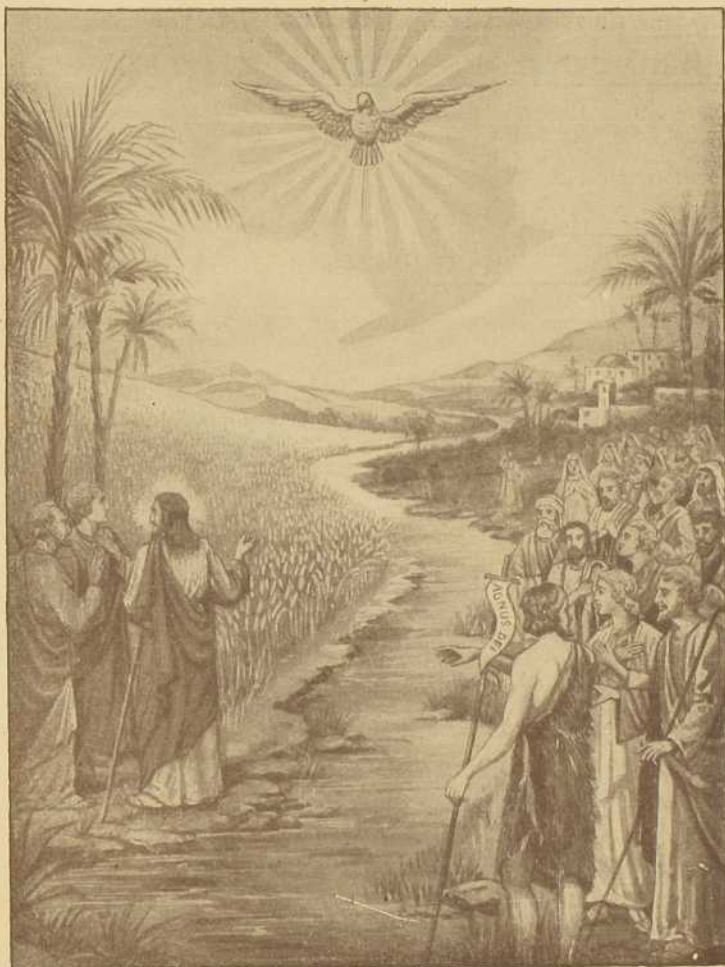


THE PRECURSOR



Vol. IX., 11th Year

MONTREAL, July-August, 1933

No. 4

Works of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

IN CANADA

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

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Procure for the Missions. 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.

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

CHINESE HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY, 112 Lagauchetiere St.

West, Montreal, (Founded in 1918)

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

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

CITY OF RIMOUSKI, P. Q., St. Germain St. (Founded in 1918)

Apostolic School for Aspirants to the Missions. Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Closed Retreats for ladies and young girls. Workroom of Church Vestments. Workroom for our Missions.

CITY OF JOLIETTE, P. Q., 100 St. Louis St. (Founded in 1919)

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Closed Retreats for ladies and young girls. Workroom of Church Vestments. Workroom for our Missions.

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

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Closed Retreats for young girls. Workroom for our Missions. Private lessons in Painting.

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

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

CITY OF THREE RIVERS, 466 Bonaventure St. (Founded in 1926)

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Chinese Works. Workroom for our Missions.

QUEBEC, 651 St. Cyrille St. (Founded in 1928)

Closed Retreats for ladies and young girls. Workroom for our Missions. Private lessons in Painting.

GRANBY, P. Q. 66 Ottawa St. (Founded in 1930)

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

CHICOUTIMI, P. Q., 61 Cartier St. (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.

STE. MARIE, CO. BEAUCE (Founded in 1932)

Apostolic School.

(Continued on page 3 of the cover)

Please Help the Missionary Sisters

of the Immaculate Conception

By procuring work for them.

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

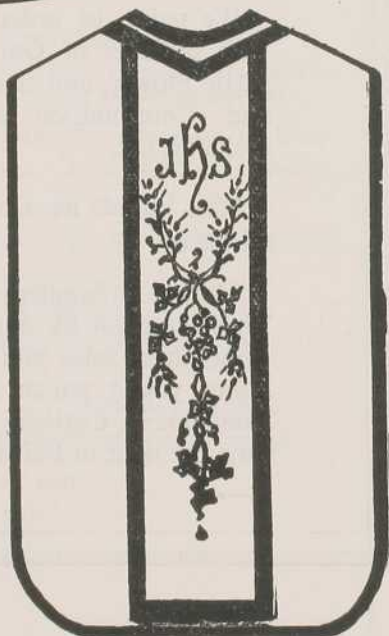
Missionaries must undergo several years' preparation before being able to commence their apostolic labors in foreign fields.

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

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

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

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

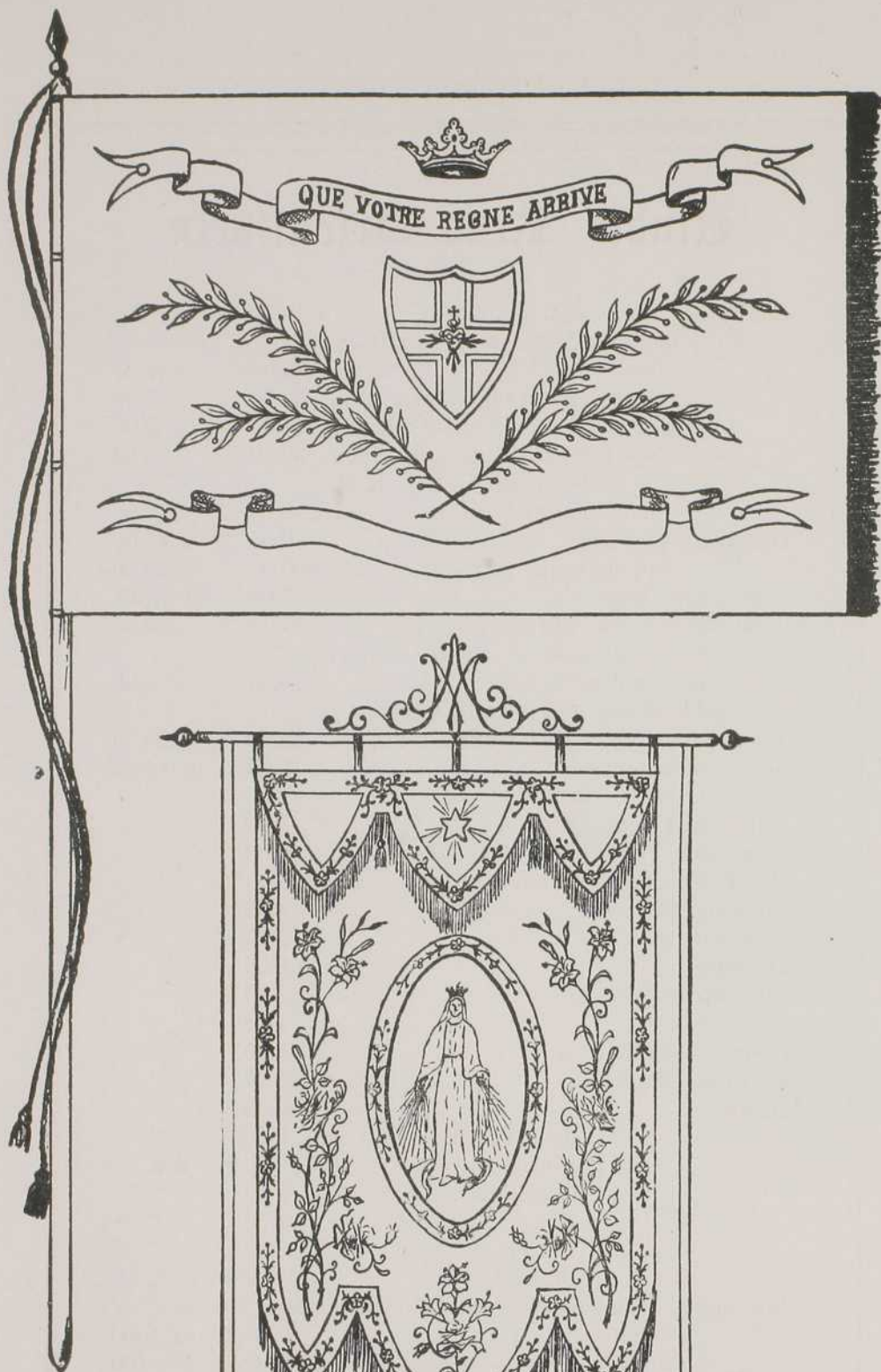


Kindly Read Attentively

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

We supply Altar-breads at the following prices:

Small	\$1.20 per 1000
Large	0.40 “ 100







"O IMMACULATE MOTHER, PROTECT OUR BENEFACTORS!"

THE PRECURSOR

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with the approbation of the Archbishop of Montreal

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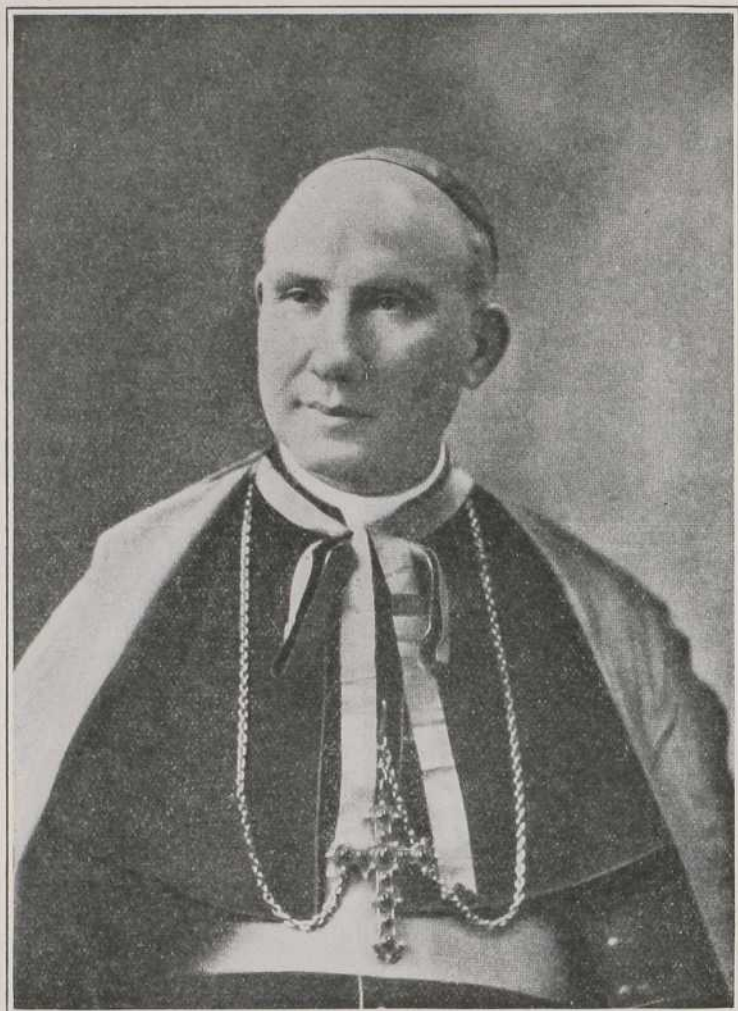
No. 4

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His Eminence Pietro Cardinal Fumasoni-Biondi

PREFECT OF THE SACRED CONGREGATION
OF PROPAGANDA,

*Whom His Holiness Pope Pius XI deigned to appoint,
on May 14, 1933, Protector of the Institute of the Missionaries
of the Immaculate Conception in place of
His Eminence William Cardinal Van Rossum,
who died on August 30, 1932.*

His Eminence Cardinal Fumasoni-Biondi

Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda

HIS Eminence Pietro Cardinal Fumasoni-Biondi was born in Rome on September 4th, 1872. After a brilliant course in the Roman Seminary he crowned his studies by taking out the Degree of D. D., and that of "*in utroque jure*". He was remarked for his unusual literary talents and for his wonderful intellect, on account of which he was appointed as Professor of Rhetoric in the College of Propaganda. Conscientious, zealous and peaceful, he led a most pious and simple ecclesiastical life. He was ordained priest at Rome on April 18th, 1897, and was later named Canon of St. Mary of Transtevere and Propaganda recorder. In the "Congregation" or weekly Council, Don Pietro Fumasoni-Biondi was to be remarked for his precise reports and his sensible deliberations. Elected bishop on November 14th, 1918, appointed Apostolic Delegate to India, announced on December 4th, he was consecrated at the College of Propaganda by Cardinal Serafini the 12th of the same month. As soon as he had taken possession of his new post, he commenced a visitation of his immense territory.

Three years later, on December 6th, 1919, he was named first Apostolic Delegate to Japan. He returned to Rome in March 1921 and was appointed Secretary of Propaganda on the 16th of June following; Consultor of the Holy Office, on June 25th; a member of the Congregation for Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs, on July 27th; and a member of the Congregation for the Eastern Church on November 16th of the same year. He held the office of President of the Supreme General Council of the Propagation of the Faith from June to December 1922. On December 14th, 1923, he was appointed Apostolic Delegate to the United States. For ten years he faithfully fulfilled the duties of his new Office. Mgr. Fumasoni-Biondi visited all of the 111 dioceses of the States, observing and bearing in mind the characteristics of each one.

Finally, His Holiness Pope Pius XI in the Consistory of March 13, 1933, raised this eminent co-labourer of our Holy Mother Church to the Roman purple and, on the 16th of the same month, to the dignity of Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda.

May God grant this great Cardinal many years of fruitful service in His vineyard, for the welfare of the Church and of all the Catholic missions!



Devotion to the Blessed Virgin is the true imitation of Jesus Christ; for, next to the glory of His Father, it was the devotion nearest and dearest to His Sacred Heart. It is a peculiarly solid devotion, because it is perpetually occupied with the hatred of sin and the acquisition of virtue. To neglect it is to despise God, for she is His ordinance, and to wound Jesus, because she is His Mother.

Father Faber.



Our Lady's Triumph

*She did not die as others do : her spirit did not blench,
There was no dole within her soul, no struggle, shock, or wrench;
Like light within a crystal vase, that soul illumed her clay,
Till Christ, her own, came from His throne and bore the light away.*

*They buried her within a tomb e'en as they buried Him,
And, lo! around that hallowed ground thronged myriad cherubim;
To music such as earth ne'er heard save on blest Christmas night,
All Heaven's choirs attuned their lyres, full glad in death's despite.*

*Three days the music lasted, lightening still the Apostles' gloom,
And scarce had ceased when from the East came Thomas to the tomb;
He oped it wide but found it bare, no crystal vase was seen,—
Beyond the sky to Christ on high had angels borne their Queen.*

— Arthur Barry.

Holy Year

The voice of the Vicar of Christ proclaiming the Holy Year, the Jubilee of the Redemption, has re-echoed throughout the entire world. All Christian nations, all the children of Holy Mother Church, have heard it, but have they all thought of thanking God for so signally blessing them, have they all recognized the great favour bestowed on them as a fresh ray of tenderness from the Heart of Jesus burning with love for all mankind whom He has ransomed by the shedding of His Precious Blood? Do they realize that this Adorable Heart is thereby inviting them to pray, repent and to do penance in order to disarm the justice of their Almighty Father, who is about to avenge their ingratitude? Are they all making it their duty to take advantage of the extraordinary graces being granted during the Holy Year and have they thought sincerely of returning to God? Do they ever stop to consider that if peace has fled from many souls and from numerous homes, that if it threatens to abandon even the nations, it is because the holy teachings of the Gospel have been left aside and forgotten, because the graces of Redemption have been refused and because the nations have allowed themselves to be perniciously enticed by pleasures, honours and wealth, for peace is to be found only where God and His law reign supreme.



Jubilee Year of Our Lady of Lourdes

Fragment of a letter of His Holiness Pope Pius XI to His Eminence Cardinal Binet, Archbishop of Besancon, on the Occasion of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes.

“We believe that God in His Providence permits that, at the approach of the Holy Year recently proclaimed by Us with a view to honouring more especially Our divine Redemption, the best auguries should come from the Mother of God.

“In reality, Mary, conceived without the original stain, has been chosen as the Mother of Christ in order to co-operate in the great sacrifice of Redemption, and, for this reason, She has become the Mediatrix of all graces. Through her powerful intercession we receive Our Lord’s choicest gifts; so great is her power that it can be surpassed by neither angels nor by men. We can easily see how opportune is the plan conceived to commemorate with such great pomp and solemnity the series of signal graces which the Blessed Virgin has obtained for Christian nations during the last nineteen centuries. As a result of these celebrations, the people will go with ever-increasing confidence to Mary, and plenteous blessings will be obtained by her from Jesus Christ.

“If so many to-day are turning to God to obtain the cure of physical miseries and infirmities, much more numerous are those whose souls are sick and deformed and whose cure only God can obtain. What true Catholic

is there who is not filled with sorrow on seeing the numerous souls redeemed by the Blood of Jesus Christ, being whirled away by a wayward world and lost for all eternity.

"For this reason, one cannot be too solicitous or too zealous in inspiring the nations to have devotion to the Queen of Heaven, and there is nothing sweeter nor more efficacious, in the midst of the troubles of this life than to raise imploring hands towards this all-bountiful Mother and to unceasingly invoke her aid in union with her children all over the world."

Dates of the Eighteen Apparitions and Words of the Blessed Virgin to Blessed Bernadette Soubirous



First Apparition: February 11, 1858.—The Blessed Virgin teaches Bernadette how to make the Sign of the Cross well.

Second Apparition: February 14.—“There she is!”, joyfully exclaims Bernadette, while advancing towards the Grotto; she throws some holy water towards the mysterious Lady, who smiles reassuringly.

Third Apparition: February 18.—The child, in her ecstasy, cries out: “She is coming..., there she is!”. She presents paper, pen and ink to the Vision, and asks Her to write her desires: “It is not necessary to write down what I have to say to you. Do me the kindness to come here during fifteen days. I do not promise that you will be happy in this world, but in the next. I desire that people come here.”

Fourth Apparition: February 19.—The ecstasy lasts half an hour.

Fifth Apparition: February 20.—Bernadette is accompanied by her mother. A crowd had preceded them to the Grotto. During the ecstasy, the Blessed Virgin teaches, word by word, to her little confidante a prayer exclusively for her.

