese. M. F. — I wish to acknowledge the granting of a very special favor. Many thanks to God and His Blessed Mother. Miss L. S., **Montreal**. — Please find enclosed \$1.00 for a subscription to THE PRECURSOR, in thanksgiving for a favor received. Mrs. J. E. — I am enclosing \$5.00 for the ransom of a pagan baby, in thanksgiving to Our Lady for a great favor bestowed on me in the recovery of a very dear friend. M. B. — You will find enclosed \$1.00 for the renewal of my subscription, as well as a \$2.00 in thanksgiving for a favor received. Mrs. M. B., **Springfield**. — Last year, I prayed for success in my undertakings. This favor has been granted me and I am enclosing the little offering which I promised. J. C. — Enclosed please find \$2.00 which I send as an offering to have a Mass said in thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for the renting of my property and also as a subscription to THE PRECURSOR for one year. Mrs. C. W. B., **Montreal**. — Enclosed you will find the sum of \$1.00 to have a novena of lights burned in honor of the Blessed Virgin for my intentions and to thank her for past favors. Pray for me. M. M., **Montreal**. — I promised to have five Masses said if I obtained a favor. I am pretty sure everything is alright now, so I enclose \$1.00 for a Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin. B. P., **Montreal**. — Not long ago I promised a Mass for the Souls in Purgatory if my husband obtained a position. My wish has been granted, so I am enclosing the sum of \$1.00. Will you please pray for my brother. If he gets well again, I will renew my subscription and send \$1.00 to ransom four dying children. Mrs. D., **Amesbury, Mass.**

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 asking the Blessed Virgin to grant me a great spiritual favor. Mrs. M. B., **Montreal**. — In renewing my subscription to THE PRECURSOR. I wish to ask some great favors through your good prayers to the Immaculate Queen of the Missions. I am deaf and have been very sick since the death of my husband, fourteen months ago. My little home here is in danger from a mortgage taken to pay for his sickness of four years, which amounted to a large sum.



I am now trying to pay a little from small rental and hope, through the intercession of the Mother of God, to sell this place before it is taken on me for the mortgage. If sold, I will send a donation for the missions. Please pray for this intention and sale. Am also asking prayers for a nephew of mine going to school, that he may persevere in his studies and be a good young man and love God more. I want these requests published in THE PRECURSOR, so as to have the prayers of the subscribers for my intentions. J. J., a lover of the Missions. — I have delayed renewing my subscription until I was sure of my address. With this subscription I would like the Masses to be said for my husband and parents. I have promised \$4.00 if my requests are answered by Our Lord and Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Please pray for my intentions. Mrs. A. V. N., **London, Ont.** — Enclosed you will find a small amount for lights in honor of the Sacred Heart, to succeed in a new position and for another special favor. If these favors are received, I will send some money for your good works. M. F., **Montreal.** — Through a Catholic friend, I am enclosing \$1.00 for prayers that I may be successful in a certain writing. I promise to make an offering if I obtain this favor. Mrs. H. N. F., **North Adams, Mass.** — A father of several children begs prayers that he may secure a position. Anonymous. — I would like to receive two favors: the cure of my husband and peace in our household. Mrs. A. M., **Montreal.** — Some months ago, I had a bad fall. Will you please remember me in your prayers. Mrs. H. M. — I am sending you \$1.00 for renewal to THE PRECURSOR and ask you to pray for my husband's recovery. He has been sick for nearly twenty years. Mrs. A. O. — I have had rheumatic pains for some months past and am almost discouraged. Please ask Almighty God to give me health and strength. Miss R. L., **Montreal.** — I am praying for two very special intentions. If my prayers are heard I will send you an offering of \$5.00. Mrs. J. R. B. — Enclosed you will find \$1.00 for a Mass to be said in honor of the Blessed Virgin that a favor may be granted me. Please remember my intention in your prayers. W. L., **Adams, Mass.