

THE PRECURSOR



Vol. X., 13th Year

MONTREAL, March-April 1935

No. 2

Works of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

IN CANADA

MOTHER HOUSE, 314 St. Catherine Road, Outremont, P. Q.

(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 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 when requested to do so.

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

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

Apostolic School for Aspirants to the Missions. Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Workroom of Church Vestments. Workroom for our Missions. Kindergarten. Private lessons in French, English, Music and Painting.

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 girls. Workroom of Church Vestments. Workroom for our Missions.

QUEBEC, 4 Simard St. (Founded in 1919)

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

VANCOUVER, B. C., 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.

TROIS RIVIERES, P. Q., 466 Bonaventure St. (Founded in 1926)

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

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

Closed Retreats for ladies and girls. Workroom for our Missions.

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

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Closed Retreats for ladies and girls. Hostel for young ladies. Sewing circles for the Missions. School. Kindergarten.

CHICOUTIMI, P. Q., 61 Jacques Cartier St. (Founded in 1930)

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Closed Retreats for ladies and girls. Sewing circles for the Missions. Hostel for young ladies.

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

Hostel "The Immaculate Conception" for girls.

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

RIMOUSKI, P. Q., St. Jean Baptiste St. (Founded in 1932)

Closed Retreats for ladies and girls. Kindergarten.

(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 workroom in which are made church vestments and altar linens, the profit from which is destined to support their Mother House and Novitiate.

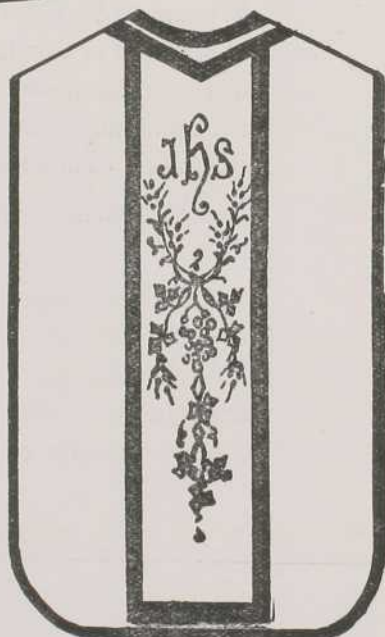
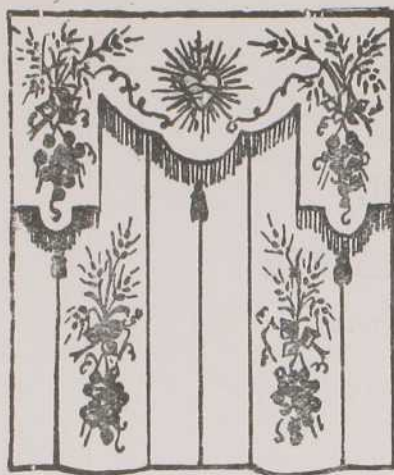
Missionaries must train for several years before being able to commence their apostolic work in foreign fields.

The articles mentioned on the page entitled "By Patronizing our Workroom", may be procured, on reasonable terms, at the workroom of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, 314 St. Catherine Road, Outremont, Que.

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

We also make wax infants for Christmas Cribs, all sizes.

Chinese embroidery and lace are on sale. The work is done by our Chinese orphans. By encouraging these sales you co-operate in the salvation of many young pagan girls who, while earning their living in Catholic workshops, receive at the same time the light of Faith.



By Patronizing Our Workroom, *You Help Our Missions.*

Chasuble, damask silk, silk braid	\$ 17.00 and \$ 25.00
“ moire-antique, with beautiful emblem	25.00 “ 35.00
“ moire-antique, very richly embroidered in gold	75.00 “ 100.00
“ velvet, gold braid and emblem	35.00 “ 40.00
“ fine gold cloth, with or without very rich hand-embroidery	50.00 “ 90.00
Benediction Veil	7.00 “ upwards
Cope, damask silk, silk or gold braid	30.00 “ 50.00
“ moire-antique, very richly embroidered in gold ..	70.00 “ 90.00
“ gold cloth, with beautiful emblem and raised hand-embroidery in gold	100.00 “ 150.00
Alb with guipure lace	8.00 “ upwards
Linen surplices with lace	5.00 “ “
Felt Altar Covers, green or red	5.00 “ “
Tabernacle Veil	5.00 “ “
Ciborium Cover	4.00 “ “
Breviary Marks, hand-painted	1.00 “ “
Collar for “ Sacred Heart League ”	8.00 “ “

A large variety of banners and canopies made in our workroom.

Silk flags, hand-painted and hand-embroidered. Staff is of oak and comprises a detachable holder and lance of gold-enamelled brass. Finished with fringe of half-fine gold.

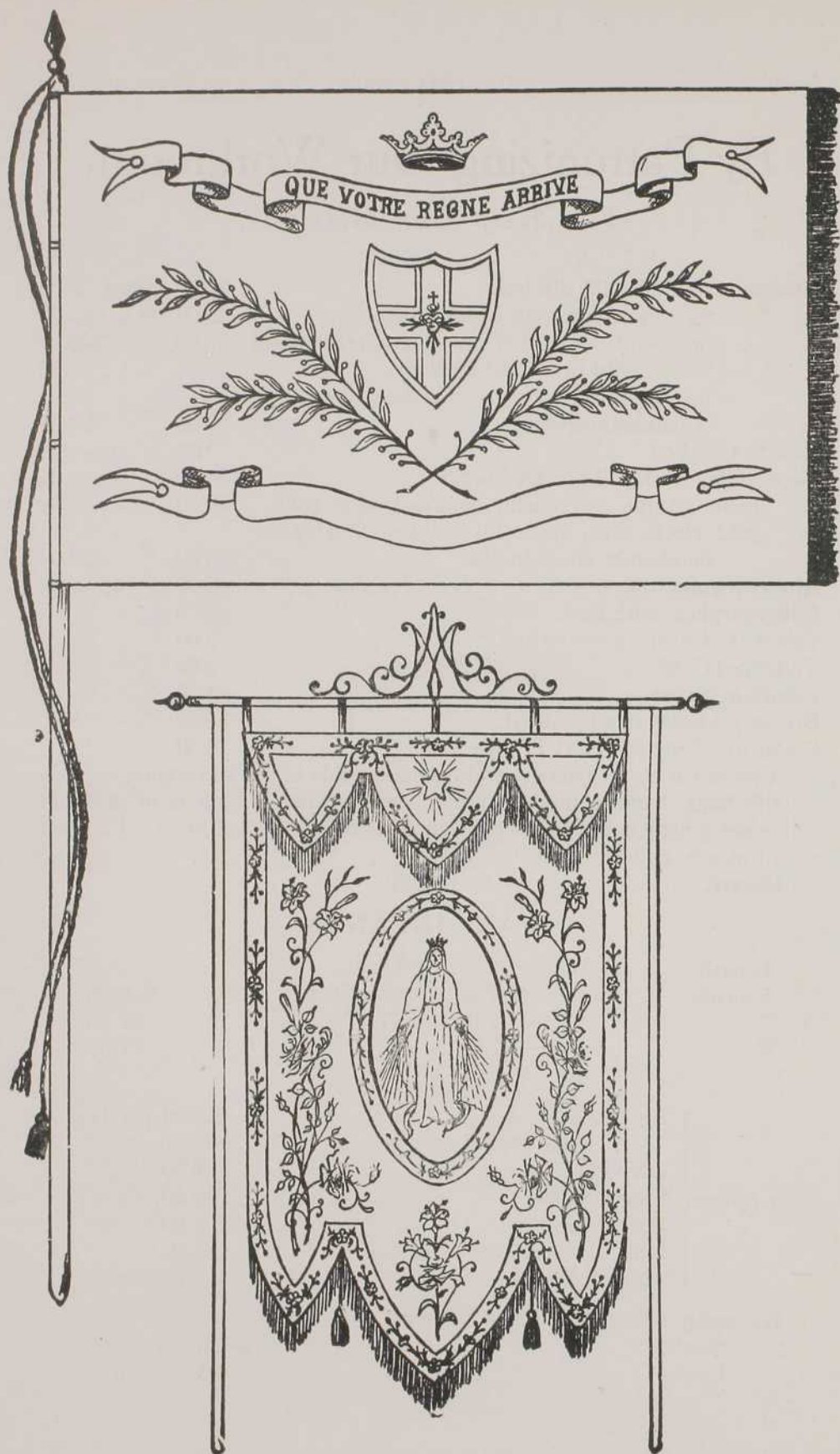
Description and prices given on request.

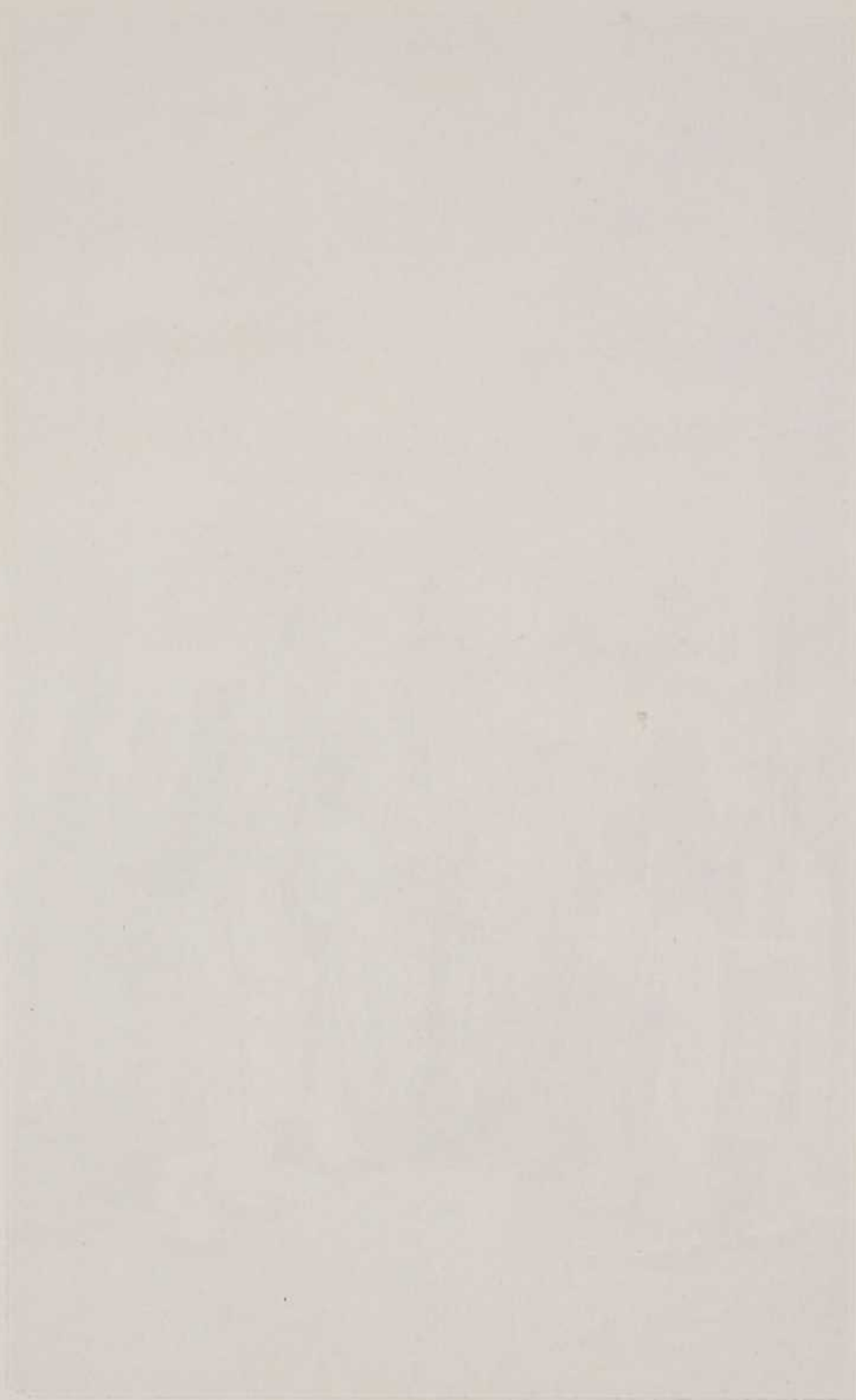
WAX INFANTS

Length		Length	
5 inches	\$ 2.50	14 inches	\$16.00
7 “	4.00	17 “	25.00
9 “	7.00	22 “	35.00
12 “	14.00		
<i>Altar Linens</i> {	Amices	\$12.00 per doz.	
	“ linen, second quality	10.80 “ “	
	Corporals	8.50 “ “	
	Finger-towels	4.50 “ “	
	Purificators	5.00 “ “	
	Palls	4.00 “ “	
	Altar cloths	6.00 each	

We supply *altar-breads* at the following prices:

Small	\$1.20 per 1000
Large40 “ 100





THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS



"O IMMACULATE MOTHER, PROTECT OUR BENEFACTORS!"

THE PRECURSOR

Published by the
Missionary Sisters
of the Immaculate Conception

with the approbation of the Archbishop of Montreal

Vol. X., 13th Year

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Saint Joseph

*In a little shop in a village street,
A carpenter works ; — all day
The sound of the hammer or plane is heard ;
And villagers, on their way,
To look through the window at him who works
So zealously, often stay.*

*Within stands a Workman, advanced in years,
Of dignified, kindly face,
Beside him, a beautiful Boy who helps,
All gentleness, sweetness, grace.
How bitter is fate to oblige such Two
To toil in that lowly place!*

*Then hastening away, they forget the scene ;
Their privilege 'twas to find
Saint Joseph and Jesus, the Son of God,
The long-desired of all mankind,
Yet saw but a Carpenter and his Son,
Alas! for their eyes were blind!*

*To Nazareth come, to that village shop ;
We know well the Two inside!
Saint Joseph is waiting to hear us knock,
The shop-door to open wide! —
Lo, he bids us welcome for evermore ;
Come, let us herein abide!*

*Oh! glorious Saint of the hidden life!
We fain would thy secrets know! —
Give us recollection, teach us to pray,
That 'mid daily work below,
Our thoughts may, like thine, be on Jesus fixed,
Our hearts with His Love aglow!*

— S. M. W., in *The Irish Messenger*
of the Sacred Heart. ❧❧



His Excellency Mgr. A. O. Comtois

WHO WAS NAMED BISHOP OF "TROIS RIVIERES"
ON DECEMBER 24TH, 1934.

*The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
are happy to congratulate the new Bishop of "Trois Rivières"
through the medium of the PRECURSOR
and to offer him the homage of their respect and their best wishes
for a long and fruitful apostolic career.*

Appointments Made by the Holy See

His Excellency Mgr. Alfred Odilon Comtois, Titular Bishop of Barca, and Auxiliary Bishop of "Trois Rivières," has been named Bishop of that Diocese by His Holiness Pope Pius XI. He succeeds His Excellency Mgr. F. X. Cloutier, who died on September 18th, 1934.

Mgr. Comtois was born at "Trois Rivières" on March 5th, 1876, and was ordained to the priesthood on September 25th, 1898. He was elected Titular Bishop of Barca and Auxiliary Bishop of "Trois Rivières" on February 26th, 1926. On July 28th of the same year, he was consecrated at the Cathedral in his native city, by His Excellency Mgr. Cloutier.

His Excellency Mgr. Comtois is the fourth bishop of "Trois Rivières."

*
* *

His Excellency the Most Reverend James Charles McGuigan, Archbishop of Regina, Saskatchewan, has been transferred by His Holiness Pope Pius XI to the See of Toronto. He succeeds the late Archbishop Neil McNeil.

Archbishop McGuigan was born at Hunter River, Prince Edward Island, on November 26th, 1894. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 26th, 1918, and, on January 31st, 1930, was appointed second Archbishop of Regina. He was consecrated at Edmonton, on May 15th, 1930.

Archbishop McGuigan is the eighth bishop and the sixth archbishop of Toronto.

*
* *

The Reverend R. H. Dignan, Pastor of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Windsor, Ontario, has been named Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie by the Holy See. He succeeds the late Most Reverend D. J. Scollard, who died some time ago.

The new Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie was born at London, where he was ordained to the priesthood on May 29th, 1915. After acting as assistant at St. Peter's Cathedral, he was appointed pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Chatham, Ont. In 1929, he was named pastor of the Immaculate Conception Parish.

*
* *

To each one of these worthy dignitaries of the Church, the PRECURSOR humbly offers the homage of its profound respect, its sincere congratulations and its best wishes.

The Holy Family

A MODEL FOR CHRISTIAN FAMILIES

HE dwelling in Nazareth was not only for Our Lord Jesus Christ a sanctuary in which He adored His Father, a workshop in which He shared the work of artisans; it was for Him an abode in which He sanctified home life. By adoring His Father, He taught the true religion to all Christians; by mixing with artisans, He sanctified the origin of mankind; He gave all Christian families a model to look up to.