Sixth Apparition: February 21.—A large number of deeply-emotioned spectators. Bernadette, seeing the sad expression on the Lady's face, asks her why She is sad: “Pray for sinners!”

Seventh Apparition: February 23.—The Blessed Virgin confides three personal secrets to Bernadette which she never revealed.

Eighth Apparition: February 24. — Bernadette kneels on the rock, her beads in her hands; all at once her countenance, which had been radiant with joy, grows sad. She drags herself along on her knees up the steep ascent in front of the Grotto, kissing the ground at each step and repeating, while she turns to the crowd, these words which the Blessed Virgin had pronounced: "Penance! Penance! Penance!"

Ninth Apparition: February 25. — The pious child is told "to go and drink at the spring and to wash herself there." As she had seen no spring, she thought it was meant that she should go to the Gave. But with her eyes and her outstretched arm, Our Lady pointed to the corner of the Grotto. "I then began to scrape the earth," said Bernadette, "and the hole began to fill with water, and I drank some of it." It is this wonderful spring which has since worked so many miracles.

Tenth Apparition: February 26. — "You will kiss the earth for the conversion of sinners."

Eleventh Apparition: February 27. — A prolonged ecstasy; at the end of the celestial visit, the Blessed Virgin seems to grow recollected and bids Bernadette "to go to the priests and tell them that they should build a chapel there."

Twelfth Apparition: February 28. — Intimate and personal communications.

Thirteenth Apparition: March 1st. — Enthusiastic emotion of the numerous spectators who, wishing to imitate Bernadette, present their beads to the Blessed Virgin.

Fourteenth Apparition: March 2. — "I desire to have people come here in procession."

Fifteenth Apparition: March 4. — An enormous crowd. Bernadette is plunged in an ecstasy which lasts an hour, she seems now jubilant and now sad.

Sixteenth Apparition: March 25. — Feast of the Annunciation. — A heavenly light, more dazzling than ever, illuminates the Grotto. The celestial vision appears, smiling, and looking towards the crowd with unspeakable benevolence and with all the tenderness of a mother. Bernadette, in obedience to the instruction given her, asks her three times to tell her her name. Our Lady raising her eyes to Heaven, and stooping towards the child, answers: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Seventeenth Apparition: April 7. — A fresh wonder: the flame of the candle which Bernadette is holding passes through her fingers without harming her.

Eighteenth Apparition: The last Apparition takes place on July 16, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. — Our Lady bows and smiles: it is the last time the humble child is to be favored on earth with the sight of the Queen of Heaven. Bernadette later became Sister Mary Bernard in the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Nevers, where she died in the odor of sanctity on the 16th of April, 1870, the first Wednesday after Easter, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

The Canonization of Blessed Bernadette Soubirous

The Ceremony of the Decree concerning the Miracles approved for her Canonization has just taken place at the Vatican, in the presence of the Sovereign Pontiff.

Seldom has one witnessed such a vast crowd of spectators as that assembled to hear the reading of the decree for the Cause of Canonization of Blessed Bernadette Soubirous, which has just taken place. Foremost among those present were to be seen Cardinal Laurenti, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, and Cardinal Verde, Reporter of the Cause; Mr. Charles Roux, French Ambassador at the Holy See; Donna Camilla Ratti, Our Holy Father's sister; Their Excellencies the Bishops of Nevers, of Carcassonne and of Vitoria (Spain); Mgr. St. Pierre, Auxiliary Bishop of Carthage; Rev. Father Cheramy, P. S. S., representing Mgr. Gelier, Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes; Prince di Napoli; Noble Guard of the Italian Committee of Pilgrimages to Lourdes; the Superior General of the Sisters of Nevers and a group of nurses from the different pilgrimages, all wearing their uniforms.

When the Pope had arrived in the Consistory and had taken his place on the Papal Throne, Mgr. Carinci, Secretary of the Congregation of Rites, read the Decree which referred first to the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Apparitions at Lourdes, and to the presence of the Papal Legate at these ceremonies; it then pointed out the similitude existing between the two confidantes of the Immaculate Virgin: Blessed Bernadette, whose Decree of Canonization was being read, and Blessed Catherine Laboure, whose Beatification took place on May 28th.

Monsignor Flynn then thanked the Pope for this Decree which fills the entire Catholic world with the hope that Blessed Bernadette will soon be canonized. He thoughtfully remarked that the date of the Decree coincided with the anniversary of the birth of Our Holy Father and expressed the gratitude of Bernadette's religious family, that of the dioceses of Lourdes and of Nevers, that of France represented by its ambassador, and finally that of all Christian nations, since the whole Catholic universe will rejoice on learning of the Decree.

His Holiness who had listened with evident satisfaction to Monsignor Flynn's address, declared, first of all, that he had but little to add to the Decree and to the words full of affection which had been used to comment it. He desired, however, to show forth the providential resemblance of Bernadette's life with that of Catherine Laboure. He spoke of how they resembled each other in practising the virtues of hidden life and, in pathetic terms, exalted the designs of God who presents to the people of to-day, entirely devoted to the artificial and material things of life, these prodigies of humility for whom our heavenly Father, like our Divine Master Himself, reserved His most cherished revelations. The Holy Pontiff remarked that the time chosen by Divine Providence for these manifestations of sainthood was most appropriate in this the year of the Redemption, of which holiness is not only the flower, but the fruit as well.

A Departure for China



On the 17th of September next, fifteen Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception will leave Montreal for China and Japan. They will set sail from Vancouver on the 23rd. Several of them will go to lend a helping hand to their Sisters in the Vicariate of Szepingkai, Manchuria, which is in charge of the Reverend Fathers of the Foreign Mission Seminary of Pont Viau. Others will make their way to Japan

and a few will also be destined for the new Mission of Suchow, a prefecture confided to the Reverend Jesuit Fathers from Canada. Mgr. Marin, S. J., Prefect Apostolic, when in Canada in 1932, appealed to the Community of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception for missionaries for this foundation.

May the Sweet Star of the Sea safely guide these new messengers of the Gospel and grant that they may do much good among the poor pagans!

The gifts which anyone will, out of charity, offer us to help in defraying the extraordinary expenses caused by this approaching departure will be received with the most lively gratitude by the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception at the following address: 314 St. Catherine Road, Outremont, P. Q.

A Token of Gratitude

On the 14th of June last, took place at the Mother House of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Outremont, an exhibition of sewing done during the year for the Missions, by the Ladies of Our Lady of the Holy Ghost Workroom and the young girls of the St. Teresa of the Child Jesus Sewing Circle, who meet each week at Outremont, the ladies on Wednesday afternoon and the young girls on Saturday.

The little exhibition touchingly revealed the charity and the zeal of the Purveyors of the far-off Missions of these missionary Sisters. For a number of years, they have worked with a truly motherly devotedness for these Missions, making clothing for the unfortunate children in the Foundling-Homes and Orphanages, and the linens necessary for the poor chapels.

To each of these charitable Workers, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception offer their most lively gratitude and they invite them all to begin anew, next September, their apostolic task, so pleasing to Him who said: "Whatsoever you do unto the least of My little ones you do it unto Me", and so admired by the angels who must write an account of it in golden letters in the heavenly registers.



FROM FAR-OFF CHINA YOUR LITTLE PROTEGES SEND YOU, DEVOTED BENEFACTESSSES,
THEIR MOST GRATEFUL THANKS.

To the ladies and young girls of all the other Sewing Circles of Montreal and other places, who help them so efficaciously by their different labours and by their alms, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception here wish to express their deep gratitude for their precious co-operation in the past and for the help they will give them in the future. They beg God to grant that even here below these generous benefactresses may enjoy the fruits of their apostolate while awaiting the day when He will address them these compensating words: "Come ye blessed of My Father, I was naked and you clothed Me... enter into the kingdom prepared for you."

The apostolic spirit which Christ infused into the Church by which He gave her divine vitality has been perpetuated to our days and still lives in the successors of the apostles who go forth on the divine errand to carry the message of salvation to the pagans and to bring the lost sheep into the fold of Christ.

Change of Address

The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Chicoutimi who, since their arrival in that city three years ago, have been living at 138 Riviere du Moulin moved, on June 1st, to 61 Cartier St. They have taken possession of this new dwelling in order to carry on, with greater comfort, Closed Retreats for ladies and young girls, monthly Retreats, and Sewing Circles for the poor and for the benefit of the Missions.

For any information concerning the Retreats, apply to: The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, 61 Cartier St., Chicoutimi, P. Q.

The Relics of St. Ann

PILGRIMS visiting the Valley of Josaphat in the Holy Land may still gaze upon the tomb of St. Joachim, placed a little to the right of the main altar in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre of Our Lady, beside that of his holy spouse, St. Ann, and that of St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin. His body has since been transferred to Jerusalem, and part of his skull is carefully preserved at Cologne, in the Church of the Machabees.

The body of Blessed Ann, mother of the Blessed Virgin, taken from the sepulchral chapel of Our Lady in the Valley of Josaphat, where it lay near that of St. Joachim, was brought to France in a vessel from Provence and, according to an ancient tradition, through a signal favour from Almighty God, was carried to the Church of Apta Julia. The most ancient martyrology of Apt mentions this translation. Trithemius, *De laudibus sanctae Annae*, Joannes de Montevilla, *In itineralio*, state that the body of St. Ann was brought to the West from the East and deposited in Gaul. It is spoken of in the accounts of several voyages to the Orient, especially in the account given by Father Nau.

But as the period of persecution was fast approaching, Blessed Auspicius, the first Bishop of Apt, concealed it in a kind of cupboard built in the wall of the lowest crypt, which still exists. Before the relics, he placed a lighted lamp, which continued to burn until the year 792, when they were discovered. The holy Bishop then having very diligently built a wall around the crypt, thus making it impenetrable, and those to whom the secret had been revealed and who knew just in what spot the body had been laid being dead, the niche remained unnoticed for seven centuries. The relics of St. Ann were thus preserved, thanks to the foresight of St. Auspicius, during the invasions of the Allens, the Suevi, the Vandals and other hordes of barbarians who pillaged Provence, and the horrible devastations of the Saracens. It was after the complete defeat of the latter that Charlemagne, the glorious victor, had the happiness of finding these precious relics.

Shortly before Easter, Charlemagne stayed for a while at Apt after having restored peace to Provence by defeat-



FEAST OF ST. ANN, JULY 26TH.

ing the Saracens in the plain which lies between Mount Cordes and Montmajour Hill. In commemoration of this battle, wherein all hope of the establishing of Islamism was destroyed, an inscription which may still be seen to this day, was placed in the Church of Montmajour-lez-Arles.

Charlemagne's first thought on reaching Apt was to ask Archbishop Turpin to consecrate anew the cathedral church which had been profaned by impious worship. Whilst an extraordinary throng of great lords and common people assisted at this solemnity, and whilst the population of the neighbouring districts, in a transport of joy, praised God on seeing the shrine restored, Christ, lovingly blessing the pious wishes of the citizens and the ardent faith of Charlemagne, granted an unexpected favour by revealing, in a miraculous manner, the precious hidden relics of St. Ann.

John, the fourteen-year-old son of the Baron of Caseneuve, blind, deaf and dumb from birth, was among those present in the sanctuary. After appearing to listen for some time to a message from heaven, the youth began to strike the steps leading to the main altar, making the people a sign to remove these steps and to dig deep into the soil in order to discover what was perhaps hidden underneath. All this caused a disturbance during the Holy Sacrifice but the guards and the other officers were unable to hold back the blind lad. Nevertheless, all present were astonished at such a novel proceeding and the prince, expecting a miracle, commanded that the wishes so ardently expressed by the youth be fulfilled.

Without the least delay, the steps indicated were removed and immediately a door was discovered, which, being held fast by some huge stones, foretold that there was something remarkable inside. Some workmen having opened the door with hammers, the onlookers saw a passage and a flight of steps leading to an underground grotto artistically arranged. It was the crypt in which Blessed Auspicius, Apostle of Apt, had so often nourished, by the Word of God and the Sacraments, the people confided to his care.

The blind boy, walked ahead of the others, pointing out the way so clearly that Charlemagne, fearing that he would be knocked down and trodden upon by the curious throng, made it his duty to keep the lad near him. John continued to make signs to the workmen to remove the soil in front of the portion of the wall which he indicated to them. Finally, all reached a narrow underground passage and there, an extraordinary light burst upon them. When the lower crypt was opened at length, all present gazed with admiration upon a lighted lamp placed in front of a kind of cupboard built in the wall. The clergy, the king, and all his court joyously hastened towards the mysterious light, which flickered out on being exposed to the air.

A miracle! John suddenly receiving the use of his eyes, ears and tongue cries out: "In this opening lies the body of St. Ann, mother of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God."

All the spectators, filled with astonishment, utter a thousand joyous exclamations. Immediately, the extremely pious king orders the niche to be opened. An odour as sweet-smelling as balm at once fills the air and the sacred relics attested by such a great miracle appear, wrapped in a precious

veil and enclosed in a cypress chest. They are certified by the following inscription: "Here lies the body of Blessed Ann, mother of the Virgin Mary". As soon as the chest is opened, a sweet perfume spreads throughout both crypts, thus confirming the miracle. Archbishop Turpin, having lifted up the chest, handed it to Charlemagne that he might kiss it as a mark of his happiness and consolation.

The pontiff rendered thanks to God, the Author of this miraculous invention, who had revealed the body of the venerable grandparent of Christ which was to be in the future a safeguard and a help to the inhabitants of Apt.

Charlemagne commanded that a detailed account of all that had occurred be written and presented to the Sovereign Pontiff, who showed his approval by sending a certificate. The emperor, wishing to inform Pope Adrian of all that had happened, wrote him a letter which has been preserved.

During the Revolution, the precious relics preserved at Apt were not desecrated. Part of the gifts offered by the pilgrims remained untouched during the social disturbances and are to-day the glory of the church which they adorn.

It is in the city of Apt that have been procured all the relics of St. Ann that are presently to be seen and venerated in other places.

The Sisters of the Visitation of Chartres have the happiness of possessing a tiny part of the head of St. Ann.

But nowhere is St. Ann honoured as much as at the shrine near Auray, which bears her name. Auray is the principal city of Morbihan in the district of Lorient. The pilgrimages to this spot, which had been neglected for a long time, were renewed in 1624. It has been proved by numerous and careful judicial inquests that St. Ann often appeared in several places, at different hours of the day and even during the night, to Yves Nicolazic, a labourer living in the parish of Pluneret, near Auray in the diocese of Vanne, and a native of the village of Kerauna (a Breton word meaning the city of Ann).

Nicolazic had to make reparation to St. Ann in the name of his ancestors. The latter, in cultivating a piece of land in Bocennu wherein the ruins of the ancient chapel of the Saint still lay had, from time to time, taken some stones from the shrine. In 1614, Nicolazic's father built a barn in the walls of which could be seen the stones which had formerly formed a few of the windows of a church. At times, Yves Nicolazic would hear a loud noise. Later on, during the night, he would see the Saint walking before him carrying a torch. Sometimes, he only saw a torch and the hand which held it. Our Saviour's grandparent appeared as a remarkably beautiful and venerable lady, dressed in snow-white garments. She informed Yves that in Bocennu there had formerly been a chapel dedicated to her and that it had been destroyed in the year 699, lying in ruins for the last nine hundred and eighty-four and a half years. She expressed the desire of having this chapel rebuilt. Guillemette le Roux, Nicolazic's wife, on arising on March 6th, found on her table, on the very spot where her husband had some time before seen a hand holding a lighted candle, some coins of French currency, of which a few

were dated 1613, while the others were of unknown dates and were marked here and there with letters which no one could explain. Later on, these mysterious coins were regarded as objects of devotion. Finally, St. Ann commanded Nicolazic to go to the field in Bocennu, where he would find on a spot indicated to him, a statue representing her. Nicolazic left with a few witnesses and was led on by a light which was also seen by those of his companions who were in the state of grace. At the place where this light disappeared, they found, on digging the soil, a wooden statue of St. Ann. Some time after, the straw-covered barn of which we have already spoken was destroyed by fire, and although a great quantity of water was thrown on it, the conflagration could not be extinguished. Nothing inside the barn was damaged, nor was the rye tied in sheaves and heaped up close by, despite the fact that the flames were naturally spread by the wind. This was at one and the same time a punishment and a blessing. The statue of St. Ann soon attracted an immense throng of pilgrims; with their offerings a chapel was built: it was beautified by the Carmelite Fathers who took charge of this shrine on December 21st, 1627. In 1639, they received a relic of St. Ann from King Louis XIII. Pope Urban, by bulls issued September 22, 1638, granted great indulgences to all pilgrims and to the members of the Confraternity of St. Ann of Auray. In 1792, the religious were driven out of the city and their convent and their church sold. The statue was smashed and burned, only a small piece of the face being saved; this fragment is still to be seen in the pedestal of the new statue. The church and the convent, won back again in 1815, were confided to the Jesuit Fathers who also established a Lesser Seminary. They were compelled to leave the city in 1828. Since that time, the shrine in honour of St. Ann has served the purpose for which it was erected. It is still the ecclesiastical school of the Diocese of Vannes and numerous are the pious pilgrims attracted thither. St. Ann is also greatly honoured in the German portion of Lorraine. In the diocese of Nancy, near Albestroff, the principal city of the district of Meurthe in Chateau Salins, is to be remarked a magnificent Roman chapel erected but recently on the site where there formerly stood other monuments dedicated to St. Ann. The devotion towards the grandparent of Our Lord Jesus Christ is, in this part of Lorraine, so ancient, that the date of its origin may not easily be ascertained. As early as the 12th century, on this very spot could be seen a chapel dedicated to St. Ann, the site of which, tradition tells us, had been selected by the Saint herself. To-day, this place of pilgrimage is even more important on account of having been endowed with a very precious relic of St. Ann, sent from Apt, Provence.
(*Life of the Saints, Les Petits Bollandistes.*)

Every grace vouchsafed to us in this world passes by three different channels in succession; It proceeds from God to Christ, from Christ to the Blessed Virgin, and by her is usually dispensed to us. No grace reaches earth from heaven without passing through Mary's hands.