** — Kindly pray for a very special intention. If my petition is granted, I will send you \$5.00 and subscribe to THE PRECURSOR. I beg you to pray also for two other favors. Miss R. D., **Riverside, Ont.** — Please have a novena of lights burned in honor of the Immaculate Conception that my little niece may be cured of a pain in her side and that she may grow strong. Enclosed you will find \$1.00. M. M., **Montreal.** — Please pray for my sister's special intention and for the recovery to health of her husband, also that my brother and his family may come back to the Church. I promise to subscribe to your magazine if the first named favor is received. A Friend. — I promise an offering for the missions if I secure the position I have in view. A Subscriber. — I am subscribing to THE PRECURSOR, and beg you to pray that I may be cured. Mrs. A. L. — A very important favor is solicited. Miss A., **Montreal.** — Please pray for a young man who has stomach trouble. Anonymous. — Enclosed is an offering of \$2.00 for the Missions. I entreat our Blessed Lady to restore me to health. M. G. — I am praying to Our Lady for a particular intention. My husband is out of work and we are very poor. Mrs. E., **Montreal.** — Will you please remember the following petitions in your prayers: the grace of a religious vocation for my two children, my brother's return to health, and the grace of a happy death. C. F., **New Bedford, Mass.** — I am praying to Our Lady and the Little Flower of Jesus for the cure of my baby boy's eye. The child has had one operation and I want him to be cured without having to undergo another. I promise to take THE PRECURSOR for five years and to send you something for your Missions in China if my prayers are heard. Please join your prayers with mine for this intention. Mrs. J. F. V., **Sillery, P. Q.** — I am going to ask you if you will make a novena for my son that he may get back the position that he lost last summer, over a little trouble. He is my main support and if he gets his job back, I will send you \$1.00 a month for a year. Mrs. A. B., **Montreal.** — Enclosed find \$2.00 for a novena and lights for employment for a member of my family, also financial help. If successful, I will send a donation for your poor Missions. A Friend, **Timmins, Ont.** — I am writing to ask your prayers that I may obtain two special favors. If I obtain them both I will send a donation. J. C., **St. Odilon, P. Q.** — I am soliciting a very special favor and enclose \$1.00 for lights in honor of our Blessed Lady. A Subscriber. — Would you be kind enough to pray for my intentions. M. B. — I promise to send you the sum of \$5.00 if the Blessed Virgin helps me to secure a permanent position. M. H., **Montreal.** — Enclosed please find \$1.00 for a year's subscription to THE PRECURSOR. I am praying for a particular intention. Mrs. D. L. — May I ask a little prayer for a young lady's restoration to health. Anonymous. — Enclosed you will find \$1.00, my renewal subscription to THE PRECURSOR. Say some special prayers that my son may get work. He has been idle for a year and a half. Mrs. M. M., **Rosemont.** — I am sending you a money order for \$1.00 asking you to pray to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception for my intention. H. M. S., **Norwick, Conn.** — Will you please make a novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph and St. Teresa for a very special favor which I am anxious to obtain. If it is granted me, I will send you \$1.00 for your good works. Miss M. J. M., **Thurso, P. Q.** — Kindly make a novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Anthony that I may find a position this month. I will send in an offering for the ransom of four pagan babies if I receive this special favor. Miss J. D., **Montreal.** — I ask your prayers for a very special intention. L. G., **Amesbury, Mass.** — I wish all the subscribers would pray for several persons dear to me that they may return to the practice of their religious duties. A Subscriber. — If I receive the favor I desire, I will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR for ten years. Miss A. S. — Enclosed



