

THE PRECURSOR



Vol. X., 14th Year MONTREAL, November-December, 1936 No. 12

Works of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

IN CANADA

MOTHER HOUSE, 314 St. Catherine Road, Outremont, Que. (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, Que., (Bethany) (Founded in 1914)

RIMOUSKI, Que., St. Germain St. (Founded in 1918)

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JOLIETTE, Que., 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.

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

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GRANBY, Que., 35 Dufferin 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, Que., 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, Que., 285 Main St. (Founded in 1931)

Hostel "The Immaculate Conception" for girls.

STE. MARIE, Co. Beauce (Founded in 1932) Apostolic School.

RIMOUSKI, Que., St. Jean Baptiste St. (Founded in 1932)

Closed Retreats for ladies and girls. Kindergarten.

ST. JOHNS, Que., 430 Champlain St. (Founded in 1935)

Closed Retreats for ladies and girls.

(Continued on page 3 of the cover.)

Please Help the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

By procuring work for them.

THE Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception have a workroom in which are made church vestments and altar linens, the profit from which is destined to support their Mother House and Novitiate.

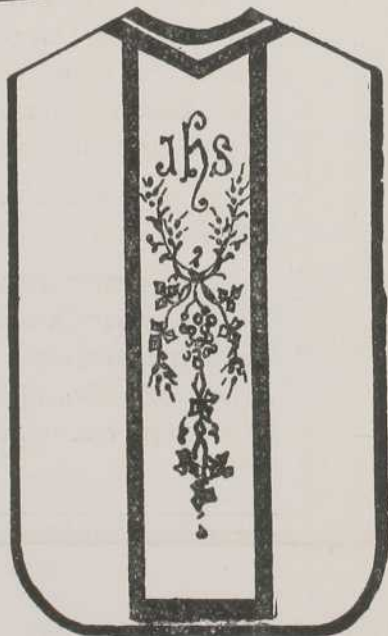
Missionaries must train for several years before being able to commence their apostolic work in foreign fields.

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 Dei*s, cushions, etc.

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

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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
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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	“ “

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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.

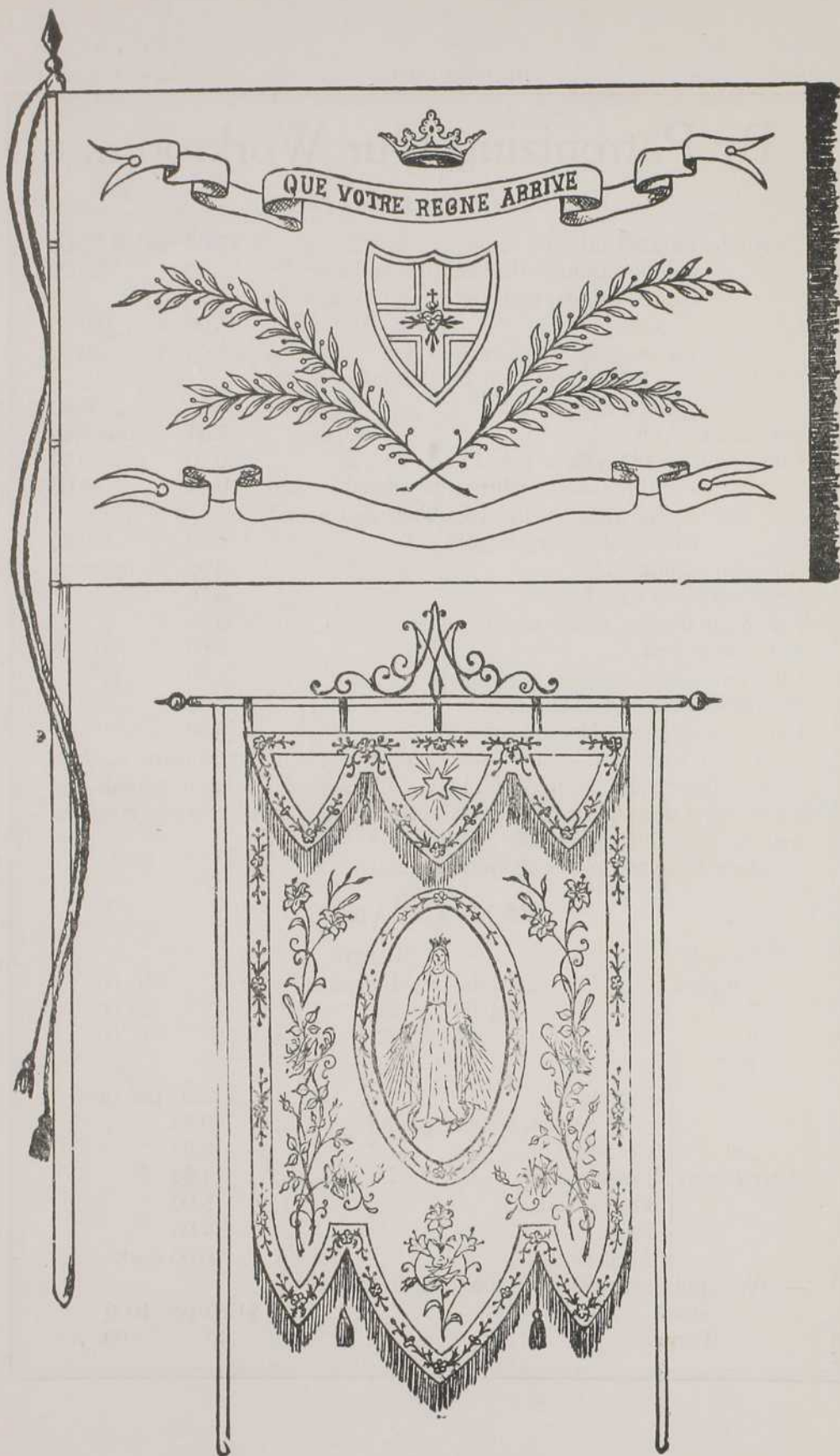
Description and prices given on request.

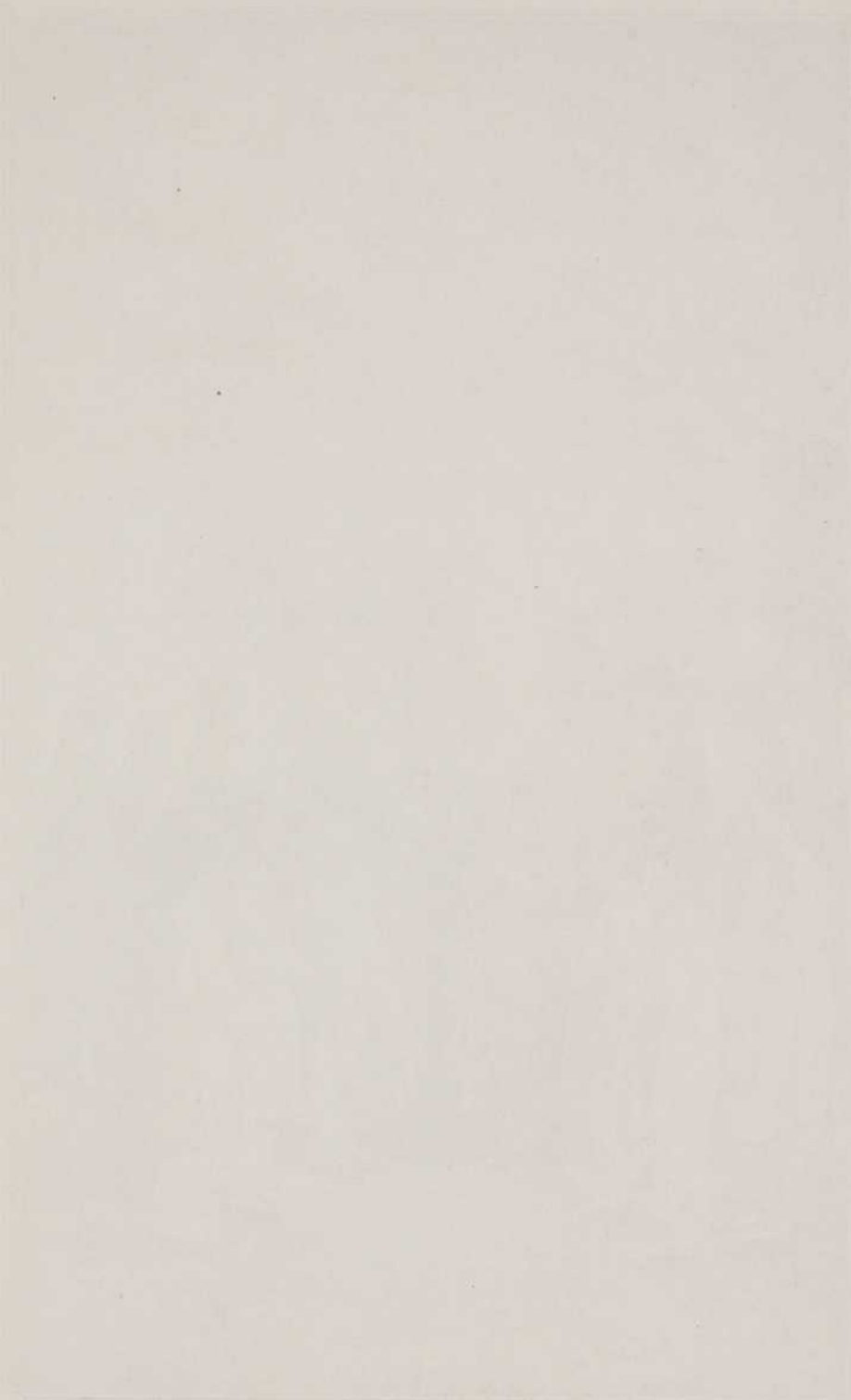
WAX INFANTS

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	
Altar Linens	{ 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
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Vol. X., 14th Year

Montreal, November-December 1936

No. 12

CONTENTS

He Comes!.....	665
Christmas and New Year Wishes.....	666
The Magi at the Manger.....	667
The Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin..... <i>Father Rolland</i>	669
A Memorable Ceremony.....	672
Gregorian Masses.....	674
The Week of Missionary Studies of Quebec.....	675
The Miraculous Medal.....	682
The Shek Lung Leper Settlement..... <i>F. Borrey</i>	685
The Clear-Sightedness of St. Francis Xavier..... <i>J. Couvreur, S. J.</i>	688
In Memory of a Devoted Benefactress.....	
..... <i>The Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception</i>	691
The <i>Agnus Dei</i>	692
A Few Roses Scattered.....	693
Echoes from our Missions.....	695
Extract from the Novitiate Chronicles.....	712
The Children's Page.....	717
Thanksgivings — Petitions — Necrology.....	719

ILLUSTRATIONS

The Infant Jesus.....	664
The Magi at the Manger.....	667
The Immaculate Virgin Mary.....	668
The Priests of the Foreign Mission Seminary, Pont Viau, Who Left for Manchukuo on September 15th, 1936.....	671
A Group of Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Who Left for the Distant Mission Fields on September 27th, 1936.....	673
The Miraculous Medal.....	682
The Lepers of Shek Lung at Work.....	686
The Patron of Missionaries.....	689
A Deceased Benefactress.....	691
A Flood on the Island of Shek Lung.....	694
Chapel of the Shek Lung Leper Settlement.....	696
Two New Little Christians.....	698
An Aged Manchurian Woman.....	699
The Boarding-School for Girls, Taonan, Manchukuo.....	701
The Girls of the Boarding-School of Taonan.....	702
A Sewing Lesson.....	703
A Wandering Dealer.....	704
A Grandmother With Her Little Grandson.....	705
His Excellency Mgr. Lemieux at Wakamatsu, Japan.....	708
Dinner Being Taken in Japanese Fashion.....	710
Jesus in the Sacred Host.....	718



*On this day our Saviour is born;
let us rejoice, for there should be no sadness
where life appears.
This life removes all fear,
and gives us the joy of a promised eternity.*



He Comes!