**Consecration of His Excellency Bishop J. A. Walsh,
Maryknoll's Co-Founder and Superior General**

On June 29th, the Very Reverend J. A. Walsh, M. Ap., of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America was consecrated as Titular Bishop of Siena, Egypt, by His Eminence Pietro Cardinal Fumasoni-Biondi, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda, at Rome.

Among those who assisted at the ceremony which was held in the Propaganda Chapel were: His Eminence Cardinal Marchetti Selvaggiani; Bishop McNicholas, Cincinnati; Bishop J. N. Dunn, New York; Bishop U. J. Vehr, Denver; Bishop McNally, Hamilton, Ont.; Bishop Fitzgerald, Gibraltar; Reverend Father Considine, of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda; Mayor J. N. Curley, of Boston; six Italian archbishops, and many prelates and friends of the newly-elected Bishop.

The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, through the medium of THE PRECURSOR, humbly extend to His Excellency Bishop Walsh their lively congratulations and wish him a long and fruitful episcopate.

The Merciful Designs of Divine Providence

It has been said that whoever God protects is well protected. We often meet with striking examples of God's watchful Providence in mission countries. On Wednesday morning, March 8, my catechist was informed that a Chinese innkeeper was dying and that he wished to be baptized. After making a few enquiries, I decided to send my catechist ahead in order to prepare the dying man. I left almost immediately afterwards.

Mr. K'ang had been suffering from asthma for a number of years, the attacks becoming each year more and more severe. He obtained relief after taking the medicine which the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception gave him at the Dispensary. This Fall, he consulted some Chinese doctors and on the thirtieth day of the twelfth moon, he was at death's door. Mr. K'ang was noted for his stubbornness. His two neighbours, Mr. Hoang and Mr. Li, both fervent neophytes, greatly desired to save his soul, but when they spoke to him of Baptism, they met with a complete refusal. Everyone knew just what a "no" from him meant and his conversion was despaired of. However, Mr. K'ang got over this attack, and was well enough until Wednesday morning, when he again took sick. The Chinese doctor who was called to attend to him gave him some medicine which was to lead him to the grave inside of two days. Feeling worse, the patient himself asked to be baptized.

Upon my arrival at Mr. K'ang's house, I was told that he was well acquainted with our religion, as he had assisted at the conferences given at the

Dispensary. I questioned him and finding that he was well enough instructed, I immediately baptized him. I remained with him for two hours, and had him repeat the Act of Love and, from time to time, the invocation: My God, Thou lovest me, I love Thee.

The following morning, Sister Julianne du St. Sacrement ⁽¹⁾ sends me word that there is a man in a nearby inn who is dying and who has been unable to speak for the last ten days. His death is certainly near at hand. I am soon on my way to his home. After searching for a while (there are no numbers on the doors), I enter a wretched room where I am told the sick man, Mr. Tchao, lodges. It is very dark inside. A kind-hearted person lights a candle. On approaching I find that the patient is a young man, twenty-three years of age. He has been sick for a month and has not been able to move or speak for already ten days. His hands are cold. I look at him and address him a few words. He immediately looks at me. How happy I am to see that he understands what I am saying. I at once begin to explain to him the principal truths of our holy religion, and recite the Act of Contrition, telling him that if he consents to be baptized, he will go to heaven and see Almighty God. I then ask him to close his eyes if he is willing to become a Christian. His eyes appear bright and clear in the candlelight and I can see perfectly well that he is conscious and that he understands me. Is he going to consent, now that he is dying, to renounce what he has adored all his life, in order to make an act of faith, hope and love to our Crucified Lord? I take my missionary crucifix and hold it out before him. I await his answer with the greatest anxiety.

Mr. Tchao at last closes his eyes, but it seems as if he is obliged to make an extraordinary effort in order to perform this simple act. Bending over him, I wonder if I can consider the almost reluctant closing of his eyes as an assent. After waiting awhile, I again give him a little instruction and ask him as before to close his eyes to show that he consents. After a moment's delay, he closes them. All the Christians present and even the pagans as well as myself, conclude that he wishes to be baptized and I immediately comply with his desire. By this time it is nearly noon.

A Christian comes to me the following morning: "Father, you know, Mr. K'ang, he went to heaven this morning," "Very well", I reply, "I shall go to his house at noon." I, accompanied by several Christians, go at noon-hour to recite prayers for the dead man. On returning, I say to my companion: "Let us go in to see Mr. Tchao." As we approach the inn, I call out: "Lao Tchao Kia", so as to announce my arrival, for the dogs are very cross. An old Chinese woman comes out of a house close by and says to me: "Tchao died last night." He also had left for heaven that very night.

My heart was filled with joy and gratitude as I made my way back to the Mission. How kind had our Merciful Father been to these two privileged pagans!

*Eugene Berichon, P.M.E.,
Catholic Mission,
Szepingkai, Manchuria.*

1. Beatrice LAREAU, of Chambly Bassin.

Veni Sponsa Christi

ON April 30th, the Heavenly Spouse took to Himself our dear Sister St. Dominique (Marguerite Dunn, of l'Acadie, P. Q.) of the Mission of Szepingkai, Manchuria. Since pronouncing her Perpetual Vows on the 11th of February last, she had not ceased for a moment to render thanks to God for having been admitted to Final Profession. Perhaps it was because she heard God calling her from afar off that she wrote the following lines to our beloved Mother, on August 16th, 1932, a few months before her Profession: "If God were to come for me this very day, I would readily leave this earth, so certain am I that He has forgotten my past unfaithfulness and that He has accepted me, despite my nothingness, as one of His beloved spouses. I offer myself entirely to Him and He may do what He likes with me."

Our dear Sister, who was born in L'Acadie, P. Q., on June 12th, 1908, received the name of Marguerite Marie in Baptism. In the account she has left us of her vocation, she thus relates some incidents of her early life: "Being the sixth of the eight children with whom my good parents were blessed, I was told that I had been spoiled, especially by Papa who loved me dearly and who always took me with him wherever he went, although Mamma often said to him: "Do leave her at home, she will become an unbearable child."

At the age of six, I started to school and I was fond of studying; that same year, I made my First Communion and was confirmed. It was a great joy for me to receive into my heart "my little Jesus", as I called our dear Lord.

At the age of twelve I made my Solemn Communion. During the three days which preceded this great act, Mamma told me to pray fervently in order that I might discover my vocation and that I might become a Sister if it were the Holy Will of God.

From thirteen to fifteen, I forgot all about the religious life, I thought only of playing and of having a good time. My good mother said to me one day: "You are no longer thinking of being a Sister?" After thinking for a while, I replied: "I'll be one when I'm old." After having spoken to me about vocations, Mamma uttered these words which especially helped me in making my decision: "It is not when a girl is old that she should think of devoting her life to the service of God, but while she is young, so as to work longer for Him." When I was fourteen and a half, I lost my good mother. Once when I was trying to comfort and amuse her during her illness, she said to me: "I offer all my sufferings to God in order that He may grant that one of my children may become a religious and I feel that you are the one He is going to choose."

A few months after my dear mother's death, to my great sorrow, I was obliged to give up my studies. I at once commenced a novena to the Blessed Virgin and St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, asking them to inspire some charitable person with the thought of helping me to finish my education,

if God wanted me to devote my life to His service. To my great surprise, at the end of the novena, one of my aunts, Mamma's sister, came to ask Papa to let her take me home with her to look after me as her own child and to send me to a convent to complete my course. For two years, I lived in my new home and it was then that the germs of a religious vocation developed in my soul.

The dear child then tells us that she conceived the thought of becoming a missionary when our Sisters visited the convent she was attending to speak about the Holy Childhood. When eighteen years of age, she came to make a retreat in our Novitiate at Pont Viau and asked to be admitted as a postulant. She then returned home to say good-bye to her relatives "I was ready for any sacrifice," she tells us, "and I was determined to be

generous with God. After having received Papa's blessing and having bidden farewell to all dear to me, I directed my steps towards the abode of true happiness: the dear Dovecot of the Immaculate Conception, where I have been happy ever since."

While at the Novitiate, our dear Sister was always what our Sisters in Manchuria say of her: "She was of a retiring disposition; we always found her anxious to please her Sisters, to do them a good turn, and ready for self-sacrifice." On September 28th, 1929, she left for our Mission in Manila and there took a nurse's course. She graduated in the spring of the year 1932. Shortly after, she left for our missions in Manchuria, where she performed all the duties of a nurse up to the time of her departure for heaven. She had the consolation of pouring the Sacred Waters of Baptism on the brows of several dying patients, and it was on the evening of one of her fruitful and apostolic days at the Dispensary, the 18th of April, 1933, that she was stricken with the terrible disease which carried her off. On that day, she had, through Holy Baptism, opened heaven to four little souls. Her Sisters at first thought that she was but slightly ill but, the



SISTER ST. DOMINIQUE, M. I. C., WHO DIED
ON APRIL 30, 1933.
HERE WE SEE HER BAPTIZING
A DYING CHILD AT THE DISPENSARY.

following day, she was so feverish that she was obliged to remain in bed and she rapidly grew worse. Very soon it was ascertained that she had the small-pox which she contracted, we believe, from the poor patients. On the 23rd, a package containing pious leaflets for each of the Sisters having arrived from the Mother House, our dear sick Sister, holding in her hands those intended for her, seemed to greatly appreciate this last little remembrance from our beloved Mother, who had not yet learned of her serious illness. It was two days later that a cablegram sent from Szepingkai conveyed the sad news to her. Immediately, our beloved Mother, full of faith and perfectly complying with the unfathomable designs of Divine Providence, resigned herself to the Holy Will of God, offering Him this dear Child, this devoted Missionary who had already done much good in Manchuria and whose apostolic career was, to all appearances, to be a fruitful one. All the Sisters of the Mother House and of the Novitiate were immediately asked to pray that she might be cured if God so willed. On the 25th, she appeared to be in such great pain that her companions deemed it prudent to have her receive the Last Sacraments, which were administered to her by His Excellency Mgr. Lapierre, who was accompanied by Reverend Father Larochelle, Superior of the Mission. At this time, being fully conscious, she generously offered her life to God, declaring that she was entirely resigned to His Holy Will. In spite of fervent prayers, the watchful care given her by her Sisters and the devotedness of His Excellency who did all in his power to procure our poor sick Sister everything that might save her life, the dreadful disease made great headway and on the 29th, during the night, the crisis took place. Towards midnight, noticing that she was sinking fast, her grief-stricken companions renewed their act of resignation to the Holy Will of God. His Excellency commenced the prayers for the dying and had not finished them before the virginal soul of our Sister had winged its flight to heaven. Her death occurred at half-past twelve. It seemed as though the Blessed Virgin had wished to wait until the first hour of the Solemnity of the beautiful Feast of the Annunciation before crowning in heaven this faithful child who, not quite three months ago, sang while laying at her feet her wreath of white lilies, the evening of the day she made Final Profession: "Dear Mother, accept my wreath, in heaven thou wilt return it to me, wilt thou not?"... We may well suppose that all the little souls to whom she opened heaven by the administering of Holy Baptism came to welcome her into the abode of the Blessed. She died without the least agony, holding in her hand her missionary taper. She clasped it so tightly between her fingers that it was still burning an hour and a quarter after she had breathed her last; it finally had to be wrenched from her. "The condition of her poor body," the Sister infirmarians who assisted her in her last moments write us, "so quickly wasted away with suffering, contrasted with that of her soul, which always appeared to be calm and peaceful."

Reverend Father Berichon recited the prayers at the bier and the funeral Mass was sung by His Excellency Mgr. Lapierre, assisted by Reverend Fathers Crevier, c. s. v., Gilles and Masse. Reverend Father Larochelle,

Superior of the Mission and other priests from different posts were also present. Requiem Masses were celebrated in all the mission stations where we have Sisters.

The mortal remains of our dear departed Sister were laid to rest in the Mission cemetery in Szeping kai. She is the eleventh Professed Sister who has died since the founding of the Institute in 1902.

A Few Roses Scattered

By the Little Sister of Missionaries...

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

St. Teresa of the Child Jesus.



Enclosed find an offering in honour of the Little Flower. Please make a novena for our intentions. A Friend, **North Bay, Ont.** — After asking you to pray to the Little Flower for a special intention my request was granted. I desire to obtain another favour and promise to send you an offering if my prayers are heard. Mrs. F. T., **Amherstburg, Ont.** — Please find enclosed a donation for your missions in China, in thanksgiving to the Little Flower of Jesus for favour received. F. H. S. **Montreal.** — I am enclosing a donation towards the Little Flower Burse in thanksgiving for a favour received. Please remember my family and myself in your daily prayers. Mr. J. L., **Montreal.** — I am gladly sending you an offering for the Burse in honour of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. By so doing I am paying my debt of gratitude to this powerful little Saint. A. C., **Lachine.** — An offering in thanksgiving for a favour received through the intercession of St. Therese. Mrs. A. L. **Churchill.** — I heartily thank St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a cure obtained through her intercession. Mrs. D. C., **Montreal.** — I am sending you the price of the upkeep and education of an orphan in your missions, in fulfilment of a promise for a favour received. Heartfelt thanks to St. Therese! Mrs. M. A. B. — Offering for your missions as a token of gratitude for a favour received through the intercession of the Little Flower. B. A. — Grateful thanks to St. Therese for a favour obtained after promising to send the enclosed offering for your missions. Mrs. O. S., **Maisonneuve.** — I am very happy to publish my thanksgiving for a favour received through the intercession of St. Teresa of Lisieux. Mrs. J. C. E., **Bagotville.** — I am forwarding you a cheque for your missions, in thanksgiving to the dear "Scatterer of Roses". Mrs. U. L., **Maisonneuve.** — Herewith my humble offering for the Missions, to fulfil a promise to the Sacred Heart who granted me some favours through the intercession of St. Teresa of Lisieux. Miss M. — Grateful thanks to the Patroness of Missionaries for the favours I have received from her. Miss L. P. — Lively gratitude to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for two cures obtained after promising to publish my thanksgiving. Mrs. R. B., **St. Joseph d'Alma.** — Enclosed herein is an offering for your missions, a token of gratitude to St. Therese. Miss M. P., **Montreal.** — An offering for the Little Flower Burse in thanksgiving for a favour granted me and to obtain others. Mrs. H. J. G. — A thousand thanks to the Little Flower for success in an undertaking. I earnestly entreat her to continue to scatter rose petals on our home. Enclosed you will find the price of the ransom of two dying Chinese children, in fulfilment of

my promise. Mrs. E. G., **Matane**. — Two subscriptions to THE PRECURSOR in thanksgiving to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a favour obtained. Mrs. A. N., **Cote St. Paul**. — I am sending an offering in thanksgiving for a favour received through the intercession of St. Teresa of Lisieux. I again entreat her to watch over me. Mrs. D. D., **Montreal**. — I am enclosing part of the sum promised St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a great favour obtained. B. N., **Outremont**. — An offering for the Missions in honour of the Little Flower. Mrs. G., **Outremont**. — Stipends for Masses in honour of the dear little "Queen", St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, to thank her for protecting us and for obtaining us great favours after promising publication. A grateful family. — An offering for the Chinese missions in thanksgiving for a favour obtained through the intercession of the Patroness of Missionaries. J. W. P. — Grateful thanks to St. Therese. Herewith a cheque in her honour. Mrs. J. A. H. — With my subscription I am sending an offering to thank St. Therese for a favour obtained through her intercession. Mrs D. — An offering for the Missions, in thanksgiving to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for favours obtained. I beg her to continue to protect me. Anonymous. — A thousand thanks to St. Therese for favours received. An offering for the Missions as a token of my gratitude. Anonymous. — Herewith an offering in thanksgiving to the Little Flower. Mrs. E. D., **Montreal**. — An offering for the missionary work, in honour of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. Mrs. G.

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

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

OFFERINGS FOR THE "LITTLE FLOWER" BURSE.

We shall therefore 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
In July-August	"	12.25
In September-October	"	85.00
In November-December	"	38.40
In January-February	1933	77.00
In March-April	"	18.25
In May-June	"	30.75

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

SHEK LUNG LAZARETTO

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

Shek Lung Lazaretto, February 1, 1933.

BELOVED MOTHER,

We spent a very joyful New Year's Day among our dear patients in the solitude of our island. On the Feast of the Epiphany, we had the privilege of hearing three Masses and assisting at Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. If, on the occasion of the New Year, while thinking of all those dear to us, we feel all the more that we are far from the dear ones whom we left in order to respond to the voice of God which called us to our beautiful vocation, that of missionaries among the lepers, this good Master makes us feel more intensely at this season, His ineffable consolations, although He is always in our midst as a faithful and comforting Friend, a thoughtful and generous Spouse!...

The evening of the Epiphany we played a game of "Perfection" in the Community-room; these cards always procure us an amusing recreation on feast days.

The following day brought us a lovely surprise: the reception of a pretty calendar with pious thoughts for each day of the New Year and of a precious leaflet to which we shall have recourse when in need of advice. Many thanks, beloved Mother, for proving to us anew that you are anxious to procure us the means of advancing in the path of perfection.

On January 15th, one of our good old women, seventy-seven years of age, who contracted leprosy just three years ago, surrendered her soul to God. She had been baptized but a few days before and died like a child, robed in her baptismal innocence. Up to the very last she continued to thank us for the good care we had given her.

Two days later we opened heaven to a tiny soul whose only motive for appearing here below seemed to be the seeking of Baptism. We loaded this little one with messages for heaven. At the Lazaretto, the children, after their death, are dressed in white and a blue girdle is tied on them. In their hands are placed two natural flowers, a red and a white rose, — these roses represent our dearest intentions.

Our poor patients suffered greatly from the cold which was intense during the month of January. We did not have blankets enough for them and the clothing worn by most of them was not warm enough. They were really to be pitied; it caused us great sorrow to see them shivering without being able to do anything for them.

January 26th, New Year's Day in China, was a great holiday on the island and a day of rejoicing for all our lepers. We had prepared them a little lottery-table. Each received a present: towels, stockings, soap, etc., things that they really needed. A recreative and pious concert organized by the young leper girls who do not as yet suffer greatly, afforded all a very pleasant evening. The same day a deaf and dumb leper maiden, a victim of consumption, exchanged her cruel sufferings for the delights of heaven. This poor patient was about eighteen years of age and had been with us for a few months only. We had succeeded in getting her to understand the principal truths of our holy religion. By means of signs she expressed to us her desire for Baptism which she received with recollection and devotion. She often made the Sign of the Cross and died pressing the crucifix to her heart. This departure was soon followed by a second one. The next day, another victim of leprosy, who was baptized but recently, went to swell the ranks of God's Elect.