Joseph's family is a type of the evangelical family and it is called by the faithful the Holy Family. It is composed of the three holiest persons that ever lived: Joseph, a just man, Mary, the Mother of God, and Jesus, the Son of God made man; two spouses and a child:

a father, mother and son. The three of them live under the influence of divine grace, which, as yet, is unknown to the world. Husband and wife are united before God by bonds which they consider as sacred and indissoluble: before Christ proclaims the holiness of Christian marriage, they understand the meaning of it. Joseph does not treat Mary as a slave or a servant, but as a beloved companion. Their hearts are equally pure. An ancient has declared that love is but the agreeing of two human beings as regards things both natural and supernatural (Ciceron *De Amicitia*, VI), and we may easily say the same of the harmony that reigned in the household in Nazareth. Joseph and Mary think of nothing else but of serving God and of bringing up the Child given them by Him.

They have a son, Joseph is His foster-father and Mary is His mother by the flesh. Joseph is not a pagan father who is free to kill his child. Such terrible authority has been modified by him. He is inspired by paternal love. He knows that his son is the Son of God made man; he is unable to command Him as other men are in the habit of commanding their children. He will exercise his fatherly authority as regards Jesus, for such authority is indefeasible: a father should always command his son and he should also raise, guide and govern him. But if Joseph gives a command, he does so in a spirit of faith, for he knows to whom he is speaking; he asks Jesus to do nothing but what God commands. He shares the power given him by God with his chaste spouse; she has the same authority over her son as His foster-father has.

The spirit of the Gospel is being breathed over the family. All Christian parents will follow the example set them by Joseph and Mary: they will



love and respect their children. They will consider themselves as the representatives of Almighty God in regard to them. Looking at things with the eyes of Faith, they will find their sons to be not the children of God by nature, but His by grace and by adoption; souls that have been cleansed in the Blood of Christ and made heirs to the Kingdom of Heaven; they will bring them up for God and for the life which will never end.

What may be said of the Divine Child? Can it be possible that He does not possess the fulness of the new spirit He has brought down to earth? He came into the world to do His Father's Will and He finds it expressed in the commands of His parents. He looks upon Joseph and Mary as God personified; their orders are for Him orders from heaven. That is why He has such a great respect for them and only thinks of obeying them. In the life of the Child Jesus are to be found the seeds of Christian obedience: heavenly seeds which will be scattered among the children of Holy Mother Church.

Thus is the home life of Christians re-established. Each member is in his place, fulfilling the duties imposed upon him by God. Jesus in the holy home in Nazareth is holiness itself: although He is in the lowest place, He passes on His virtue to His Mother and to His foster-father. By living thirty years in His parents' home, He regenerates and sanctifies home life, He transforms the dwelling in Nazareth into a school for all Christians.

It is in the home that a young Christian learns to be virtuous. Nothing can take the place of the apprenticeship made with one's father and mother. It is only after long years of spiritual training in the home that a person should decide to make his way in the world. It is not surprising that there are children who think of leaving their parents, in order to preach the Gospel to pagan nations: it is God who inspires them with such a sublime thought. But before carrying out their resolutions, our youthful missionaries must spend many years with their parents and they must learn to follow the example set them by Jesus, by being obedient and waiting until it is God's good time.

Most men are called upon to live a home life. It is in the home that a Christian finds those he should love the most, those for whom he should labour until death. His home is the place to do his duty in and it is also a place of peace, holiness and happiness. Most human beings are unhappy because they have not stayed at home. They have grown tired of home life and have sought elsewhere for things that might easily divert their attention, for dangerous amusements and licentious pleasures. There is nothing more antichristian and nothing more pernicious to moral duties. That is why the example given by Jesus in Nazareth is so precious. Before going to preach the Gospel to the nations, the Son of God made man found that He could spend His time in no better way than by sanctifying by His example and the merit of His good works, the abode in which His disciples were to spend the rest of their days. He honoured home life and caused holiness to exist therein. He gave us a model of the daily hidden virtues, on which man's happiness depends.

(Translated from the French.)

Father Perdrau.



The Blessed Virgin once told her faithful servant St. Gertrude that she would always come to the aid of the one who lovingly reminds her of the happiness she experienced while uttering the words: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord," and that she would prove to him that she is truly his mother.



The Feast of the Annunciation

IT is on the 25th of March that the Church celebrates the anniversary of the Incarnation of the Son of God, for, according to tradition, it was on this date that the mystery took place.

This feast dates back to the first days of the Church, according to the learned Bollandists, whose opinions are based on the famous principle of St. Augustine: "Everything that has been held as true by the Universal Church and has always been observed, although not defined by the Councils, should be regarded as apostolic tradition." At all events, the solemnity is a very ancient one. It is mentioned in the martyrology which St. Jerome is supposed to have written and St. Augustine speaks of it in his writings. In 656, the 10th Council of Toledo established and sanctioned the universal custom in the Occident of celebrating the Feast, which it describes as the feast of the Mother of God which surpasses all others. The Council of Constantinople confirmed the same custom in the Orient, in the year 692. The English Church has continued, ever since the Reformation, to observe this feast, looking upon it as a holy day of obligation, as at first, and fasting on the vigil. It is on this day that its ecclesiastical year commences.

How beautiful are the words of the Gospel, which so divinely tell of the mystery of the Annunciation. Let us listen to them with the greatest respect and with all the love of our hearts: "The Angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, unto a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the Angel being come in unto her, said, 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women.' Who having heard, was troubled at his saying, and thought with herself what manner of salutation this should be. And the Angel said to her, 'Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found grace with God. Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son; and shalt call His Name, Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of David His father; and He shall reign in the house of Jacob for ever, and of His kingdom there shall be no end. And Mary said to the Angel, 'How shall this be, because I know not man?' And the Angel answering, said unto her, 'The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee. And therefore, also, the Holy One that shall be born of thee, shall be called the Son of God. And behold, thy cousin Elizabeth, she also hath conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month with her that is called barren: because with God no word shall be impossible.' And Mary said, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto me according to thy word.'"

What an admirable description! What a pure and sublime dramatic representation! A pious commentator states that St. Augustine desired that the first page of the Gospel according to St. John, wherein is related

the generation of the Word made flesh, be engraved in golden letters, in all the churches in the world. This matchless page has an appendix: it is the one I have just spoken of, in which for almost two thousand years, man has been able to read of when, where and how "the Word was made flesh in order to dwell amongst us." Among all the pages relating the history of the human race there is not one that may be compared with it. No other page is more beautiful and more important. It contains a summary of God's dealings with man and a summary, also, of all the glories, privileges and prerogatives of Mary. So it is not surprising that the Church to-day asks us to dwell upon it unceasingly: in the Gospel during Mass, in the Anthems during Vespers, in the Responses in the Office recited at Matins and at Lauds! No one will ever be able to fully understand it: each of the words of which it is composed is a vast depth of love!

* * *

The mystery of the Annunciation is so sublime and laudatory and is so intimately connected with all the dealings of the Creator with His creatures that one day in the year is not sufficient to commemorate it. That is why it is celebrated every day; and this daily celebration is what distinguishes the solemnity from all others.

Every day, during the Holy Sacrifice, the priest genuflects and the faithful bend low at these words of the *Credo*: *Et incarnatus est... ex Maria Virgine, et homo factus est*, and at these of the Last Gospel: *Et Verbum caro factum est*. They do so in order to honour the Incarnation of the Son of God.

Another more expressive form of the daily devotion of which we are speaking, is the recitation of the Angelical Salutation or the *Ave Maria*, a prayer which, when we consider by whom it was composed, we look upon as sacred, a perfect prayer, in which our praises and entreaties are included and in which all the glorious titles of our all-bountiful Mother are expressed. The *Ave Maria* is, as it were, an abridged and official memorial of the Annunciation, a memorial extremely pleasing to Mary. And this perfect prayer commemorating the Annunciation, this memorial so dear to the heart of the Blessed Virgin, is repeated millions and millions of times daily by Catholics all over the world. Every day, the praises and entreaties included in the *Ave Maria* are continually wafted heavenwards by all the faithful children of God and of His Blessed Mother. Every day, the Hail Mary is repeated in the prayers said in common, and it is unceasingly recited in private prayers, especially in the beads and the fifteen decades of the Rosary. It is a prayer that may be said by everybody: by the just and by sinners, by children and by old folks, by educated and uneducated people, by the rich and by the poor, by the sick and by those in distress.

Oh! how magnificent is this ceaseless commemoration of the Word made flesh! Could there be a more perfect one?

Yes, do I venture to say. There is an excellent way of exalting Mary, the Mother of God made man and that is by reciting the incomparable prayer known as the *Angelus*.

What a wonderful exaltation of the Annunciation is the *Angelus*! What a solemn, universal and uninterrupted prayer it is! In it I discover an abridged but thrilling account of the great mystery, the three acts of the divine drama, the end of which is the saving of the world.

The *Angelus* is said at three different times during the day in every place where there is a Catholic church. And, in order to celebrate in a more fitting manner the abasement of the Son of God and the greatness of Mary, the church bell, a matchless object in Christian rites and ceremonies, rings three times a day, at daybreak, at midday and at dusk, in the towers of immense cathedrals and in the belfries of the smallest villages. And, three times a day, the echo of the solemn words uttered more than nineteen centuries ago is to be heard in the valleys, on the summits of the mountains, in the immense plains, in crowded cities and in hamlets of but little importance. It is one great unending chorus in honour of Jesus and Mary, in which is repeated with divine eloquence the following prayer: Praised be the Word made flesh through love for us, praised be the Virgin of Israel, the Mother of our Redeemer!

Oh! how pleasing to Mary is this daily homage of love! How it rejoices her heart! This tender Mother once told her faithful servant St. Gertrude that she would always come to the aid of the one who lovingly reminds her of the happiness she experienced while uttering the words: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord," and that she would prove to him that she is truly his mother.

Therefore, resolve to celebrate every day the Feast of the Annuciation by your loving devotion to Mary, by the recitation of the *Ave Maria* and especially by your faithfulness in saying the *Angelus*. Let this prayer be one of praise, an expression of love and of gratitude, an entreaty. Let us, while reciting the *Angelus*, ask for all heavenly graces and blessings, and especially for an ardent love for our holy Faith, recalling that it was composed in the aim of helping Holy Mother Church to triumph over all unbelievers.

Cardinal Baronius relates that in the year 650 Maximus, a holy abbot, was led among the Emperor's troops by some people who had decided to get everybody to despise him. They spread the false report that the aged priest was the secret enemy of the Blessed Virgin and all the soldiers immediately rose up against him. On seeing what was going on, the venerable old man shed bitter tears and exclaimed: O Almighty God, Thou seest into my heart and Thou knowest that I am far from being guilty of the crime I am charged with! Let the one who refuses to honour God's holy Mother be anathematized!" And immediately all the soldiers cried out: "Let him be anathematized! let him be anathematized!"

May we possess like sentiments! Let us honour and love the Blessed Mother of God, and let the one who refuses to love her with his whole heart and soul be anathematized!

Father ROLLAND.

(Translated from the French.)

Our Lady of Victory

*A very important social enterprise carried into effect by the ladies
and girls of Ville Marie.*

"The Blessed Virgin is watching over
Ville Marie, we should not be the least
afraid."
JEANNE LEBER.

IN the year 1711, the English prepared to invade Canada. A mighty fleet made its way to Quebec, while in Ville Marie the inhabitants were greatly alarmed, for they could send only a few men to meet the formidable army which was advancing with Nicholson at its head.

"Those who pray do more for the world than those who fight." The truth of these words was proved during the troubled period through which the inhabitants of Ville Marie were obliged to pass.

For nearly twenty years, Jeanne Leber had been living as a recluse in the Notre Dame Congregation and, following the example of the Blessed Virgin, whose life was one of close union with God, she continually offered herself as a holocaust to our Sacramental Lord.

The inhabitants were full of faith and they foresaw that this pure victim would save them from peril. Being informed of the danger threatening the country, the holy recluse pondered for a moment and replied: "The Blessed Virgin is watching over Ville Marie, we should not be the least afraid."

The trust Jeanne Leber placed in the Queen of Heaven was soon shared by the entire population of Ville Marie. "One heart overflowing with love may cause the whole world to be filled with that celestial fire."

While everyone in Ville Marie felt fresh hope, Longueuil went forth to meet his opponents, bearing a standard stamped with the effigy of the Mother of God, and the Congregationalists of Our Lady arose as so many white-clad warriors, repeating the words of the admirable recluse: "The Blessed Virgin is watching over Ville Marie, we should not be the least afraid." They prayed and made sacrifices and, with the greatest faith, promised that they would have a church erected in honour of the Blessed Virgin invoked under the title of Our Lady of Victory, if she saved the country.

"The nations that have stormed heaven by repeating Mary's powerful name have been victorious."

History has revealed to us the sad fate of Walker's fleet. The troops en route for Ville Marie turned back on learning that the ships of their allies had been destroyed by a storm.

The powerful Queen of Ville Marie had once again protected her loving children. Vaudreuil wrote at once to the first lord of the Admiralty, saying, "We thank God for the miraculous way in which it pleased Him to protect the country. All firmly believe that it was the Almighty who preserved New France and that it was He alone who caused the English fleet to be

destroyed, while we did not lose one of our men." Father Belmont, Superior of the Sulpician Fathers' Seminary, compared this defeat to that of the Egyptians in the Red Sea, saying that the Mother of God had obtained for the inhabitants the greatest miracle that had been worked since the time of Moses.

The people of Ville Marie expressed heartfelt thanks to God and His holy Mother for miraculously shielding them from danger. The Congregationalists of the Blessed Virgin, after manifesting their gratitude by singing the Magnificat, began at once to fulfil the promise they had made to Our Lady of Victory.

Those who are truly devout always find a way of succeeding. The Congregationalists, by saving money they intended spending on amusements and trifles, gathered together funds enough to build the church.

Everyone is proud of you, noble Children of Mary, before the workmen began to build the shrine, the angels traced on your souls the image of their Queen.

The corner-stone of the Church of Our Lady of Victory was laid in the year 1718. The Sisters of the Notre Dame Congregation donated the piece of land on which this church was erected.

"I was pleased to learn," Mgr. de Saint Vallier wrote to their Superior, "of the carrying out of the ceremony of the laying of the corner-stone of the new church."

At the time of the erection of this sanctuary, Mother Juchereau wrote as follows: "In Montreal, on the grounds of the Sisters of the Notre Dame Congregation may be seen the shrine which the young ladies of Ville Marie have had erected in honour of Our Lady of Victory; they have faithfully fulfilled their promise and they are continually adorning their devotional chapel."

This church, which, as it were, proclaimed the piety of the Congregationalists, was from then on the place in which they held their meetings and their Association received the name of the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory.

As regards this church, there are some beautiful pages written in honour of Mary, but beside them, alas! are others which tell a sad tale. On April 11th, 1768, during the night, the beautiful shrine was destroyed by fire.

Father Jollivet, P.S.S., who was at that period Pastor at Notre Dame Church, did not wish Ville Marie to be deprived for a long time of this votive offering in honour of the Mother of God. The zealous, charitable and virtuous priest was assisted by several disinterested workmen and he was so constant in his efforts that the following year, (1769) a new church was built on the same spot.

The Church of Our Lady of Victory was reconstructed by the zealous Sulpician Fathers and the spiritual needs of the parishioners were attended to by these fervent apostles of Our Lady: from 1768 to 1833, Fathers Jollivet, Guillemain, Roque, Roussin, Sattin, Hubert; 1833, Father Bonin; 1837, Father Arraud; 1839, Father Billaudele; 1841, Father de Charbonnel (later, Bishop of Toronto); 1842, Father Arraud; 1866, Father Lacan;

1868, Father Villeneuve; 1869, Father Lacan; 1870, Father Bertin; 1872, Father Rousselot; 1873, Father Regourd; 1874, Father Sorin; 1894, Father Cherrier; 1895, Father Brasseur. (Registers of Notre Dame Church, "Association of the Young Ladies of Ville Marie.")

The ladies and girls of Ville Marie will always be grateful for the interest taken, over two centuries ago, in a work which has never ceased to draw down countless blessings upon our city.

In this church was wafted heavenwards several times during the day the following triumphant prayer to the Blessed Virgin: "Most Blessed Virgin, Lady of Victory, pray for us; Holy Mary, by means of whom the Lord has put to flight our adversaries, pray for us; Holy Mary, thou who art as terrible as an army in battle array, pray for us. We entreat thee to obtain peace and concord for the Church and for all Christian nations, hear us, O Mother." (Litany of Our Lady of Victory).

Father Montgolfier, P.S.S., asked the Sovereign Pontiff to grant a plenary indulgence for every visit made to this shrine on the Feasts of Our Lady of Victory and of the Immaculate Conception, the days appointed by the Ordinary and, on these two festivals, the faithful flocked thither.

The Church of Our Lady of Victory, like everything else here below, suffered waste by exposure to the weather. Unfortunately, the edifice was not as solid as the fervent parishioners had hoped it would be. A day came when its crumbling walls had to be pulled down. It was in the year 1900.

Everyone knows that the Church of Our Lady of Victory was situated close beside the grounds of the old mother house of the Notre Dame Congregation, on St. Jean Baptiste St. On account of the removal of the mother house, it was impossible at this epoch to rebuild the shrine but, as the vow did not cease to exist, plans were continually made for the re-establishment of the ex-voto which had been offered to the Mother of God by the grateful inhabitants of Ville Marie.