*As on that wondrous Holy Night
Full nineteen hundred years ago,
Again the sky's abloom with light
And falls a shimmering radiance white
Across the stainless fields of snow.*

*And as down hoary ages dead,
Thought speeds along on mystic wings,
Before the gaze enraptured
Rise Syrian hills and vales outspread,
While heaven with seraph music rings.*

*Again to Bethlehem's lowly cave,
Ere yet hath bloomed the rose of morn,
Ere dawn hath kissed the orient wave,
He comes, the sin-lost world to save —
Lo, Christ, the Prince of Peace, is born!*

*Such music never ear hath heard
As on the midnight silence breaks
When He, the mighty One, the Word —
Whose advent heavenly councils stirred, —
Of Mary fleshly raiment takes.*

*The God who swings the stars in space,
And paints the petals of the rose,
Who wields the lightning's lance apace,
Now comes a Child with winsome grace,
More fair than dawn on Alpine snows.*

*Sweet Infant Saviour, Babe benign,
Thy mystic mantle o'er us fling,
Our souls expand with love divine, —
Oh, draw our wayward hearts to Thine,
Dear Christ, our Prince of Peace, our King!*

— Selected.



Christmas and New Year Wishes

May God Almighty,
the Eternal King of the ages,
shower, during the Holy Christmas Season
and throughout the New Year,
abundant consolations,
light and strength
upon our Revered Pastors.
May He bestow the most precious graces
upon our dear devoted Benefactors.
May He bless the kind Readers,
and may He grant that all, being submissive
to His Holy Will,
may share the peace and happiness
which the Divine Child brought down
to earth.

THE PRECURSOR.

The Magi at the Manger



The Magi were wise kings who lived in the East. God called them to Bethlehem, but they had great difficulty in reaching their destination: they paid for the faith they possessed. First of all, they were obliged to find out for themselves that the Messiah had come. Being clever astronomers, they remarked a new star in the heavens, and, as they were set on discovering the truth, instead of being embarrassed by the endless discussions of other wise men, they consulted the prophecies and came to the conclusion that the Son of God had come upon earth. They set out without taking into account the fatigue and expense which their journey would occasion: men of high rank do not travel without a great many servants.

When they reached Jerusalem, instead of finding the One they were looking for, they discovered that they were surrounded by enemies. They were obliged to tolerate the questions put to them by proud Herod. Like ignorant creatures, they asked those who had charge of the Sacred Books to tell them where it was that the King of the Jews was supposed to be born. On learning that Bethlehem was the birthplace of the Redeemer, they immediately made their way thither. But what did they find on reaching their destination? A child wrapped in swaddling-clothes, instead of a God. Although their faith was tried, they unhesitatingly bowed down before Jesus and, opening their treasures, they offered Him gold, frankincense, and myrrh. O Magi, how worthy were you to appear before the new-born King! Ambassadors of wealthy Christians who were to come later to the Manger, you nobly did your duty; you brought to the Son of God treasures which He appreciated: the tribute of your knowledge, a constant seeking of the truth, anxiety and fatigue, an unshaken determination, and, in the midst of those who were set on not believing, an exemplary obedience to the priests of God, and generosity proved by princely offerings.

The Gospel states that the Wise Men "found the child with Mary" Joseph is not named: he was there, but he was overlooked, as he desired to be. When one arrives at a palace, he pays but little attention to the sentinel who is at the door, and, nevertheless, it is thanks to him that a visitor succeeds in making his way to the king.

Mary showed Jesus to the Magi, as she had done to the shepherds. She received, in the name of her Son, the gifts they had brought. It is a duty for Mary to show forth Jesus. She will present Him to the entire Church.



*Oh, how dear are humble souls to Mary!
This blessed Virgin recognizes and loves those who
love her, and is near to all who call upon her,
and especially to those whom she sees like unto herself
in purity and humility.*

The Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin

THE Immaculate Conception, by preserving the Blessed Virgin from every stain of sin, makes her resemble God as much as possible, places her above all other creatures, and, even above the angels and saints. This privilege is all the more honourable, since it is shared by Mary alone.

The devil keeps the whole human race enchained, and the one creature who escapes this bondage is capable of chaining up the hellish foe. While a fire is destroying everything, one tree laden with leaves and blossoms, brings forth Jesus, the incomparable Fruit, who will people anew the plains and the forests. A tyrant keeps the universe in subjection, but there is one city which holds out against him, and this city is Mary. Original sin is rushing on like the waters of an immense river, soiling, in its course, all the generations. When this river reaches Mary, God shows His power by holding back its waters as He held back those of the Jordan when the Ark of the Covenant was being carried across it. Mary is indeed the Ark of the New Covenant. As she is to serve as a tabernacle for the Living God, she alone is conceived without sin.

Let us join with a pious prelate in repeating that the grace of the Immaculate Conception is in the soul of the Blessed Virgin what transparency and clearness are in the atmosphere. Just as the transparency of the atmosphere is wonderfully transformed by the bright rays of the sun, Mary, being immaculate, lets the rays from Up Above flood her soul, which is capable of receiving every grace. Mary receives other graces besides the most precious sanctifying grace, the most important of them being the unheard-of grace of divine maternity. Is not this maternity a real ocean larger than the entire world; the Immaculate Conception is the bottom of this ocean, which has been divinely prepared. All that Jesus has merited for the Church will be given first of all to His Mother; the Immaculate Conception is the token and the prelude of these gifts.

Mary, knowing God the way she does now, and loving Him as she does, realizes how ugly sin is. She knows that it draws one away from the Sovereign Good; she knows that God bears it a hatred as great as His power and loving kindness. When she thinks that she alone was preserved from every stain of sin, that every other human being came into the world soiled by the original stain, that she has been more highly favoured than even the angels, who, having no ancestors, did not contract the least stain on account of the rebellion of Lucifer, yes, when she thinks of this incomparable privilege, there spring from her heart lively acts of adoration, praise and love. She feels that during all eternity she should not cease to sing the *Magnificat* in thanksgiving to God for this grace alone. I understand why it is that the Doctors of the Church have declared that if Mary had been asked to choose between the grace of divine maternity and that of the Immaculate

Conception, she would have unhesitatingly chosen the latter privilege. She possessed such a beautiful soul that even the remembrance of having been for one moment the enemy of the infinitely loving God would have been enough to confound her! The grace of the Immaculate Conception is therefore her favourite grace, the one she loves to be praised for, for, through it, she was preserved from every stain, and was prepared for all heavenly favours. O loving Mother, we congratulate thee on thy incomparable privilege and we unite with all those who have proclaimed thy glories, *gloriosa dicta sunt de te!*

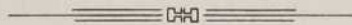
Therefore, let us give Mary Immaculate all the honour due her! Let us love her, and sing her praises!

Let us take pleasure in repeating the little prayer which she herself revealed at the beginning of the 19th century: "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!" Let us often recite it, day and night, when we are joyful, sorrowful, or uncertain as to what we should do.

Let us wear the medal of the Immaculate Conception, the model of which has been given us by the Blessed Virgin herself. This medal is known as the Miraculous Medal, for through its medium are obtained many wonderful spiritual and temporal favours.

But there is another image of the Blessed Virgin which we must carry with us. It is not made of bronze, but it is engraven on our hearts by the grace of God. This spiritual image of Mary is the reproduction of her admirable virtues. Yes, let us imitate Mary. Above all, let us imitate her faith, her charity, her humility, her purity, her prudence, her patience, and her mortification. As we receive Jesus into our hearts as she did, let us hate sin, and strive to become holy. By imitating her virtues, we shall be her true children, and she will show us a mother's love.

Father ROLLAND.



Humble Prayer

If strength had not somewhere met with a barrier capable of holding it back, helpless and unfortunate creatures would have no ground for hope. God has given to the weak a weapon which has caused the sword to be lowered, anger to be quelled, and injury to be overlooked, and this weapon is prayer. Prayer is majestic throughout the world. It unceasingly arises from the hearts of the weak, and it causes the hearts of the strong to be touched. If an insect could pray when we are about to step on it, its entreaty would move us to pity. Nothing is greater than God, and, therefore, there is no prayer which wins a greater victory than the one which is wafted Godward. It is prayer which brings us into contact with God, and, by means of it, we may storm heaven. Christ has said: "Ask and it shall be given you: seek and you shall find: knock, and it shall be opened to you. For every one that asketh, receiveth: and he that seeketh, findeth: and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened."



*The Priests of the Foreign Mission Seminary of Pont Viau
who left for Manchukuo, on September 15th, 1936.*

A Memorable Ceremony

ON Tuesday, September 15th, 1936, at three o'clock in the afternoon, there took place in the beautiful Church of St. John the Baptist, the Departure Ceremony for fifteen missionaries: six priests of the Foreign Mission Seminary of Pont Viau, seven Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, and two Antonian Sisters of Mary.

This touching ceremony was presided over by His Excellency Mgr. Courchesne, Bishop of Rimouski, for five of the departing missionaries were from his diocese.

The recollected throng that filled the sacred edifice told of the fellow-feeling of our people for those of their sons and daughters, who were going forth as messengers of peace, to bring the Light of the Gospel and salvation to the heathen nations.

While an organ prelude was being played, the missionaries marched up the centre aisle of the church, followed by the members of the Clergy, who took their places in the sanctuary.

Monsignor Dubuc, P. D., the Pastor of the Parish, who appreciates and favours every noble cause, addressed a few words of welcome to the worthy prelate who had come to preside at the ceremony, and to all present.

Then His Excellency Mgr. Courchesne, delivered an eloquent sermon, in which was revealed his love for the apostolate, his profound knowledge, his convincing faith, his respect for Holy Mother Church, and his tender kindness. His discourse was appreciated by the missionaries especially, for he addressed them some words of advice which were of a nature to encourage and sustain them in the mission field.

After the missionary priests had received their crucifixes, the Act of Consecration and the Promises of Fidelity were read, and, while the soul-stirring Departure Hymn was being sung, there took place the kissing of the feet of the six bearers of the Gospel Tidings.