On January 27th, we had the happiness of receiving a visit from a few of our dear Sisters of Canton. Their presence at a little play acted by the leper men greatly pleased all our miserable charges who felt honoured to have them with them.

One of our oldest leper women who was here with Father Conrardy, the founder of the Lazaretto, has just lost her sight. This great trial causes her much sorrow for she realizes that since her hands and feet have been eaten away by leprosy, she can no longer help in any way. But being a fervent Christian, she accepts with great resignation the fresh cross that God has sent her.

Dear Mother, we ourselves have just gone through a trial which we felt keenly. We have lost six of our buffaloes. This is a big loss, we greatly needed these beasts for the work in the rice fields; but we thanked God for having left us two, He could have taken them all away from us.

Good-bye, beloved Mother, once again kindly bless your loving daughters of Shek Lung,

THE SERVANTS OF THE LEPERS.

* * *

SZEPINGKAI, CHINA

Extract from a letter from the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception of Szepingkai, Manchuria, to their Superior General.

Szepingkai, May 3, 1933.

BELOVED MOTHER,

Many events have occurred since the last diary we sent you: a great void has been left in our ranks, God has taken from us our dear Sister St. Dominique. This first departure for heaven from our dear Mission of Manchuria, a departure which was so unexpected, deeply touched us.

But we are anticipating... let us go back to the sunny days of February when God lavished blessings and consolations upon us, doubtlessly in order to prepare us for the great trial which was to follow...

On the evening of the beautiful Feast of the Purification, under the auspices of our Blessed Mother, we commenced our annual retreat, which was preached by His Excellency Mgr. Lapierre. This day was for us one of great joy owing to the arrival in our midst of our dear Sisters of Pamien Tcheng, Leao Yuan Sien and Tung Leao, all of whom had come to follow the pious exercises of the retreat with us. Our Sisters of Taonan, delayed on account of Sister Superior's illness, arrived the following morning. They brought to us a recruit for the Native Novitiate, Kia Louosa, a girl of sixteen.

Our little convent seemed to expand in order to receive our twelve companions, our affection invented a means of finding a place for them all, we were so happy to think that eighteen of us were again united!

The 11th of February will long be remembered by the little Community of Szepingkai. On this blessed day, at the close of the retreat, seven of our Sisters sealed forever their eternal union with the Spouse of Virgins. They were: Sr. St. Denis (Anne Marie Dube, of St. Denis, Kamouraska); Sr. St. Dominique (Marguerite Dunn, of L'Acadie); Sr. Marie Esther (Alice Buteau, of St. Evariste); Sr. St. Jean d'Ephese (Lorette Moran, of St. Boniface, Man.); Sr. Ste. Rosalie (Ursule Charette, of Three Rivers); Sr. Catherine d'Alexandrie (Catherine Lebel, of St. Epiphane, Rimouski) and Sr. Gabriel de Marie (Gabrielle Filion, of Lachute).

Our humble chapel was prettily decorated for the occasion with bouquets of lilies which had just been fashioned by one of our Sisters. The ceremony was presided over by His Excellency Mgr. Lapierre, who also deigned to preach a sermon impregnated with gratitude to Almighty God who permitted such an imposing ceremony to take place in a mission land and who blessed in such a visible manner the Mission of Manchuria and the works of our Institute. Reverend Fathers Crevier, C. S. V., and Roberge, M. E., assisted His Excellency. Present in the sanctuary were: Reverend Fathers Barbeau, of Fakou; Pelletier, of Kangping; Laberge, of Kountchouling; E. Gilbert, B. Desroches and A. Lecomte, from the Bishop's House.

After the ceremony, we all assembled in the parlour. Our privileged Sisters while kneeling to receive the blessing of His Excellency and to kiss his ring felt a miraculous medal being slipped into their hand. His Excellency added to his pleasant conversation some precious words of advice and a few paternal wishes. The sweet remembrance of these words, as well as that of the pious exercises of the retreat and of the Feast that was celebrated that day, will comfort us when we are again in the midst of the labours of mission life.

The family feast, as at the Mother House, was preceded by the crowning of the chosen seven during the singing of the *Veni Sponsa Christi*, the prelude of the celestial canticle which will be sung by the angel choirs when the time to rejoice eternally will have come. Then will the divine Spouse adorn the brows of His faithful spouses with a virgin's, an apostle's, and, who knows, perhaps a martyr's crown?...

We spent the evening speaking of our beloved Mother, whose presence in our midst would have crowned our happiness. But we recall to mind that we are missionaries... this one word signifies many things. It also has the power of consoling us when we are inclined to grieve over your absence, beloved Mother, in causing us to reflect that it is to make known our infinitely good God, to draw others to love our Blessed Mother and to help to bring about the realization of your great apostolic desires, that we have parted from you, that we have bidden farewell to our dearly beloved parents, to our dear country. And God and our heavenly Mother are not to be outdone in generosity, truly we receive the hundredfold promised by Our Lord to those who leave everything for love of Him.

Two days after, the house seemed quite empty, our twelve companions who had come to make the retreat with us had all left for their respective missions, filled with renewed ardor to labour for the salvation of the numerous pagan souls surrounding them. And we ourselves, wishing to make use of every moment of the precious time given us to work among these poor infidels, immediately set to performing our daily tasks.

On February 14th, Sr. St. Dominique and Sr. Marie Esther, while at the Dispensary, had the happiness of opening heaven to two little souls, and a few days later, during their visit to a pagan home a thirteen-year-old boy also received his passport for heaven. At the same time, at the Dispensary, two other privileged children were baptized, receiving the names of John Marie and Joseph Napoleon.

The following is the report of the Dispensary of our Mission for the month of February 1933:

Baptisms.....	12	Patients.....	628	Treatments.....	858
Dressings.....	271	Teeth extracted.....	5	Homes visited.....	59

The dispensaries of Kountgchouling and of Peiko remained closed throughout the entire month.

Among the patients at the Dispensary, we sometimes treat Koreans, they are rather numerous in Szepingkai, most of them being very poor. We find these good people very interesting. In their manners they are somewhat like the Chinese, somewhat like the Japanese, although differing from them both in some respects. Their robes are nearly always of white material and of a peculiar style.

While visiting the homes of our patients we often remark great poverty and suffering. These heart-breaking spectacles make us appreciate the more what a great blessing it is to have been born in a Catholic country and in a pleasant home. We sometimes make our way into huts so wretched and repulsive that one would never believe that human beings could live therein... Oh! how these poor unfortunate pagans are to be pitied, especially the sick and the dying whom no one thinks of caring for or consoling and who have no hope of reaching a better life beyond the grave.

On the other hand, these trips, as well as the patients' visits to the Dispensary, provide us with many a typical scene. The other day, a man brought his mother, a very old woman, to the Dispensary of Kountgchou-

Sœur S. Dominique donnant ses soins
à un groupe de malades, au dispensaire de
Szepingkai. Cette religieuse est décédée le 30 avril

1933



Missionnaires de l'Immaculée-Conception
Szepingkai, Mandchourie.

1. SISTER ST. DOMINIQUE TREATING A GROUP OF PATIENTS AT THE DISPENSARY OF SZEPINGKAI. THIS RELIGIOUS DIED ON APRIL 30, 1933.
2. MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, SZEPINGKAI, MANCHURIA.

ling. When we had finished treating our aged patient her son stooped down to let the poor woman, whose feet are but a few inches in length, jump on his back in much the same way as a child would have done, and started back home with her. This means of transportation seemed to suit them both; we greatly admired this example of filial devotion.

On March 9th, Sr. St. Dominique made her way to the Dispensary in Peiko, which had been closed for a month. She treated a goodly number of patients and visited eight pagan homes, baptizing seven dying babies. When she returned she was beaming with happiness, so thankful was she for having had the occasion of harvesting so many little souls.

The Feast of our beloved Father St. Joseph was celebrated in our little Community as pompously as possible. There was High Mass, at which His Excellency Mgr. Lapierre deigned to assist. The whole day long, a Sister and two native novices went in turn to kneel before the statue of our great Provider adorned with lilies and verdant foliage, to honour him, to thank him for the favours he has obtained us and to recommend to him all the needs of Holy Mother Church, of our dear Community, of our parents and of our Mission.

Our Chinese teacher has been obliged to conform to the desire of her father who had promised her in marriage to a pagan. In China, a father has complete control over his daughter. The marriage ceremony took place on March 25th. This young Christian woman is in great danger of losing her faith. Happily, both parties have come to terms regarding religious liberty. We entreat the Blessed Virgin to assist this lady who was baptized but recently, to win God new adorers in her husband's family.

On March 28th, we received from our dear Mother House the important news of the final approbation of our Institute and of our Constitutions. With joyful hearts we wafted heavenward hymns of gratitude for this signal favour.

Reports for the month of March 1933:

Dispensary of Szepingkai:

Baptisms.....	17		
Patients.....	1,102	Treatments.....	1,538
		Dressings.....	235
Teeth extracted.	4	Homes visited.....	18
		Children vaccinated	4

Dispensary of Kountgchouling:

Baptisms.....	7	Patients.....	238
Treatments.....	425	Dressings.....	31

Dispensary of Peiko:

Baptisms.....	11	Patients.....	146
Treatments.....	270	Dressings.....	13
		Homes visited.....	9

On April 3rd, we received at the Dispensary a young pagan woman who expressed the desire of learning about the Christian religion. Our new patient, a native of Japan, already knows a little about our holy Faith

and the picture of the Blessed Virgin is familiar to her. We gladly gave her a catechism and invited her to come to see us again. We hope to be the faithful instruments of Divine Providence in leading this soul into the true Fold. The following day, at the Dispensary of Koungtchouling, our Sister infirmarian treated one hundred and twenty patients and baptized four dying children. She also had the consolation of learning that the parents of a pagan child to whom she had given treatment and who is now completely cured, are studying the Catholic doctrine along with all their children. This was indeed a fortunate illness and fortunate also were the treatments which led to such results. At this dispensary, a few days later, eight little souls saw the gates of heaven opened to them the same day. Such results make us forget the trouble we go to in order to bring relief to our poor patients.

On April 18th our dear Sister St. Dominique was very tired when she returned from the Dispensary, where she had been kept busy the whole day long treating the numerous patients. At first we thought that she was but slightly ill, but alas! she soon showed symptoms of the terrible disease that was to carry her off inside of ten days. The following day she was feverish and was obliged to remain in bed. She rapidly grew worse and we soon realized that she had the small-pox. On the 25th, she appeared to be in such great pain that we deemed it prudent to have her receive the Last Sacraments, which were administered to her by His Excellency Mgr. Lapierre, who was accompanied by Reverend Father Larochelle, Superior of the Mission. At that time, being fully conscious, she generously offered her life to God declaring that she was entirely resigned to His Holy Will. Grief-stricken, we immediately sent you a telegram, dear Mother, to inform you of the serious condition of our dear Sister. In spite of fervent prayers, good medicine, the most watchful care, and the devotedness of His Excellency who did all in his power to procure our poor sick Sister everything that might save her life, the dreadful disease made great headway and on the 29th, during the night, the crisis took place. Towards midnight, noticing that our dear Sister was sinking fast, we renewed our act of resignation to the Holy Will of God. His Excellency commenced the prayers for the dying and had not finished them before the soul of our beloved companion had winged its flight to heaven. Her death occurred at half-past twelve. She died without the least agony, holding in her hand her missionary taper, she clasped it so tightly between her fingers that it was still burning an hour and a quarter after she had breathed her last. We finally had to wrench it from her.

This departure which was so sudden, caused us, dear Mother, great sorrow, but we admire the inscrutable designs of God and lovingly do we conform ourselves to His Holy Will. In Manchuria, there is one missionary less, but we trust that in heaven we already have another protectress.

YOUR LOVING CHILDREN OF SZEPINGKAI.

LEAO YUAN SIEN, CHINA

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

Report of the Dispensary of Leao Yuan Sien, for the year 1932:

Baptisms.....	1,292		
Patients.....	31,657	Treatments.....	38,364
		Dressings.....	10,414
Teeth extracted...	227	Homes visited...	1,169
		Consultations.....	3,081

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FAKOU, MANCHURIA

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

Friday, December 9, 1932

While visiting our patients in their homes, we are often grieved to think that so few of them adore the one true God... Numerous here are the Buddhist families, whose members, all fervent followers of their Prophet, are set against the teaching of the Catholic doctrine. In some of the homes we enter, the family altar and the superstitious emblems which cover the walls, loudly proclaim to us that the devil therein reigns supreme. We reflect that if the Christian families of our beautiful native land were to see how extremely pious these people are, not only would they contend for the honour and the merit of bringing about their conversion by their prayers and alms, but they would also beg God to choose numerous apostles from among their children. Would not every Catholic family in Canada wish to have its own missionary priest and its own missionary Sister?...

Friday, December 23

Baptism is administered to twenty-eight adults and to four children.

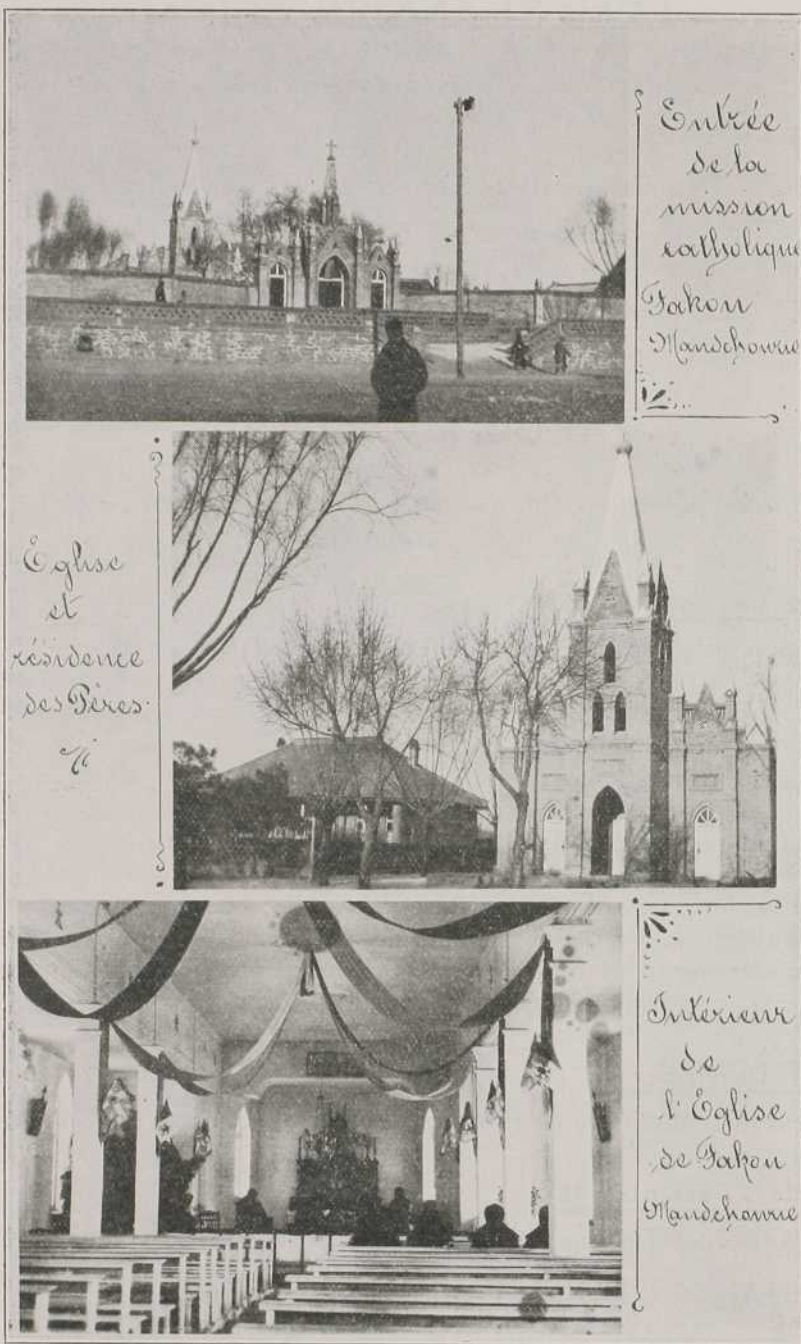
Saturday, December 31

Report of the Dispensary of Fakou for the month of December 1932:

Baptisms.....	17	Patients.....	1,843	Treatments.....	2,235
Dressings.....	496	Teeth extracted....	12	Homes visited	31

Wednesday, January 4

While visiting our neighbours, staunch Mohammedans, we baptize a baby a few hours old. Scarcely have we returned to the convent, when the Blessed Virgin stoops to pluck this little flower for the heavenly abode.



MISSION OF FAKOU, MANCHURIA.

1. ENTRANCE TO THE CATHOLIC MISSION.
2. CHURCH AND RECTORY. 3. INTERIOR OF THE CHURCH.

Saturday, January 7

At the men's catechumenate to which we repair in order to visit a patient, we notice a one-eyed man and one totally blind reciting their prayers together. The first who makes use of a book, corrects the mistakes of his companion, who repeats his lesson like a child. We imagine that the angels must bend over these artless catechumens and write each word of their prayers in the great "Book of Life".

Wednesday, January 18

For the pagans, this is a day of great rejoicing known as the "*kouo siao nien*" (the feast of the waning year). This evening, *tsao wang ye*, the god of the home, will be hung over the fire to be consumed by the flames; he will afterwards ascend into heaven in order to give *Lao t'ien ye* (God) an account of all those under his jurisdiction. Before this god is hung over the flames, his mouth is filled with sugar, so that he may speak well of his subjects. On New Year's Day, which the Chinese will celebrate in a week's time, he is supposed to come down again and then every pagan family will hang over the fireplace another picture of *tsao wang ye*.

Saturday, February 18

We occasionally receive a few Japanese patients. To-day, two women come to be treated; one of them is the wife of the Japanese consul residing in the city. Oh, if we could but teach her to know God!... There is not one Catholic among the numerous representatives of Japan living in Fakou.