When brighter days dawn, when the world-wide depression is over and when for other very important works generous donations will not be needed, it is to be hoped that the promise made in 1711 by the ladies and girls of Ville Marie, will be faithfully fulfilled according to its actuating principle: unbounded faith in our powerful heavenly Mother and an ardent zeal for the honouring of our Queen.

Yes, we entertain this hope for the following reasons: If there is a city favoured by Mary, it is indeed our metropolis. How could we ever forget that memorable day when, in the kingdom of France, the Blessed Virgin, by wonderful inspirations, chose Father Olier and Dauversiere as founders of that select society in honour of Our Lady, whose members were to build up a city, the site of which was indicated by Our Lady herself and which they named Ville Marie. Ever since the 18th of May, 1642, the day that Maisonneuve took possession of this fief of Our Lady, it has been safeguarded and has continued to thrive. In times of distress, Mary has always watched over our city.

Could the need of having as our protectress the Virgin Mary "the Army in battle array" be more pressing than at this period, when atheists are attacking our faith, our institutions and our homes? Well may we repeat the words of Bishop Bourget: "Never will there be too many sanctuaries for prayer, nor too many convents for reparation and the practice of virtue." The re-establishment of the Church of Our Lady of Victory will help us to preserve the special stamp given our city by its faithful and pious people during two centuries.

We hope that in the near future the ladies and girls of our metropolis, the Guards of Honour of the Queen of the Angels and of men will, by their prayers, their sacrifices and their generosity, follow the example of their predecessors, the Congregationalists of 1711.

By reconstructing the Church of Our Lady of Victory on a plan as beautiful as it will be firm, all the Children of Mary of our city will testify that they continue to have faith in the words of Jeanne Leber: "The Blessed Virgin is watching over Ville Marie, we should not be the least afraid."

Gisele and Marie Huguette MORIN.

(Translated from the French.)

Centenary of the Birth of Pius X

The centenary of the birth of Pius X will be celebrated on June 2nd, 1923. The great Pontiff was born in a humble home in Riese, a village in the Diocese of Treviso. Joseph Melchior Sarto first studied at the Seminary of Padua. Later on, he was named Bishop of Mantua, Patriarch of Venice, and, finally, the successor of Pope Leo XIII.

The Bishop of Treviso, Bishop Lughin, desires that the centenary be marked, at Riese, by the erecting of a monument and the establishing of a museum for which souvenirs of Joseph Sarto will be collected. This museum will be arranged in the house where Pius X was born.

Indulgences to be Gained During the Forty Hours' Devotion

In order to urge the faithful to visit the Blessed Sacrament exposed to public view, the Sacred Penitentiary, by a decree dated July 24th, 1933, grants the following indulgences: To all those who, after having confessed their sins and received Holy Communion, visit the Blessed Sacrament exposed during the Forty Hours' Devotion, or exposed *ad instar* (in conformity with the Decree of the Holy Office *Augetur*, which is dated January 22nd, 1914), and recite five *Paters*, *Aves*, and *Glorias* as well as a *Pater*, *Ave*, and *Gloria* for the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff, the Holy Father grants a Plenary Indulgence, which may be gained every day as long as the Blessed Sacrament is thus exposed.

To those who with at least contrite hearts make this visit, His Holiness grants a partial indulgence of fifteen years, which may be gained *toties quoties* all the time the Blessed Sacrament is exposed.

This decree of the Sacred Penitentiary was published in the *Acta Apostolicæ Sedis* dated September 1st, 1933, page 381.

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 will shower them upon earth."

St. Teresa of the Child Jesus.



I have received a favour through the intercession of the Little Flower of Jesus and am enclosing a Postal Note in thanksgiving. Mrs. A. D., **Montreal**. — I am very grateful to the Little Flower for the two favours she has granted me. I am enclosing a small offering and would ask you to pray for another special intention. Miss J. P., **Anthony, R. I.** — I am enclosing an offering in honour of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, in thanksgiving for a favour granted me.

Mrs. E. McC., **Windsor, Ont.** — Enclosed

please find a Postal Note, in thanksgiving for a favour obtained through the intercession of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. Mrs. L. C., **Ottawa**. — I am enclosing an offering for the poor Chinese children, in thanksgiving to the Little Flower for the cure of my little girl. Anonymous.

— Please find enclosed a donation towards the Little Flower Burse. Mrs. R. L., **Quebec**. — The enclosed offering is in thanksgiving to the Little Flower of Jesus,

who has obtained me a favour. A. C. — My most grateful thanks to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, who continually watches over me. Miss L. B., **St. Jerome**. — I am most grateful to St. Therese for success in business. A. B., **St. Agnes**. — Find enclosed an offering for your missions, in thanksgiving to

St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, through whose intercession I have received a favour. Mrs. E. B., **St. Cyprien**. — I wish to return thanks to St.

Therese, who has obtained me a favour. Mrs. P. D., **Montreal**. — Enclosed please find an offering in thanksgiving to the Little Flower for a favour received through her intercession. M. A. B., **Kenogami**. — Please accept this offering for the ransom of three dying Chinese babies, in thanksgiving to St. Teresa

of the Child Jesus, who never leaves her clients unaided. Mrs. H. H., **Chicoutimi**.

— True to my promise, I am sending you the enclosed offering in thanksgiving to St. Therese for the cure of my baby. May this loving Saint continue to watch over us. Mrs. A. L., **Lachine**. — My little girl has been cured and I am very grateful.

Mrs. E. L., **St. Joseph d'Alma**. — Please accept the enclosed offering for your missions in thanksgiving to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a favour granted me.

W. R. B., **Montreal**. — I am enclosing an offering for the Missions in thanksgiving to the Little Flower for a favour received. C. E. L., **Holyoke**. — Please find enclosed an offering in honour of the Patroness of Missionaries, in thanksgiving for a favour granted me. Mrs.

D., **Willimantic**. — I am enclosing a donation towards the Little Flower Burse in thanksgiving for success in business and for another important favour this dear Saint has obtained us. A Lover of the Missions. — I am subscribing to THE PRECURSOR in thanksgiving to St. Teresa

of the Child Jesus. Mrs. A. G., **Pawtucket**. — I am most grateful to St. Therese, who has obtained me a favour. Mrs. J. B. D., **Notre Dame de Stanbridge**. — My most grateful thanks to St. Therese for several great favours received. L. A. H. — Please accept the enclosed offering in honour of the Patroness of Missionaries in thanksgiving for all the favours I received from her last year. A Friend, **Indian Orchard**. — I am enclosing an offering for lights to be

burned in honour of St. Therese. Will you please continue to pray for some special intentions. Mrs. H. P., **Montreal**. — St. Teresa of the Child Jesus has obtained me a favour, for which I am truly thankful. I am enclosing an offering in honour of this dear Saint. Mrs. J. T., **St. Barthelemy**. — The enclosed offering is in thanksgiving to the dear Patroness of Missionaries, through whose intercession I have obtained a favour. Mrs. H. R., **St. Eustache**. — I have received a favour through the intercession of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus and am sending you an offering, as promised. A. B., **St. Hugues**.

—◆◆◆—
"I will spend my heaven doing good upon earth."

St. Teresa of the Child Jesus.

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 September-October	1933\$41.60
In July-August	" 12.25	In November-December	" 60.75
In September-October	" 85.00	In January-February	1934 38.75
In November-December	" 38.40	In March-April	" 15.00
In January-February	1933.... 77.00	In May-June	" 17.50
In March-April	" 18.25	In July-August	" 26.45
In May-June	" 30.75	In September-October	"108.25
In July-August	" 58.15	In November-December	" 11.35
	In January-February 1935.... \$188.35		

Conditions for Gaining Indulgences Modified

The December 1934 issue of the *Acta Apostolicæ Sedis* contains an important decision of the Sacred Penitentiary regarding the gaining of indulgences for the recitation of the Rosary or the Way of the Cross.

Heretofore, in order to gain these indulgences, it was required that a rosary or in the case of the Way of the Cross made by a person unable to go the rounds of the Stations, a crucifix — be held in the hand. Eager to facilitate both of these salutary practices and to increase them — both because the devotion of the Rosary is most pleasing to the Mother of God and a most efficacious means of meriting her protection, and also because devotion to Christ Crucified is especially fitting during the celebration of the nineteenth centenary of the Redemption — the Sacred Penitentiary wishes to remove all obstacles to the reception of the spiritual benefits which Christians might enjoy.

Therefore, the Holy Father has kindly conceded that whenever, because of manual labour or other reasonable cause, an impediment may arise so that the faithful can not hold in their hands a rosary or a crucifix to which a blessing for gaining indulgences is attached, they may gain these indulgences provided that, during the recitation of the prayers, the rosary or crucifix is on their person.

Twenty-Five Years of Apostolic Work in Canton, China

WEDNESDAY, September 8th, 1934, marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the departure for a pagan land of the first group of Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

It was, in fact, on the 8th of September 1909, on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, that the first Sisters of this Community, complying with the request of His Excellency Mgr. Merel, Bishop of Canton, left for distant shores to labour in the vast Chinese Empire, where thousands of souls are still sitting in the darkness of paganism and in the shadow of death. The Community which had been founded seven years before, then counted but twenty-seven members: fifteen Professed Sisters, and twelve novices and postulants.

The following extract from the *Semaine Religieuse* of Montreal and *La Presse* describes the first departure ceremony of our Canadian Sisters, which took place in the Cathedral of Montreal and which was presided over by His Excellency Mgr. Bruchesi:

"A group of French-Canadian Sisters left last night for China. They are the first missionaries to be sent to this remote pagan land from the new establishment for the foreign missions, the Institute of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception.

"These Sisters, many of whom are still under twenty-one, have left us... In the Cathedral was held an imposing Departure Ceremony like that which, each year, draws to the Foreign Mission Seminary of Paris, hundreds of Catholics filled with the greatest zeal for the spreading of the Faith.

"The solemnness of the place, the impressiveness of the religious ceremony and the contemplativeness of the young missionaries, cause all the spectators to meditate profoundly and the fashionable ladies who attend this gathering out of curiosity are soon filled with lively sentiments of piety.

"The six Missionaries, who are to leave for the Orient in a few minutes, take their places in the transept, near the altar railing; their Sisters and their grief-stricken parents follow them.

"As the last notes of the Departure hymn are being played, Mgr. Bruchesi goes up into the pulpit and delivers a farewell sermon. He speaks in a quivering voice, his words flowing from a heart filled with the greatest fatherly love.

"*Et relictis omnibus secuti sunt eum...* I cannot keep from showing that I am deeply moved, dearly beloved Brethren. The theatres are now open; I can picture crowds of people flocking thither, in order to attend the plays which are not really decent, and perhaps filthy. Young folks will amuse themselves for two hours or so, and, after the entertainment is over, will return home, still giddy. They will say: 'We had a very good time,' and will be quite satisfied. As for us, we behold a far more beautiful and consoling spectacle than that which is unfolding itself before the eyes of the



His Excellency Mgr Bruchesi
ARCHBISHOP OF MONTREAL.

people who have thronged to the different places of amusement. I see before me six young Sisters who will soon leave for China, where they will strive to win souls to God. They are not the first missionaries that our country has given to the Church. It is already a number of years since the Sisters of St. Ann, the Sisters of Providence and the Grey Nuns first left for heathen lands and since they settled in Western Canada, in order to bring the Gospel Tidings to the Indian tribes. Other young ladies, full of burning love for God, have gone still farther. Canadian Sisters are to be found in nearly every clime: in Africa, in India and in Japan.

"This evening, Canada witnesses, for the first time, a departure of missionaries from an Institute founded in this country and whose chief aim is the spreading of the Faith among the pagans...

"Some people may say that there are many works of charity in our own country; a Catholic, however, should not limit his devotedness, he should assist

in spreading the Faith everywhere. Christ wishes him to go forth and teach all nations. Can we remain indifferent when there are souls to be saved? Are not the infidels our brothers and did not Our Saviour shed His Blood for them as well as for us. Are we Canadians not indebted to the Church? It is thanks to the missionary spirit of our forefathers if we still possess the true Faith.

"The Catholics of Canada, like the French, are naturally eager to spread the Faith. France, in spite of its frightful transgressions, still gives it gold and its sons and daughters to help on the great apostolic works...'

His Excellency, after stressing this point, speaks of the vocation of the six young Sisters about to leave, of the recent visit to Montreal of Mgr. Merel, Bishop of Canton, of the request which this prelate made to

the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception and of the beautiful and spontaneous response made by these young Sisters.

"The preacher, with the deepest emotion, addresses a few words of farewell to the departing missionaries and, turning to their parents, he tells them that although they are heart-broken on gazing at their children whom they will never see again in this world, they should indeed rejoice to think that they have given apostles to the Church.

"The ceremony was brought to a close by Solemn Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Then came the departure for the station; the poor Sisters could hardly get through the crowds to the cabs awaiting them. Tears welled up in the eyes of one man standing near us and we heard him say, while pointing to one of the Sisters: 'That's my daughter.' And another, who was not far off, remarked: 'How fortunate he is!'

"Mgr. Bruchesi and several members of the clergy went to the station to see the missionaries off. At ten o'clock, the train pulled out. The relatives and friends of our Sisters gazed sorrowfully at the big black coaches which were bearing away their loved ones, but the latter, while thinking of those they were leaving behind, had become real Chinese missionaries and were dreaming of the great works of mercy which they would soon be accomplishing in a heathen land."

Our Missionaries had a pleasant crossing; they reached Canton early in October and were welcomed with the greatest fatherly kindness by His Excellency Mgr. Merel. Many marks of fellow-feeling were shown them by the personnel of the Bishop's House and by all the Christians of the Mission. Feeling greatly consoled and filled with fresh courage, our Sisters set to performing their different apostolic tasks.

Anyone on reading the following lines written by Mgr. Merel, Bishop of Canton, to the Mother Foundress of the new Institute, Very Reverend



His Excellency Mgr. Merel

BISHOP OF CANTON

who died at Singapore on October 13, 1932.

Mother Marie du Saint Esprit, may see for himself the immense amount of work there was to be done.

MOTHER SUPERIOR,

God be praised! Mgr. Bruchesi informs me that he has given you his consent to leave for our poor mission of Kwangtung. How very grateful we are to him! We received your permission a long time ago and count on seeing some of your Sisters soon. The day they will first set foot in Canton will be for us a day of great rejoicing and, for many souls, a day of salvation.

They may open orphanages, workrooms, dispensaries, schools and teach English, French, Mathematics, Physical Science, Music, wood-engraving and painting on linen, porcelain, wood, etc. etc.

A convent is being arranged for your Sisters; they will first go to Vancouver and from there set sail for Hong Kong. I shall notify the Missionaries in Japan, as well as the Procurators at Hong Kong, of their arrival, and shall send the Procurators one of my missionaries to bring them here.

In the meantime, I shall ask St. Joseph to bless us all.

† Jean Marie MEREL.
Bishop of Canton.

In order to labour more efficaciously for the salvation of the numerous souls in their mission station, our dear Sisters whole-heartedly set to studying Chinese while taking over the direction of the different works. Shortly after reaching their Convent, one of them wrote as follows to her Superior General:



VIRGIN CATECHISTS WHO ASSISTED OUR SISTERS IN CANTON IN THE YEAR 1909.

"There are a hundred and fifty persons in our establishment. The twenty-five Chinese virgins greatly edify us all and will be a great help to us, as they are able to visit many homes that we cannot think of going to. Our little orphans have the most winning ways. Every day, we receive three or four babies, wrapped up in rags. We give twenty Chinese coppers to the person who brings them to us and immediately pour the Sacred Waters on the brow of each of these little ones, in case it should die before the priest, who comes to the Foundling-Home every evening to administer the Sacrament of Baptism, has time to get here. Mostly all the babies die shortly after they have been received, but we have ten who will probably survive. I am speaking of the babies received at the foundling-home which we have charge of here, but we have another home of the kind just outside the city. Some Chinese virgins look after the children there. The priest who established this foundling-home is our chaplain; he wishes us to open a Convent just as soon as you send us Sisters and funds. He has asked me to get the people of Canada to take an interest in this work, upon which he has set his heart.

At the present moment, we are trying to arrange things so that a day-school may be opened during the month of February. In Canton, there is not one school for girls under the direction of Catholics, but there are many conducted by different sects.

I think you will be pleased to learn that our school will be known as the "Holy Ghost School". A few little pagan girls have already asked to be enrolled. What winning ways they have and how you would love them, if you could but see them!

We have settled down to learn Chinese. If Reverend Father Fouillet were to pass by our Convent around eight o'clock in the morning, he would say that this was a well-kept school: we study like the Chinese do... we pronounce every syllable just as loud as we can. This seems to be the best way to learn the different sounds.

We are all enjoying good health and are cheerful. A few days ago, one of our Sisters remarked that she was as happy on the Missions as she had expected to be...