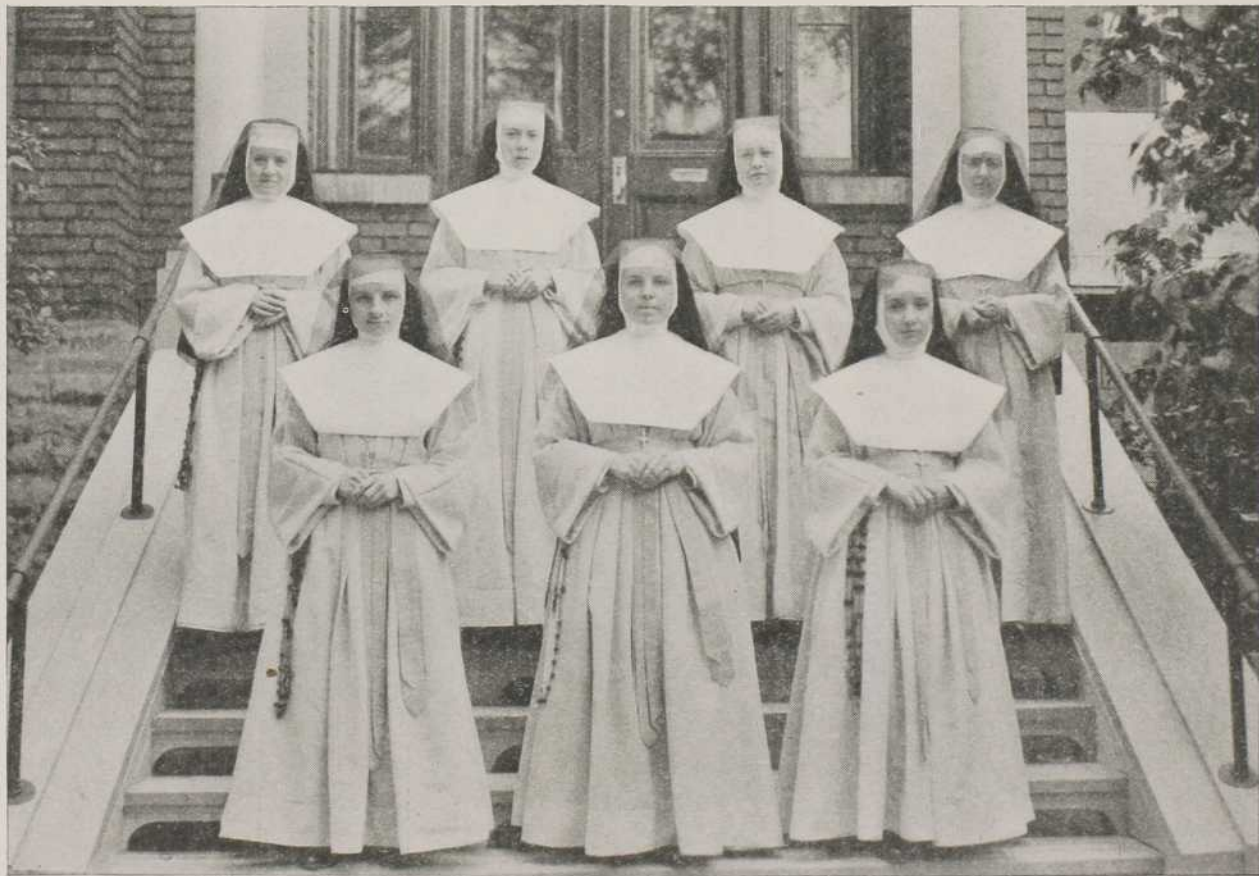
Solemn Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament was given by His Excellency, and the faithful were invited to kiss the crucifixes of the departing priests.

The impressive ceremony was thus brought to a close. May the memory of it help to arouse other missionary vocations among our people, and preserve intact the Christian faith, which was so lively when it was first brought to our country.

DESTINED FOR MANCHUKUO, CHINA, AND JAPAN

The six priests of the Foreign Mission Seminary of Pont Viau, who have set out for Manchukuo are: Reverend Fathers Horace Gauvin, of St. Epiphane; Andre Deschenes, of Trois Pistoles, Andre Fortin, of Val Brilliant; Alphonse Caouette, of Matane; Odoric Beaulieu, of Bic, Co. Rimouski; and Gaudiose Gagnon, of Jonquieres, Co. Chicoutimi.

The seven Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception who have left for the far-off mission fields are: for Manchukuo, Sister Marie du



A Group of Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, who left for the Missions on September 27th, 1936.

First row: Sister EUSTELLE DE L'EUCARISTIE (Eustelle Samson, of Lauzon), destined for Manchukuo; Sister St. ANGELIQUE (Cecile Mathieu, of St. Evariste, Co. Beauce), for Suchow; Sister MARTHE DE JESUS (Antoinette Desjardins, of Montreal), for Manchukuo.

Second row: Sister St. ROSE DE VITERBE (Annette Tourigny, of Trois Rivières), for Koriyama, Japan; Sister IMELDA DE L'EUCARISTIE (Simonne Boisclair, of Almaville), for Suchow; Sister St. AMEDEE (Emilienne Vezina, of Quebec), for Suchow; Sister MARIE DU CRUCIFIX (Eva Tessier, of St. Bonaventure, Co. Yamaska), for Manchukuo.

Crucifix (Eva Tessier, of St. Bonaventure, Co. Yamaska), Sister Eustelle de l'Eucharistie (Eustelle Samson, of Lauzon, Co. Levis) and Sister Marthe de Jesus (Antoinette Desjardins, of Montreal); for Suchow, Sister Imelda de l'Eucharistie (Simone Boisclair, of Almaville, Co. Champlain), Sister St. Angelique (Cecile Mathieu, of St. Evariste, Co. Beauce) and Sister St. Amedee (Emilienne Vezina, of Quebec); for Koriyama, Japan, Sister St. Rose de Viterbe (Annette Tourigny, of Trois Rivières).

The two Antonian Sisters of Mary who have left for Manchukuo are: Sister Marguerite Marie (Regina Plourde, of St. Jerome, Co. Lac St. Jean) and Sister Marie de la Grace (Irene Tremblay, of St. Simeon, Co. Charlevoix).

Gregorian Masses

Definition of the Gregorian Masses. — Gregorian Masses are Masses that are offered for the dead on thirty consecutive days.

As every one knows, besides the Mass on the day of burial and the anniversary Requiem High Mass, Holy Mother Church has proposed to the faithful, for the relief of the Souls in Purgatory, the Mass of the third, seventh, and thirtieth days.

The pious custom of offering thirty consecutive Masses for the dead, which is to-day observed in the Church dates back to the time of St. Gregory the Great, one of the glories of the Benedictine Order, and one of the greatest Popes given by God to the Church.

Efficacy of the Gregorian Masses. — What is the efficacy of the Gregorian Masses? To this question we shall, first of all, reply that God, who has deigned to make known the deliverance from Purgatory of a monk named Justus, has not pledged himself to reveal to us the liberation of other souls for whom Gregorian Masses were afterwards celebrated.

Moreover, the Church has not defined anything in this respect. The way she has acted as regards the thirty consecutive Masses may be seen by the Decree of October 28th, 1628, and by that of March 15th, 1884.

During the pontificate of Pope Pius IX, there were doubts as to the special efficacy of the Masses celebrated at St. Gregory's altar and, consequently, as to the efficacy of the Gregorian Masses.

The General of the Camaldules once put the following question to the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences: "Is the belief of the faithful in the special efficacy of the thirty consecutive Masses for the deliverance of the Souls in Purgatory pious and reasonable?" This Congregation, on thus finding itself obliged to give an explanation, answered in the affirmative.

We have thus a right to conclude that the Gregorian Masses have the efficacy of which the General spoke and which the Prefect of the Sacred Congregation twice spoke of.

However, it must be remembered that the immediate and efficacious application of the benefit of these Masses, through the intercession and the merits of Pope St. Gregory the Great, depends solely on the wisdom, justice, power, and goodness of God.

Conditions to be kept in mind. — 1. The thirty Masses must be said for the same person. These Masses would have no efficacy if they were offered for the living.

2. The Masses should be offered on thirty consecutive days; but they need not all be said by the same priest, nor at the same altar. It is not necessary that they be said in honour of St. Gregory and no commemoration of him is required. They need not be Requiem Masses.

3. Pope Benedict XIV has declared that the last three days of Holy Week, during which private Masses cannot be celebrated, do not break the continuity.

(*De licentia Ordinarii.*)

(Translated.)

The Week of Missionary Studies of Quebec

Opened on February 17th, 1936, and closed on the 20th.

(Continued)

Discourse delivered by His Eminence Cardinal Villeneuve, O. M. I.,
Archbishop of Quebec

THE URGENT REASONS FOR THE UNIVERSAL MISSIONARY APOSTOLATE

Ignem veni mittere in terram et quid volo nisi ut accendatur. I am come to cast fire on the earth; and what will I but that it be kindled?

What fire, Lord, didst Thou come to kindle upon earth, if not the fire of Thy divine love? Such a fire is, first of all, so bright that it shows forth to men who think only of yielding to the desires of the flesh, the beauty of heaven, the truth of Thy sublime mysteries, the path that leads to perfect happiness. Secondly, this fire, which is Thy love, consumes human affections, so as to cause to leap up in all hearts the most ardent, the most inalterable, and the most indestructible flames of charity towards Thee, O Infinite Being, O Almighty Master, O Benefactor, O Friend, O infinitely bountiful and tender Father, O God! Thirdly, this fire excites the hatred of hell, provokes the pride of Satan and the anger of the wicked, causes war between good and evil, between the children of God and the sons of the infernal serpent, between the fire of Thy love and the fire of covetousness, of persecutors, and of opposition to Thy work of love.

* * *

Brethren, we are ending up the Days of Missionary Studies, to which we have had the consolation of seeing our priests, religious, and a number of the faithful coming, in order to listen to great masters, who have spoken to us of the mystery and of the wonderful enterprise of the conversion of the infidels.

Having received the pontifical blessings on being opened, our Week of Missionary Studies has set forth, in its theoretical courses, the doctrine of salvation offered to all in the Church founded by Jesus Christ as a shelter for the sheep within the fold and for all the others, even the infidels, whom the Lord invites to make their way thither, or at least to catch a glimpse of it, in spite of the shadows of paganism, and to long to enter it, as the hart thirsteth after the fountains of water. *Quemadmodum desiderat cervus ad fontes aquarum.*

The obstacles placed by enemies on the roads travelled over by those who are returning, the inspirations of the natural law, the secret ways of divine mercy, and the proceedings of the apostolate among the souls sitting

in the shadows of death, that they may be led in a body, or one by one, to the bright rays of faith, are so many lessons which have given us a notion of the different points.

Between times, one might have looked with particular interest upon a few mission lands, studied the principles of physiology of the infidel nations, and examined the apostolic works in Palestine, Oceania, Japan, China, Africa, Scandinavia and Abyssinia. There might have been illustrated the duties of the members of the clergy, of religious, of teachers, and of the laity regarding the conversion of the pagans.

And now it is by addressing you, Brethren, and by speaking to you in the name of Holy Mother Church and of our Chief Pastor, that I shall set forth, as I have been requested, the urgent reasons for all to join in this difficult ministry. I shall do so briefly.

* * *

The important and universal reasons for labouring for the conversion of the infidels and for the establishing of the Kingdom of Christ everywhere upon earth, spring from the fundamental truths of our holy religion, and I presume that this has very often been explained to you.

God's right over His creatures, the shedding of the Blood of Jesus Christ upon the Cross for the redemption of mankind, the founding of the Catholic Church, the fold which all the nations should enter, the command to go to bear the Gospel Tidings to all creatures, reparation for the crimes of idolatry and of paganism, the salvation of those who are sitting in the shadows of death, the reigning of Christ the King over all the nations, such are the fundamental motives which command the Church and her children to take part in the missionary apostolate.

But is there not something more? Are there circumstances which give these motives a more particular character of earnest solicitation? Yes, and I wish to draw your attention to them this evening.

The actual reasons which render more urgent the zeal of all the Christians for the evangelization of the rest of the world, I reduce to the these three:

1. The new means which at present favour this apostolate.
2. The perils threatening the universe.
3. The great missionary movement throughout the Christian world.

I shall first speak of a new means of favouring the missionary apostolate.

Certainly, as it has been sufficiently explained, the work of the conversion of the nations to the Christian faith is, first of all, a divine and supernatural work. Nevertheless, God in His Providence deigns to have human co-operation in His work, that of His subjects in whom His grace operates, and also that of His apostles. The Church must show forth the splendour of Christian civilization.

The Kingdom of Heaven, the Church, may be compared to the leaven put in the paste and which causes the kneaded mass to rise. But the paste must first let the leaven penetrate it.