Thursday, March 2

To-day, the anniversary of the taking of Manchuria by the Japanese is being celebrated. On this occasion, there is great public rejoicing, especially in the schools where the Japanese are striving to get the young Chinese pupils to look favourably upon the new form of government.

Saturday, March 4

The defeat of the Chinese army, and the taking of the Province of Jehol by the Japanese have put an end to the Sino-Japanese conflict. Manchuria no longer belongs to China, but is a separate country ruled by Japan.

Thursday, March 23

One of our patients, an eighty-year-old Christian, is in a dying condition, but is still conscious. To-day, we find him gazing with great satisfaction at his coffin. To have a beautiful coffin means much to many a Chinese moribund. The wife and children of this old man have freed him from all care by purchasing his coffin beforehand and setting it up so that he may see it from his bed. Mourning outfits are also prepared and placed near him. All this proves to him the respect and affection of his loved ones

and is to him a source of great joy in his last moments. True it is that in Canada filial affection is never shown in this way... but each country has its own customs.

Sunday, March 25

We go to pray beside the mortal remains of Mr. Lan, an aged Christian. According to a custom among the wealthy Chinese, the coffin is adorned with characters. Surrounding a cross which is the chief ornament, is written: "May he rest in peace", "The happiness of heaven will never end", etc. An altar has also been set up, tapers have been lit in honour of the true God and for the repose of the soul of the aged Christian. In a pagan home, instead of candles, incense is burned beside the coffin and the relatives and friends of the deceased give offerings for the purchase of paper effigies which, on the day of the funeral, are set on fire. In Mr. Lan's home, much music is played, but it is often interrupted by the chanting of prayers... In a word, everything that takes place beside the coffin is Christian-like, although entirely after the fashion of the Chinese.

Report of the Dispensary of Fakou for the months of January, February and March 1933:

Baptisms.....	44	Patients.....	4,930	Treatments.....	6,114
Dressings.....	1,494	Teeth extracted....	42	Homes visited....	136

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TAONAN, CHINA

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

Monday, January 9, 1933

We are treating a poor man fifty years of age who got his hands frozen in a very tragical way. Being an itinerant dealer, it was on the street corners that he earned his living. During a very cold spell, some brigands, after tying his hands behind his back and binding him so that he could not budge, skipped off with all his belongings. When some charitable passers-by found him, four of his fingers were already frozen. The joints of two are about to drop off. The poor man is greatly to be pitied but he is admirably patient and extremely grateful for the relief we are trying to procure him.

A few aged catechumens pay a visit to the Dispensary. One of them asks us to extract one of her teeth. These interesting old women are preparing for Baptism which they will receive in a few days; they are always present at the Catechism lessons which are given regularly at the Mission.

Saturday, January 14

This evening, in the Mission of Taonan, there are fourteen new adult

Christians, all of whom were baptized to-day. May our Blessed Mother help these new soldiers of Christ to persevere.

Tuesday, January 17

We visit a six months old baby who has the small-pox. The poor little one has pustules even in its mouth. Although this disease is not common here, we nevertheless meet with a few cases. Vaccination for the preventing of the pest established at Tientsin by a society for the welfare of the Chinese has proved very valuable. At present only a few isolated cases are to be found, whereas in former years, numerous were the victims carried off by this terrible disease.



PUPILS OF TAONAN, WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED
SINCE THE ESTABLISHING OF A SCHOOL THERE, IN FEBRUARY, 1932.

Thursday, January 26, New Year's Day in China

Everywhere, there is *Jeu nao* (noise). The inhabitants take turns in coming to wish us a Happy New Year; they make us low bows and even prostrate themselves before us. It is useless to think of working. Our day is spent in receiving visitors and in trying to give a little cheer to our virgins and the young girls who spend New Year's at the Mission.

Friday, January 27

While on her way to a patient's home, Sr. Marie de l'Assomption⁽¹⁾ notices a tiny baby which has been thrown on the side of the road. Sister tries to find out all she can about the little one. She is told that it has been there for already several days. A few dogs prowl a short distance away, doubtlessly they have not touched the dead child because it is frozen stiff, but it will not be long before they devour it. Poor Chinese, may the day soon dawn when they, having been brought to the light of the true Faith, will realize that every man has an immortal soul that he must save!

1. Alice LAROUCHE, of Sweetsburg.

Mission
de
Taonan
Mandchourie



Missionnaire
de
l'Immaculée Conception
au Dispensaire



Sœurs Missionnaires de l'Immaculée Conception
et quelques Professeurs de l'école de Taonan
Mandchourie.

MISSION OF TAONAN, MANCHURIA. — 1. A MISSIONARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AT THE DISPENSARY. 2. MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND A FEW TEACHERS OF THE SCHOOL OF TAONAN, MANCHURIA.

Tuesday, February 7

Reverend Father Berger informs us this morning that he has just received a telephone message from Pai Tchong tze, informing him that Reverend Father Bonin is seriously ill. Reverend Fathers Berger and Brulotte and Sister Superior accompanied by Miss Su, a virgin, leave at once. They hope to bring the sick priest back with them if he is able to stand the trip. At four o'clock, Reverend Father Masse receives news of the impossibility of bringing Father Bonin to Taonan. He is thought to be suffering from the terrible typhus fever.

Friday, February 10

At the Dispensary, two little children are baptized, receiving the names of Marie Louise and William.

Reverend Father Bonin being somewhat better to-day, Sister Superior returns to Taonan. She tells us that the day she arrived at Pai Tchong tze a dying baby was brought to her. She had the happiness of baptizing this little one, adoring the merciful designs of God who seemed to have allowed things to happen thus in order that this little soul might be saved.

Saturday, February 11

At Holy Mass, we sing the praises of Our Lady of Lourdes who, seventy-five years ago to-day, appeared to humble little Bernadette. We join with all our dear Sisters of Pont Viau who, on this day, will have the happiness of donning the Holy Habit and with those who will unite themselves forever to Christ. In a special manner, we recommend to our Immaculate Mother Reverend Father Bonin, asking her to grant that he may soon recover.

Sister Superior having gone to Pai Tchong tze this morning, returns this evening, happy to announce to us that Father Bonin is out of danger. He has now only to regain the strength that he has lost. Grateful thanks to God and to Our Lady of Lourdes.

Tuesday, February 14

Yesterday and to-day being the days fixed for the re-opening of school, the pupils come in great numbers and the rooms are filled to overflowing. Father Berger has to do much planning in order to make room for all these little folks. Finally, a place is found for four hundred of them. Father is relying on Divine Providence for the supporting of the work undertaken: all the teachers must be paid and the school upkeep: premises, desks, heating, etc. These children are received at the Mission free of charge, scarcely are they able to pay for their books.

Wednesday, February 22

The brigands are still busy plundering. A few days ago, on the road leading to Tou Ts'uen, they seized several automobiles and some twenty

persons whom they are keeping as hostages. Yesterday, all those who attempted to set out on the road leading to *Ta lail Sien*, a mission station belonging to the priests of the neighboring territory, and only one hundred *li* away from one of the posts of the Fathers of the Canadian Foreign Seminary, were captured by the brigands, who are to be found by thousands along this road.

May Our Lady of Protection watch unceasingly over her missionaries!

Monday, February 27

Reverend Father Bonin returns to his post in Pai Tcheng tze completely cured. Every day we hear of the havoc wrought nearly everywhere by the brigands. On a road where the automobile belonging to the Catholic Mission usually passes with passengers, a person was killed and the chauffeur wounded. A few days ago, on the road leading to Tou Ts'uen, Father Berger's two carts drawn by nine oxen and containing a few hundred dollars' worth of goods, had hardly covered 50 *li* before meeting with the brigands. These scoundrels made off with the oxen and all the goods after cruelly beating the drivers in order to compel them to give up the money which they believed they were carrying. It is a heavy loss for Father Berger and he has no hope of recovering anything.

Tuesday, February 28

Miss Tsao, a sixteen-year-old girl who for over a year has been longing for Baptism and who has not yet been admitted as her parents are opposed to her becoming a Christian has asked His Excellency to grant her the permission she so greatly desires. Despite her entreaties, His Excellency bade her wait a while longer and to pray. "When the time appointed by God will have come," he told her, "certainly He will arrange everything in your favour." And the child had recourse to prayer, all her classmates, who had already been baptized, joined with her in storming heaven. Finally, to-day, by a special design of Divine Providence, the young girl's mother, feeling ill, decides to come to the Dispensary to be treated. Miss Tsao brings her mother to the virgins and, along with them, she repeats her entreaties. O miracle of divine grace, the mother's heart suddenly softens! Without the least hesitation, she grants the long-desired permission. The young girl does not know how to express to her her gratitude. On seeing her child's happiness, the mother appears to be overjoyed. "How beautiful it is," she says, "you Christians are all united, you form but one family, you are very happy. I also hope to join you some day."

The baptism ceremony takes place at three o'clock. Several pagan women are present, among others, the new High School teacher and Miss Tsao's big sister who has always been as bigoted as anyone can be. She cries during the ceremony and declares that she also desires to follow her young sister's example. The happiness of the newly-baptized maiden cannot be described; the pagans do not understand what it all means as they

only see the surface of it, the supernatural manifestations being complete mysteries to them. To-morrow, Miss Tsao will make her First Communion.

Saturday, March 11

We learn that the Mission of Tou Ts'uen was lately on the point of being plundered by the brigands. Seven of these scoundrels were preparing to enter the Mission at a moment when the personnel least expected an attack, but their plans were discovered by the intervention of Divine Providence. Presently, this city is surrounded by two hundred of them. At the Mission, guards have been appointed to keep watch day and night.

Monday, March 13

To-day, at the Dispensary, we treat two hundred patients. Of this number four little souls are regenerated in the Sacred Waters of Baptism.

A young pagan girl who came here a few months ago asking to be admitted at once to the catechumenate and later to the native Novitiate, has just been betrothed to a pagan who has already two wives. The parents of this child being poor and being unable to understand why she had such a longing for the virginal state, seized the first opportunity that came their way to sell her. Poor child!... We shall not forget her when kneeling before our loving Lord who, doubtlessly, will provide her with other means of attaining her sublime ideal.

Saturday, March 18

The Reverend Fathers Berger, Bonin and Brulotte leave this morning for Szepingkai. They intended to leave last night, but they learned at the station that the train was not running on account of an accident which happened the evening before. A few *li* distant from Leao Yuan Sien, some evil-minded people, brigands perhaps, had dug under the rails, which resulted in the wrecking of the train. Some freight cars were just behind and as the engineer did not notice the accident in time, they ran into the wrecked locomotive. More than sixty persons were killed and several wounded; considerable damage was done.

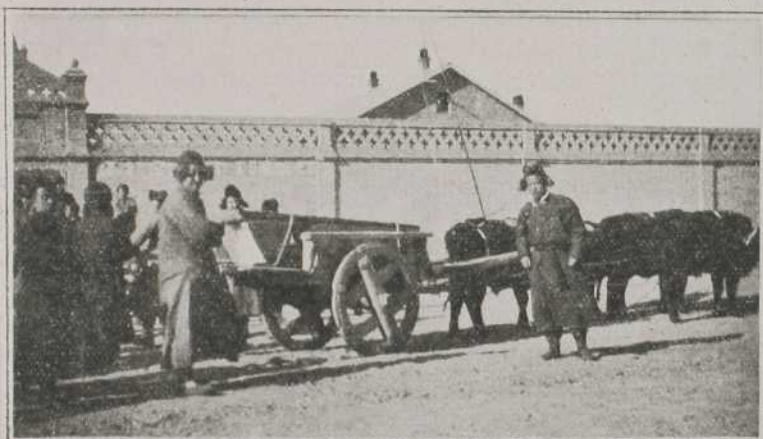
Monday, March 20

At noon, we received at the Mission an eighteen-year-old girl, Miss Tsao "Yu lan", a former pupil of the school at Taonan who had been forced to follow her parents when they moved to another city. The young girl was deeply grieved on being obliged to leave. Several times she had asked her father to permit her to be baptized but she always met with a refusal. Since arriving in *Kai tong*, she had frequently renewed her entreaties not only soliciting the permission to be baptized but also to be allowed to enter the native Novitiate, for, she said to herself: "If I do not ask this second favour, I shall perhaps obtain the permission to receive Baptism and afterwards, if my father wishes to have me marry a pagan, I shall not be able to become

Mission de Tong Leao, Mandchourie



Un convoi funèbre au sortir de l'église



Se
dirigeant
vers
le
cimetière

1. MISSION OF TUNG LEAO, MANCHURIA.
2. A FUNERAL PROCESSION LEAVING THE CHURCH.
3. ON THE WAY TO THE CEMETERY.

a Sister." The father, far from letting himself be won over, beat his daughter cruelly and said to her: "Go and do as you like, I'll not look after you any longer." Her brother gave her money enough for a ticket to Taonan. At three o'clock in the morning, she secretly left home and was obliged to walk a few *li* in order to reach the station. At every moment she was afraid of being discovered and she had to be very careful, for dogs were keeping close watch in front of each dwelling. Finally she arrived safely at the Catholic Mission of Taonan. She is now free, since her father has put her out of the house; she is preparing for Baptism.

Reports of the Dispensary of Taonan for the months of January, February and March 1933:

Baptisms.....		103		
Patients.....	6,753	Treatments.....	8,803	Dressings.....1,669
Teeth extracted.	24	Homes visited.....	254	Injections..... 394

Report of the Dispensary of Pai Tcheng tze, open once a week, for the months of January, February and March 1933:

Baptisms.....		5	Patients.....	690
Treatments.....	969	Dressings.....	71	Homes visited.....1

* * *

TUNG LEAO, CHINA

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

Wednesday, January 25, 1933

Anyone happening to go through the streets for the first time to-day, would be quite surprised to see what a bustle is going on in the city. Where are all the people going on such a cold day, with vegetables, incense-pans and different small packages? Why are all these men busy posting various inscriptions?... Madly do they sweep the dust off the courtyard-gates and stick on them fantastical coloured representations. Not a door is there that has not floating over it numerous red streamers on which are written in large golden, yellow or black characters, the strangest maxims addressed to the spirits which are to pass in the streets to-night, New Year's Eve. The preparations made by these poor people could not be more fanciful. Oh! how we should like to be able to teach them to adore and serve the one true God, who alone is worthy of all praise and love!

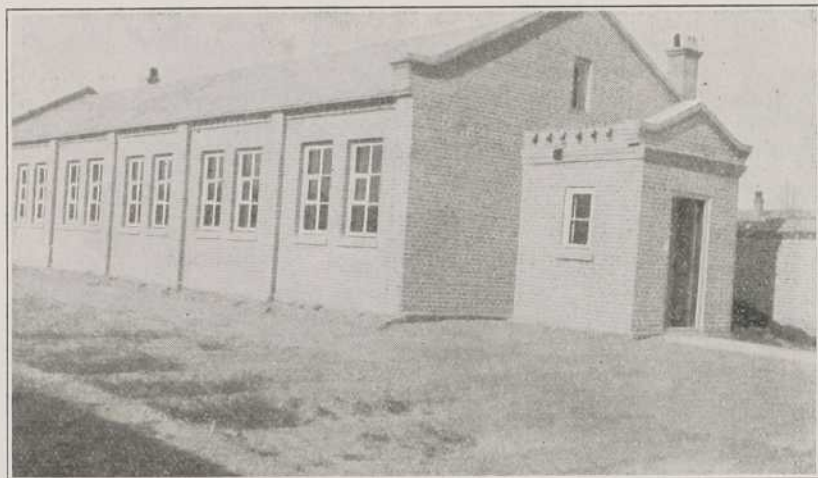
Thursday, January 26

To-day is New Year's Day, "*koua nien*", in China. Last night in the open air there was great revelry: fireworks, music and the beating of the *tam-tam* in honour of the spirits, in a word, New Year's Day was ushered in

in triumph. This morning, some fifteen Christian women pay us a visit and wish us a Happy New Year! The rest of the day we are left to ourselves in our pretty little abode. Hurrah for Tung Leao and its joyful missionaries!

Friday, January 27

The Japanese aeroplanes still fly over the city, they pass so near our convent that the doors shake on their hinges as if there were an earthquake. We are told that there is much bombarding going on in Kai Lou Sien. On noticing the "*fei ki*" flying between Tung Leao and that city, we readily believe that what we hear is true.



DISPENSARY OF TUNG LEAO, MANCHURIA.

Tuesday, February 21

Some Japanese officers, after going round the Mission several times, decide to take up their quarters on the Compound with their horses and war material but, happily, Father succeeds in getting them to change their minds.

Friday, February 24

It is reported that troops from Taonan headed by General Tchang Hai Pong have arrived in Tung Leao. We learn that yesterday, while on a visit to a pagan home, we had a narrow escape. We had just left one of our patients when a squad of Chinese soldiers came to his home, remaining there for a day and a night. These scoundrels let themselves be waited on as if they were all lords. Everyone in the family was at their beck and call, not receiving the least reward in return, not even a word of thanks! We express our gratitude to our Immaculate Mother for having had us avoid meeting these troops.

Saturday, February 25

For a few days past, we have been treating an old woman who is well

off. As she is unable to come to the Dispensary, we go to visit her. Sr. Marie Emmanuel, ⁽¹⁾ who goes to her home to-day, tells us of the pleasure she had travelling there in a little two-wheeled donkey cart, in which one must sit down in Chinese fashion, making use of every bit of space, for there is only room for two. At the patient's home, our Sister and her companion are received with great politeness and respect. One of the daughters-in-law of the sick woman offers them some cigarettes, another, a cup of hot water, a third, a cup of tea, etc. When the treatment is finished, our two Sisters climb into their cart again. All the members of the family accompany them to the Dispensary, and how numerous they are! In China, as long as the parents are living, their married sons with their children dwell together in the same home and it is the aged father who, like an ancient patriarch, looks after the entire family. It is amusing to see our Sister infirmarians returning in company with all these people. Before taking their leave, they thank our Sisters and bow to them several times.

Monday, March 13

The schools are filled to overflowing: little girls flock thither from all directions. Reverend Father Bouchard tries his best to make room for all these little folks, while waiting for an addition to be made; he sends to the Dispensary for benches.

Saturday, March 18

More than a hundred and ten patients come to the Dispensary to-day. Among them are four dying children, whom we have the consolation of preparing for heaven. Grateful thanks to the Immaculate Virgin for helping us to save these little souls.