While, from far-off China, our dear Missionaries were writing the most consoling letters to their Mother House and were reaping an abundant harvest of souls, His Excellency Mgr. Merel once again asked that some of the Sisters still in Canada, be sent to Canton. He wrote the following lines to the Reverend Mother Foundress:

Canton, May 20, 1910.

REVEREND MOTHER,

Oh! how impatiently we are awaiting the three Sisters you are to send us early in the autumn. Let them come as soon as possible to join the Sisters who have preceded them.

In the sweet keeping of their Guardian Angels, your missionaries will arrive happy and courageous and in good health.

We are fully satisfied with your dear Sisters; I even fear that their great zeal in promoting the different works confided to them, may prevent them from taking care of themselves.

This year three thousand children will be baptized in our two foundling-homes in Canton, if we do not lack funds. Surely, this beautiful harvest of souls cannot but draw down endless blessings upon your infant Community. Naturally, the saving of these souls is not done without going to much trouble, but how consoling are the results! If the Work of the Holy Childhood were well understood in Canada, how willingly would everyone help to redeem the poor little creatures whose little limbs have been gnawed by rats and who are half dead.

After the Work of the Holy Childhood or that of procuring abandoned children the grace of Baptism, and that of the opening of schools for Chinese girls, the most urgent, at the present time, is that of establishing a school for the children of the English, American, French and Portuguese people residing here... Poor children! they are growing up without knowing anything about their duties towards God. They are stretching out their arms to you, Reverend Mother, come to their help by sending us a few Sisters.

Please accept the expression of my religious gratitude in Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

† JEAN MARIE
Bishop of Canton.

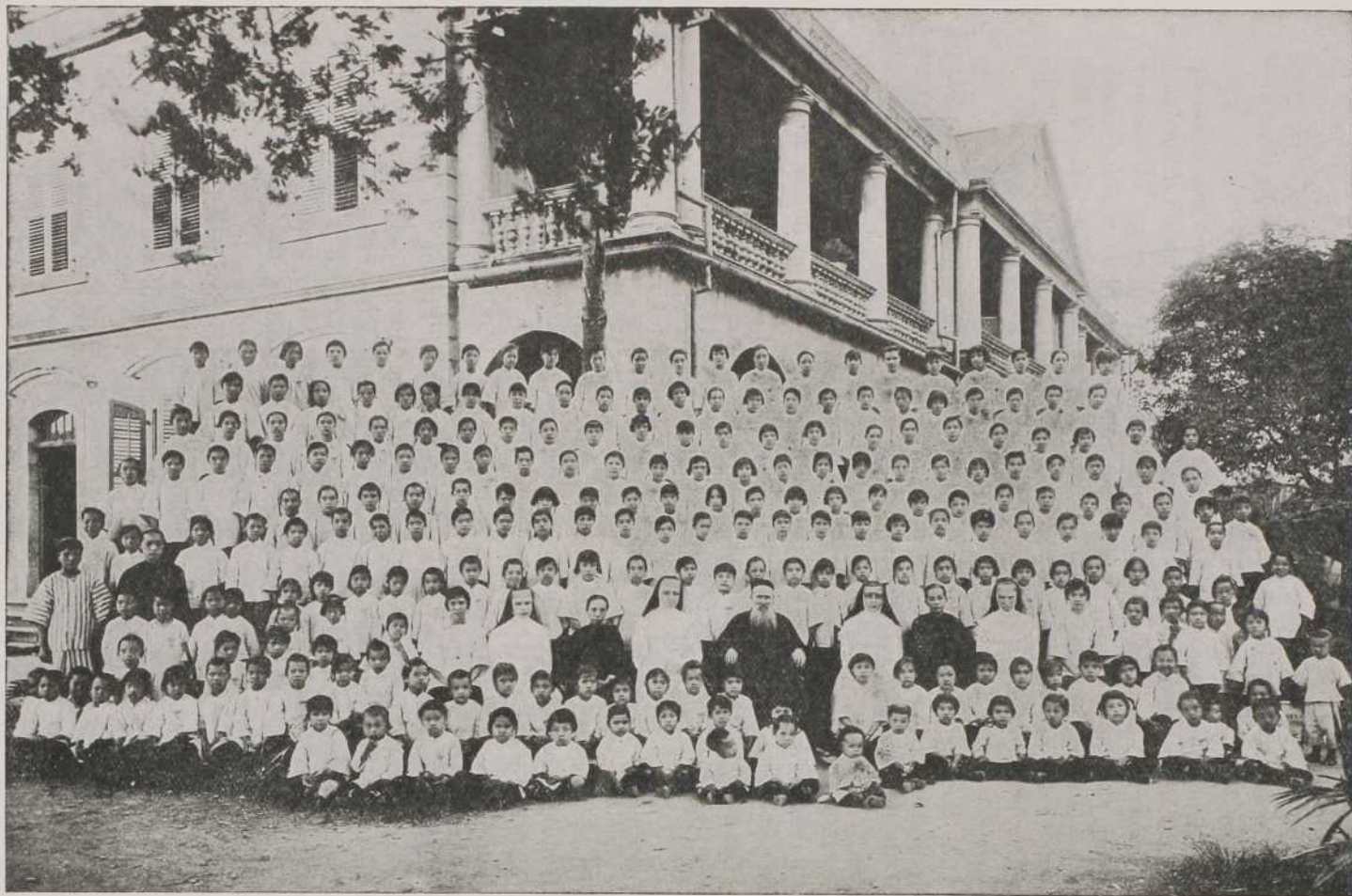
The consolations experienced at the outset were soon followed by the trials inherent to all works of apostolate, but our zealous missionaries courageously pursued their evangelical tasks.

During the political troubles, our Sisters, in compliance with the commands received from the civic authorities, were forced, on two different occasions, to leave their Mission for a time. After closing the Holy Ghost School, they confided the babies of the Foundling Home to some trustworthy Chinese catechists and fled to Hong Kong with the orphans. Sickness, the lack of funds, the death of two of their Sisters, Sister Jean l'Evangeliste (1) and Sister St. Joseph (2), and a thousand other trials made their hearts bleed, but, in spite of them all, they continued to sow the seeds of truth for the greater glory of God and our Immaculate Mother...

On glancing at the work accomplished during the past twenty-five years, our Sisters are filled with joy on beholding the harvest and gratefully exclaim: "O God, mayest Thou be praised for the good Thou hast deigned to ac-

1. Sister St. Jean l'Evangeliste (Rachel Lalumiere, of Montreal), who died at Canton, on February 13th, 1912. When she learned that she was soon going to die, her face lit up with a smile of joy. "I cannot describe the happiness I am experiencing" she exclaimed, "on but two occasions have I felt as happy as I am now, the day of my religious profession and the day I left for China. Tell Mama to be cheerful. Oh! she must not cry, I am so happy! I am not afraid to die... I have consecrated my life to God's service!"

2. Sister St. Joseph (Emilda Charbonneau, of Montreal), who died at Canton, on May 23rd, 1926. She laboured in the Foundling Home for fifteen years, and during that time she never ceased to lavish the most loving care on the helpless little creatures there. She had the happiness of baptizing several thousands of them.



THE HOLY GHOST SCHOOL, CANTON, CHINA, CONDUCTED BY THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.
CHILDREN TAUGHT IN THE YEAR 1924.

comply through us, Thy humble missionaries, during the two decades and a half we have been labouring in Canton! O Mary Immaculate, mayest thou also be praised for having so manifestly protected and so efficaciously assisted thy children."

At the Foundling Home, where much time is spent and great devotedness is shown, more than a hundred thousand souls were snatched from the clutches of Satan and made heirs to the Kingdom of Heaven during those twenty-five years.



A SECTION OF THE FOUNDLING-HOME, CANTON, CHINA.

Children received and baptized by the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Canton, China (1909-1934).

1910.....	3,101	1918.....	4,607	1927.....	3,720
1911.....	2,622	1919.....	6,650	1928.....	2,776
1912.....	1,982	1920.....	7,250	1929.....	3,359
1913.....	2,157	1921.....	7,150	1930.....	4,203
1914.....	2,715	1922.....	6,939	1931.....	4,196
1915.....	2,598	1923.....	4,213	1932.....	3,829
1916.....	1,901	1924.....	4,700	1933.....	3,274
1917.....	1,890	1925.....	6,019	1934.....	3,465
		1926.....	3,708		

At the Orphanage, which sheltered as many as a hundred orphans at a time, we also had many a consolation. These girls were brought up in our holy Faith, traits of good morals were instilled into their minds and all were taught domestic arts and sciences. The majority of them have built up Christian homes and have always continued to be on good terms with their old teachers, who ever strive to encourage them to walk in the path of virtue. Those who are able to do so, send their children to the

very school in which they had, as they themselves say, such a pleasant time. Other orphans, fewer in number, have remained with the Sisters, they are known as virgin catechists and render the mission appreciable service. Seven members of this little Chinese community have come to Canada to help convert their pagan countrymen who have immigrated to our Province and especially those who have settled in Montreal and Quebec. One of these catechists, Sister Lucy, did at the Hotel Dieu Hospital, Montreal, on May 18th, 1930.

At the present time, there are only a few catechists at our convent in Canton, but their great love for their little Society is a source of joy and consolation to our Missionaries.

The Holy Ghost School, which has won over to the Faith a goodly number of pagan pupils, among whom are the daughters of many people of the upper class, has known particularly trying days. The school had to be closed, in 1927, on account of the civil war then raging in China, and it was only three or four years later that it could be re-opened for, during all that time, the Chinese Government ordered all foreigners to adopt a pagan curriculum in their schools. At last, the school which has meant so many sacrifices on the part of the Sisters has been re-organized. More than two hundred pupils are in attendance and the outlook is most promising.

The Workroom in which the girls of the Holy Ghost School and the children of the Orphanage learn to sew, make lace, embroider, weave, etc. etc., is



A MISSIONARY SISTER OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AT THE DISPENSARY, CANTON, CHINA.

also a source of consolation to our Sisters, and it procures them a little money for the maintenance of their works.

At the home for the aged, which was opened in 1909, and which sheltered, during one year, as many as a hundred poor old homeless, crippled or foolish women, our dear Missionaries also exercise the greatest charity. This Work was most consoling, for it gave our Sisters the opportunity of winning many pagan souls to God. Our dear Sisters also had the happiness of seeing these good old women endeavouring, during the few years that remained to them, to gain as much merit as possible, in order to please all the more their merciful and loving God whom, to their great regret, they had learned to know so late in life...

To the many works of charity then existing, was added, in 1921, that of a Dispensary, wherein 36,809 dressings were made during the first year. The work progressed until the civil war, in 1927, when the convent was closed for a time. Our Sisters there are now accomplishing their salutary work among the many poor unfortunate creatures in pagan China.

The revered Mgr. Merel,⁽¹⁾ whose memory is in benediction, must, from his heavenly home, greatly rejoice, on seeing missionaries from Canada still performing with the greatest zeal the beautiful tasks which he confided to them twenty-five years ago. His long apostolic career was a very fruitful one and he always ardently longed to see the work progressing.

May he continue to ask our heavenly Father and our Immaculate Mother to bestow the choicest blessings and the most abundant graces upon our dear Sisters so that, for a long time to come, they may be able to accomplish their apostolic work in Canton with even greater success! And may the hundred thousand little ones who have been saved by them and who now sing God's praises up above, also intercede for them before the Throne of God and cause heavenly blessings to be showered upon our revered Archbishop Bruchesi, upon the present Bishop of Canton, His Excellency Mgr. Fourquet, upon their Community and upon all the benefactors of their Mission!



Jesus shed His blood for thee, O my soul, so much art thou worth. Rejoice! So high did He prize thee that He bought thee at such a fearful price! Count the hours He wept, the strokes He received, the thorns that pierced His head, the nails that held Him to the cross, the drops of blood He shed. See the cross on which He hung, to which He pinned His fame. On the cross He gave up His soul for thee. All this will tell Thee, O my soul, how precious thou art.

St. Augustine.

St. Joseph was the cherub, placed to guard the new terrestrial Paradise from every foe.

Cardinal Newman.

1. Mgr. Merel died in Singapore, on October 13th, 1932.



Echoes from our Missions

PAMIENTCHENG, MANCHURIA

*Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries
to Pamientcheng.*

Thursday, August 9, 1934

Last night a young woman quarrelled with her father-in-law. In order to revenge herself, she took a dose of poison, for she knew that by doing so she would make her aggressor "lose face"... When her neighbours and friends noticed that she was at death's door, they came to sympathize with her and to curse the man who, by his injurious words, had caused the accident. The unfortunate woman forgot all about her sufferings when she saw her father-in-law put to shame...

Christians know how sweet it is to forgive and, by forgetting injuries, they win for themselves degrees of glory in heaven, whereas the pagans savagely rejoice in taking revenge. Ah! the life of the poor heathens is certainly a hellish one.

Wednesday, August 15

There is great rejoicing at the Orphanage: Agatha, aged six and Elizabeth aged seven, make their First Communion to-day. On seeing these innocent little ones dressed in white, we think of how pleasing they must be to the One who loves the clean of heart and we experience anew the sweetness of life in a mission land. "O Immaculate Lady!" do we repeat, "let no stain of sin soil the hearts of our dear charges!"

Like all other children, the tiny orphans are often naughty and they give us many an unpleasant surprise. One morning, they took delight in emptying the clothes boxes and in throwing the different articles all around the room. They were just in the middle of their new game when we spied them.

Tuesday, August 21

Although the roads are in a very bad condition and there are a number of brigands prowling about, some fifty persons make their way to the Dispensary. We have the happiness of baptizing four dying babies.

Lao Wang, the little boy who helps us, greatly edified us to-day. On entering an out-house, we found him carving a cross which he intends hanging on the partition in the shed in which he often works. "I'll be able to look at it from time to time," he tells us, "and then I'll begin to think of all that Our Lord has suffered for us and I'll feel more like working."

Friday, August 24

The city is crowded, for there is to be a pagan celebration very soon. Dealers are lined up on either side of the main street and are endeavouring to attract the attention of the passers-by by making as much noise as possible. The bakers, who are busy at work in the open air, display their products, on which the dust soon settles and which are sorted over by curious people, whose hands are not very clean. The Manchurians do not pay any attention to such small details in the rules of health, they eat heartily in the midst of clouds of dust and beside a busy shoemaker...

There are even some Chinese doctors, who treat their patients on the street. They have put a big strip of cotton on the ground and have arranged their different phials on it. On a poster may be seen the picture of the pagan physician, a list of references and the names of all the diseases that he is able to cure. The surgical instruments are lying in the dust along with the other articles, and, as one may well imagine, they are never sterilized.

Monday, September 3

While we were at supper last Saturday, we were informed that a dying youngster had been brought to the gate of the Mission Compound. On hastening thither, we found a charming child, four or five years old, that had been picked up by a kind-hearted soldier, who had hoped to save its life. The poor little one was shivering with the cold. It had taken convulsions, and its parents, fearing that it would bring misfortune on them if it died in their home, had asked someone to carry it far away before abandoning it. On hearing that the child had been taken in at the Catholic Mission, its grandmother came to ask us if we would give it back to her if it regained its health. We agreed to do so and she left quite satisfied. But how much happier this poor pagan woman would have been if she could have realized what a great title had been conferred on her grandchild, for we had just made it an heir to the Kingdom of Heaven. The dear little one flew to heaven, to-day. Its body lies near the large cross erected at the gate of the orphans' cemetery.

Thursday, September 13

Oh! to how many peaceful homes do the brigands bring woe! A few months ago, the father of the cook employed at the Orphanage became their victim. The scoundrels attacked the poor man and treated him so roughly that they left him half dead. They then decided to carry off one of his sons. Several times afterwards, they notified the heart-broken parents that their prisoner would be put to death if they refused to ransom

him. The poor father was unable to give the sum they asked and he was so down-hearted that he grew sick. He died yesterday just after being baptized.

In order to prevent the brigands from being so avaricious, the Japanese have forbidden the inhabitants to ransom any one at all. Those in captivity are to be pitied, for they will inevitably be put to death after being cruelly tortured.

Saturday, September 15

Four years ago to-day, Manchuria was proclaimed a free country, to be ruled over by the Japanese. The Chinese find it hard to submit to foreigners. In fact, the Japanese have often had to force the inhabitants to pay them allegiance; the old folks, especially, are deeply grieved. The young people rejoice along with the Japanese. As on all civic holidays, a great racket is made on this anniversary. In the city, there is acting, music and singing.

Thursday, September 27

Sister St. Pierre de la Croix⁽¹⁾ is puzzled on noticing that the parents of one of the children to whom she gives treatment, have left a tuft of hair on the nape of its neck. She learns that this has been done through superstition, and that the pagans believe that the devil will be terrified on seeing such a patch of hair and that he will not venture to come near the little one to take its life.

An old lady tells us about another superstitious practice just as ridiculous as the first. On her breast, she wears a precious talisman, a tiny silver cow. "I have committed many sins during my life," she tells us, "and when, after death, I reach a place of punishment, this cow will help me to drink the bad water that will be given me..." Oh! how we long to tell all of the poor pagans how they should act if they wish to keep away from the everlasting flames. Their consciences tell them that there is punishment in store for them and, although they are afraid, they do not know how to avoid it.