Faith is necessary to salvation. St. Paul reminds us that those who hear the Faith spoken of embrace it, but he also asks how those who have not yet embraced it are going to hear about it if no one preaches the Gospel to them? *Quomodo audient sine prædicante?*

That is why, from the very beginning of the Church, the Twelve Apostles and their followers went to all the parts of the world which were then known of, in order to preach the religion of Christ. And, for nineteen centuries, the Church has been sending missionaries to all the countries which they are allowed to enter.

Nevertheless, the apostolic workers have not been able to reach the far ends of the earth without setting out on long and dangerous voyages, which they have been unable to end up; on reaching their destination, they were obliged to recommence their voyage, in order to procure what was really necessary for their work. The preservation of their health, the study of difficult languages, the contact with those around them, the strengthening of the converts, the organization of Christian settlements, the cultivation of vocations, and the establishment of a Church could result only from painful efforts, which were due to several generations of apostles, and which could go on for centuries. This may well be seen in that which concerns the first propagation of Christianity, the evangelization of Europe at the beginning of the Middle Age, that of India, of China, and Japan since the sixteenth century, and that of Africa during the last century. There are now different circumstances which permit one to travel more quickly and to do much more work. Oh! let us not be deceived. Christians will only be engendered where there is sacrifice and martyrdom, the cross alone is able to triumph over the infernal armies, political missionaries, *globe-trotters*, and *gentlemen* will never be true disciples of Jesus Christ.

Is it possible for one to forget that all things belong to Christ, and that they should be used for His glory? Material progress, according to the obvious designs of Divine Providence, is aiming at enriching souls, and the only means of hindering our century from sinking into the civilization which it has developed in too artificial a manner, is the employing of this civilization for nobler ends, and, above all, for the establishing of the Kingdom of Christ.

Is this not but a rhyme we have learned in history? Why the spread of the Roman Empire, which, as soon as it declined, opened, throughout the inhabited world, ways for the heroes of the Gospel? Why did tribes from the north and the east make their way to the plateaus of Europe, between the fourth and the ninth centuries? In order that they might be conducted to the monasteries which were being erected at the same time, and there kneel to receive Baptism. Why, in the 17th century, the discovery of new lands and such progress in the science of navigation, if not to permit the most powerful Christian nations of Europe to make up for the losses due to schisms and heresies, and to bring the Faith to America and to other new continents. Do we not owe to the geniuses of this period the Christian colonization of New France and the evangelization of the barbarous tribes inhabiting Canada?

A letter which, thirty years ago, took a year to reach a certain part of the world, now arrives there in a week or two. Trips which then could only be made in boats, carriages, canoes, sleighs, and carts drawn by oxen, may now be undertaken in trains, automobiles, or aeroplanes. By means of the telegraph, telephone, and radio, the people in the farthest parts of the earth are able to hear the voice of the common Father of the faithful.

Formerly, a printing establishment would have been an inconceivable superfluity in most of the missions. To-day, there are hardly any missions that have not their books, papers, and publications of all kinds, suited to all languages and to all needs.

Peoples who were as barbarous as they could be a century ago, now know about modern discoveries, and they are making more and more use of them, they can read, they have dealings with the people of other continents, they welcome foreigners, or at least allow them to remain in their country, their chiefs are becoming civilized, the religion of the Christians now appears to them to be far less an invasion of foreigners, Europe is no longer closed to them, the people of Asia are getting acquainted with those of America, and from day to day, international dealings are being more firmly established.

What use is all this, if not to transmit as on the wings of electricity, *Ibunt directe emissiones fulgurum* (*Sap.*, v, 22), the Gospel Tidings to all the nations of the earth? Is it not a suitable time for the rising up of missionary armies, ready to set to conquering the pagan lands, and which, like a rear-guard, will protect all the old Christian settlements?

Yes, indeed, the hour for a new and immense apostolate has come.

Such an hour will soon be gone, and, if the missionary work is not done to-day, it will be too late to-morrow to do it.

For, in spite of present efforts and the admirable results already obtained, there is still a portion of Islam which has not been encroached upon. The population of China and Japan is rapidly increasing, and their false religions are becoming more numerous.

In order to make the number of Catholics equal to the number of inhabitants in the pagan lands, there should be six million and a half conversions every year, whereas there are but a half a million. The heathen lands are penetrated not only by modern progress, but by all the new means it has of bringing about perversion. It is the most treacherous naturalism which is settling itself there where one could always find reigning, doubtlessly along with many vices and superstitions, certain moral principles.

While instruction is rapidly spreading in the most popular centres, those who wish to teach others about the Catholic religion have neither the funds nor the required equipment. There is, in our midst a historical phenomena, and only the blind are able to deny that it exists: the rising tide of the yellow and black races. While the people of Europe and America are leaving for Asia and Africa, the inhabitants of these two continents, especially those of the former, cry out: "Asia for the Asiatics, Africa for the Africans!" More than that, they are arising and are preparing to attack us.

The pagans have learned about Atheism, and revolutionary Bolshevism, and war is being waged against all religious questions. It is not the fire of the apostolate which is being enkindled, but a destructive fire.

Yes, indeed, a great conflagration is raging in the Orient, and already the lurid glimmer of it may be seen; before long, it will consume the past of these human forests; the sparks and the brands will also fly towards us, and unless Catholicism puts an end to such hatred and revolutionary vengeance, the people of the Western Hemisphere will feel the effects of it.

In truth, such an outlook is terrifying, and anybody who observes the tendency of the most universal contemporaneous events may see that it is inevitable.

Entire countries: Mexico, Germany, and others, present the spectacle of official apostasy and of national blasphemy, while others are lowered to incredulous positivism or religious indifference, and heedlessness of God.

That is why the missionary effort cannot be delayed. Formerly, as it written, Christians could put off their attacks against paganism, knowing full well that fifty or a hundred years later, each nation would be found in almost its normal state. It is no longer thus.

Holy Mother Church is not the only one who is preaching. Atheism, materialism and heresy have audacious, eloquent, and skilful missionaries, who are just as ferociously set on seeing the propagation of their ideas and the degradation of the nations as the messengers of the Gospel are zealous for the spreading of Christ's Kingdom and the saving of souls.

And indeed, at the rate things are going, a great missionary movement must be set on foot inside of fifty years, or it will be too late, the game will be lost for centuries, if not for ever, and one will thus have helped, at least by inactivity, in the decrepitude of the entire human race.

How, then, are the conflagration of the nations in the revolution and their concealment in homicidal materialism to be avoided, if not by telling these same people about the doctrine of the Christians, a doctrine by means of which they will be taught love for the one true God, justice, respect in social dealings, charity, chastity, temperance, meekness, and devotedness.

Do we realize that the Vicar of Christ has acknowledged this: "After pondering on the fact that the pagans still number almost a billion, We have no peace in Our spirit, and We seem to hear sounding in Our ears: "Cry, cease not; lift up thy voice like a trumpet!" (*Isaias* LVIII, 1.)

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May God be thanked a thousand times over! The Christians of all the races have heard the urgent appeals of the Sovereign Pontiffs. A great missionary movement has been set on foot, and that is the third urgent reason for joining the apostolic crusade. Happy is the one who, after listening to the invitation of our Adorable Saviour, transmitted by His Vicar, corresponds to the ineffable grace of the apostolate.

Christians have realized the political obligations of charity, which not only unite the just to God, but which should also make them stoop towards

the entire human race and unite them to all the members of the Church, that is, of the mystical Body of Christ. From the moment a Christian has in his heart lively sentiments of charity, he understands that boundless is the need of making God loved as he loves Him, and he wishes the fire of divine love to be enkindled everywhere: *Ignem veni mittere*.

This accounts for the numerous missionaries of both sexes who are to be found all over the world, and for the flame which has leapt up in the hearts of pious parents, of enlightened teachers, of superiors of religious Communities, of parish priests, of directors of associations, of Bishops, and of the Sovereign Pontiffs.

Finally, Christians remember that the Church of God has been founded for every race and empire. They are no longer so mean as to think only of their own parish needs, and their zeal is no longer limited. Sons of Holy Mother Church, they wish their hearts to be as big as hers, and to be filled with the love of Christ. Ever do they bear in mind that God has imposed upon every one the duty of seeing to the needs of his neighbour: *Mandavit Deus unicuique de proximo suo!* They have no longer the same thought as selfish Cain, and no longer do they say as he did: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

And thus it is that, each year, hundreds of apostolic workers leave our parishes, colleges, seminaries and religious institutions, and make their way to the far-off mission fields. Thus it is that Christians establish numerous works with the hope of giving material help to these apostles and of helping in the establishment of new Christian settlements, and that so many of the faithful pray and make great sacrifices for the Missions.

Oh, the peculiar character of contemporaneous spirituality! Is not its specific feature made conspicuous by the fact that St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, who spent the few years of her life of suffering shut up in a cloister, has been named, by the Pope, the Patroness of Missionaries. A cloistered nun, who never left her cell in the monastery, has been placed at the head of apostolic labourers who are continually advancing.

And, under her guidance, the preaching of the missionary idea, the publications, collections, prayers, Masses, Communions, sacrifices, and offerings of immolated souls are being multiplied in the Church as so many streams which give spiritual and material help to the Missions, and which favour evangelization.

Wonderful are the results of these invitations of the Church and the response of her children during the pontificate of the present sovereign pontiff, His Holiness Pope Pius XI. In 1922, there existed about three hundred vicariates and prefectures, counting only the districts dependent on the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda, and now there are over five hundred. The Catholic missionaries from Europe then numbered eight thousand and, at present, they number nearly twelve thousand, without taking into account the missionaries who have come from other countries, the twenty-six bishops, and the five or six thousand native priests, the members of the hundred and sixty congregations for women, and the personnel of the thirty-one institutions for men.

Certainly, the Spirit of God is being breathed into those who are sitting in the shadows of death, and they are thus receiving the life of the Gospel. We are witnessing the mysterious spectacle which was foreseen by the great Prophet.

Nevertheless, the miracle is not complete. Not only ten thousand missionaries are needed, but a hundred thousand. Instead of vicariates, there must be dioceses. The few native bishops must be replaced by complete hierarchies. No longer should there be mission chapels to be supported, but churches. There must also be high schools, seminaries, universities, cathedrals, Catholic Action assemblies, daily papers, libraries, observatories, Catholic life penetrating the different institutions, and all the new societies must be drawn away from paganism. Not thousands, but millions of priests, should be ordained for the Missions.

You may say that such a vision implies too much ambition. It is but a vision of a work that should not be delayed, and which may easily be carried out by those who faithfully correspond to the sublime movement which invites souls to combat for the spread of God's Kingdom and for the erecting of a universal throne for Christ the King.

Brethren, particularly you who belong to the priesthood, do not oppose the supernatural proposal which has been made, but let your hearts be touched. Strive to cultivate keenness for the missionary feeling, which will cause your spiritual life to tend towards this great effort. Let us all show our zeal for the spreading of Christ's Kingdom throughout the world.

May the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Queen of the Missions, look favourably upon our desires, and may it be under her loving gaze that we contemplatively recite the Collect of the Mass for the Propagation of the Faith: "O God, Who desirest that all men should be saved, and that all should come to the knowledge of the truth: send forth, we beseech Thee, labourers into Thy harvest, and give them to speak Thy word with all trust; that Thy words may run and be glorified; and that all nations may know Thee, the one true God, and Him Whom Thou hast sent, Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord: Who with Thee liveth and reigneth in the unity of the Holy Ghost God, world without end. Amen."