Thursday, March 23

Sister Superior ⁽²⁾ and Sister St. Denis ⁽³⁾ visit Siao kai ki in order to see to the opening of a new dispensary. There especially we shall be surrounded by poverty! An old earthen hut containing but one room, measuring twenty by twelve feet, will be our new dispensary. The earthen walls have been white-washed, the ceiling, made of *chou kai*, has been swept, but it is so black that it may easily be seen that it is very old. The beams and the rafters which are simply crooked trees, nevertheless firmly support the old earthen roof which will shelter us. It is a great joy for us on entering this hut to see a crucifix and a little picture of Our Lady of Lourdes hanging over the *kang*. It reminds us of the ever-thoughtful kindness of our dear heavenly Mother, who seems to invite us to always place our trust in her. We confide our new work to her motherly care.

Friday, March 24

A poor man whose wife is dying, comes to the Dispensary daily to have the eyes of his four months old son treated. He carries the baby in his

1. Berthe CREVIER, of St. Anne de Bellevue.

2. Blanche DION, of Montreal.

3. Anne Marie DUBE, of St. Denis, Co. Kamouraska.

shirt. In this way, the child is kept warm. But the poor man is penniless, to-day he plaintively says to us: "If you are willing to take my little boy, I am ready to give him to you, for I no longer have any food for him." We are quite astonished at this offer, for up to the present he has made great sacrifices in order to keep the child; some pagans even wished to buy the little one, but he refused to sell it as he feared that it would not be happy with them. "I know," he says to us, "that you will take good care of it and that it is sure to be happy." The offer is immediately accepted but as the Reverend Pastor is absent, the bargain will be made only to-morrow.

The poor man whom we told you about yesterday, goes early this morning to the rectory and the child is adopted by Reverend Father Schetagne who promises that it will not be given to anyone else. It is immediately brought to the church to be baptized.

Report of the Dispensary of Tung Leao, for the months of January, February and March 1933 (During the month of February the Dispensary was open for only twelve days).

Baptisms.....	82	Patients.....	4,232
Treatments.....	6,514	Dressings.....	3,105
		Homes visited.....	82

* * *

TSUNG MING, HAIMEN VICARIATE, CHINA

Fragments of Letters from the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Tsung Ming, China, to their Superior General

Tsung Ming, February 6, 1933.

BELOVED MOTHER,

I am very anxious to tell you about our little Foundling-Home and our Dispensary of Paochen to which, for nearly a year, I have been going twice a week. At this Foundling-Home, opened February 15, 1932, three hundred and five children were received between that date and the second of February 1933, and we count on having a big increase this year. During my last visit, ten babies were brought to me, most of whom became little thieves of heaven.

But along with these consolations we have learned, to our great sorrow, that there exists a most nefarious practice: that of trading children. Although this is prohibited by the laws of the country, the trade is continually being carried on at Shanghai, in the Chinese section. People buy children brought from here and there, especially little boys, to make money by selling them again at a higher price. This trade is very tempting to the inhabitants of Tsung Ming who are very poor. Just lately, one of the Chinese women of our neighbourhood and a companion started for Shanghai carrying three little children; they were arrested and put in jail. This woman was in the

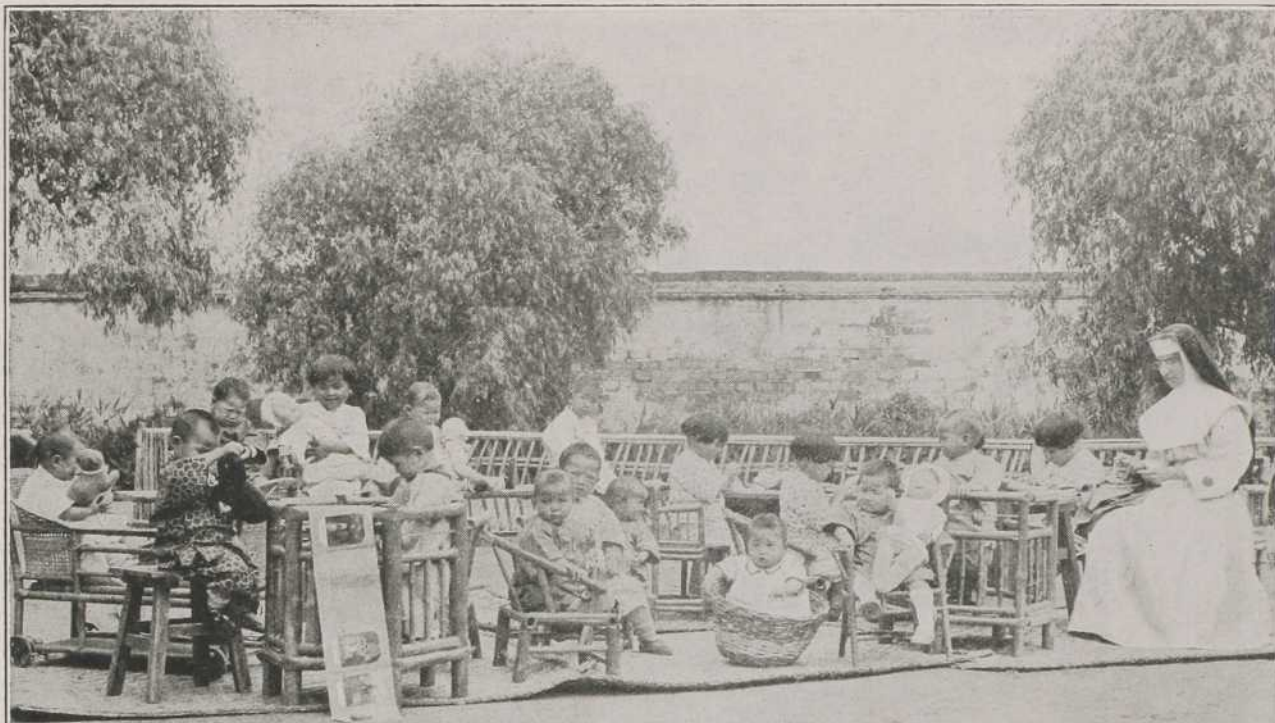
habit of stopping the persons she saw coming to our Foundling-Home with babies and when she found that these poor little ones answered the purpose, she would offer a higher price than we are in the habit of paying for them. We were notified of this incident and after many proceedings, I succeeded in having the unfortunate babies that were locked up with the two guilty women taken from the prison. The three little ones were in a dying condition.

I spend two days every week at the Dispensary in Paochen. In the morning I leave Tsung Ming with a native helper, have my dinner at the Dispensary and return late in the afternoon; we have to drive four miles in a *rickshaw* (a two-wheeled vehicle) through the country, so I have plenty of time to pray and to admire the wonders of Nature which, in every part of the earth, is marvellously beautiful.

Since beginning to visit this Dispensary, I have had the occasion of pouring the Sacred Waters on the brows of several adults. A young man of twenty-four, a consumptive, asked to study about our religion after listening to a few Catechism lessons in our Dispensary. He was really to be admired for his ardour in settling down to study the Catholic doctrine, but before very long, it was impossible for him to come for treatment. As he was obliged to remain in bed, I began to visit him regularly. One day, I found him in danger of death; he expressed an ardent desire to receive Baptism and I complied with his request. I called him Narcissus after my dear father. The people who owned the house in which he lived with his mother, fearing that he would die in their dwelling — death is considered by superstitious Chinese as a curse — compelled the two poor unfortunates to seek an abode elsewhere; they were obliged to take shelter in a shack about a mile from the Mission. There it was that I found the poor young man hanging between life and death. I sent for the priest who, after hearing his confession, confirmed and anointed him and gave him Holy Communion. Shortly after his soul was regenerated and sanctified, he left this earth, repeating an invocation to the Blessed Virgin.

Another consoling conversion was that of "Jeremias", also a victim of tuberculosis. On going to treat him for the first time, he accepted a miraculous medal and listened with great interest to the truths of our holy Religion. On my third visit, as he was sinking fast and longed with his whole heart to be baptized so as to go to heaven, I deemed it wise not to leave without baptizing him. I was deeply touched on seeing the look of happiness which spread over his features after the Saving Waters had been poured on his brow. He earnestly entreated me to come back to see him before long, but the next time I went to visit him, he had already departed this life.

An aged incurable patient, to whom I had given a miraculous medal when he visited the Dispensary three months ago, and whom I had told at the same time to send for me if he grew very sick, received me with great joy just before his death. Some of his Christian neighbours had, little by little, prepared him to embrace the Faith, all that remained to be done was to pour on his brow the Regenerating Waters to make him an heir to eternal happiness.



Dans la cour de l'Orphelinat :
 SS. Missionnaires de l'Immac. Conception, Tsung-Ming
 Les grandes à la couture
 Les petites à leurs jeux

ON THE GROUNDS OF THE ORPHANAGE IN CHARGE OF THE MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,
 TSUNG MING. THE ELDEST ORPHANS HELP WITH THE SEWING
 WHILE THEIR TINY COMPANIONS ARE AT PLAY.

How consoling it is to watch the work of grace in the souls of these poor pagans! One of them to whom I spoke thus on his bed of pain: "If you wish to be baptized, you must give up all superstitious practices", replied: "Oh! yes, *Momo* (Sister), I have not believed in them for a long time past." — "But you still have an idol on the mantel, you cannot be a Christian if you keep that, give it to me." — "It is my wife who is anxious to keep it, but if you want me to give it to you, alright. Fah Lang," he cried out to our helper who had come with us, "bring it here and give it to *Momo*. Yes, yes," he continued, noticing that the latter hesitated, fearing to meet with the opposition of the sick man's wife, "I am the head of this house and I want you to bring it to *Momo*." I still have this "relic" which I shall send you, dear Mother, at the first opportunity, it will give you an idea of the kind of idols that are worshipped by the poor people of Tsung Ming, before which on the first and fifteenth day after the new moon they burn red tapers and offer their homages. The poor consumptive died with the most religious sentiments shortly after being baptized.

I could still, dear Mother, tell you of many other like occurrences. These heavenly conquests of souls are for us comforting rewards

SR. ST. JEAN BAPTISTE⁽¹⁾

On the 11th, at the close of our Annual Retreat, took place the ceremony of the Final Profession of our dear Sister St. Camille de Lellis. Reverend Father Miller, S. J., our retreat-master, officiated. Present in the sanctuary were Reverend Father Cote, S. J., and Reverend Father Tsu. The altar was adorned with verdant palms and white lilies fashioned for the occasion. The decorations greatly resembled those of the Mother House on the beautiful Profession days. It is impossible for us not to give a homelike touch to everything we do, although, sometimes, the material we have to work with differs greatly from that of our native land. The Oblation of our privileged Sister, it was although with simplicity, was no less fervent for her and no less touching to all present. The greater number did not understand the meaning of the vows she pronounced but all were deeply impressed; if they are unable to grasp the meaning of the words, they know for what reason these beautiful ceremonies are held. Religious profession, which is rightly called a second baptism, is not a complete enigma to them; they appreciate the value of the religious life and hold in high esteem those who have the privilege of belonging to it, especially those who have left even their religious family and their native land, in order to devote their entire life to the saving of souls; there are a few whose admiration even becomes a kind of veneration. A pupil gazed intently upon Sr. St. Camille de Lellis, who wore a wreath of lilies, as though she were in the presence of a heavenly vision; she joined her hands and looked at her with eyes that seemed to say: "How beautiful!" A little orphan, on noticing our dear Sister, was overjoyed, she clapped her hands gleefully, and in her eyes could be read a happiness springing from innocence of which the wreath of lilies is the symbol.

1. Irene PELLAND, of West Glover, Vt.



NURSES OF THE TRAINING-SCHOOL, CHINESE GENERAL HOSPITAL, MANILA, P. I., WHO GRADUATED ON APRIL 24, 1933.
THIS SCHOOL IS CONDUCTED BY THE MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.
IN THE CENTRE IS DR. TEE HAN KEE, DIRECTOR OF THE HOSPITAL.

The Blessed Sacrament was exposed all day long. The entire personnel, including the Teresians and the native novices, joined with us in thanking our divine Lord on this happy day. The sight of our dear Sister beaming with happiness carried our thoughts back to the precious moment of the offering of ourselves to God and whole-heartedly we renewed this offering in a spirit of love and gratitude! The labours and privations of those on the Missions do not deprive them of the inward joys of the soul; they experience such joys and many of them. God stoops even unto our weakness and fills us with the happiness experienced by those who love Him. After being on the Missions four, five, and some even six years, we are all greatly pleased with what God has done for us and if we were obliged to begin anew, we would gladly do so. Our blunders serve to remind us of our weakness, but the thought of God's tenderness and mercy is always uppermost in our minds to make us realize what our nothingness, with the help of Almighty God, is able to accomplish.

SR. MARIE DE L'EPIPHANIE (1)

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KORIYAMA, JAPAN

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Koriyama, Japan.

Sunday, December 25, 1932

On this great day, in Christian countries, everything speaks of Christmas and the Divine Child, but in pagan lands this solemnity so charming and full of sweetness is almost unknown. In Koriyama, a city which counts nearly 40,000 souls, there are scarcely 100 Catholics!... In order to do our share in having the pagans who surround us enter somewhat into the spirit of this beautiful Feast, we endeavour to celebrate it with as much pomp as possible.

At the little church of the Mission, well filled for Midnight Mass, Christians and pagans, children and adults recited the prayers in common. We, together with a few young girls, succeeded in learning a harmonized Mass. At Communion time, we had the happiness of seeing four new Christians approach the Holy Table for the first time. These First Communicants were: the Japanese teacher at our Kindergarten, a woman and two little girls.

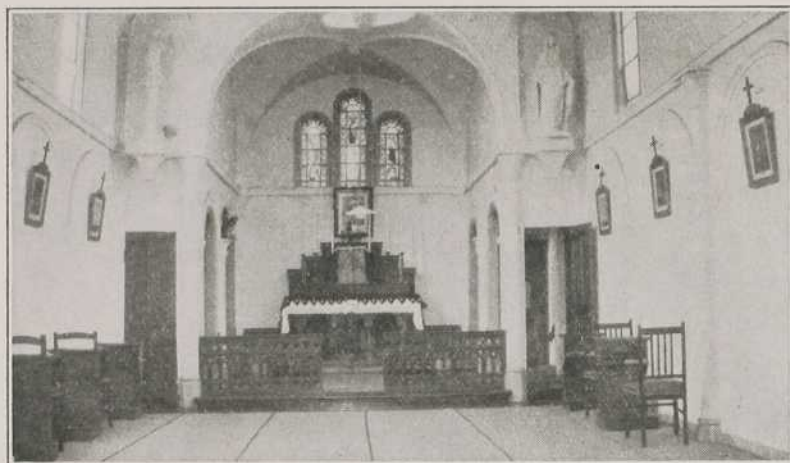
During the Mass celebrated at daybreak, the choir sang our joyful Christmas hymns in Japanese and the *Adeste Fideles*. The notes of these pious hymns awakened in our souls the sweetest of memories, some even dating back to our childhood days...

At Mass on Christmas Day, the Divine Child saw, at His feet, our forty-two little pupils who, grouped near the Crib, were delighted to sing different hymns. We had asked the parents to allow us to bring their children to

1. May MOQUIN, of Eastman.

the church, a few even accompanied their little ones. Thus it was that these pagans, for the first time in their lives, crossed the threshold of a church. The sweet Child Jesus, His holy Mother, and the angels surrounding His Crib must have smiled on hearing the childish hymns and the ingenuous prayers of these little pagan souls. We trust that these dear children will ever keep a sweet memory of their first Christmas Mass.

At the Convent, fresh surprises awaited our pupils: set up on some rocks was a Christmas tree and, in a corner, a grotto adorned with flowers from



INTERIOR OF THE CHURCH, KORIYAMA, JAPAN.

which the Infant Jesus smiled to His little friends while stretching out His arms to them; near the tree, a mysterious chimney caused the children to ask a thousand and one questions: "Will Santa Claus, *O Jii San* come down that chimney? How will he manage to crawl through it if he carries a big bag on his back? etc., etc..." Towards a quarter past ten, the room was filled with Christians and the children's parents. The concert, at which Reverend Father Reid, O. P., presided, opened by a few words of welcome and the distributing of the programmes, then there were songs in English and Japanese, recitations, musical selections, short plays and the presentation of a bouquet of flowers. After the concert, all our little folks sat down in front of the chimney, calling to Santa Claus, who did not delay in making his appearance, bringing to each one a well-filled stocking; to the tiny tots who came with their parents, a bag of pop-corn; and to the pupils of the English class and to those taking piano lessons, various presents. He afterwards distributed to the grown-up people, Christians and pagans, the numerous pictures with which the tree was adorned. Some three hundred and twenty-five persons, including the children, received something, and when it was time to leave, it was hard to tell whether it was the children with their toys and candies, or their parents bringing home with them a souvenir picture of Christmas 1932, who were the happiest. Old curtains served as material for the stockings, which, thanks to the generosity of the pupils' parents, we

were able to fill with candies, for it was impossible for us to go to this expense on account of our slender means. The joy of having made others happy caused us to quickly forget the trouble we went to in preparing this concert.

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament which took place in the church at five o'clock was followed by an entertainment got up by the Christians.

We shall ever keep a pleasant memory of Christmas 1932. How richly rewarded we would be for the efforts we made, if this Feast resulted in the winning of a few conversions!

Monday, January 9, 1933

Our pupils, who return to school this morning, are all well and very happy. The conversation of these little folks is quite lively: each of them speaks of the pleasure she had during the holidays. Fumi Ko, one of the tiniest of the children, who wears a medal and carries her beads with her like a little Christian girl, had been to see her grandparents. She told her grandmother of what she was planning to do. "When I'm big, I'll become a Christian, and then... I'll go to heaven." "Where is heaven?" asked her grandmother. "It is up there," Fumi Ko answered, pointing to the blue sky. "But you will fall down," replied the poor old pagan woman!... "Oh, no," said the child, "God is there, and when I'm with God I'll not fall down. ..." Fumi Ko was the first pupil to attend our Kindergarten, she was the first to ask for a medal and we hope that she will also be the first to become a Christian for, doubtlessly, her parents will follow her example.