Certain it is that in this pagan land, the devil subdues his victims in a direct manner by his hellish spells and deceives them more easily than he does elsewhere. In one of the pagan homes here, a woman took sick and no one was able to find out what was really wrong with her; she often yelled and seemed to hold intercourse with an invisible being. The sorcerer who was sent for, burned incense in honour of the god of the household, made several deep bows, recited a few invocations to the devil and, finally, declared that the woman was sick because the evil spirits were angry with the members of her family. On being thus informed, all present shook with fear and asked what they were supposed to do to appease the wrath of these spirits. They had, shortly before, built an earthen pagoda out of respect for the god of the household, and the sorcerer, finding it too

1. Sidonia ROUSSEL, of Montreal.

common, ordered them to build a brick one. All immediately promised to do what was required of them by the spirits and, the very next day, they began to erect another edifice. As soon as it was finished, a brown fox crept into it. The people saw that Satan had taken possession of his temple and have, ever since, remembered to burn incense therein. How sad it is to think that the wicked devil, who seeks only the ruin of souls, is respected by those he deceives and whom he continually torments. Ah! we who know of his knavish tricks do not wish to miss even one chance of overthrowing him...

Monday, October 15

We receive a visit from Reverend Father Larochelle, who is pastor of Ling Si Sien, a mission station in the very north of the Vicariate of Szepingkai. Our visitor interests us greatly by telling us about his mission and especially about the central mission station, where all the people are Christians. He tells us that it is so cold at Ling Si Sien that all the inhabitants wear fur garments in the winter. It is a farming district; different kinds of vegetables are grown, but no fruit trees are to be seen. Great herds of cattle, sheep and reindeer are raised by the people of this district.

Just before taking his leave, Reverend Father invites us to go to help him in his apostolic work. We wish we were able to accept his invitation.

Tuesday, October 16

Sister St. Edmond(1), our new helper, arrived here eight days ago. She has been longing to give Baptism and, this morning, she has the happiness of pouring the Saving Waters on the brow of a pagan child. She calls the little one Joseph Edmond, after her dear father.

It is a great moment for all missionaries when they, with the deepest emotion, pronounce for the first time the sublime words: "I baptize thee, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." May this privileged child intercede for our new Sister and help her to save many souls.

Saturday, October 27

Ever since yesterday there has been music in the air, which means that a wedding is about to take place. As on all occasions of the kind, much superstition is practised. The bride wears a wadded red cotton blouse and green cotton trousers. (In China, women wear trousers.) Her wide yellow cotton sash is a symbol of wealth. The Chinese believe that a young lady who wears a sash of the kind on her wedding day will, for the remainder of her life, be plunged in gold up to her waist. Her shoes are the same colour as her sash. Her hair is arranged in tresses on the top of her head, all of them being tied with red strings. Thus, if her mother-in-law flies into a rage, she will not be able to pull her hair. It is the custom here to

1. Irma DE LADURANTAYE, of Cap St. Ignace, Co. Montmagny.

carry a bride out of her home, to the sedan-chair in which she is to be taken to her mother-in-law's home. When the carriers reach their destination, they place the chair on a table outside in the yard. It is a superstitious belief that there is not a newly-married woman on earth who has not acquired bad habits, and each and every one of them is obliged to wait outside her mother-in-law's house until she has got rid of them all. After she has waited a whole hour at the first table, she is carried to another on which the god of the household has been placed. She and her husband burn some incense and together make a deep bow. As she must not touch the ground on getting out of the chair, her superstitious friends place a bag of *kao liang* (millet) near her, that she may step out on it. These poor pagans believe that the young lady, on account of stepping on this bag of grain, will always be wealthy and happy in her new home.

When she is finally allowed to go inside, she offers each of the guests a pipe filled with tobacco, which she herself lights, and there is great rejoicing for the rest of the day.

Report of the Dispensary of Pamientcheng from August to October inclusive:

	Baptisms.....	39		
Patients.....	1,970	Treatments.....	5,464	Dressings.....474
Teeth extracted...	33	Homes visited...	37	Consultations.....465

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TUNG LEAO, MANCHURIA

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Tung Leao.

Thursday, August 2, 1934

We are asked to go to see a woman who is seriously ill. The Chinese gentleman who comes for us, tells us what has happened to her. Ten days ago, she burned her hands and feet on an electric wire. She was treated by one of the doctors of the city, who dressed her sores daily and who gave her much medicine. She seemed to be improving until four or five days ago, when she took an epileptic fit and, ever since, she has been raving. This morning, she was so low that she was prepared for death. She dozed off for a few minutes and then made signs to those around her, mumbling that she had seen a person who had told her that she could be cured and that there was a woman in her own city who was able to save her life. Her husband went out at once to enquire whether there was a woman who cared for the sick, and he was told that at the Catholic Mission there were some Sisters who had treated several people in the neighbourhood and had met with success. On hearing about the mysterious personage, our aged professor, Mr. Wang, like Joseph, tells the gentleman that the moribund must have been notified by her Guardian Angel. "You pagans



A CHINESE DWELLING.

do not know anything about angels", he says, "but we Catholics know that God has given everyone an angel to guide him."

The Sister infirmarian immediately gets ready and, in company with a virgin catechist, visits the patient. She finds her in a pitiful state, but fully conscious. The catechist at once begins to explain to her the fundamental truths of our holy religion and with God's help, gets her to make a

profession of faith and to repeat a few invocations such as: "*Tin Tchou ke lien oua pa.*" (Lord of heaven, have mercy on us). As Sister sees that she is in immediate danger of death, she baptizes her. "Wash my face and the rest of my body," the poor woman entreatingly says, thinking that the Sacred Waters and the prayers Sister says while pouring them will be more efficacious if they are applied to a larger surface. After assuring her that there is no need of doing such a thing, our Sister baptizes her two-year-old child, who is very sick. On her way home, she recites the *Magnificat* and returns thanks to Almighty God, whose designs are so admirable...

Saturday, August 4

For a few days past, we have been going to see a young woman who, for the last two years, has been suffering from tuberculosis of the intestines. This morning, we are very uneasy, for we have not been sent for. It is from the school children that we learn that our patient is in agony and that she has been left out-of-doors to die. Our virgin catechist visits her home and finds that all the people there are weeping and moaning. Nevertheless, she goes up to them, asking to see the patient. She is told that it is already half an hour since she expired, but she insists and finally is allowed to come closer. The unfortunate woman is lying on a bed arranged for the time being and seems to be nearly choked by two men who, faithful to a superstitious practice, are doing their best to keep her in a horizontal position. All her summer and winter clothes have been put on her. She often asks for a little water, for her lips are parched, but, through superstition, her relatives refuse to give her even a few drops. Poor woman!... she is so fagged out and choked up that she is just about to breathe her last when the virgin catechist arrives. The old men step aside and make room for our catechist. As she approaches, the dying woman opens her eyes and recognizing her, stretches out her hand and suppliantly says: "I am very weak, give me an injection!" All the onlookers are astonished and exclaim: "She is still able to speak!..." After giving her an injection, the virgin tells her of the wonderful medicine which will cure her soul and procure her endless bliss. On hearing the young woman asking questions and answering those put to her, her relatives realize that she is no longer at death's door,

and bring her into the house again. Once the heavy clothing is taken off of her, she feels relieved. On arriving, we congratulate her for beginning to look well again. "Oh!" she exclaims, "it's thanks to you if I'm improving, and when I'm cured, I'll go to the Catholic Mission for instructions." We do not expect to see her restored to health, but we hope that we shall have the consolation of making her an heir to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Sunday, August 12

We receive a telegram from Canada informing us of the death of Reverend Father Berger, P.M.E. While praying for the repose of the soul of this great pioneer of the Faith in Manchuria, we confidently hope that from the heavenly heights he will help us to convert the pagans, among whom he laboured with such great zeal.

This afternoon, we are asked to go to see a good old man whom we confided to the Blessed Virgin by giving him a miraculous medal. Once again we have good reason to repeat: "Whoever the Blessed Virgin protects is well protected." The poor man is very sick but is, nevertheless, fully conscious. When we ask him if he believes in God, he answers: "I believe in Him," and, raising his forefinger he adds, "I've but one thing to say, I've but one belief." When the virgin catechist goes on with the instructions and tells him that he must give up all his superstitious practices, his brother tells us that he knew about that commandment even before she spoke to him about it and that he had willingly parted with a precious little statue of Buddha which he had kept since his childhood, giving it to a relative of his who came to see him. On hearing his brother speaking, the sick man, pointing to the miraculous medal on his neck, repeats: "I believe in God, in but one God, who will reward the good and punish the wicked." After the instructions, Father Schetagne comes to administer to him the Sacrament which makes one a child of God and an heir to the Kingdom of Heaven. The new Christian, who receives the name of Camillus, is overjoyed. "I've had a hard time all my life," he says, "but I'm happy now."

Tuesday, August 14

Poor pagans! They rely so little on their deities that they only think of deceiving them. When a child falls sick, they believe that an evil spirit has been at work and so they change its name. That is why the Sister infirmarian had such a hard time finding in the baptism register, this morning, the name of a baby whom she was sure she had baptized. After Sister had looked for a long time, the mother said: "Before, my baby's name was *Tie tan* (iron egg), but its father changed its name and now we call it *Soua tchou* (well chained up)." The superstitious Chinese believe that by changing the names of their little ones, the evil spirits will no longer recognize them!...

Friday, August 17

While visiting some patients, our Sister infirmarian has the consolation of learning that the young woman mysteriously warned during her sleep, whom we spoke of on the second of the month, died a few moments after being baptized. We return thanks to our all-merciful Mother and to the Holy Angels who helped us to save another soul.

Friday, August 24

To-day, there are fewer patients than usual at the Dispensary for it is the "koua kie", the day set aside to honour the dead. The pagans also think of their departed relatives and friends; every year they see to arranging their graves. Some who are still in mourning return to the little pagoda to burn sticks of incense, paper money or some kind of a bouquet while moaning and shedding tears. Those who utter such ridiculous cries of distress are only trying to get the passersby to stop and look at them. They observe their rites in much the same way as the actors on a stage act their parts and, when they are through, they proudly return home with not a tear in their eyes.

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PAITCHENGITZE, MANCHURIA

*Letter written by the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception
of Paitchengtze to their Sisters at the Mother House.*

Catholic Mission, Paitchengtze, December 1934.

BELOVED SISTERS,

It is almost time to wish you a Happy New Year, and knowing how anxious you all are to go to labour in the far-off mission field, your loving Sisters in Manchuria cannot think of a better way of pleasing you than by wishing that your apostolic dreams may soon come true.

We believe it will interest you to hear a little about the mission station of Paitchengtze in the northern part of Manchuria, which was opened just a year ago. At this season, when the sun is high in the heavens, the weather is fine for a few hours each day, but when it begins to go down, the cold is intense. This orbit is to the people all over the world what the Faith is to the heathen: as soon as the wonderful gift from God reaches poor benighted creatures, they rejoice and, in the regions to which it has not yet been carried, the inhabitants are freezing in the icy atmosphere of paganism. The city of Paitchengtze counts 30,000 inhabitants and only three hundred of them are Christians; so you see that we have a right to wish for helpers, your longing desires are the same as ours.

The four of us, by helping one another, strive to turn out as much work as our new mission calls for. We take turns in preparing the different

meals, that all may have a chance to study the language of the country and to attend to other duties. We take turns, also in giving Holy Baptism and even those who have been a few years on the Missions are deeply touched when they have the happiness of pouring the Saving Waters.

Yesterday, Sister Marie Mediatrix, ⁽¹⁾, our Superior, returned from an apostolic trip and, deeply emotioned, she told us that she had baptized a dying woman seventy years of age. On returning from a pagan home, she found another woman who appeared to be in the eighties, lying on the floor. The poor old creature had grown tired of the earth and seemed only to be waiting for Sister's visit before letting her soul leave her worn-out body. She readily consented to become a Christian so, after giving her a few instructions, Sister poured the Baptismal Waters on her brow, so wrinkled up by old age and the hardships she had endured.

There have already been some glorious days in Paitchengtze. On looking over the annals of our new mission, we stop at a certain date: August 14th, for, on it, thirty-eight Chinese were received into the Church. The baptism of these neophytes was a fitting prelude to the Feast of the Assumption, which is a holy-day of obligation solemnly observed by the Christians here.

Most of the people appear to be religiously inclined and often there are pagans present at the different services. One day, we set out to visit a poor family and, as soon as we reached our destination, all the little ones asked us if it would be long before Sunday. They were anxious to know, for one of their greatest joys is to go to Sunday Mass and to Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament with their pagan fathers. We are always greatly pleased when we notice in the church a few of the poor people whom we have treated at the Dispensary; it is encouraging for our Sister infirmarians to see that by attending to the bodily ills of their patients they have done good to their souls. The very sight of the neophytes carries us back to the first days of the Church, when the Christians were so charitable towards one another that they seemed to belong to one great family. The fervent group attracted the attention of the newly-arrived Sisters, who were all greatly edified. During Mass, one of the latter, who is not yet familiar with the customs of the country, let her attention be diverted, she wondered what the women were going to do at Communion time with the babies in their arms. Useless worry! Before approaching the Holy Table, the first confided her little one to the woman beside her and, as soon as she returned, her neighbour followed her example. It was but a simple matter to exchange the children. The veils are passed on in much the same way: if a woman has not her own, the one to the right or to the left lends her hers and thus the beautiful virtue of charity is practised.

Although the people here do not know much about the Dispensary as yet, we always have a few patients; on certain days, we receive from seventy-five to eighty persons. It is surprising to see how little the Chinese know about hygiene and the principles of medical science. For instance, a man

1. Marie Aline MALOUIN, of Quebec.

who had cut his forefinger, put sand around it, in order to stop the flow of blood. He was uneasy, of course, and decided to come to the Dispensary for treatment. After the wound was dressed, the poor pagan was quite satisfied and he told us that our way of attending to wounds is not nearly as painful as his...

Dear Sisters, we are sending our letter a little late, and so you will not receive it on New Year's Day. Be assured, however, that we shall all go in spirit to the Mother House and, on this beautiful festival, when the bonds of affection are drawn closer together, we shall not fail to wish you all a Holy, Happy New Year.

Your loving Sisters in Paitchengtze.

Report of the Dispensary of Paitchengtze from August to October, inclusive:

Baptisms.....	29	Patients.....	3,149		
Treatments.....	5,335	Dressings.....	973	Homes visited.....	237
Teeth extracted...	9	Consultations.....	327	Injections.....	122

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TSUNGMING, HAIMEN VICARIATE, CHINA

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Tsungming.

Thursday, July 5, 1934

Our Sisters go in a Chinese wheel-barrow to see a woman suffering from cancer. In her home, there are many people, all of whom are pagans. They watch everything that our Sister infirmarian does. A few women show her their children, who have colds, ear-aches, etc. They spend the whole morning treating the sick in this house. When Sister is about to leave, one of the oldest members of the family says to her: "We notice that you are going about doing good, cure my wife, who has a cancer, and I promise you that I and all my relatives will adore your God." O Divine Miracle Worker, cure this poor patient and Thou wilt have fifteen new adorers!..

Wednesday, July 11

The days follow one another, but they are not all alike. Yesterday, at Paochen, Sister Marie de Sion⁽¹⁾ baptized ten patients: eight dying children who were only waiting to be made children of God before winging their flight to heaven, a very sick old woman who was also waiting for the Saving Waters, which were to open heaven to her, and two old men who, after gladly accepting a miraculous medal, discovered the way of salvation. A day like that makes up for many other days of sorrow.

1. Florida RAVARY, of St. Clet, Co. Soulanges.

Friday, July 13

An epidemic has broken out among the children of Paochen and there is only one Chinese doctor in the place. Sister Superior asks us what we think should be done. Although we have much work to do, we decide to send a Sister there every day instead of only three times a week. So, from to-morrow on, one of us will go daily to Paochen, at least during the holidays, in order to save souls.

Thursday, July 19,

Among those we have been helping are an interesting old couple. One day while visiting the different patients, Sister Superior was called to the bedside of the old man, whom she found to be seriously ill. She learned that her patient had been baptized at his birth, that he had married a pagan woman and that, for already a number of years, he had not been living up to his religion. Naturally, we taught Catechism to the old woman, saw to having her baptized and had the priest bless the marriage. The old man regained his health and he and his wife have, ever since, been faithful to their duties as Christians. On the day the marriage was rectified, Sister Superior gave the old woman an ornamental pin on which was engraved the image of Our Lady of Seven Dolors. She always wears her pin and, when she dons another blouse, she does not forget about the trinket. She is known all over the countryside as the old lady with the brooch. Sister Superior continues to take an interest in these poor people; to-day, she gave Sister Marie de Sion a Chinese dollar to bring them, that they might buy some vegetables, for they are very poor. On receiving the gift, the old woman said to Sister: "Tell *Ta Momo* that I'm very grateful. We can easily do without vegetables and we'll keep the money to hire a cart to bring us to church on the *Kong Sou*, the Feast of the Assumption. That'll be a great day for us, for it's such a long time since we've been to church!..." So we expect to see the old couple at Mass on August 15th. How touching!