(Translated.)

Light has shone forth; darkness has fled from the earth, and the world is enlightened; let it praise the new-born Babe that gave it light. The shades of night have seen Him and fled; the darkness of error has been scattered. Let the whole earth sing praise to Him, by whom it has been illumined.

St. Ephraim.

"We can never have too much confidence in the good God; He is so mighty and so merciful! As we hope from Him so shall we receive."

St. Teresa of the Child Jesus.

The Miraculous Medal



THE FEAST OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL:
NOVEMBER 27TH.

On the 27th of November, 1805, the Blessed Virgin appeared in the chapel of the Daughters of Charity, 140 du Bac St., Paris, to a young novice, who had already been favoured with heavenly apparitions. The feet of the Queen of Heaven rested on a globe, and, in her hands, which were on a level with her waist, she held a smaller one, which she seemed to offer to Our Lord in an entreating manner.

Suddenly her fingers were covered with rings and beautiful precious stones. Rays of dazzling light darted out of them, and the whole of her figure was enveloped in such radiance that her feet and dress were no longer visible.

As Sister Laboure was contemplating her, the Blessed Virgin fixed her eyes upon her, and she heard an interior voice which said: "*This globe which you see represents the world, especially France, and each person in particular.*" And our Blessed Lady added: "*Behold the symbol of the graces*

which I bestow upon all those who ask for them."

Shortly after, an oval frame surrounded the Blessed Virgin on which were written in letters of gold these words: "*O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.*" Mary soon lowered her hands, which were filled with graces, symbolized by the rays of light, and gracefully did she stretch them out in the way they are shown on the medal. Then a voice said to her: "*Get a medal struck after this model; those who wear it when it is blessed will receive great graces, especially if they wear it round the neck; graces will be abundant for those who have confidence.*"

At the same instant, the oval frame seemed to turn round, and Sister saw on the back of it the letter M, surmounted by a cross, with a bar beneath it, and under the monogram of Mary, two hearts, the first surrounded by a crown of thorns, and the second transpierced by a sword.

Two years later, with the approbation of Mgr. de Quelen, Archbishop of Paris, the medal was struck, and, from then on the marvellous spread of the devotion all over the world was incessantly accompanied by wonderful cures and conversions.

On account of the miracles that have been worked through its medium, in all the countries of the world and in every class of society, the medal has been named: the Miraculous Medal.

Have those who wear the Miraculous Medal remarked the touching and useful knowledge it conveys?

On the front of the medal, Mary is represented as all-beautiful and merciful, and her hands are filled with rays, which, according to her own words, are the symbol of the graces she bestows on all who ask for them. And she tells us how we should ask, by teaching us this invocation: *O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

On the back, we may see what must accompany our prayers in order that they may be heard: *charity, penance, and mortification*, symbolized by the two hearts and the cross, and *apostolic zeal*, symbolized by the stars. On this side there is no inscription, for, as the Blessed Virgin herself stated, the cross and the two hearts say enough.

Indulgences to be gained by those who recite the invocation: O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

By a rescript dated March 5th, 1884, His Holiness Pope Leo XIII granted 100 days' indulgence, once a day, to all the faithful who recite the invocation: *O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

By another rescript, dated June 6th, 1904, His Holiness Pope Pius X granted 100 days' indulgence to all those who, having had the Miraculous Medal imposed according to the special rite approved by His Holiness Pope Leo XIII, on April 19th, 1895, recite the same invocation: *O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

Moreover, a Plenary Indulgence may be gained by the same persons, on the usual conditions: 1. On the day the Medal is imposed; 2. On Easter Sunday; 3. On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The Feast of the Manifestation of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal is celebrated on November 27th.

The Miraculous Medal is a gift from heaven, since it was Mary herself who brought it down to earth. Therefore, let us put on this heavenly armour and lovingly repeat the invocation: *O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee*, feeling certain that it is in such a way that the Queen of angels and of men wishes to be invoked.

CURED BY THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

In St. Vincent de Paul's Parish, in Paris, a lady by the name of Mrs. Peron, who had been sick for eight years, had finally been given up by the doctors. In a fit of despair, she decided that she would do nothing to regain her health. Her husband and her children were almost worn out, and they had but little to live on.

One day early in October, her husband and her daughter believed that she was dead, and they began to scream. A neighbour woman went at once to see what she could do, and, on placing her hand on the heart of the sick woman, she found that it was still beating. After doing her best to comfort the husband and children, she went for the Sister who had been attending to the patient for a few days. The kind religious came at once with a doctor, who, after examining the sick lady, declared that she was in the last stages of tuberculosis, and that she would be dead before evening. The following account has been given by Mrs. Peron:

"After the doctor had left, Sister asked me if I loved the Blessed Virgin, and when I told her that I did, she said that she was going to give me something that would cure me, and I immediately informed her that I felt sure that my sickness would soon be over. I wanted to give her to understand that I was awaiting death, but she simply asked me to accept the medal she had in her hand, assuring me that I was going to get my health back if I had great faith in the Blessed Virgin.

I was filled with joy on seeing the medal and, taking hold of it, I lovingly kissed it, for I really wanted to be cured. Sister recited aloud the little prayer, which I was unable to read, and she asked me to say it every day. I promised to add five *Our Fathers* and five *Hail Marys*. Sister lost no time in tying the sacred image around my neck, and I immediately realized that something strange had happened. I began to shed tears of joy; I was no better, but I felt that I could be restored to health, and I had more confidence than ever before."

True enough, three days after accepting the medal, this woman, who had been miraculously cured, decided to walk to the church to assist at Mass and to thank the Blessed Virgin. On the way, she met the religious who had taken care of her, and she took her by the hand.

"What!" Sister exclaimed, "it is you?" "Yes, Sister, it is I," the happy woman replied, "I am better, and I am going to Mass." "Who has cured you so quickly?" Sister asked. "The Blessed Virgin," was the answer, "and I am going to thank her."

Mrs. Peron has been in good health ever since.

The Blessed Virgin was not satisfied with blessing the mother, but she also cured one of her little daughters, a child six and a half years old.

The little girl, who was very bright, had been tongue-tied since her birth, and the most skilful physicians had been able to do nothing for her. The mother hung a medal on the child's neck, and commenced a novena. A few days later, the little one was able to articulate distinctly.



Votive Lights in Honour of the Blessed Virgin

In the chapel of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

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

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

The Shek Lung Leper Settlement

Dedicated to St Joseph

IN THE Province of Kwang Tung, on the Canton Kowlong Railroad, four miles distant from Shek Lung, is to be found a leper settlement dedicated to St. Joseph. This settlement occupies nearly the whole of a little island which comprises a hundred hectares, and which is surrounded by the yellow waters of one of the numerous branches of the Sikiang.

There, for the last twenty-nine years, a magnificent task is being performed by the priests of the Paris Foreign Mission Society and the Canadian Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Outremont, near Montreal. These missionaries shelter and care for over seven hundred lepers.

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It was at the age of sixty-seven, after enduring many trials and after having made himself a beggar for the lepers, that Reverend Father Conrardy, of Liege, who had formerly done mission work in Pondichery, was able to obtain what he had been longing for all his life: a settlement for the lepers.

During the seven last years of his life, he laboured with the greatest devotedness. After purchasing a piece of land, he procured some funds with which to buy food for the outcasts of humanity, who asked him to give them shelter. Despite the ill-will of the mandarins and of the people in the surrounding districts, who were not at all in favour of having a leper colony so near, and the bands of plunderers roaming over the country, he immediately saw to enlarging the settlement and to bettering the conditions therein.

He was poorer than the poorest of the coolies, and had not always enough to eat. Nevertheless, he continually remained in the midst of his sixty patients, attending to them with the greatest care.

The Chinese are a selfish and timorous race, and they have such a great disgust for the lepers that, a few years ago, they obliged them to live as outcasts in certain valleys, where they were in the habit of throwing the dead bodies of criminals and of wretched beggars. Therefore, it is not surprising that the organization of the Shek Lung leper settlement was a very difficult undertaking.

It was not until the year 1915 that the government officials of Kwang Tung came to Bishop Merel, Vicar Apostolic of Hong Kong, offering to make the Island of Shek Lung the official leper settlement of the Province.

Without going to any expense, the new masters of the country kept from losing the esteem of the foreigners, since there was a leper colony in Kwang Tung.

Immediately, numerous lepers from all parts of the Province were conducted *manu militari* to the Island of Shek Lung. Before his death, which occurred on August 24th, 1914, Father Conrardy had the consolation of seeing seven hundred lepers in Shek Lung.

The work he had begun was kept up by his *adlatus*, Reverend Father Deswaziere and Reverend Father Chao, a Chinese priest, who had forgotten about the prejudices of his race, and by three Canadian Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and a Chinese nun.

Father Deswaziere has been appointed Bishop of Maximiana, Father Chao died in 1926, and it is Father Marsigny who is the Director now. When we paid a visit to Shek Lung, this hospitable priest kindly told us all about the lepers.

In spite of the continual political disturbances and the bands of armed pirates, the leper settlement, with the aid of reduced grants, continues to thrive.

Most of the patients have been sent to Shek Lung by the Health Department of Canton. In each district, the police are on the watch for them. The poor unfortunates, immediately after being arrested, have their picture taken, and, once a month, a group of them are conducted to the Island by guards. The lepers possess a special mentality and, very often, a bad one, for, as they are held responsible for their disease, they are looked upon as bearers of ill-luck, and are abandoned by their relatives. In order to live with people who continually seek to torture them and to drive them away, many of them have been obliged to become thieves and highwaymen; a few even, through hatred, and in hopes of procuring food, have committed crimes.

Those who have the occasion of visiting the patients, all of whom have a bad attack of leprosy, are surprised to find them smiling and living so peacefully together. It is hard to believe that they ever have been "terrible fellows."



LEPERS OF SHEK LUNG, CHINA, BUSY AT WORK NEAR THEIR POOR SHELTER.

In the men's quarters and in the women's also, there is order. Much work is performed by the lepers, for among them are to be found carpenters, bricklayers, coopers, bargemen, gardeners, florists, drovers, coffin-makers, basket-makers, tilers, tailors, embroiderers, silk-growers, and especially shoemakers, who make footgear with fine silk uppers and rubber soles.

The lepers carry on the trades separately or in groups. They are either given a small salary (ten cents a day), or a share in the gains. The bedridden patients, who are lodged in rooms apart from the others, are the only ones who do not do any work. They are looked after by leper men and women, to whom the Sisters give directions.

The Sisters and Father Marsigny have organized games: target-firing, games with balloons, etc. There is even an orchestra and a troop of excellent actors. Unfortunately, the Chinese are fond of gambling, and, despite the fact that the lepers are watched carefully by the Sisters, they manage to keep on with it.

During our visit, we saw and admired the grocery store kept by one of the lepers. At this store, the patients procure salted fish, ginger, tobacco, etc., etc.

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As I have already stated, there are two quarters, one for the men and one for the women, and there is but a street separating them. Each of the dwellings contains from forty to fifty lepers, and there are out-houses and a kitchen. A head man is selected for the sick, but his election must be approved of by the Director. The one thus elected must see that things are kept in order and that the cooking is done in the right way. A few of the lepers in each of the dwellings are chosen to prepare the meals, to carry in the water, and to do the sweeping, and, every month, they are given about nine francs. Each of the patients has a bed, a table, a bench, a mat, and a screen, and each receives two cotton suits every year and a wadded garment for the winter. The daily fare consists of six grammes of rice, a little salted or fresh fish, vegetables, arachis oil, salt, and tea, and, as the lepers in each apartment raise hens, ducks, geese and swine, they have meat to eat, also. Every day, firewood is sent to the different dwellings. The patients are given about fifteen cents for pocket-money each month.