please find my renewal subscription. I am soliciting some very special favors which I hope will soon be granted me. Mrs. F. T., **Montreal**. — Would you kindly have prayers said for a special intention. I will send you \$10.00 for your Works if this favor is granted. A Subscriber. — In God's Holy Name start a novena for me that I may have peace of mind and get out of the trouble I am in. Anonymous, **Montreal**. — My husband has been out of work for a long time, I hope you will remember us in your prayers. Mrs. F. M., **New Bedford, Mass.** — I enclose herewith two dollars, one for my subscription to THE PRECURSOR and one for prayers for a special intention. Mrs. J. H., **Teatreaultville, P. Q.** — I will send you \$5.00 if I obtain what I am asking for from the Blessed Virgin and St. Teresa. Mrs. J. L., **Montreal**. — Please find \$1.00 for my renewal subscription. I wish you would pray for me as I have been very sick. Mrs. L. R., **South Manchester, Conn.** — Please have your little orphans pray for my intentions. I promise an offering if my requests are granted. A. S., **Lemieux, Ont.** — Kindly recommend us to the prayers of all the subscribers. My husband has been idle for a year and we have five little ones to provide for. Mrs. A. D. — I am writing to ask you to pray that I may be successful in a very important undertaking and that a gentleman may be more faithful to his religious duties. A Subscriber, **Montreal**. — Enclosed please find an offering for a novena of lights to be burned for my mother's intentions. Miss A. P. — I wish all the subscribers would pray for my husband who is losing his mind through drink. Anonymous. — Enclosed please find \$1.00 for a novena to our Blessed Lady. Please remember my intentions in this novena. Mrs. M. L., **Montreal**. — Would you kindly say a little prayer for a young student who is seriously ill. The enclosed offering is to help you in your missionary work. Mrs. G. D. — Will you please make a novena to the Blessed Virgin that I may find work soon. I promise to send \$5.00 if I obtain the favor I am asking. Miss L. D., **Aylmer**. — Enclosed please find \$2.00 for a novena in honor of the Little Flower of Jesus that we may have success in a difficulty, and work. A Friend, **Timmins, Ont.** — I am writing these few lines to ask your prayers to Mary of the Miraculous Medal that I may be granted a very special favor. If I obtain same, I will send \$5.00 to help your missionary work. Mrs. H. H., **Verdun**. — I earnestly ask your prayers that my sister may obtain success, that her husband may get work soon and that I shall have some of the money due me. Will you please make a novena for me during the month of May. I have great faith in the Blessed Virgin, and I know she will help us. I am enclosing \$1.00 for a Mass and promise to send further donations soon if my favors are granted. Miss J. B., **St. Johnsbury, Vt.** — I promise to send a donation of \$5.00 and to subscribe to THE PRECURSOR if I am successful in selling some property. Mrs. T. H. — I am praying for a young man's conversion. If God deigns to grant me the favor I am asking, I will send you \$5.00 to help along your Works. Mrs. E. G., **Montreal**. — I am asking our Blessed Lady to intercede for me for I am greatly in need of prayers. Mrs. J. E. P. — Would you kindly pray for me that I may be cured of a very sore leg if such be God's Holy Will. A Subscriber. — Enclosed you will find the sum of \$1.00. Please pray for my special intention. Mrs. R. C., **St. Lambert**. — My husband has been on the point of death. Will you please pray for his recovery if it is God's Will for him to get better, and if it is not God's Will, that he may become perfectly resigned. I trust that your good prayers will help me in my distress. I will try to send an offering as soon as I can. Mrs. C., **Black Diamond, Alta.** — I want to ask you for prayers and novenas for a very dear friend of mine. When I was in the hospital just recently, you sent me a miraculous medal. Soon after I received it I got better. Although I am not a Catholic, I have faith. If my friend recovers I promise to become a Catholic. E. W. — Please continue to pray for my daughter's return. If God hears my prayers, I will pay for the education of a Chinese boy studying for the priesthood. Mrs. A. L., **Worcester, Mass.** — I am writing to you because I am really in need of prayers. I want to find some work to help out my husband, whose position is not a very good one. If I obtain the favor I am asking, I will forward you \$2.00 and subscribe to THE PRECURSOR for five years. Mrs. G. A., **Verdun**. — Would you kindly have prayers said that I may obtain two great favors. I promise a five years' subscription to THE PRECURSOR if my petitions are granted. A Subscriber. — Please find enclosed \$1.00 for a novena of lights to be burned in honor of our Blessed Lady for a special intention. Anonymous. — Will you please pray for one of my friends who is leading a very reckless life. Mrs. J. C. — I have been very sick and trust that our Immaculate Mother will hear my prayers for health. Mrs. L. M., **Montreal**. — I beg you to pray that I may soon know my vocation and obtain two other favors. A Subscriber. — Will you please make a special novena for myself and family. I have two sons out of employment, one for the last two years. My husband recently changed his position for, as he thought, a better one, which was for about two months. When difficulties arose, he came home thinking he would be sent back in a few days when all these difficulties were cleared up, but the man who gave him this position seems to have changed his mind and is not sending him back just yet, and I am afraid perhaps not at all. You can understand we shall be in desperate straits if he does not get a position of some sort soon. Please ask for work for the idle members of our family and that the manager may reconsider his decision or that another opportunity may occur for him soon. I will forward you \$5.00 if my requests are granted. F. S., **Montreal**. — You will find enclosed \$1.00 in honor of the Little Flower of Jesus. Please make a novena to her for my husband's success in business. Will you also pray to the Blessed Virgin and to this little Saint that we may succeed in selling our property. If our wish is granted, I will give you accordingly. Mrs. L., **Verdun**. — I promise an offering of \$5.00 for the Chinese Missions if



I secure the position I have in view. A Subscriber. — I am enclosing a small offering and wish you would burn a light for my intentions. I will send you another donation if I am successful in an important undertaking. M. C. — I confidently recommend to you the following intentions: Peace and happiness in my home, a mental cure, the conversion of my son, the sale of property, and other special favors. Mrs. G., **Montreal**. — Please pray for my son that he may find a means of paying his debts. If this favor is granted, I will send you an offering and renew my subscription to THE PRECURSOR. A Subscriber, **Ottawa**. — I promise to forward you the sum of \$5.00 for the ransom of a Chinese baby if I receive a very special favor. Mrs. P. D., **Montreal**. — I desire to obtain several spiritual and temporal favors. Anonymous. — Please pray that all the members of my family may have good health. Mrs. A. D., **Montreal**. — I recommend myself to your charitable prayers. Mrs. A. S., **Quebec**.

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



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

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## Privileges Accorded to Benefactors

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

Besides, Benefactors are entitled to the following spiritual advantages:

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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.

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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.