Sunday, July 22

For some time past, we have been going to see a young consumptive who made her First Communion at the Mission, two years ago. Like Mary Magdalen, she has led a life of sin. On the day of her Baptism and of her First Holy Communion, God bestowed His grace upon her, but she did not profit by it. When her people saw that she was a victim of tuberculosis and that her body was covered with sores, they were so horrified that they decided to make her live all by herself and they soon saw to building a little hut for her. Twice, she refused to receive the Last Sacraments and, in a fit of despair, which was a punishment for a life of wickedness, she desired to go to hell. But we treated her so kindly that she finally let her heart be touched by the rays of divine grace. She confessed her sins and received our divine Lord, who had been longing to see her return to Him. The Bread of Angels was brought twice to her miserable hut, and, this morning, she breathed her last. God alone knows how much the

poor woman suffered while left to herself. She was not able to lie down and so much pus came from her sores that we often found her stuck to the bench on which she was sitting. Oh! with what lively sentiments of hope and love were our souls filled when we saw with what infinite mercy the Good Shepherd kept seeking His lost sheep, scabby in every sense of the word, and with what great tenderness He treated her until she drew her last breath.



A HAPPY OLD COUPLE, TSUNGMING, CHINA.

going to remain stuck in it or are going to lose our shoes. At last, we reach our destination. Our little patient is very weak, and, after treating him, we give him the medicine he needs the most: Holy Baptism, which will open heaven to him. We return home happy, for we feel that the child, whom we named James, will soon be with God.

Tuesday, July 24

For a few days past, the rain has been falling in torrents. Everyone is overjoyed, heads no longer remain drooping and the vegetables, which have been affected by the drought, grow green again after drinking in the beneficial water. Everything foretells a crop not as rich, perhaps, as that of a year of plenty, but one which will be greatly appreciated.

We are asked to go to visit a sick child. There is no way of refusing. Our trip is truly an apostolic one. We are half hidden by our umbrellas, but the *lou dou* (reeds) and the cornstalks sprinkle us in such a way that before long we are wet from head to foot. At each bridge, we are obliged to get out of our cart and walk for a while for, otherwise, the wheels would slide and procure us an unpleasant bath. Our feet sink into the wet clay and we begin to think that we are either

Saturday, August 4

Reverend Father Muller comes to give us a talk on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. It is a little early, perhaps, but we shall be all the better prepared for the great feast of our heavenly Mother. And must we not gather up the manna when it falls... Reverend Father is leaving tomorrow and we shall not have a chaplain until September.

Monday, August 6

We visit the home of one of our patients, a Christian gentleman, and, on our way back, we are overtaken by a rainstorm. While waiting for the weather to clear up, we seek shelter near a pagan home. On seeing us, the passers-by grow curious and they stop to talk to us and to ask us all kinds of questions... A woman, on learning that we treat the sick, shows us her baby, which is so ill that Holy Baptism is the only medicine good for it. It is a blessing that we have a storm of the kind, for it procures a poor little mite eternal happiness.

Wednesday, August 8

At two o'clock this afternoon, Sister Marie de Sion finishes treating her patients at Paochen. Wishing to make good use of the rest of her time, she decides to go to seek other sick people, in order to save their souls. She sends for some coolies and tells them that she and a companion are going out for the afternoon. When they ask her where she wants to be taken to, she tells them not to be so inquisitive and to do just what she tells them to do. At a spot where the roads branch off, the men inquire in which direction she wants to go; she bids them turn to the right. They do so and keep on going. All of a sudden, a woman comes out of a house and, beckoning to Sister, says: "*Doctor*, do come to see my sick child." On entering the pagan home, Sister finds a nine-year-old boy who is almost at death's door. She rubs his limbs, gives him some medicine and speaks to him of God, of our holy religion and of the Sacrament of Baptism. The lad readily believes everything Sister tells him and the Saving Waters are poured on his brow. It is certain that this new child of Holy Mother Church will leave this very evening to proclaim forevermore God's wonderful mercy. On her way back to the convent, our happy Sister baptizes another dying child.

Saturday, August 11

To-day, our Sisters have seven baptisms: one at the Dispensary, four at the Foundling-Home and two at Paochen. Everyone is busy, for it is the time for the *Dou Kong Sou*, the gathering of the corn. Corn is the chief food of the inhabitants. Every year it must be gathered on a fixed date, otherwise anyone at all is allowed to take it. The women of our workshop, headed by their mistress, gladly help the orphans and the hired men to take in ours. It is interesting to see all these people at work. They remind us of the little ant busy putting aside food for the winter.

Monday, August 13

We receive six babies this afternoon, shortly after thirteen others have been brought to the church to be baptized. What a beautiful harvest of souls!... One of the three little ones carried here from Paochen was found

lying on the side of the road. If our Sisters had gone that way five minutes later, they would have seen only a little corpse.

Friday, August 17

To-day, a pagan asks the Sister at the dispensary in Paochen if she has any medicine good for a fright. "What kind of a fright?" Sister inquires. "A baby was born eight days ago," the man tells her, "and, when we touch its face, it takes convulsions." Sister asks him to bring her the child, as she cannot give him any medicine good for it without first seeing it. The distracted father informs her that he lives eleven *li* distant and that it is impossible for him to come back the same evening. Arrangements are then made. A Chinese wheel-barrow is hired and Sister is taken to the pagan home. On reaching it, she finds a baby in the throes of death. It may easily be seen what medicine is needed. Sister, after rubbing the limbs of the little one a number of times, finally has the chance of pouring the Saving Waters on its brow. Doubtlessly, the Guardian Angel of the sick child had begun to be afraid that it was going to die without Baptism.

Saturday, August 18

A man comes to the Dispensary in Paochen to have a tooth extracted. Wishing to show us that he is able to pay, he asks us how much he owes us. We tell him that it will be two *ko* (twenty cents in Chinese money or six in ours). As he has only half that much with him, he immediately takes off his shirt, which is supposed to be worth five *ko*, and lays it on the table, saying: "Sister, I'm giving you my shirt as a guarantee, it's worth five *ko*, keep it until I come back this afternoon with the rest of the money."

Wednesday, August 22

Just lately, a woman of Paochen, seventy-two years of age, was knocked down by an automobile while she was crossing the road. Someone ran at once to the Dispensary to ask us to go to attend to her. The poor creature was far more frightened than she should have been and she kept screaming. She was not seriously injured but, owing to her advanced age, she was shaken up more than we expected. She was obliged to remain in bed and she was often feverish. Every second or third day, her husband came for us and we had the happiness of explaining the sublime truths of our holy religion to our patient. Her heart was soon softened by the rays of divine grace and she readily consented to burn her idols so as to adore the one true God who, in His infinite mercy, makes use of every means in order to save a soul. To-day, we are asked to pay another visit to our patient. The virgin catechist speaks encouragingly to her and when we see that the poor woman looks favourably upon our holy religion, we decide to baptize her and to present her to our Immaculate Lady, for this is the octave-day of the Assumption. Before the Sacred Waters of Baptism are poured on her brow, she says over and over again: "Dear God, I believe in Thee, dear God, I love Thee, forgive me my sins." All the while, big tears roll down

her cheeks and onto the crucifix which she presses to her lips. Oh! what infinite mercy does Almighty God show to a poor old creature who has heard about Him so late in life. The husband of our patient seems to be longing for the same happiness. He has learned the different prayers along with the neophyte and, as his memory is better than hers, he will be able to repeat the invocations to Jesus, Mary and Joseph.



A FEW WOMEN SHELTERED AT THE MISSION OF TSUNGMING, WHILE AWAITING THE OPENING OF THE OLD FOLKS' HOME, WHICH IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

Thursday, August 23

Our aged friend, whose home is in Paochen, and his wife, the old lady who wears the ornamental pin, procure one of our Sisters the happiness of pouring the Saving Waters on the brow of a dying pagan baby but fifteen days old.

Saturday, August 25

To-day, the husband of the woman we baptized on the 22nd comes to the Dispensary. Quite abashed, he tells us that he has forgotten the prayers we taught him and asks us to teach them to him again. He has no human respect and sits down at once with the virgin catechist and repeats after her the different prayers before everyone present. Oh! what a poor memory has this pagan, who is seventy years of age! It is hard for him to remember the words he has just been taught. He does not forget how to say Jesus and he also remembers the word Mary, for it is the name his wife received in Baptism, but he can never think of the word Joseph. After studying hard for an hour, he goes over to his teacher, saying: "If I forget, I'll come back." Could anyone be more willing-hearted?

SUCHOW, KIANGSU, CHINA

*Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries
to Suchow, Kiangsu.*

Sunday, September 9, 1934

To-morrow, we shall leave Sienhsien, where, for the past four months, we have been treated with the greatest charity and kindness by the devoted Helpers of the Holy Souls. On this the last day we are spending with these Sisters, they do us many a favour. We are unable to do anything for them in return for all that they have done for us, but we do not fail to entreat our Immaculate Mother to pay the debt of gratitude we owe them.



VERANDAH OF THE CONVENT OF SIENHSIEN. MOTHER MARIE DE SAINT SIMON,
A HELPER OF THE HOLY SOULS, WHO FOUNDED THIS CONVENT.

Towards half-past ten, Mgr. Lecroart, Vicar Apostolic of Sienhsien, comes to say good-bye to us. His Excellency tells us that he hopes that our apostolate will be a fruitful one and bids us god-speed. While conversing with us, he gives us some precious advice, which we shall faithfully follow.

This evening, the Helpers of the Holy Souls kindly invite us to assist at a little farewell concert on their verandah. In a song fitting to the occasion, they tell us of their apostolic desires and wish us success in our future work. "We long," do they repeat, "to save souls; together we shall fight for them, suffer for them and love them, etc." Yes, reverend and dear Sisters, we shall unite with you in making sacrifices and together we shall work for the salvation of souls!

Monday, September 10

It is time for us to leave Sienhsien... We are deeply emotioned, but it is not without great happiness that we answer the call from God, who wishes us to go to Suchow. This vast mission field is confided to the Jesuit Fathers from Canada, who are under the authority of Mgr. Marin.

We set out towards eight o'clock. Our caravan consists of three carts, the first being occupied by Sister Superior,⁽¹⁾ the second, by Sister St. Victor⁽²⁾ and the third, which is the biggest one, by Sister Marie Xavier⁽³⁾ and Sister Ste. Alice⁽⁴⁾. We are highly honoured, for we are being pulled along by Mgr. Lecroart's white mules. His Excellency was kind enough to let his catechist and his driver accompany us to Potouchen.

Towards noon, we stop for a while to take our lunch. The highway over which we travelled at first was in a rather good condition but the road we are on now is so rough that the poor mules have a hard time drawing us; they are knee-deep in the mud and our carts come near upsetting many a time.

Finally, we arrive safe and sound at the mission of Potouchen where the Presentandines, who receive us as well as they can, have their pupils sing us a song of welcome. We sit down to the meal which the devoted Chinese virgins have got ready for us and, after eating heartily, we drive to the hotel to await the train, which is due at half-past ten to-night. The roads are in such a bad condition that we are obliged to get out and walk for a half an hour. The pagans grow curious on noticing how we are dressed. Never before have we been examined in such a way; crowds of people gather around us, all wondering who we are and where we are going. Truly, a queen or princess passing this way could have no more attendants than we have: some beggars ask us for help, a few children skip about in front of us and some others laugh and make fun of us; during this time, we think of how our loving Lord was mocked while on the way to Mount Calvary and we rejoice to think that we resemble Him a little...

Several *sien cheng* walk in front of us carrying our luggage. His Excellency's catechist manifests his Christlike charity and makes us think of a touching scene in the Gospel when he reaches a river, over which there is a shaky narrow bridge which one must be careful on. An old blind man who can hardly drag himself along, is on the bank of the river and, as no one pays any attention to him, our catechist helps him across the bridge. We hope that all the pagans who witnessed this act of charity may be fully convinced that the followers of Christ are charitable and compassionate and that they all may lead better lives.

We reach the station about a quarter to eleven. The train which is to bring us to Suchow is a bluish one and everyone calls it the "blue" train. The seats are rather comfortable and we are able to take a little

1. Sister Marie de la Protection, Cecile ROBERGE, of Quebec.

2. Germaine TANGUAY, of Nashua, N. H.

3. Berthe PARADIS, of Tingwick.

4. Jeanne BASTIEN, of Montreal.



MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, SUCHOW, CHINA.
THREE PRESENTANDINES AND THEIR PUPILS.

rest. As we are very tired, we fall asleep from time to time and, on arising at daybreak, we feel that the hours have glided by rapidly.

Tuesday, September 11

Our first thought this morning is to offer God our day's work. After making a spiritual Communion and our meditation, we take breakfast. We greatly enjoy our spiritual reading, for it reminds us of the precious words of advice addressed us by our dear Mother Foundress. May it be profitable to us so that we may always be a consolation to this Mother, who bears us such a tender love.

At half-past ten, we are not far from Suchow. On reaching our dear mission station, we are overjoyed. We cannot begin to describe to you the uproar there is when we got off the train. There are several coolies waiting to take our baggage, one trying to get ahead of the other. Fortunately, Reverend Father Cote, S.J., who has come to greet us, sees to everything. Here, also, we excite every one's curiosity.

When we enter the Mission Compound, fireworks are exploded, for it is the custom in China to welcome all *personages* by a racket of the kind. The pupils, in holiday attire, are lined up and they bow gracefully to us. The house that has been arranged for us is decorated with pine twigs intermingled with roses of different colours. A table has been set for us, but what strikes us the most is a little framed picture of Our Lady, placed at one end of it. We love to think that it is the Blessed Virgin herself who receives us. After taking us into the different rooms of the house, which is not a spacious one, the Presentandines leave us in order to finish



MISSIONARIES OF SUCHOW STANDING NEAR A FIELD OF MILLET, WITH THEIR HATS ON. ONE NEEDS TO WEAR A HAT IN CHINA, FOR THE HEAT OF THE SUN IS INTENSE THERE.

getting dinner ready. While waiting for them, we kneel down before the picture of our heavenly Mother to read all together our Act of Consecration. Deeply emotioned, we repeat: "O Mary, deign to bless thy children who have come here to make thee as well as thy divine Son, known and loved. Assist us, for we are weak; without thy help, all our efforts will be useless. Hide us beneath thy mantle and help us, above all, to be fervent missionaries. O Mary, we entreat thee to bless the mission confided to us."

Mgr. Marin and the priests of the Mission have, with the greatest solicitude, put everything in readiness and the Presentandines give us a warm welcome.

This afternoon, Mgr. Marin, who comes to give us his blessing, tells us that we must practise patience, as the permit for the building of our future convent has not yet been obtained. "If we rush things on," he says, "we may cause embarrassment, the best thing to do is to wait until it is God's good time." After our distinguished visitor leaves us, we are invited to go with him to assist at a concert organized by the pupils.

As we enter the reception room, mouth organs are played. In a song of welcome and an address, etc., the children tell us of their joy and gratitude and of their eagerness to have us in their midst. We begin to love these dear little ones as soon as we see them.

Wednesday, September 12

Sister St. Victor feels quite at home in our little kitchen; the shining pots have been placed on the stove, in which there is a good fire, and Sister will have soup ready for us at dinner-time. Mgr. Marin has remarked that our humble dwelling resembles the stable of Bethlehem, but we are, nevertheless, very happy here.

Thursday, September 13

Sister Marie Xavier picks up her little medicine chest and goes with Sister Superior to pay a visit to a sick Presentandine of Fongsien, who arrived here this afternoon. The people of the Mission have learned that Sister is a *tai-fou* (doctor) and already several children have come to her to have their little sores attended to.

Friday, September 14

Our divine Lord will soon take up His abode in our humble dwelling. To-morrow, Mass will be said here for the first time. Very grateful, indeed, are we for such a privilege. We hasten to transform a small room into a chapel, by putting white paper on the walls and decorating it in a fitting manner; but, above all, we strive to drive all coldness from our hearts, so that when Jesus comes to us He will not suffer as He did in Bethlehem, but taste in our little convent the sweetness of Nazareth.

Saturday, September 15

We are very very happy, for in our modest little chapel now resides He who is so great that the world is not big enough to contain Him. How loving and condescending is our divine Spouse! Sacrifices and privations will not cause us the least sorrow, now that Jesus is with us. If He sends them to us, He will sweeten them with love and we shall be pleased to offer them to Him, that souls may be saved.

While sharing the sorrows of the Blessed Virgin, whom Holy Mother Church bids us honour to-day, we, with our whole hearts, praise our glorious Queen and, in loving accents, repeat our gratitude to her.

Sunday, September 16

To-day, Sister Superior has the great happiness of registering the first baptism in Suchow. Meeting on the street a woman carrying a very sick two-year-old baby, we ask her to bring it to the Mission, where it will be easy for us to give it treatment. She hesitates at first, for she is afraid, but she finally makes up her mind to ask the parents of the child confided to her to let her bring it to us. A few minutes later, she carries the poor infant to a room in the establishment conducted by the Presentandines, which, for the time being, is being used as a dispensary. The little one is baptized, receiving the name of Joseph Paul, and, no doubt, it will not be long before it goes to join the angels.