Reverend Father Conrardy worked hard in order to establish the leper settlement, and he was able to procure about 150,000 francs as a capital. The needs of the little colony are supplied by the interests from this capital.

In 1913, the Chinese Government promised to give seven and a half francs monthly for each leper, but, owing to one revolution after another, this money was never given. In 1930, the new governor of Kwang Tung accorded the lepers about 3,000 francs a month, but this sum is not supplied regularly. In November, 1935, it was already nine months since Father Marsigny had received anything.

From time to time, a few European and American philanthropists send donations (the Quai d'Orsay sent a few thousand francs one year), but it

is always difficult to meet expenses, despite the fact that Reverend Father Marsigny is a great manager. The men's quarters should be built over, and there is need of electricity.

From 1914 to 1931, the settlement was opened to 4,604 persons: 4,604 persons who have been drawn away from distress and from a maddening life. From a social point of view, the results are splendid. The work has withstood the many adversities, revolutions, and famines, thanks to the untiring courage of a few French missionaries, who, silently and with but little means, have ceaselessly laboured, endeavouring to keep doing better.

Francis BORREY,

former surgeon

*at the French and Chinese Hospital
in Canton, China.*

(Translated.)

The Clear-Sightedness of St. Francis Xavier

ON APRIL 7th, 1541, the *St. James* left Lisbon, bearing St. Francis Xavier towards India. The Missionary had but a very general knowledge of the Orient; the Pontifical Letters by which the title of Apostolic Nuncio had been conferred on him, and the important recommendation of King John III, who was eager to have the Faith spread throughout his empire, reminded him of the immense task which lay before him, one that required much information.

St. Francis Xavier realized how little fitted he was for such work. In a precious letter which he addressed to St. Ignatius, he spoke of the one to whom he turned for enlightenment: "For the love of God, I entreat you to write us a long letter, telling us just how we must act among the pagans. Without doubt, we shall find out by experience a little of what should be done, but we hope that God will deign to make known to us, through you, how we are to proceed."

On arriving in Goa, the Missionary, ever obedient and submissive, cast a scrutinizing glance at the prosperous city. To all appearances, there existed therein a Christian mode of living, but many were the hidden miseries: slavery, the influence of idolatry, which, owing to the fact that the Brahmins and the Mussulmans were wealthy, was favourably looked upon, debauchery, which kept many a Christian away from the Sacraments and caused the infidels to despise the Faith. But was there not a still greater evil?

St. Francis Xavier, after having had dealings with the people of Goa, discovered that they knew but little about the Catholic doctrine. Immediately did he decide to convert them and, having donned a surplice, he went through the streets ringing a little bell and calling to all, to the rich and to the poor, to the children and to the grown-ups, to come for instruction. Five months later, the city was transformed.



FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER:
DECEMBER 3RD.

He had not come to India solely for the Europeans; the Governor, aware of the fact, decided to send him to the pearl fishers. After travelling over six hundred miles, he reached a region which was quite different. There he had to be satisfied with short reports, for it was impossible to consult the monographs. Among the pearl fishers there were some Christians, but as they had had no priest with them for eight years, they had gone back to the pagan customs and superstitious practices. Along the entire Coast, idolatry reigned supreme, and the philosophy of the Brahmins, the disturbances of the sorcerers, the noisy festivals and mysteries of the old pagodas, and all the impure practices were a source of worry for the apostolic labourer.

With but two young clerics as interpreters, he wondered if he could possibly make an impression on the rude people on the parched shores upon which he had landed.

He tried to think of a way, and closely did he examine those who approached him. He planned arousing the

interest of different groups of the natives by explaining to them the first few articles of the Apostles' Creed, and he won them over little by little.

Courageously did he endeavour to teach these heathens a few prayers, and his efforts were crowned with success. All of them crowded around him to pray, and humbly did he write to St. Ignatius: "It was then that I began to realize that the Kingdom of Heaven belonged to them."

For two years, St. Francis Xavier went through the villages along the coast, from Tuticorin to Cape Comorin, and he everywhere witnessed the work of divine grace. By uniting their prayers to those of the Great Spiritual Father, thirty thousand of the inhabitants received the gift of Faith. He worked hard, very hard, as he himself has stated: "After administering Baptism so often, my arms are tired, and, after repeating the Creed, the Commandments, and the other prayers over and over again, I am no longer able to speak."

Soon after reaching the place indicated to him by the Governor of Goa, he had had the happiness of seeing all the inhabitants ready to accept the Faith, but, on reaching Japan, he found himself obliged to employ a more insinuating method.

The Catechism lessons given in public did not suffice, and they were sometimes scoffed at by the bonzes. The Japanese, whom he found to be

very intelligent, preferred conversation in which each one, in his own way, by asking many dissimilar questions, learned about the new religion. St. Francis Xavier decided to do all in his power to satisfy the inhabitants without, however, missing an opportunity of alluding to the articles of the Creed, by which he would be able to show forth the beauty of Christianity in a more striking manner to the bonzes, princes, men of letters, and the ordinary people.

His first thought on arriving was to win the favour of those in charge of the universities, and to convert the staunch Buddhists. However, he soon discovered that the bonzes had much to do with everything that was going on in the country, and that it was impossible to carry out his plans. It was only after going from city to city, taking part in long conversations and putting up with the endless discussions of the Buddhist monks, that he succeeded in establishing the first Christian settlements.

On hearing the bonzes asking how it was that the religion of the Europeans could be looked upon as being the true one, when the Chinese knew nothing about it, St. Francis Xavier's thoughts turned to China.

It was from the Chinese that the Japanese had received their culture, their writing, their moral philosophy, and their Buddhist religion, and the great Missionary began to reflect that the conversion of China would indeed be providential, for it would mean the ruin of Buddhism in the Far East. "Soon after the Japanese learn that the Chinese have accepted the law of God," he remarked, "they will lose faith in their sects." And he added, "I am fully confident that, by means of the Society of Jesus, the Chinese and the Japanese will leave aside their idolatry, and that they will adore the True God and His Son, Jesus Christ, the Saviour of Mankind."

Such a gigantic programme was conceived by a leader, who having travelled over several fields of apostolate, endeavouring to convert different races, finally decided on the strategic point to which the best missionaries of his Order should be sent. The only knowledge he had of the Chinese he had gathered from the prized allusions of Japanese scholars, but he was already mysteriously attracted by the immensity of their country, and their activity. Behind the economical and political barriers which shut off the vast Chinese Empire from the West, he pictured to himself a nation which the Gospel would tend to strengthen, and for which God had reserved a wonderful mission.

Burnt up with fever, he fell on the threshold of this Empire, like a soldier facing the object intended to be effected, but Sancian henceforth points out a direction, and marks the first stop on the way to Peking, which others will go beyond, after having, after his example, looking penetratingly ahead of them, believing, along with him, that China is destined to be evangelized.

J. COUVREUR, S. J.



Lay open thy works to the Lord: and thy thoughts shall be directed.

(Prov., Chap. VI.)

In Memory of a Devoted Benefactress



On September 23rd, 1936, at half-past two in the morning, Mrs. Marie Eugenie H. MacKenzie, a devoted benefactress of our Community, breathed her last, after being ill five months. Very peacefully did she surrender her soul to God, surrounded by the members of the religious family whom she loved in a special manner, and whose most fervent prayers accompanied her soul during its passage from time to Eternity.

The lamented deceased was born at St. Norbert, Co. Berthier, on December 31st, 1864. The birthplace of her father, Mr. Jules Huguenin, was Nantes, in Brittany, and that of her mother, Mrs. Henriette Lord, Berthierville. While still quite young, she was adopted by an uncle and an aunt who had no children of their own, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Lord. In 1888, she contracted matrimony with Mr. M. R. MacKenzie, of Montreal.

In 1912, she took up her abode in our humble Institute, still in its infancy, and, from then on, she dedicated her time to the service of the Community, and she also disposed of her goods in favour of it.

During her painful illness, our dear departed benefactress constantly edified every one around her by her piety, her patience, her perfect resignation to the Holy Will of God, and particularly by her confidence in the Blessed Virgin. Her whole life long, she had a very special devotion to this loving Protectress, and zealously did she labour to make her honoured. She took a particular interest in the First Saturday Devotion, which attracts to the foot of the altar of our Immaculate Mother, in the modest chapel of our Mother House, devout persons desirous of honouring the Queen of Heaven and of obtaining numerous favours. She faithfully kept an account of the number of Guards of Honours, and she did all in her power to bring new clients to Our Lady. Without the least doubt, our tender and merciful heavenly Mother, who is not to be outdone in generosity, came herself to welcome, on the threshold of Eternity, the soul of our dear benefactress, in order to present it to her divine Son and to lead it into the abode of the Blessed.

Dressed in the white livery of the Eucharistic Confraternity, the lamented deceased was laid out in a parlour of our Mother House, where all the members of the Community went in turn to say the Rosary near her mortal remains. A number of relatives and friends also came to offer their pious suffrages for the repose of her soul.

High Mass of Requiem was celebrated at half-past eight on Friday, September 25th, by a nephew of the deceased, Reverend Father Bernard

Lefils, Curate of St. Francis of Assisi's Parish, Montreal. The deacon and sub-deacon were Reverend Father A. Duplessis, chaplain, and Reverend Father Leo Lomme, a priest of the Foreign Mission Seminary, Pont Viau. Reverend Father C. Chaput, S. J., went to meet the body. Present in the sanctuary were also Reverend Fathers A. Daignault, S. J., and E. Charbonneau, Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi's Parish.

The chapel was filled by the Sisters of our Community and a number of recollected and sympathetic relatives and friends. Several members of the Ladies' Auxiliary came to pay a last tribute to the dear member, who for many years, had been secretary of their benevolent society.

She who, for twenty-four years, was for our Community an instrument of Divine Providence, has fled from our midst, but from the blissful abode, to which her charity must have soon brought her, we trust that she will continue to assist us.

Her mortal remains lie in the cemetery in Cote des Neiges, beside those of a former friend of hers, who also helped our youthful Community, Miss Celina Montmarquet, who died on March 9th, 1934.

Never will these two devoted benefactresses be forgotten by the grateful members of the Community of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

THE MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

If People Only Knew

If people only knew how great the power of the Souls in Purgatory is, and what graces may be obtained through their intercession, they would not be so much forgotten.

St. John Baptist Vianney.

The Agnus Dei

The *Agnus Dei* (thus called because it is impressed with a figure of a lamb) is made of red wax, balm, and chrism, according to the formula in the Roman ritual.

The Pope blesses the *Agnus Dei* the first year of his pontificate and, afterwards, every seven years, on the Saturday before Quinquagesima Sunday, by solemn prayers and ceremonies.

The *Agnus Dei*s have been used for already a long time. Pope Leo III gave one to Emperor Charlemagne, who regarded it as a treasure sent him from heaven, and looked upon it with piety and devotion.

Let us have confidence in the *Agnus Dei*, and God will make it the instrument of His bounty and mercy. Let us wear one, or least part of one. In the Brief which accompanied the *Agnus Dei* sent to the Emperor of Constantinople, Pope Urban V stated that the smallest part of one possesses as much virtue as a whole one.

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.



Enclosed please find a Postal Note in favour of the missions in China, in thanksgiving for favours obtained through the intercession of dear St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. Please pray that some other requests may be granted. Mrs. H. G., Williamstown, Mass. — I wish to return thanks to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, for, through her intercession, my husband has obtained a position. The enclosed offering is for your missions. Mrs. D., Montreal. — I am renewing my subscription to THE PRECURSOR

and am enclosing an offering in honour of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, who has obtained me a favour. J. L. G.