Tuesday, January 17

It has been very cold lately, the water in all the taps freezes overnight. To heat their dwellings, the Japanese have only a few small fireplaces in which they burn charcoal; in certain homes, there are also *hibachi*, portable stoves resembling large jardinières, a *kotatsu*, a box two feet square and a foot high, sunk in the floor, in which charcoal embers are placed on the ashes of burnt rice stalks; these ashes remain hot for a long time. Over the fire is placed a screen, and a *futon*, a thick blanket, is hung on a framework over the *kotatsu*, to keep the heat from escaping. All the members of the family spend three quarters of the day under the blanket covering this primitive oven. It is surprising that with this heating system there are not more houses burned. On the same fire at which the Japanese warm their feet, is cooked the food for the different meals.

Friday, January 20

The mother of our little pupil, Fumi Ko, has asked for a pair of beads. We gladly send her one of the pairs received from our benefactors, and at the same time send her word to go herself to have these beads blessed at the Mission, in order that she may have the occasion of speaking to the Reverend Pastor.

Monday, January 30

A young Christian girl whom we treated for several months last year, has been in the hospital for fifteen days. We pay her a visit this afternoon, this seems to please her greatly. We wonder how the patients can get better in such a hovel with the little care they receive. Despite the fact that everything is very repulsive therein, the wards are filled with patients; it is probably because the doctors of this hospital have the reputation of being very skilful and do not charge much. As in most of the hospitals in Japan, the patients must bring with them their own bed clothes and the food they need; a member of the family prepares the meals and tidies up the room which he shares with the patient. In Japan, a sick person goes to the hospital for the sole reason of being near a doctor. On leaving it, he brings with him all his belongings and the room is immediately given to another patient who settles therein just as unceremoniously as the first. Truly, these good people would be astonished if they were to be shown a Canadian hospital, and what good it would do these pagan souls to see the charitable and untiring devotedness of Christians!

Extracts from the Novitiate Chronicles



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

St. Bernard.

Monday, March 20, 1933

As the Feast of St. Joseph happened to fall on a Sunday in Lent it is being celebrated to-day. However, we did not let yesterday go by without showing this good Father our love by offering him our prayers and hymns and also by taking a lovely holiday in his honour.

To-day, with the entire Church, we celebrate the solemnity with still greater pomp: beautiful flowers in the sanctuary and around the statue of our holy Protector, solemn Mass and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, a guard of honour before his altar, the recital of the Rosary and the singing of the Mysteries, family rejoicing.

May St. Joseph smilingly receive our praises, our love, our gratitude, and listen to our innumerable entreaties.

Thursday, March 23

It is Mid-Lent and on this occasion, the postulants seize the opportunity to entertain their older Sisters. They are to come this evening to give the novices a surprise by executing a medley of well-known tunes rehearsed with great success in their own recreation-room during the last holidays given them.

At half-past seven they appear in our midst and immediately the singers take their places on the platform. While their amusing gestures and comical songs are causing much laughter and applause, "Ball", our enormous dog which, as a visitor once remarked, looks more like a pony than anything else, puzzled by all the noise which he hears from his kennel, boldly rushes into the room, and catching sight of the Sister who is enthusiastically beating time, seems to wish to take part in the fun and with one bound, knocks the conductress off the improvised platform.

When the postulants have finished their repertoire, our Mistress invites us to end up the evening with a violin recital. All lips become silent the moment the first notes are played on the instrument which sings and vibrates melodiously. At the end of each selection a new one is asked for and all voices are hushed again. The music continues until the bell brings our delightful evening to a close.

Saturday, March 25

With the Archangel Gabriel, we greet the Immaculate Virgin by our oft-repeated Aves. May the praises of earth united with those of heaven rejoice the heart of our Blessed Mother!

As this Feast is also known as that of the "Slaves of Mary", we renew in common our Act of Consecration to this all-bountiful Mistress, and then sing a hymn which ratifies our filial promises.

We do not forget either that to-day is the seventy-fifth anniversary of the great day when Mary, beaming with inexpressible beauty, gazed upon the privileged child of Lourdes, saying to her: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

O all-beautiful and Immaculate Virgin, on this blessed day deign to stoop towards us also and smile upon us as thou didst smile upon "our little sister Bernadette" since, like her, we have the happiness of proclaiming ourselves the Missionaries of thy Immaculate Conception.

Saturday, April 1st

A nice little candy fish had been, this morning, discreetly placed in our drawer in the refectory. On noticing it, we smile and look questioningly at one another... Can it be the novices... can it be the postulants who... No, indeed, for everybody has received one and all appear equally surprised... Sister Superior soon puts an end to our guessing. "The little fishes," she tells us, "have been sent to you by our Mother." All faces beam with even greater happiness and on them may be read the thought which fills all minds. How good our Mother is, how she knows just what will please us! And how anxious are we to express to her a filial word of thanks for her thoughtful kindness.

We are all on our guard now, for the little fishes found so early in the day have warned us to beware and not to let ourselves be caught... However, let us wait until recreation time... Recreation has arrived... On many

faces there is an enigmatical expression: doubtlessly, plans are being made... but all are cautious.

Suddenly, a novice — and not the smallest or the least wary — lets herself be taken unawares... Another one soon follows her example... There they are, both caught. All the others applaud, and laugh, and tease... All grow vigilant again and recreation goes on. All of a sudden three new captures are made! How very amusing is April 1st!

Sunday, April 2

Several special circumstances urge us to follow the exercises of the monthly retreat with great fervour. To-day is the first day of Passiontide which tends to render our reflections still more serious and our love more ardent. But this period of the liturgical calendar which, each year, draws our attention to the drama of Calvary has this time a character all its own: it is that the nineteenth centenary of the death of our adorable Saviour is being celebrated and to-day, throughout the entire Catholic world, has burst forth the dawn of the Holy Year proclaimed on this occasion by Our Holy Father Pope Pius XI.

These are the motives which urge us to redouble our ardour and we entreat our Immaculate Mother to grant that this retreat may be the beginning of a constant ascent towards the summits of perfection.

Thursday, April 6

Happy to comply with the wishes of the Sovereign Pontiff, with the entire Catholic world we to-day spend an hour in adoration and reparation, in commemoration of the nineteenth centenary of the divine mystery of the Redemption.

Nineteen centuries! Yes, nineteen centuries ago, O Jesus, Thou didst shed Thy Blood for the salvation of men, and how many there are who yet know Thee not! For nineteen centuries, hidden beneath the Eucharistic Species, Thou hast been sharing the exile of Thy poor creatures, comforting and consoling them and offering Thyself to them as the food of their souls, yet how few are they who have understood this prodigy of Thy love! O Jesus, Adorable Master, grant that we whom Thou hast chosen to be Thy spouses and apostles may be inflamed with the fire of divine love which Thou wishest to be enkindled throughout the universe and that being filled with such love we may cast some sparks of it into the hearts of others.

Easter Sunday, April 16

Endeavouring to share in the happiness which our heavenly Mother experienced on this blessed day, we intone at daybreak the *Regina Cæli* and it is while singing the joyous notes of this anthem that we enter our spotless chapel over which hovers, for the first time, the dawn of the happy

Feast of Easter. True it is that the aspect of a cloudy grey sky does not harmonize with the joyful Feast we are celebrating, but our we are all filled with such great happiness that we scarcely notice that the weather is dull. With all our hearts we proclaim the praises of our Risen Lord and one word alone reveals the sentiments of all: 'tis the triumphal Alleluia which the Church places on the lips of her children.

At the opening of recreation there was a voluminous pile of letters to be distributed: all the mail received during Lent. After each Sister had read with interest and pleasure the news and best wishes sent her from home, some of us set to playing games, while others became engaged in pleasant conversation which, on account of the silence we had kept during the past few days, seemed to hold a special charm.

Monday, April 17

Just after the bell has been rung to announce the day's recreation, a most welcome visitor arrives from the Mother House: our dear Sister Assistant. Needless to say all work is left aside, and, moreover, we have the sweet and rare pleasure of grouping around our dear guest who with great kindness entertains us by telling us a thousand interesting things.

Thursday, April 20

Our Mother, who has been with us since yesterday, crowns our happiness by coming with Sister Assistant to spend the recreation with us. The postulants also join us, and while thus surrounded by the youngest members of her large family, our beloved Mother, whose heart is ever filled with the most maternal love, inquires about our parents and our different occupations and after telling us of her plans for the furnishing of our new Dovecot, she requests us to relate little stories, which greatly amuse her. We find the recreation much too short. What a pleasant time we had with our dear Mother whom we would like to keep with us always.

Tuesday, April 25

A cablegram from Manchuria has just been received at the Mother House: it conveys the sad news that our dear Sister St. Dominique is dying at Szepingkai. Our poor Mother who telephones to us asking for prayers, seems to be greatly affected, but as ever, resigned to the Holy Will of God. "If God," she tells us, "were willing to leave her to us... she could do so much good at the Mission; but God sees more deeply into things than we. He knows what is best... let us only ask that His Holy Will be accomplished."

Wednesday, April 26

It was doubtlessly Our Lady of Good Counsel whose feast we are celebrating to-day, who bent over one of our generous benefactors and inspired

him with the thought of providing us with the most beautiful gift that we have yet received for our chapel: a magnificent golden monstrance, three feet high. Twelve medallions, representing the twelve apostles, encircle the lunette; at the top, another smaller figure, a white lamb lying on a cross; on the base, the figures of the Sacred Heart, of the Blessed Virgin and of St. Joseph and, in relief, three adoring angels. The bright rays are intertwined with golden lilies studded with precious stones. What a beautiful effect will this brilliant ostensorium produce upon our altar, which is also very pretty. And when, from this sumptuous throne, the Eucharistic King will shower precious blessings upon us and upon all for whom we pray, He will surely bestow with lavish hand special graces upon the benevolent donor who has been so generous to Him and to His poor missionaries.

Sunday, April 30

The painful news that we have been dreading is announced to us: our dear Sister St. Dominique yesterday left this land of exile for the heavenly abode. As a cablegram sent such a distance cannot contain many details, we are impatiently waiting for a letter from far-off Manchuria, giving us an account of this departure.

None of the novices and postulants had the advantage of knowing the dear deceased religious, but she was our Sister just the same and her death has caused us great sorrow. Still very young (she had not yet attained her twenty-fifth year), she fell on the field of honour. Only a short time ago, she graduated from our Hospital in Manila, and being in the best of health, she counted on devoting still many years of her life to the care of the poor pagans. But God judged otherwise: He was satisfied with her apostolic desires and called her to take her rest at the very beginning of her career... And across the seas, in the ranks of our little apostolic army of Manchuria, her place is vacant... Let us hasten to prepare ourselves so as to go to fill it before long.

Monday, May 1st

Despite the fact that we find that the time glides by only too quickly, there are always cherished days that we impatiently look forward to. The opening of the month of May is one of these blessed dates which, every year, we long to see arrive. And now that it is at last in our midst it is with gladsome hearts and voices that we bid it welcome, or rather it is to its loving and august Sovereign that we offer our homages. Yes, 'tis to the Queen of May that all our prayers and hymns are offered.

We gather in our little grove the first flowers of the season, and present them to her as a pledge of the mystical flowers with which we hope each day to adorn our souls.

Thanksgivings to the Blessed Virgin

for favours 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.

Find enclosed an alms for a favour granted me and to obtain another. Please pray for me. I promise to renew my subscription if I obtain what I am now asking for. A Subscriber. — Some time ago we asked you to pray to the Blessed Virgin for a young man who had not assisted at Mass for some time. He is now making the Mission. Please make a novena for him. I am enclosing an offering for a light to be burned before the Blessed Sacrament for the intentions of everyone in the family. Miss B. P., **Montreal**. — God has seen fit to restore me to health. To fulfil my promise I am enclosing my renewal subscription and an offering for the ransom of a baby likely to live. T. B., **Fitchburg, Mass.** — An offering for lights to be burned in honor of the Blessed Virgin for a favour received. M. McA. — I am enclosing my renewal subscription to **THE PRECURSOR** and an offering for your missionary work. Once again the Blessed Virgin has obtained from her Divine Son the graces I asked for. Please thank this good Mother for me. T. F. M., **Montreal**. — Find enclosed a small offering. We have received a great many favours. Mrs. T. K., **Wyoming, Ont.** — Thank God, my oldest boy has obtained work through the intercession of Our Immaculate Mother.

I am now asking you to pray for my intentions in a special manner. Mrs. J. C., **Model City**. — A lady thanks Our Blessed Mother for helping her to rent a house and for assisting a young woman in her distress. B. P. — Please find enclosed an offering for a Mass for the Souls in Purgatory in thanksgiving for favour received. May I ask you to pray that my son may get steady work and for several special favours. I promise to send you a donation if any of them are received. A. M., **Montreal**. — I am enclosing an offering in thanksgiving for favour received from Our Lady of Lourdes. A. P., **Westmount**. — Enclosed you will find an offering for a Low Mass to be said in thanksgiving for a favour received from the Blessed Virgin. Please continue to pray for the conversion of my son, and also that we may all keep our positions. Enclosed you will find an offering which I promised to send you for favour received. Mrs. J. W., **Montreal**. — I am writing to let you know that I have received part of the favour I have been asking for. I am sending you a small offering as promised and will send the same amount every month if I meet with success. Please keep on praying. Mrs. V. M., **Pawtucket, R. I.** — Heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin Mary for a great favour obtained after making the novena of the three Hail Marys. Mrs. A. S., **Three Rivers**. — I thank the Blessed Virgin for obtaining work for my husband after I had promised to subscribe to **THE PRECURSOR** and to publish my thanksgiving. Mrs. D. D., **Villeray**. — I wish to publish my thanksgiving for the cure of a sickly and crippled child for which I praise the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. W. B. — Gratitude to the Blessed Virgin for a cure obtained after having made a sacrifice in order to subscribe to **THE PRECURSOR**. M. P. L., **Montreal**. — Stipends for a Mass for the Souls in Purgatory, in thanksgiving for a favour obtained. Mrs. A. R., **Montreal**. — An offering in thanksgiving for a favour received. Mrs. A. C., **Granby**. — I return thanks to the Blessed Virgin for the favour she has obtained me and am making an offering for the Missions as a token of my gratitude. A Subscriber to **THE PRECURSOR**. — Grateful thanks to the Blessed Virgin for a cure obtained through her powerful intercession. An offering for your Works and for the poor lepers to testify my gratitude. A Subscriber, **Ste. Adele**. — Herewith an offering in thanksgiving for a favour received and to obtain others: success in business, health for my husband and myself, positions for my two brothers. Mrs. L. R., **Montreal**. — Gratitude to the Blessed Virgin for a favour received after promising to pay for a novena of lights. M. R. L., **Montreal**. — Grateful thanks to our dear heavenly Mother for a favour obtained. Mrs. L. B., **Courcelles**. — Lively gratitude to the Blessed Virgin for a cure obtained after promising to subscribe to **THE PRECURSOR**. Mrs. J. B., **Montreal**. — Herewith an offering in thanksgiving for a favour received. Mrs. N. A. A., **Roberval**. — An offering in thanksgiving to the Heart of Jesus for my little boy who, after being seriously ill, is now on the road to health. A thousand thanks to the Sacred Heart. J. F., **Port Alfred**. — I am renewing my subscription

to THE PRECURSOR in thanksgiving for a favour obtained. I wish to have the Souls in Purgatory share in all the spiritual advantages. This is the second time that I have obtained great favours in this way. Mrs. U. C., **Montreal**. — An offering for the ransom of a Chinese baby in thanksgiving for a favour received. Miss A. M. M., **Quebec**. — An alms for the Missions in thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a great favour received. Miss A. C., **Montreal**. — Heartfelt thanks to our Immaculate Mother who has granted me a great favour. Mr. J. R. B., **Windsor Mills**. — An offering for the Missions in thanksgiving for a favour obtained. Mrs. D. L., **Montreal**. — I am subscribing to THE PRECURSOR in thanksgiving for favours received after promising to publish. Mrs. R. B., **L'Epiphanie**. — I have received a favour through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin and in fulfilment of my promise I am renewing my subscription. Mrs. N. G., **St. Jean Deschaillons**. — My subscription to THE PRECURSOR. I am very grateful for a cure obtained. Miss F. R. — I am sending you this offering in thanksgiving to the all-bountiful Virgin from whom I received a favour after promising publication. Mrs. G. G., **St. Valentin**. — Offering for the Missions in thanksgiving for a favour received. Miss R. T. — I am paying for a subscription to thank the Blessed Virgin who granted me success in trade and helped me to collect some bills. Mrs. D. G. — Find enclosed the price of the ransom of a Chinese baby, in fulfilment of a promise for a favour received. Mrs. J. R. B. L. — Grateful thanks to the Immaculate Virgin for a favour received. Mrs. E. F., **Knowlton**. — Lively gratitude for favours obtained. May our dear heavenly Mother continue to watch over me. Miss Z. M. — An offering for the Missions in fulfilment of a promise. Mrs. L. B. — Grateful thanks for the cure of my son. I beg prayers for his complete recovery. Mrs. J. A. M., **Bourget**. — We are renewing our subscription in thanksgiving for the cure of my brother who had been sick for a long time. N. G. — I am sending you a small offering to have lights burned before the statue of the Blessed Virgin to thank this good Mother for the favours she has granted me. M. R. B. — I am fulfilling a promise which I made in order to obtain the favour of returning to work. Many thanks to our Immaculate Mother! Miss A. G., **Marlboro**. — You will find enclosed an offering which I am sending you to thank the Blessed Virgin for all the favours I have received from her. Mrs. O. R. — I am renewing my subscription and am enclosing an offering for your Works, in thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a favour obtained. Mrs. I. B. L. — Please accept this offering for your distant Missions, in thanksgiving for a favour received. E. G. P., **Gardner, Mass.** — Sincere thanks for favours obtained. I am asking for some others, especially that there may be more work and that peace may again reign throughout the world. B. P. — An offering for your missions in thanksgiving for a great favour obtained through the intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Teresa of the Child Jesus and St. Francis of Assisi. Mrs. C. A. G., **Les Eboulements**. — I am renewing my subscription to THE PRECURSOR in thanksgiving to Mary Immaculate for a favour received. I entreat her to keep me under her motherly protection. A Subscriber. — An offering for the ransom of a Chinese baby in thanksgiving for a special favour. M. W., **Village des Hurons**. — I am sending you this alms in thanksgiving for a favour received and to obtain others. Mrs. C. C. P. — A thank-offering in honour of the Blessed Virgin and St. Gerard. Mrs. J. S. G., **Montreal**. — Accept my modest mite for your missions. I return sincere thanks to the Blessed Virgin and St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for constantly protecting me. Mrs. D. B., **Grand Mere**. — I am sending you an offering for a Low Mass to be said in thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for a favour received. Mrs. W. R., **Douglastown, P. Q.** —