Monday, September 17

We are asked to give hospitality to two Spanish Capuchin Sisters, who are on their way to Shanghai. Really, we are not able to give them a fitting reception, for we are very poor. After assisting at Mass in the Cathedral, they are brought to us by one of the priests of the Mission. We are greatly pleased to serve them breakfast, a very meagre repast, indeed. We go through the house trying to find a chair for everyone and, in the end, we are obliged to take two little benches out of the kitchen. We have to go to the chapel for the box of biscuits, which serves as a stand for the statue of the Blessed Virgin; happily, nobody knows that it is there... These Sisters, whose visit is such an unexpected one, give us the occasion of practising the beautiful virtue of charity and we are very glad to do something in return for all the kindness shown us by the different Sisterhoods during our trip from Szepinghai. Charity is a virtue that is greatly appreciated, especially in a pagan land.

Wednesday, September 19

More than ever before, we realize that we must learn Chinese, in order to attend to the works which will be confided to us in the near future, and it is with fresh ardour that we settle down, this morning, to study the different characters. Our teacher is a Presentandine, who, two weeks ago, left the establishment of the Helpers of the Holy Souls, in Shanghai, where she had been preparing for the task assigned her

Tuesday, September 20

Ever since the day of our arrival, the pagans and even the Christians have been staring at us, but now a few of them greet us with a smile and the children call us *Sieou Mou* (Sisters). We hope that, little by little, all the poor people here will discover that we are not particularly concerned for ourselves, but that we have come here only to save souls.

This afternoon, Sister Superior does some shopping and we all derive benefit from it, for, at supper-time, we each are given a flowered dessert dish.

We are able to make our visitors a little more comfortable than we made them a few days after coming here, for now we have suitable new chairs for all of them. We have begun to feel more at home in our new little convent; in it we have just what is absolutely necessary, but it is tidy and every article is in its proper place. We are all very happy, have good appetites and sleep well.

Friday, September 21

To-day, Reverend Father Delbeke, S. J., pastor of Ma Tsing, brings us a basket of nice tomatoes from his own garden. God certainly does not forget to provide for His children and we return Him heartfelt thanks for all His benefits.

Saturday, September 22

If anyone were to come to our convent, he would think that there had been a storm therein. The white paper on the walls of the chapel, which we liked so well, is soaking wet. I shall tell you what has happened. Sister Marie Xavier has just finished scrubbing the floor in the dormitory. As it is far from being waterproof, we shall, henceforth, have yellow flowered wall paper in the chapel. Sister Superior, who was working in the refectory also was unpleasantly sprinkled. Our umbrellas would come in handy here. But such little annoyances only cause us to find life more interesting.

Saturday, September 29

It is so hot to-day that we imagine that summer has returned. We could, without going to much trouble, sail merrily in a canoe outside in the yard. Before carrying the dishes of food from the kitchen to the refectory, we put up our umbrellas. We are very careful, but get well sprinkled just the same. Everything is so amusing that we feel happier from day to day on the Missions.

WAKAMATSU, JAPAN

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Wakamatsu.

Tuesday, September 26, 1934

This is one of the happiest days we have spent in our new mission. Mgr. Dumas, Administrator Apostolic, who came here on Sunday, the 23rd, this morning blessed our humble convent, which was erected recently, and celebrated therein the Holy Sacrifice. Our distinguished visitor had superintended the construction with fatherly interest. The chapel was prettily decorated with blue and white pennants and the altar and the statue of St. Joseph were adorned with roses. Reverend Fathers Reid, Lemieux, Dionne, Laporte, Larose and Lenzette, two Sisters of the Notre Dame Congregation and two of our Sisters of Koriyama, honoured us with their presence. Most of the Christians assisted at this first Mass celebrated in our convent and received Holy Communion.

After High Mass, we voiced a hymn of gratitude and, while a hymn in Japanese was being sung, all present walked in procession to the front entrance for the blessing of our convent by Mgr. Dumas. They returned to the chapel singing the *Ave Maris Stella* while the children's classrooms were being blessed.

Towards three o'clock in the afternoon, an official ceremony was held in the Kindergarten, our distinguished visitors, some Christians and the parents of our little pupils being present. First of all, the "Kimi ga yo", the National Hymn of Japan, was sung and then addresses were delivered by Mgr. Dumas, Father Larose, our Pastor, and a leading man of the prefecture. The ceremony was brought to a close by the singing of "O Canada" so dear to the hearts of all Canadians, and little rice cakes were distributed to the guests as souvenirs. We had prepared a Canadian supper for the priests who had come from the different missions to spend the day with us, and Mgr. Dumas deigned to preside at it. If it is pleasant for Sisters to live together, it is still more pleasant to feel that we are the object of your maternal solicitude, beloved Mother, and the object, also, of so much delicate thoughtfulness on the part of our revered Administrator Apostolic.

Monday, October 1

It is with the greatest joy that we greet the return of the beautiful month of the Holy Rosary. At the mission every evening, there are special devotions, at which some fifteen Christians and catechumens assist. What a consolation it is to us to hear these good people singing the praises of Our Blessed Mother in their own language! We only wish that there were more of them. We hope that our *Aves*, which we shall recite during the month with greater piety and fervour than usual, may help to increase the number of the faithful children of Our Lady of the Rosary.



AFTER THE SOLEMN BLESSING OF THE KINDERGARTEN IN CHARGE OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, WAKAMATSU,
BY MGR. A. DUMAS, O. P., ADM. AP. FOR THE DIOCESE OF HAKODATE, JAPAN (SEPTEMBER 25TH, 1934).

Wednesday, October 3

How often during the day do we ask the dear little Patroness of Missionaries to shower roses upon our mission and to help us to make God known and to cause Him to be loved as she herself loved Him. The little decoration around her statue, in the chapel, bespeaks our gratitude for the numerous favours she has obtained us and we feel that it will remind her to continue to intercede for us.

Thursday, October 11

For some time past, our Pastor, Reverend Father Larose, O. P., has been wanting to show us one of the Christian settlements in an outlying district to which he goes every month. As a gentleman there said he would give us a number of trees for our grounds if we visited his home, the first chance we have we comply with Reverend Father's desires and with those of the Christians of the settlement. At two o'clock in the afternoon, we set out in a rather comfortable autobus. We have plenty of time to admire the beautiful mountains, which are so variegated in this region, for we are two hours in the vehicle. The winding road lies between high peaks and a pretty little river a hundred feet below it. The shallow waters of this stream flow gently over a bed of pebbles and in them are reflected

the cedars which deck the slopes of the mountains on the other side. Here and there, groups of rustic cabins forming little villages tell of the poverty of the people dwelling therein and make us think of the martyrdom they must suffer when the region is covered with snow. We are able to see at a close range the dire misery of the inhabitants when we reach the home of the Christian gentleman who asked us to pay him a visit. On entering, we see a horse, which appears to be one of the household. It is just near enough to greet us, and its manger is beside a number of tubs, pails, pots and pans which have been thrown pell-mell around a cistern in the very back. The untidy room is known as the kitchen. The only floor is the bare ground. Doors covered over with paper separate this room from a larger one which shelters three generations. We are extended a hearty



CHURCH OF THE MISSION OF WAKAMATSU
DEDICATED TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

welcome and, after being greeted in the customary way by all the people, who ask us to excuse them for receiving us in such a place, we are conducted to a little dwelling of a European type of architecture. It is not far from the big house and is reserved for visitors; we feel more comfortable in it than we did when we were seated on the mats in the spacious abode, near some burning branches, the smoke from which filled the whole room.

In the evening, we have the happiness of seeing the twenty Christians of the district at the Rosary devotions. The following day, nearly all of them assist at Mass and receive Holy Communion. Our Reverend Pastor is building great hopes on the Christian settlement in Fukumezawa; a small church is being erected near the place we stayed at and, most probably there will be many Christians there before very long.

Towards half-past nine, we start back home, happy to think that we have made others happy and fully confident that we shall soon receive some beautiful trees for our grounds.

Tuesday, October 16

Complying with the wishes of Reverend Father Larose, O.P., we organize a choir for the girls of the Catechuminate; there is choir practice for the first time, this afternoon, fourteen Japanese maidens being present. The Japanese like to hear hymns being sung and we hope that this kind of apostolate will prove a success.



JAPANESE CHILDREN
WEARING THE NATIONAL DRESS.

A WORD OF THANKS

Kowloon, China.

Reverend and dear Mother,

Great was my joy when the case coming from the Mother House was opened to find that a dear little girl in Montreal West, Miss Margaret Leitch, aged 6, had sacrificed her pretty statue of St. Ann in order to send it to a far-away Missionary...

St. Ann now has a place of honor in the 5th and 6th year class-room in our Tak Sun School (School of the Faith)... She seems to be quite at home and I feel sure that She will protect us in a special manner... It is through THE PRECURSOR that I wish to convey my word of thanks to the little girl...

Perhaps someone else will be prompted to send us a little Infant Jesus for our Crib next year, as at present we have only a doll.

Yours gratefully,

Sr. St. John of Calvary, (1) M.I.C.

1. Doris Hague, of Montreal.

Extracts FROM THE Novitiate Chronicles

Dedicated to our dear Parents



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

St. Bernard.

Sunday, November 25, 1934

Three days ago we voiced the praises of the Patroness of Music and, to-day, it is the joyful feast of St. Catherine which we loyally celebrate. Thanks to the generosity of some of our relatives and benefactors, we enjoy the traditional taffy. Early this morning, the smell of it filled all the rooms of the convent. In the corridors, we meet the postulants, who are hurrying to the kitchen, happy to accept the invitation extended them to pull the taffy. As for us, who are older and wiser, we are glad that our younger Sisters have such an opportunity of enjoying themselves; we know full well that we shall be invited to partake of the fruits of their labour.

St. Catherine is also the patroness of philosophers. She is not our patroness in every sense of the word, but when we consider that God has made us understand that true philosophy consists in treasuring the things of this world and those of eternity according to their real worth and that He has asked us to give up the former in order to acquire the latter, we come to the conclusion that the wise virgin St. Catherine must desire to bestow some special favours upon us, humble little novices, and that she will obtain us a few luminous rays of Divine Wisdom, by means of which we shall be able to do what we believe is right.

Tuesday, November 27

The Feast of the Miraculous Medal recalls to our minds the countless miracles wrought through the medium of the precious talisman which was brought down to earth by our Immaculate Lady. More than one book would be required to relate those which the humble Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception have witnessed; it is no wonder that our medal is one of our most treasured keepsakes.

Sister Superior goes to the Mother House for the afternoon and we keep thinking that she will be back before the evening recreation is over. However, it is only after we have kept silence for half an hour that the door-bell rings. Immediately, there is a ray of hope and, in the different classrooms, the books close almost of their own accord, all of us forget to keep our eyes cast down, questioning smiles are to be seen everywhere, and, finally, we all leave our places and hasten to greet Sister Superior, who is very happy after spending many pleasant hours with our beloved Mother. The novices and postulants have not been forgotten; our Mother has sent a Miraculous Medal for each one of us and also two lovely framed maxims

for the Novitiate and the Postulate. The maxims read: "God could have made a better world, a more beautiful heaven, but not a greater Mother."

Even though sickness compels our dear Mother Foundress to remain in her room, she is, as ever, a devoted servant of Mary; her one thought is to do good to everyone with the help of our Immaculate Mother. May we ever strive to follow in her footsteps!

Saturday, December 8

It is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception! Truly, no other festival in honour of our heavenly Mother is as great as this one! That is why it is celebrated with as much pomp and love as possible by her children who have the great honour of being placed under her protection.

Our chapel, this morning, is a bower of beauty. An abundance of sweet-smelling lilies adorns the altars; the pure white petals of these stately flowers appear still more dazzling when an azure blue light is reflected upon them. Oh! how ravishingly beautiful is the Madonna! One would think that, in order to receive the loving homage of her children, she has crossed the threshold of heaven and that the door, hidden by a handsome blue drapery, has been closed behind her. The drapery, which has a silver fringe, is kept in place by tiny bunches of lilies, and is surmounted by a glittering silver star. We gaze at the radiant apparition, and waft heavenward our praises and prayers.

After the spiritual exercises this morning, we all go to the assembly room, where we are given recreation. We immediately wish our Mistress and the Professed Sisters a happy feast, and then have a pleasant time talking about the things that impress us the most on this great day. How beautiful are the new decorations around Our Lady's statue! We simply admire them when we learn that they were given us by our beloved Mother. The silver star which adorns the blue drapery and which seems to sparkle just above the Blessed Virgin's head, is a type of our Congregation. Thirty years ago to-day, our humble Institute appeared before the eyes of Holy Mother Church, just like this little star which you see for the first time. It was in the year of the Golden Jubilee of the Proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. On that day, His Holiness Pope Pius X permitted our Community to exist and gave us the beautiful name by which we are known. Our Mistress bids us spend the entire day in expressing our gratitude to our Immaculate Lady, who has bestowed so many favours upon us ever since the never-to-be-forgotten date of December 8th, 1904.

We then glance at the little skiff, whose sails are unfurled, and which has been placed at the foot of a beautiful statue of the Blessed Virgin. Our Mistress kindly explains to us what it signifies: "This skiff," she says, "is another type of our dear Institute, over which many a storm has swept during the thirty years it has been in existence, I can assure you... But the pilot, — our beloved Mother, — has always had an unwavering faith and a boundless confidence in the sweet Star of the Sea, her guide and her

protectress, who has not permitted the angry waves to swallow up the frail bark."

In the evening, an entertainment which has been prepared for the Professed Sisters, is given. The programme comprises a play entitled: "The Angels' Council". It represents Our Lady granting an audience to the Guardian Angels appointed by her to protect the Community and to help its members to acquire the characteristic virtues they should possess. How charming is the tableau which represents the Queen of Heaven surrounded by angels! At the close of the beautiful little celebration, we feel like asking the dazzling Seraphim to lend us their harmonious voices so as to be able to unite with them in praising our Immaculate Mother for the sublime privileges which are hers.

Monday, December 24

The whole day is spent in silence: is this not the best way to get ready to celebrate a great feast? Each one of us works very diligently and it may easily be seen that the ineffable mystery about to be commemorated is uppermost in all minds. In the afternoon, the thousand *Aves* are fervently recited in the different rooms, for it will not be long before Jesus will be born mystically in our hearts. Let us strive to repeat our aspirations to the Divine Child with the greatest fervour, so that we may be less unworthy to receive Him.

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas is celebrated, at the Novitiate, with all customary pomp, and all our beautiful customs are religiously observed. A few minutes before midnight, just like the shepherds of old, we are awakened by "angels' voices". We assist at the three Masses and, after the traditional midnight repast, we go back to bed, the sweet notes of our touching Christmas hymns still ringing in our ears. This morning, we are awakened a little later than usual by the singing of the "angel choirs". Ever since yesterday, the doors of the assembly room have remained mysteriously closed and it is a solemn moment for us when we are invited to go in. A beautiful Christmas tree has been decorated for us. Its heavily-laden branches, covered with sparkling hoar-frost, stretch out protectingly over a charming Infant. The surprise baskets sent by some thoughtful mothers, and the bright-coloured cones filled with candy are greatly admired. The distributing of the many letters from home, which are appreciated more and more as time goes on, then takes place. After supper, there is a pretty Christmas play followed by a delightful "Lullaby" to the Infant King.

We have mentioned a few things which happened on Christmas Day 1934. Not a cloud marred our happiness. We are very grateful to God, for it was He who caused us to have such a good time on this blessed and happy Feast.

Monday, December 31

How we prize the beautiful custom of making the last day of the year a day of thanksgiving and of reparation! Oh, how many favours have we received from God during the year which has just gone by and how often have we failed to thank Him for all His kindness to us! It is, therefore, in order to satisfy a longing desire that each one makes up her mind to say by her every thought and action: "Dear God, I thank Thee, and I am sorry for having offended Thee." As there are no hours of recreation, the day is one of recollection and, during the extra time given us, we pray and sing hymns until the setting sun invites us, for the last time in 1934, to take a good night's rest.

It is still very dark when we are awakened by the ringing of the bell. It is not yet morning, but it will not be long before we greet the dawn of a new year... What kind of a year will this year be?... It is a puzzling question for many, but one we are ready to answer: it will be the kind of a year God wishes it to be. After glancing into the future, we think of the present: 1934 will soon be gone, let us hasten to our Eucharistic King, in order to offer Him the last moments of the fleeting year, and the first of the new. How impressive is the hour which we spend in the chapel! From half-past eleven until midnight, we thank our loving God for all His benefits, tell Him how sorry we are for our sins, and sing a touching hymn before the old year dies. Then we wait in silence until the clock strikes twelve. Immediately after, we hasten to confide to God, the year which is just beginning. We implore His blessings upon all mankind, but especially upon Holy Mother Church, upon our dear Community and upon our beloved parents. Our Mistress, in the name of all present, then offers her filial love to our heavenly Father and to our Immaculate Mother.

One must live through those blessed moments in order to understand how beautiful and impressive they are.