— Enclosed please find a donation towards The Little Flower Burse, in thanksgiving for favours obtained. L. L.

— I wish to thank St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for the favour she has obtained me. Mrs. P. D., Montreal. —

I am very grateful to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for the favour she obtained me after I had promised to send

an offering in her honour. Mrs. P. S. — The Little Flower of Jesus has obtained me a favour and, to thank her, I am sending you a five years' subscription to THE PRECURSOR. Miss D.

— Enclosed please find my renewal subscription, in thanksgiving for a favour obtained through the intercession of St.

Teresa of the Child Jesus, Mrs. N. B. Montreal. — We have obtained a favour through the intercession of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, and

we are fulfilling a promise we made some time ago, by sending you the ransom price of four dying Chinese babies. Please pray for us. Mrs. B., North Bay, Ont. —

Enclosed find an offering in honour of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for favours received. Please pray for me. Mrs. E. S. Pawtucket, R. I. —

I have received a favour through the intercession of the Little Flower of Jesus, and am enclosing a small donation. Please remember me in your prayers. Miss J. P., Anthony, R. I. —

I have received a favour from the Little Flower of Jesus, and am sending you an offering, as promised. Please pray for me. Mrs. L. D., Rosemount.

— The Little Flower of Jesus has obtained me a great favour. Enclosed please find an offering in honour of this dear Saint. I am asking her to intercede for me

again. A Friend of the Missions. — I received a favour through the intercession of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus after I had promised to send an offering in her honour. I am gladly fulfilling my promise. Mrs. L.

OFFERINGS FOR THE LITTLE FLOWER BURSE.

We shall therefore receive with gratitude, any offerings, (thanksgivings for favours obtained or requests for new ones) for the complete formation of the Burse in honor of St. Teresa 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!

September-October	1935.....	\$ 29.50
November-December	"	7.00
January-February	1936.....	159.42
March-April	"	45.70
May-June	"	37.60
July-August	"	152.25
September-October	"	16.50



FLOOD ON THE ISLAND OF SHEK LUNG, CHINA.



Echoes from our Missions

SHEK LUNG, CHINA

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Hospitallers at the Shek Lung Lazaretto.

THE FLOOD ON THE ISLAND

Half of the island of Shek Lung was again flooded towards the end of May, and we lost all our vegetables. Day and night, the lepers examined the dikes around the Island.

We could hear the noise of the tam-tams, which were being beaten in the neighbouring villages to notify the inhabitants that a dike had given way, and to ask them to lend a helping hand. Each time that there is a disaster of the kind, the pagans believe that the demon of the waters has not been given enough food, and, in order to appease his hunger, they throw some *soung* and rice into the river. The glutton was not satisfied even after being given such a meal, for the following night, the tam-tams were again beaten to announce fresh disasters.

The water continued to rise, and, as a result, three of the men's houses were flooded. Some of the patients spent the night in the open air while the others were taking their rest as usual. When the lepers saw that a certain part of the dike was about to give way, they picked up their crowbars, and did their best to sink beams into the earth. The rice had just been planted and, if God had not come to the aid of our poor charges, they would not have a crop to take in this year. Everybody saw to saving the animals and the different things. We, for our part, saved the hinds, rabbits and hens.

The Christians sent up fervent supplications to God, and came to ask the help of our prayers, which we had already thought of offering up in their behalf, for they really excite our pity during their troubles. We had a miraculous medal thrown on the spot where there seemed to be the most danger, in order that the pagans might find out for themselves if the Woman who long ago crushed the head of the serpent, is not more powerful than the horrible serpent they worship. Our dear Lady did not delay in showing her power, the waters were immediately abated, and there was no longer any danger for the rice in the fields.

MASSACRE OF THE LEPERS

Every day, at least one poor unfortunate, in a fit of terror, asks us to be given a place in our leper settlement. We have been told that all the

lepers are being chased out of Siou King, a small place not far from Canton, for they are supposed to be the cause of all the disturbances there have been for some time past. After being seized and led to a lonely place between two mountains, they are shot to death. On coming back from the church one morning early in June, we found a young man and his mother sitting on our verandah. The mother, who had just escaped from Siou King, was not at all easy to get on with. After she was taken in, she repeatedly asked us if we were going to give her a screen, and she told us plainly that she must not be given any work to do, etc., etc. If there are several persons like her in Siou King, it is not surprising that there is trouble... We kept the poor creature just the same.

Not long ago, a young man who lives in that district, came to ask the Reverend Director, Father Marsigny, to let his father stay at the Lazaretto for a while, in order that he might not be seized along with the others. The poor fugitives excite our pity. Very sad is the account they give us of their misfortune, and, not being able to take them all in, we sometimes have to step aside in order to hide our tears. We do not yet know exactly all that is going on in Siou King, but, there is seemingly a motive for the consternation of the people who come here asking for shelter.

CORPUS CHRISTI AT THE LAZARETTO



CHAPEL OF THE LEPER SETTLEMENT
IN SHEK LUNG, CHINA, PRETTILY DECORATED.

We feel that at the Lazaretto, more than anywhere else, each feast of the Church has a character all its own. Corpus Christi, in particular, awakens the ardour of our patients; they understand that it is especially to them that our Eucharistic Lord addresses these words of comfort: "Come to Me all ye that labour and are heavy-laden, and I will refresh you." It is with joy and gratitude that they accept His invitation, and triumphantly do they celebrate this feast.

The decorations to be placed along the road on which the procession is to be held, are prepared, in private, a month ahead of time. At such a period, no one goes to the room of another person without first notifying him

and stating why he wishes to pay him a visit. It is only after everything has been covered over with newspapers, that the visitor is made welcome. As in the past, the principal decorations this year were hangings consisting of glass beads and the coloured seeds of a gramineous plant. What patience is required to do so much work so well! Truly, one who has not seen the decorations with his own eyes could never imagine that they have been prepared by poor lepers who are nearly blind. Most of our charges have no hands, but they have thought of a way of getting along. They ask somebody to tie a little bamboo cane on their arm, and they dip this cane into some paste. The paste is then applied to a bead, which they lay on the design that has been traced beforehand.

For twenty years, the lepers have given us a surprise on the Feast of Corpus Christi, but they never wait until the Feast itself to see what we think about what they wish to show us. Occasionally, they make us a little sign, and, knowing what they mean by it, we discreetly follow them. Then it is that we hear the exclamations of the lepers behind the blankets which conceal the surprises. "*Ayia! Sane sy ky!*" do they joyfully cry out. The louder they cry, the prettier their work is supposed to be. All their work is not done with superior skill, but God may regard horrible things as masterpieces and masterpieces as horrible things, for all depends on one's intention and degree of love.

Immediately after the ten Masses celebrated in the three chapels by the priests who came to take part in the Corpus Christi procession, the lepers began to adorn the triumphal arches prepared for the One who formerly showed a preference for the sick and the outcasts. There were threatening clouds in the sky and there were even a few little showers, which seemingly wished to remind us that the procession would be held only after an abundance of *Aves* had been recited. A number of our dear charges saw to placing the different statues on the thrones prepared for them on the decorated arches, while the patients who could not help in any way went to the chapel to pray. Towards one o'clock, the dark clouds began to disappear and, at half-past three, the time fixed for the procession, the courageous converts were overjoyed to find that the weather was ideal.

As we had no carpets to put on the paths along which the procession was to wend its way, the lepers thoughtfully made some out of saw-dust that had been coloured, and many were the designs.

Three of our dear Sisters of Hong Kong came with a Chinese woman to share our happiness on this lovely feast; the more people there are, the happier are our patients. Thus, at the Lazaretto, from one festivity to another, we piously and joyfully travel towards heaven.

VISITOR AT SHEK LUNG

On June 22nd, Sister St. Paul, ⁽¹⁾ Superior of our convent in Hong Kong, brought Mrs. Carnrick, a tourist from New York, to see us. The kind visitor had met the sisters of our eldest Sister, in Montreal, and she came to give her news of them, as she had promised. As the dear lady expressed

1. Blanche CLEMENT, of Montreal.

the desire of seeing those of our lepers who were suffering the most, we hastened to show them to her. She was really surprised, and remarked over and over again that she could not believe that human beings were able to endure such suffering, and that she thought that there could be nothing worse than a disease of the kind. She was so deeply emotioned that she asked us if hell could be more dreadful. When we assured her that hell was certainly far worse as, for the damned, there is only despair, while the lepers cherish the hope of sharing heavenly bliss after patiently carrying their cross, she said that she found it wonderful to see our poor charges laughing in spite of their sufferings, and that she was convinced that only the Catholic religion was able to work such miracles.

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Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters in Pamientcheng.

BEHIND THE WALLS OF OUR MISSION IN PAMIENTCHENG.

The old folks of the Home and the children of the Orphanage assist in making things interesting at our modest Mission. While endeavouring to procure our poor charges a little happiness, we find that our own is increased. Our orphans who, soon after their birth, were abandoned by their parents, are always anxious to be petted, and something seems to be missing in the lives of these dear children. "I'm your treasure," they sometimes cry out while running towards us, and what they say is true; their little souls are so precious that we may well look upon them as real treasures which God has confided to us and which we have come to seek on the other side of the world. On certain festivals, we give them a few toys, which the children of Canada have given up and which arrived here in the legendary cases sent us from our dear native land. We also give them candies from Canada,

but not very many, for the little ones are quite numerous, and the old people are just as fond of sweets as the dear youngsters are. It is too bad that it costs so much to send things to a distant land, for we are able to put such cheer into the lives of our dear charges by simply giving them a trinket or a stick of candy.

During the retreat, Sister du Saint Cœur de Marie⁽¹⁾ and Sister Joseph Arthur⁽²⁾ came to replace two of our companions, who were supposed to go to Szepingkai. These dear Sisters seized the opportunity to prepare the children for a little play in honour of the religious who has charge of them, Sister St. Lazare⁽³⁾. When it was time to put it on, the children donned their pretty costumes, and anxiously awaited



TWO ORPHANS OF PAMIENTCHENG, MANCHUKUO, WHO WERE BAPTIZED ON APRIL 23RD, 1936, AND WHO MADE THEIR FIRST COMMUNION THE FOLLOWING DAY.

1. Agnes L'AVALLÉE, of Winnipeg.

2. Laura THERIEN, of St. Leonard of Aston.

3. Juliette RAINVILLE, of Beaufort.

the arrival of their mistress. The latter hardly recognized them, so prettily were they arrayed. At the end of the play, Our Lord was represented as blessing the little ones. A little five-year-old girl, after gazing upon the scene, threw herself, of her own accord, into the arms of our loving Master, and she did it in such a charming way that we were as deeply emotioned as we should have been if the real persons were before us.

We are obliged to act as mothers to these poor children, and we strive to train them in such a way that they will later be good housekeepers. During the holidays, the big, the middle-sized, and even the small orphans must help with the cooking, the washing, the ironing, and the sweeping. The little ones six or seven years old carry in the dry sorghum stalks for the fire, and perform other little tasks. We have the dear children take turns in helping us, and they are really delighted.