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 would like to be recommended to your prayers to obtain a position very soon for which I promise an offering for the ransom of a Chinese baby likely to live. Please publish. **M. M., Montreal.** — I am enclosing an offering and would ask you to kindly have a Mass said for the Souls in Purgatory. Also I would ask for prayers for the intention of someone very dear to me. **R. H. C., St. Thomas, Ont.** — I am enclosing an offering for your missions and beg you to pray that I may have a home of my own if it be God's Holy Will. **M. McL., Montreal.** — I beg your prayers that my husband may secure the position he has in view. I promise to send an offering. A devout Convert. — Would you kindly pray for two special intentions. If either of them are granted, I promise to give an offering for the ransom of a Chinese baby and to be a life-long subscriber to THE PRECURSOR. **B. W., Montreal.** — Will you please make a novena for my mother that she may enjoy good health. Also will you please pray for me that there will not be any adverse changes in my office. I promise to publish and to send an offering when my requests are granted. **M. B., Ottawa, Ont.** — A spiritual and a temporal favour are requested. **Miss G. W., Montreal.** — I am renewing my subscription to THE PRECURSOR. I am praying for two special intentions and promise to send an offering when my petitions are granted. **M. M., Hardwick, Vt.** — Herewith my subscription to THE PRECURSOR. I beg your prayers that I may not have to undergo an operation. **Mrs. P. W., Lucan, Ont.** — A position for my husband. **Mrs. J. R., Timmins, Ont.** — Prayers are requested for a special intention. An offering is promised in thanksgiving. **Mrs. H.** — I am sending in a petition to the Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Perpetual Help. If our favour is granted we will send you a substantial donation. A Subscriber. — The cure of weak eyes. **E. K., Chatham, Ont.** — I am enclosing an offering for your Missions. I am unemployed at present, so please say a prayer to our Blessed Mother that something may turn up for me. **M. P., Montreal.** — I am renewing my subscription to THE PRECURSOR and am also enclosing an offering for the ransom of two dying babies. I would ask your prayers for a special request and will contribute generously to your wonderful work if it is God's Will that it should be granted to me. **Mrs. F. T., Sandwich, Ont.** — Enclosed you will find my cheque for renewal of THE PRECURSOR. Will you kindly pray for a sister who is seriously ill, for a brother who has not gone to his religious duties for years and for two other special intentions. **M. McV., Montreal.** — I promise to have a Mass said for the Souls in Purgatory if my son obtains work soon. Please make a novena for his success. **Mrs. A. M.** — I enclose an offering towards the upkeep of your sanctuary lamp. May I ask you to pray for my sister who has been ill since last November. **Mrs. McC., Fitchburg, Mass.** — I ask prayers that my little girl may recover from bronchitis, that I may obtain from God the grace to raise both my children good Catholics, that they may know their vocations and that I may be restored to health. **Mrs. C. K., St. Mary's, Ont.** — Kindly make a novena for me to the Sacred Heart, St. Anthony and the Little Flower. If I obtain the favours I am asking for within a month I will send a substantial donation towards your good work. A Subscriber. **Westmount.** — A very special favour. **Mrs. L. F., Pawtucket, R. I.** — May I ask your prayers that several members of my family may secure employment and for two other special intentions. I promise to send you an offering when I get work. **B. P., Montreal.** — Find enclosed my renewal subscription to THE PRECURSOR. Please pray for a special intention. If I obtain the favour I am asking for I will make another donation. **Mrs. J. J., Walkerville, Ont.** — I would like to ask you to make a novena to Our Blessed Lady for my intention. I promise to send you an offering later on. **M. K., Pickerel River, Ont.** — I ask your prayers that my husband may have steady work. I promise to renew my subscription and also to send a donation to help your wonderful work in thanksgiving. **Mrs. W. G., Peterboro, Ont.** — Prayers are requested for a special intention. **Mrs. L. B., Montreal.** — Will you please pray to the Blessed Mother and the Little Flower that I may be granted a favour that I am praying for. I promise to have my thanksgiving published in THE PRECURSOR and to send you a donation for your missions. A Subscriber. — Steady work for my husband and success in renting two rooms. **Mrs. D. H., Stratford, Ont.** — The cure of a little girl who has been operated on three times for a hare-lip. **E. A. R., Montreal.** — I am enclosing an offering for your mission work and beg your prayers for a special intention. A Subscriber to THE PRECURSOR. **Mrs. J. O'C., Notre Dame de Grace.** — Herewith my

renewal subscription to THE PRECURSOR. I am asking for a special favour. Please pray for me. C. P., **Amherstburg, Ont.** — Suitable positions for my husband and son; my son's safety and an improvement in my health. Mrs. A. W., **Angliers, P. Q.** — I am renewing my subscription to THE PRECURSOR and am enclosing an offering for a novena of lights in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary for a very special favour I desire. I promise to send another offering if I get what I want. Miss E. B. — Prayers are requested for a very special intention. A Subscriber, **Woodslee, Ont.** — The recovery of my health. Mrs. J. C., **Seaforth, Ont.** — I am sending you a small offering. Please pray that I may be granted the favour I am asking for. If I obtain it I will send you another donation. M. F. McN., **St. Thomas, Ont.** — Please pray to our Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Little Flower that I may obtain what I am asking for. I promise to subscribe to THE PRECURSOR and to send an offering for the ransom of pagan babies when my prayers are answered. W. J. M., **Harvey Station, N. B.** — An increase in the salary of my niece or that she may secure another suitable position. Mrs. G. C., **Timmins, Ont.** — I promise to send an offering for the ransom of a baby likely to live if I get back my old position or if I get another. Please pray for me. G. J. D., **Verdun, P. Q.** — Herewith an offering for a pagan child. I beg your prayers for some very special intentions. Mrs. L. M., **Toronto, Ont.** — Enclosed please find an offering for Masses for the Holy Souls. Kindly commence a special novena in honour of the Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph, that my sister-in-law may get good tenants soon. I promise to make another donation if my request is granted. Mrs. F. A., **Pawtucket, R. I.** — An offering in honour of our dear Mother and the Little Flower of Jesus. A novena is requested. Mrs. L., **Verdun.** — I enclose a small offering and beg your prayers for a special intention. Mrs. J. H., **Tetereaultville.** — Three special favours are asked for. H. C. K., **Apponaug, R. I.** — I am asking you to start a novena to our Blessed Mother and the Little Flower that I may be granted a special favour by the end of the month. Mrs. E. W., **Shawinigan Falls, P. Q.** — Kindly make a novena to the Blessed Virgin, St. Anthony and the Little Flower that I may be granted five great favours. I will send an offering for the ransom of a dying baby for each favour received. Mrs. A. N. G., **Pawtucket, R. I.** — I am renewing my subscription to THE PRECURSOR and would ask you to pray for four special intentions. Mrs. N. D., **Dashwood, Ont.** — Prayers are requested for the obtaining of two very great favours. An alms is promised in thanksgiving. Anonymous. — I beg you to pray that my husband may be restored to health and that I may rent my four flats. If these favours are granted me I will send an offering in thanksgiving. Mrs. C. Z. G., **Montreal.** — The cure of my brother who suffers from a tumor in his throat. If I obtain this favour I shall testify my gratitude by ransoming a Chinese baby and by subscribing to THE PRECURSOR. Mrs. P. C., **Caraquet.** — I beg you to pray to the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin that I may obtain two great favours. Mrs. A. V., **Montreal.** — A better position for my daughter; success in a raffle; employment for my son. Mrs. M. L. T. — May I ask you to entreat the Blessed Virgin to grant me a great favour before the end of May. If I obtain this request, I will send an offering for your missions in thanksgiving. Mrs. E. G., **New Bedford.** — Success in trade. A. M. F., **Montreal.** — I am subscribing to THE PRECURSOR with the hope of being cured. Mrs. H. D., **Cote St. Paul.** — The complete success of an important undertaking which will decide my future and on which all the members of my family, especially my mother, are depending. — I beg you to pray that my husband may secure employment. Mrs. V. P. — Several cures. Mrs. A. R., **Montreal.** — The recovery of a sum of money due us. I promise an offering in thanksgiving. Mrs. J. G., **Berthier.** — A fervent prayer is solicited that a brother and sister may lead a better life and for harmony in a household. A heart-broken mother. — My brother's vocation. Miss B. B., **La Conception.** — May our good heavenly Mother obtain me light concerning my vocation. A Subscriber. — I confidently ask for prayers that I may be restored to health. Mrs. A. D. — I earnestly entreat the Blessed Virgin to grant my husband a position, and promise, if my prayers are heard, to subscribe to THE PRECURSOR and to give up an heirloom in favour of the Missions. A Subscriber to THE PRECURSOR, **Montreal.** — A novena is requested that my husband may return home. Mrs. F. X. M., **Montreal.** — I am enclosing a small offering and ask that my boys may be given work. Anonymous. **Pont Viau.** — An important favour is being asked for through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. I promise to publish my thanksgiving and to give alms for the little Chinese. Miss F. A. L., **Notre Dame de Grace.** — Recovery from a serious illness and the cure of sore eyes, also that I may be paid a debt. Mrs. A. B. — I am asking that peace may be established between two families and promise to subscribe to THE PRECURSOR if my prayers are heard. Mrs. L., **Montreal.** — A position for my husband; the sale of a farm. A mother of a family who is in great trouble. — Peace and harmony in our household and the cure of two of my sisters. M. L. — The holding of a position by the head of the family, the renting of a flat, the cure of two children suffering from eczema. Mrs. C. C., **Verdun.** — A special favour for one dear to me; the cure of my mother;

success in our examinations and that we may be enlightened as regards our vocation. **D. C., Chiswick, Ont.** — Harmony in a family, success in an important undertaking, the spirit of prayer, a happy death and another special favour. A Subscriber. — Prayers are requested for the renting of several flats and for the obtaining of an important spiritual favour. A thank-offering to be used for the ransom of a Chinese baby likely to live, is promised. **M. J. F., Montreal.** — I shall subscribe to THE PRECURSOR for five years to prove my gratitude to the Blessed Virgin, if this good Mother obtains me the cure of my right foot and employment for my husband. **Mrs. A. L., Ville Emard.** — I promise a generous thank-offering if I am successful in the sale of a property. A Subscriber, **Victoriaville** — The sale of a house. **Mrs. A. C.** — A special favour is ardently asked for. A Subscriber, **Quatre Chemins** — I beg you to pray that my husband may find a good position. **Mrs. G. G., St. Hyacinthe.** If our good heavenly Mother obtains me the cure of my eyes, I will, in thanksgiving, donate the sum required for the perpetual upkeep of a crib; if I rent my property, I will ransom a Chinese baby likely to live. **M. A. A., Montreal.** — The conversion of two persons dear to me; work for a father of a family, success in my undertakings. **Mrs. J. E. B.** — I promise an offering for the ransom of a pagan baby if I obtain a great favour. **Mrs. L. A.** — The conversion of my son who is a drunkard. **Mrs. F. C.** — I promise to give a generous offering for the Missions if I obtain a special favour. **M. J. R., Kenogami.** — Ardent and earnest entreaties are addressed to the Blessed Virgin that one dear to me may at once lead a better life and that there may be harmony in the family. A Subscriber. — A young girl begs you to pray to the Blessed Virgin that she may be successful in her final examinations and that she may discover her vocation. A Subscriber to THE PRECURSOR. — I entreat the Blessed Virgin to help a young man who is in great need to find a good position at once, to obtain health for my daughter and other special favours. I promise offerings for the Missions in thanksgiving for the granting of these requests. A Subscriber, **Montreal.** — I am renewing my subscription and, in return, beg prayers for the cure of a child, the renting of a flat, positions for my daughters. **Mrs. P. R.** — The renting of my flats and my young daughter's success in her examinations. **Mrs. A. R., Montreal.** — I am asking the Blessed Virgin to cure me and promise an offering and a subscription to THE PRECURSOR if my prayers are heard. **Mrs. O. D., Montreal.** — I beg prayers for the entire family, the holding of a position, success in our children's studies and in all our undertakings. **M. A. G., Piemont.** — I am making a sacrifice to subscribe to THE PRECURSOR in order that God may help me. I have been a widow for a year and am obliged to earn my own living, but have not been able to find work. Please join with me in praying. **Mrs. G. M., Danielson.** — The grace of a vocation for a young girl and a few gentlemen. **Mrs. M. R., Ouellette, Ont.** — Work for myself and for two persons dear to me. **Miss J. G., Marlboro.** — I am renewing my subscription and, in return, beg prayers that my husband may secure a good position. I have hope. **Mrs. A. B., East Windsor.** — Success in trade. **Mrs. A. M., Alden-ville.** — My twenty-years-old son is not living up to his religion. Please pray for him, he causes me great worry. **Mrs. T. J.** — The conversion of a father of a family who is leading a very reckless life and who is a source of sorrow to his wife and children, also work for a member of the family who has been idle for some time. **Mrs. E. L.** — I beg the help of the prayers of the subscribers for all the members of my family, especially for a brother who is far from home that he may not neglect his religious duties. **G. C.** — I have been sick for four years; I entreat the Blessed Virgin to cure me if it is God's Holy Will. **L. T.** — The complete success of an undertaking. **E. L. B., Woonsocket.** — Four positions are being asked for. **Mrs. A. O. L.** — I am renewing my subscription, hoping that by so doing I may obtain my cure. **Mrs. A. C., Keegan.** — The conversion of my husband who is addicted to drink. A Subscriber. — The obtaining of a spiritual favour. **J. B. L., Drummondville.** — I am the mother of five children and have been suffering for some time. I earnestly entreat our good heavenly Mother to obtain my restoration to health. **Mrs. H. L., Ste. Genevieve.** — I am asking to be cured and promise to publish my thanksgiving if my prayers are heard. **Mrs. O. M., Chute Nairn.** — The cure of two of my children and the preservation of my husband's position. **Mrs. D. T.** — I am sending you an offering for the ransom of a dying Chinese baby. Please pray for us, as we are all out of work. **Mrs. E. F., Montreal.** — To pay my subscription just now means a great sacrifice but I am doing so in order that God may see that my husband finds employment, for he has not worked for two years and a half. **Mrs. E. P., Joliette.** — I am asking you to make a novena that I may regain my health, my days are numbered. **Mrs. C. P., Montreal.** — My restoration to health, if such be the Holy Will of God. **Mrs. A. I., Black Lake.** — Will you be so kind as to join with me in asking the Blessed Virgin to obtain me a great favour before long. **Mrs. J. F., St. Jovite.** — I have been sick for a year and am quite discouraged. Please ask the Blessed Virgin to take pity on me. **W. F., St. Gervais.** — Peace in our household, that I may be treated better by my husband and children. A heart-broken mother. — A position for my nephew and an increase in my salary so as to be able to give what contributions I

should. Miss B. B., **Mastai**. — The cure of my wife who has rheumatism in her feet, and the obtaining of employment for myself. L. J., **Montreal**. — Health for myself and children and another special favour. Mrs. H. S., **Sault au Recollet**. — I promise an offering for the Missions as a token of gratitude if I am cured without an operation. Mrs. J. A. B. — The grace necessary to bring my children up well, the end of the financial crisis and the sale of wooded property. Mrs. D. G., **Canton Begin**. — I am asking God, through the intercession of His Holy Mother, to restore me to health. Mr. A. D., **Connors**. — A good position for my son who is the father of several children. Mrs. L. R., **Tilly**. — The cure of my daughter who is losing her hearing. Mrs. J. L., **Robertsonville**. — I am subscribing to THE PRECURSOR, hoping that my little boy who takes epileptic fits, may be cured. C. C., **St. Hugues**. — The settling of a difficult piece of business. Mrs. A. N., **Fall River**. — Work for my husband and the cure of my child. Mrs. H. A., **Montreal**. — That my husband may act better towards my parents. Anonymous. — Please make a novena to the Little Flower of Jesus that I may obtain two special favours. Enclosed find a small offering. Mrs. D. S., **Montreal**.



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



NECROLOGY

Sister ST. DOMINIQUE, Missionary of the Immaculate Conception, who died at Szepingkai, Manchuria; Reverend A. P. WALSH, Pastor of Holy Family Parish, Montreal; Reverend Father RONAN, St. Mary's, Ont.; Reverend Father O'GORMAN, Ottawa, Ont.; Mr. Joseph E. JODIN, Worcester, Mass, father of our Sr. St. Francois Xavier; Mrs. J. A. McCONOMY, Point St. Charles; Mr. Fred BRYDGES, Montreal West; Mrs. M. J. DELANEY, Montreal; Mrs. Thomas STOCK, Montreal; Mr. John PETTIGREW, Montreal; Miss Kathleen DILLIOTT, Ridgetown, Ont.; Mrs. Mary McGUINNESS, Montreal West; Mr. Napoleon FOURNIER, Shawinigan Falls, P. Q.; Mrs. James COLEMAN, Montreal; Mrs. Margaret McDONALD, Montreal; Mr. Christie HANSON, Boston, Mass.; Mrs. Hugh H. DUFFY, Montreal; Mr. Edward FLAHERTY, St. Mary's, Ont.; Mr. T. MURPHY, Montreal; Mr. Daniel LARKINS, Montreal; Mr. H. MONTEITH, Montreal; Miss DESLIPPE, North Malden, Ont.; Mr. Jas. FOLEY, Sherbrooke, P. Q.; Mrs. J. GRIFFIN, Montreal; Mr. David WHELAN, Montreal; Mr. John SHEEHAN, Sarnia, Ont.; Mrs. Alma SCULLY, Nashua, N. H.

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
Foundation of a Burse for the support of a missionary sister	1,000.00
Annual support of a maiden-catechist.....	50.00
Annual support and education of an orphan.....	40.00
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