Tuesday, January 1, 1935

On New Year's Day, no one in the Novitiate is sad. Do we not belong to two families instead of to only one? This afternoon, while awaiting the arrival of our loving parents, we all gather around our dear Sister Superior, who reads to us a letter containing our Mother's best wishes. Our dear Mother has sent us some precious leaflets and some lovely gifts. After embracing one another, we enjoy ourselves until it is time to retire for the night.

Sunday, January 6

The three Wise Kings have made their appearance. They must have travelled all night, just like they did of old for, although it is still dark, they are kneeling at the Crib when we enter the chapel this morning. We greet them with joy, for we love and admire these holy men, who represented us at Bethlehem and who so fondly clasped the Infant Jesus to their breasts.

The traditional Epiphany cake is served at dinner. How we would like to find, in the piece which we take, the pea or the bean which does not confer on us an honourable title lasting only a moment, but which procures us the privilege of being remembered in Holy Communion by all the members of the Community.

On this, the last day of Yuletide, our Mistress gives us a pleasant surprise by reading to us the letters received from our different convents for Christmas and New Year's. After supper, we wait a little impatiently for our companions, who are busy washing the dishes or putting the refectory in order. Not one of us must be missing when the interesting letters are being read, for we would rather hear what our dear Sisters on the Missions have to tell us than amuse ourselves.

All of a sudden, the captivating notes of a lively march are heard in the distance. Drums are being loudly beaten, and we soon hear the sound of footsteps. Headed by a band-master who is queerly costumed, the postulants soon take possession of the room in which we have assembled, and show us a little of their musical talent. After our younger sisters have been loudly applauded and have complied with our request for a repetition, Sister Superior offers to read the letters, telling us that the musicians will play some more tunes as interludes, later on.

Sister Superior then picks up, at random, the letters on the table, and brings us, first to Japan, then to Quebec, to Nominigue, to Canton, to Rimouski, to "Trois Rivières", to Manchuria, etc. etc. We follow her, step by step, without feeling tired. We are so interested that we think about the interludes only towards the end of recreation. A few minutes before the bell rings for night prayer, the postulants are asked to play another piece of music. The sweet notes fall gently upon our ears after the different trips which we have just taken.

Monday, January 7

We feel a little heart-pang, this morning, when we notice that the Christmas tree which we had in our recreation room, is being stripped of its decorations. "So soon!" do we exclaim, "how the time flies!" The pretty-shiny tinsel with which all the branches are so daintily decorated is taken down first, then the silver threads, which appeared as so many icicles against the dark green boughs, and last of all, a thousand and one pretty trinkets. The tree, stripped of all its decorations, looks very bare and very *sad*.

Do not grieve, little fir tree. Although the part which you played was not as glorious as that of some of your companions, you, nevertheless, shed the perfume of piety around you. In this Convent dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, your graceful branches sheltered the sweet Infant Jesus, whose anniversary we have just commemorated; by your presence you enhanced His beautiful Feast; you gladdened the hearts of His future spouses, and it was while you were performing such a glorious task that your short life was brought to a close. Little fir tree, rejoice!

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.

I received a request some time ago and am making my contribution, as promised. Please use it as you see fit in connection with your good works. Mrs. S. McD., **Dalhousie Station**. — We are very grateful to the Immaculate Conception, through whose intercession my father has got back the position he lost three years ago. Miss B. P., **Montreal**. — I had a Novena said a short time ago and I have obtained my favour. Please find enclosed an offering in thanksgiving to our Blessed Lady. Mrs. C., **Timmins, Ont.** — I return heartfelt thanks to our Immaculate Mother for the two favours which she has granted me. Mrs. T. C., **Taunton, Mass.** — My husband has obtained a position and to thank our dear heavenly Mother, I will subscribe to **THE PRECURSOR** for five years. Mrs. L. B., **Brockville, Ont.** — My most grateful thanks to our Blessed Lady, through whose intercession I have obtained some very special favours. Mrs. C. — I have received a favour and, in thanksgiving, am sending you my renewal subscription to **THE PRECURSOR** and a small offering for your works. Please pray that my husband and myself may regain our health and obtain some other favours. Mrs. J. J. P. — I am sending you an offering for the ransom of a dying Chinese baby in thanksgiving for the position I have secured. M. M. C., **Ottawa**. — I wish to return thanks to the Blessed Virgin, who has obtained me several favours. A. M. C., **Ottawa**. — I am enclosing an offering for the ransom of eight dying Chinese babies in grateful thanksgiving to our Immaculate Mother for the favour she has granted me. — I wish to return thanks to the Blessed Virgin who has granted me a favour. I entreat this tender Mother to continue to watch over me. Mrs. R. M. — I have received a favour and am enclosing a small offering to help the poor Chinese children. Mrs. J. B. T., **Providence, R. I.** — I am enclosing an offering for the Missions, in thanksgiving for a favour granted me. Y. D., **New Bedford, Mass.** — The Blessed Virgin has granted my request. Please unite with me in thanking her for all her kindness to me. I am enclosing an offering for the Missions, as promised. Mrs. L. D., **Montreal**. — The Blessed Virgin has granted my request. Enclosed please find a thank-offering. Mrs. J. B. V. — I have been granted a favour and, in thanksgiving, am sending you the enclosed offering for the ransom of a dying Chinese child. Mrs. A. F., **Montreal**. — I am enclosing the monthly offering which I promised to send you in honour of the Blessed Virgin for the position I have obtained. J. R. S. — Sometime ago, I promised to subscribe to **THE PRECURSOR** if I obtained a favour. My prayers have been answered and I am gladly fulfilling my promise. Miss L. R., **Clarence Creek, Ont.** — I wish to return thanks to the Blessed Mother of God. Enclosed please find an offering for the Missions. C. G. P., **Gardner, Mass.** — My husband has found work. Please unite with me in thanking the Blessed Virgin for this favour. Mrs. A. L., **Montreal**. — I am subscribing to **THE PRECURSOR** in thanksgiving to our dear heavenly Mother, who has lovingly watched over me. Mrs. E. L., **Fitchburg, Mass.** — I have obtained a favour through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. I wish you would publish this in **THE PRECURSOR**. A Client of Our Lady. — Sometime ago, I requested you to make a novena, asking that my husband would not lose his position. My petition has been granted, and I am gladly renewing my subscription to **THE PRECURSOR**. Mrs. H. Y., **Montreal**. — I am subscribing to **THE PRECURSOR** and am sending a small offering, as promised. My son has been successful in his examinations and has secured a position. Mrs. C. C. P. — Enclosed please find offering for your missions in China, in thanksgiving for a favour received through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. G. M. — I wish to return thanks to our dear heavenly Mother for a very special favour granted me. Miss J. G., **Montreal**. — With my subscription to **THE PRECURSOR** I am enclosing an offering in thanksgiving to our Blessed Lady for a favour received. M. A. L., **St. Jerome**. — Please find enclosed an offering for the ransom of a dying pagan baby, in thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a favour received and to obtain some others. Mrs. A. A., **Montreal**. — I am renewing my subscription to **THE PRECURSOR** in thanksgiving for a favour received. Mrs. E. L., **Montreal**. — I am very grateful to our Immaculate Mother, who has watched over us. Mrs. E. L., **Montreal**. — May our dear heavenly Mother be thanked a thousand times over for the cure she has obtained me and for another favour I have received. Please find enclosed my renewal subscription. Mrs. P., **Quebec**. — I am very thankful to our Blessed Lady for, through her intercession, I have been restored to health. Mrs. O. D., **Hochelaga**. — I have been granted a favour and am enclosing a small thank-offering. A Subscriber, **Shawinigan Falls**. — Enclosed please find a small donation. I am very thankfu

to our Blessed Mother for the favour she has granted me. Miss M. L. B., **Quebec**. — I am enclosing an offering in thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin, who has obtained me a position. G. H., **Chicoutimi**. — Enclosed please find an offering for the ransom of two pagan babies, in thanksgiving for two great favours granted me. Mrs. F. B., **Louiseville**. — Our Lady has granted me a favour and I am enclosing an offering for a novena of lights in her honour. May this loving Mother continue to watch over me. M. G., **Montreal**. — I wish to offer my sincere thanks to the Blessed Virgin and to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for having heard my prayers for my husband. A Subscriber, **Verdun**.

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."

Would you kindly make a novena for me. If my requests are granted I will send you a donation to help the Chinese babies. Mrs. E. C., **Montreal**. — I am going to ask you to keep on praying that I may be granted a special favour. When I receive it I shall send a thank-offering. Mrs. W. Wilcox, **Ohio**. — I am writing to ask you to pray that my husband may secure a permanent position. If this request is granted, I will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR and will send you an offering for the ransom of four dying babies. Mrs. J. A. McC., **Montreal**. Kindly remember me in your prayers. R. H., **Outremont**. — I wish you would make a novena for me just as soon as possible. If my favour is granted, I will send you a donation. J. H., **Windsor, Ont.** — I am not feeling very well. Please make a novena for me. Miss M., **Margaree Forks**. — I am writing to ask you to make a novena to Our Lady for my intentions. If I receive the favours I am asking, I will send you a donation and subscribe to THE PRECURSOR. Mrs. M. W., **Greenfield Park, Que.** — Will you kindly make a novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help, that my husband and son may get back their positions. Mrs. R. F., **Montreal**. Please make a novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal for my intentions. Miss M. S., **Thamesville, Ont.** — I wish to obtain a very special favour. Please ask Our Blessed Mother to come to my aid. Miss A. K., **Island Pond, Vt.** — Would you please make a novena to the Blessed Virgin that I may be granted a few special favours. Mrs. S., **Stanhope, Que.** May I ask you to remember me in your prayers. I am in need of much help. Mrs. W. P., **Outremont**. — Please pray that I may obtain two very special favours. Mrs. C., **Montreal**. Will you kindly make a novena to the Blessed Virgin for me. When my requests are granted, I will renew my subscription to THE PRECURSOR. Mrs. S., **Comber, Ont.** — Please pray that I may receive three great favours. B. P., **Montreal**. — Will you please make a novena for my one and only brother, who has been suffering for more than a year. I promise to send a donation as soon as I receive an answer to my prayers. S. W. — Please remember me in your prayers. J. H., **St. Marys, Ont.** — I wish to obtain a very special favour. Please pray for me. Mrs. A. J., **Leominster, Mass.** — I am writing to ask you to make a novena to Our Lady for me. If I receive the favours I am asking I will send you a small donation. L. G., **Westmount**. — Kindly remember my parents in your prayers. Mrs. F. R. — Please pray that I may find employment soon. A Subscriber. — Kindly remember us in your prayers. Mrs. R., **Greenfield Park**. — I am enclosing an offering for the ransom of a dying Chinese baby. I hope to obtain a special favour. Mrs. B., **North Bay, Ont.** — Please pray for my husband and myself. Mrs. T. C., **Belleville, Ont.** — Enclosed you will find an offering for the ransom of two dying babies. Kindly remember me in your prayers. A. C., **Plympton, N. S.** — I am asking you to pray to the Blessed Virgin for me, for I am not feeling well. Mrs. R. W., **Belle River, Ont.** — Please make a novena for my intentions. Mrs. C., **Timmins, Ont.** — If my petitions are answered very soon I will take your magazine for five years. Please pray hard for me. Anonymous. — I am enclosing an offering for the ransom of four dying babies. I will send another if I receive my favour. Please pray for me. C. M., **Aubrey, Que.** — I wish to obtain a favour. Please commence a novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help for me. Enclosed please find a small offering. A Friend, **Leamington, Ont.** — I am writing to ask you to beg the Blessed Virgin to obtain me three great favours. If my petitions are granted, I will send you an offering. A Subscriber, **Windsor, Ont.** — I hope to be cured without being obliged to go to the hospital. Please pray to the Blessed Virgin for me. Mrs. B., **Granby, Que.** — Will you kindly make a novena to Our Lady, asking that a dear friend of mine may obtain a position. I promise to send an offering when my request is granted.

I. M., **Montreal**. — I am sending you an offering for the ransom of a dying pagan baby and would ask you to pray for me, for I have a very sore throat. A Subscriber. — I entreat the Blessed Virgin to help my husband to secure a position, for we have several children to provide for. If my request is granted, I will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR as long as I am able and will send an offering for the ransom of four dying pagan babies. Mrs. J. B., **Quebec**. — I would ask you to pray that a friend of mine may obtain a very special favour. Anonymous. — I am coming in all confidence to ask you to pray that I may discover my vocation. If my request is granted, I will send a donation for the Missions, in thanksgiving to our Blessed Mother. A Subscriber, **Montreal**. — Please pray that the favour I am asking may soon be granted. I shall renew my subscription as soon as I am able. A Subscriber. — I am asking the Blessed Virgin to grant me success in an important undertaking. Anonymous. — If my husband is successful in an important undertaking, I will send you an offering every month. Mrs. H. C., **St. Johnsbury**. — Will you be kind enough to make a novena to the Blessed Virgin, asking that my husband may return to the Sacraments and that he may stop drinking. My two daughters are obliged to earn their living. Please pray that they may not lose their positions. Anonymous. — Will you kindly make a novena to the Immaculate Conception, asking that I may soon be granted a very special favour. M. A. L., **Aylmer**. — If my son keeps his position, I will renew my subscription to THE PRECURSOR. Mrs. F. L., **Chicoutimi**. — Please pray that we may be successful in selling our property. Mrs. H. B., — If I obtain the position I have in view, I will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR for three years and will send you an offering. Mrs. O. L. — Please pray that I may be restored to health, for I have six children to bring up. If my request is granted, I will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR as long as I live. Mrs. L. M., **St. Norbert**. — Please pray that I may be successful in an important undertaking. Mrs. O. L., **Ville Emard**. — I wish to obtain a special favour. Kindly remember me in your prayers. If my request is granted, I will send you a small donation and will publish my thanksgiving in THE PRECURSOR. T. S., **Montreal**. — I would ask you to make a novena to our Immaculate Mother for a special intention. I will send you an offering for your missions if my request is granted. A. M. F., **Verdun**. — I wish you would pray that my husband may lead a better life. A Subscriber, **Montreal**. — I am enclosing an offering for lights to be burned in honour of the Blessed Virgin. I entreat this tender Mother to cure me without my having to undergo an operation. A Subscriber. — Please pray that my son may obtain a position. If my request is granted, I will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR for a year. A. S., **Cochrane**. — I have great faith in our Blessed Mother and I am asking her to grant me a favour. If I obtain my request, I will send you an offering and will publish my thanksgiving in THE PRECURSOR. T. 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

Reverend Father O'HARA, P. P., St. Ann's Parish, Montreal; Reverend Father KELLY, P. P., Immaculate Conception Parish, Stratford, Ont.; Reverend Father PERRIN, Sacred Heart Parish, Schenectady, N. Y.; our Sister MARIE GEORGES, Novice; Reverend Mother ST. PATRICK, C. N. D., Montreal; Reverend Sister CLEMENT, St. Basile, N. B., sister of our Sister St. Paul; Mr. Isidore SURPRENANT, father of our Sister Marie de Nazareth; Mrs. W. SAUVE, mother of our Sisters Therese d'Avila and St. Bernard; Mr. Athanase LAVIGNE, St. Norbert, grandfather of our Sister Marie d'Ephese; Mr. Jules LAPIERRE, St. Hermas; Mrs. Hormisdas BLANCHARD, Jr., St. Germain de Grantham; Mrs. Catherine HEANEY, Montreal; Mrs. Elizabeth MAHONEY, Mansfield, Mass.; Mrs. Albert THOMPSON, Longueuil; Mr. J. L. CUMMINS, Montreal; Miss Anna OWENS, Ilion, N. Y.; Mr. Archie GRAY, Montreal West; Mrs. M. P. J. BRADY, Notre Dame de Grace; Miss N. O'NEILL, Montreal; Mr. John COONEY, Verdun; Mr. O. H. BRODEN, Montreal; Mrs. Susan DALTON, St. Thomas, Ont.

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4. — **Associates**, those who give the sum of \$2.00 a year.

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

Privileges Granted to Benefactors

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

Besides, Benefactors are entitled to the following spiritual advantages:

1. — A special intention in all the Masses heard and Communions received by the Sisters.

2. — A Mass offered every month for their intentions.

3. — Every Friday and Sunday in the year, the Sisters offer, for their Benefactors' intentions, their hours of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the chapel of the Mother House. (The names of Founders and Protectors are placed on the Altar of Exposition).

4. — For the same intentions, the members of the Community make, every day, the Guard of Honour to Mary, which consists in the continual recitation of the Rosary before the altar of the Blessed Virgin. The evening hours in Canada corresponding with the morning hours in China, as the Guard is closing here, it commences at the Shek Lung Lazaretto, where the poor lepers, in succeeding groups of fifteen, continue the Perpetual Rosary for the intentions of the Society's Benefactors.

5. — A Requiem High Mass is sung every year for deceased Benefactors.

6. — A share in the merits of the Way of the Cross, made daily by the Sisters, is also granted to deceased Benefactors.

7. — In the Noviate Chapel of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, two Masses are celebrated every week for all Subscribers to "The Precursor" and for all living and deceased Benefactors.