Besides the noisy youngsters, we have eighty-four old people, who are also very interesting. A number of them are in the eighties and all, with the exception of those who have been carried here, are quite sprightly. Those who are not ailing go to Mass regularly, and assist at the prayers which the Christians recite in common. It is surprising to see the faith one old man possesses. He is very fervent, and never grows tired of repeating a prayer that he says he learned from Father Berichon: "Dear God, love me, I love Thee." When he wishes to prove his gratitude to God, he takes hold of his different garments, and even of the bed-clothes and pillows. If he is on his knees, he gets up and points to each article, and says something like this: "I had nothing, and here I've been given all these things. O my God, I thank Thee." At other times, he repeatedly strikes his breast, thinking that he may have offended God. "If one happens to take the wrong road," he once remarked, "he may find a way of discovering the right one, when a piece of work is done badly, it may be done over again, but when one displeases God, he must show that he is sorry by asking Him to forgive him."

These grown-up children are not always disinterested, and anybody may find this out on hearing them praying. Once during a very dry spell, one very old man who waters the flowers in the garden, added to his morning prayers the following supplication, which his companions overheard: "The soil is dried up, and all the flowers are withering. Dear Lord, send some rain, for You know that I'm too old to carry water to the flower beds..."

But it is while the old people are being taught about our holy religion that they appear to be the most interesting. The catechumens seat themselves on the *kang*, and the catechist finds that it is useless to do much talking. He simply asks each of them if he remembers what he has learned the day before. If he receives a negative answer, he asks that the forgotten



AN AGED CHRISTIAN WOMAN
OF MANCHUKUO.

sentence be repeated five, and even ten times. One old man, making a great effort, keeps repeating: "I believe in God," while another says over and over again: "I believe in the Holy Ghost." The good old men end up by learning their ordinary prayers and the articles of the Apostles' Creed. Besides, the Holy Ghost is capable of teaching them without noise of words, and we are often surprised to see how Christianlike are our poor charges, who, as yet, know but little about the Faith.

The Home may be compared to a waiting room, for life's day is nearly over for all the paupers who have had the happiness of being accepted by us. Very often, one of them is summoned by the divine Master, and, undoubtedly, he goes directly to the House of his Heavenly Father, for not one of them lives very long after being purified by the Saving Waters of Baptism.

When the other Christians see what charity is being exercised here, they are filled with just as great a love for our holy religion as they are when they see what devotedness we continually try to show to the sick at the Dispensary and in the different homes.

Report of the Dispensary of Pamientcheng from January to July inclusive:

Baptisms	92	Patients	12,032
Treatments	22,806	Dressings	2,826
Homes visited	138	Teeth extracted	87
		Vaccinations	202
		Injections	215

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

Tuesday, March 3, 1936

The new Christians sometimes prove to us that they highly prize our holy Faith, and one woman in particular, whose generosity may be compared to that of St. Monica, prayed with such fervour and shed so many tears that she finally obtained the conversion of her husband, an unfortunate apostate, who not only refused to go to church, but who did all in his power to keep her from going. Each time the poor woman reached home after visiting our divine Lord, she was cruelly treated and even beaten, but she never grew discouraged. We often noticed that she was all out of breath when she returned after approaching the Holy Table. So much generosity could not go unrewarded. One day, one of her relatives took sick while visiting her. Our Sister infirmarian was sent for, and she did not fail to admonish the poor apostate, who, although he had a sceptical smile on his lips, was polite enough to listen to her. Our Sister, after making a few attempts to win him over, had the happiness of getting him to consent to let his wife live up to her religion. The renegade finally agreed to be brought to the church, where he went to Confession. Some time after, he fell sick, and, the priest having been sent for, the poor man confessed his sins anew, received Holy Viaticum and Extreme Unction, and peacefully expired while kissing the crucifix. May our loving God be thanked for such mercy!



Boarding-School for Girls, Taonan, Manchukuo.

Saturday March 21

The cook at the boarding-school, Lao Koa, has, for a few days past, been busy preparing the *tsiang*, a dish the Chinese are unable to do without. The beans, after being boiled, mashed and formed into a brick-shaped mass, are exposed to the heat, in order that they may ferment. A month later, these beans are placed in big jars, into which is put a large quantity of salt and water, and, after being left to ferment for two weeks, they are relished by the Chinese.

Thursday, March 26

For the last fifteen days, our Sister infirmarian has been going to see a seventeen-year-old girl, who is in consumption, and who is also suffering from peritonitis. After speaking to her several times about our holy religion and teaching her the "Our Father" and the "Hail Mary", Sister to-day has the happiness of hearing her begging to be baptized. In order to make sure that the sick girl is really in earnest, our Sister infirmarian, after giving her treatment, gets ready to leave as she is in the habit of doing, but the poor maiden soon calls her to her side, and says: "I'm anxious to be made a child of God." As the Saving Waters are being poured and the words: "Margaret, I baptize thee, etc." are being repeated, the face of the poor sufferer lights up with a smile.

Friday, March 27

We pay another visit to the patient we baptized yesterday. The happy girl has succeeded in persuading her mother to destroy all the idols in her room, and, on entering, we are pleased to see that even the ancestral tablets and offerings are gone... We entreat our Immaculate Mother to cure the new Christian, the only daughter of the first teacher of the third school. Before sending for us, the pagan parents did all that they could for their daughter. They even had her brought to Mukden, where an operation was attempted, but the Chinese surgeons, fearing that she might die while being operated on, had closed up the wound, saying that all their efforts were useless. We place our patient under the protection of our Immaculate Mother, who has so often come to our aid.

Sunday, May 10

Accompanied by the pupils of the boarding-school, we visit a pagoda, situated quite near the Catholic Mission. It is a brick building of an oriental type of architecture, and there are ten departments. It was erected seventeen years ago, by General Tchang, and is still kept up by him. Over the middle door there is a belfry containing a big bell. In this pagoda are to be found over a hundred deities, among them being the god of the wind, the god of the rain, the god of fine weather, the god of wealth, the god of happiness,

the principal goddess, and the one that is supposed to protect the children. Several of these idols are made of bronze, and a number of them are covered over with silk, velvet, or some other rich material. Most of them represent former emperors, glorious generals, and benefactors of humanity.

The bonzes living in this pagoda have very strict rules. Three times a day, the bell calls them to one of the rooms to recite their prayers. They take great care in singing their incantations, but no one, not even the most



A MISSIONARY SISTER OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, A NATIVE SISTER OF THE CONGREGATION OF OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY, AND A GROUP OF GIRLS OF THE BOARDING-SCHOOL IN TAONAN, MANCHUKUO.

learned scholar, can guess the meaning of what they are chanting. The food of these monks is indeed scanty; they are never allowed to eat meat, and they live on vegetables. They were saying their prayers when we arrived, but they did not appear to be disturbed by our presence. Very sad are we on thinking that Catholics are far from addressing God with as much respect and attention as these Buddhists appear to have while addressing their ugly idols.

Friday, May 15

Sister Marie Germaine⁽¹⁾ has had the happiness of baptizing a pagan woman, who has been sick for several weeks. The poor creature came to the Dispensary just as long as she had strength enough to make her way thither. The first day she failed to make her appearance, our Sister was very anxious, and asked several persons if they knew what had happened to her, but she was unable to get the least information. The patient came back a week ago, and we remarked that she was much paler and thinner than when we had seen her last. While giving her the best of care, our Sister infirmarian told her a little about our holy Faith, and got her to promise that she would send for us if anything hindered her from coming to the Dispensary. This morning, she asked a kind friend of hers to go to tell us to come to see her. After the principal truths of our holy religion had been explained to her for the second time, the Saving Waters were poured on her brow.

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



A MISSIONARY SISTER OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,
A NATIVE SISTER OF OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY,
AND A FEW GIRLS FROM THE BOARDING-SCHOOL OF TAONAN
AT THEIR SEWING LESSON.

Saturday, June 20

There are fewer patients at the Dispensary to-day, for an eclipse has been announced, and not many of the inhabitants venture to leave their dwellings. The eclipse, which begins towards noon, lasts until three o'clock, and all the Chinese wish to see it in all its beauty. As a very small number of them can afford to buy special glasses, many are the pieces of glass held over lamps until they are black. At noon, all the inhabitants are able to admire, without taking any risk, the majestic spectacle. What do the pagans think of this phenomena? A few of them

think that strange is the coincidence. Very doleful are the notes from the bell in a nearby pagoda, which is rung the whole time the eclipse is to be seen. The poor bonzes are greeting their god...

Sunday, June 21

To-day is the fifth day of the fifth month, known as the *Kouo Kie*, and there is great rejoicing everywhere.

The Christians at the Mission no longer think of practising superstition on this festivity, but they do no work, and are set on having a good feast. The Reverend Pastor, wishing to give them a big meal, has one of his animals killed for them. The catechumens, boarders, and helpers receive their share of the *tiao tze* (little pork pies), and they think of talking about nothing else. The *tiao tze* are being made everywhere and, at noon, we receive a dishful of them...

Tuesday, June 30

Report of the Dispensary of Taonan, from January to June inclusive:

Baptisms.....539			
Patients.....21,357	Treatments.....27,077	Dressings.....12,793	
Teeth extracted...77	Homes visited...737	Vaccinations...311	



The Lord is nigh unto all that call upon Him: to all that call upon Him in truth.
(Ps. CXLIV.)

A Little About Missionary Life in Tungleao

When our day's work is done, we sometimes go in spirit to our loved native land. We learned much about the physical and moral misery of the people here, while treating them at the Dispensary or in their homes, and we take pleasure in thinking of dear Canada, and in thanking God for allowing us to be born in a Christian country. Often do we think of the many girls in our native land who wish to spend their lives for God, but who do not know just where they should show their devotedness. Oh, if they could but see the vast mission field, in which they could give such comfort to poor wretched creatures!

Unfortunately, the zeal of the missionaries is kept within bounds, and they are obliged to await the *base metal* with which souls are ransomed in a pagan land... Owing to the lack of funds, the Reverend Pastor has had



THE LEGENDARY WANDERING DEALER IN MANCHUKUO.

to close the Mission school, which was attended by over three hundred pagan and Christian children. The young Christians, however, were not sent home. Two classrooms have been reserved for them, in one of which there are thirty little boys, and, in the other, twenty little girls. Most of these children are in the First Grade. Occasionally, we teach them hygiene; the dear pupils now know a little about sanitary living conditions, but many of them are too poor to procure even a towel and some soap.

Sometimes when we are coming back from the Dispensary, we see a number of little girls playing near their homes. They all hasten to bow to us, and if we do not appear to notice them, they run on ahead of us. When they are a certain distance away, they stop to tell us to look at them making their bows.

Just lately, a wretched pagan asked us if we could not do anything for his little girl, who has a hare-lip and a crooked nose. The poor man sorrow-



A LITTLE MANCHUKOUAN IN
HIS GRANDMOTHER'S ARMS.

fully told us that his wife had forbidden him to bring the child back home, and informed us that he was going to cast it away if we could not straighten its nose and its lip. We immediately consulted Father Bouchard, and he allowed us to keep it at the Mission. The child's father was quite pleased when he learned what we had decided to do, and he hastily signed a paper, without appearing to experience the least sorrow. Twelve days later, the happy little one, whose soul had been purified by Holy Baptism, left this earth. Well may this dear child be called "a little thief of heaven."

There are other persons who obtain heavenly bliss only after paying for it by a long life of suffering; finding themselves homeless, they come at the age of seventy or eighty, to the Old Folks' Home, where they are made welcome, baptized, and taught about our holy religion. One day, we went to the Home to treat an old man and, while there, we noticed another on his knees. His hands were resting on a block of wood, which serves as a pillow, table, and seat, and he was praying out loud. Being blind, he was not disturbed by what was going on around him. When he had finished his prayers, he repeated all the answers in the Catechism, which he had learned at the Mission, and addressed God thus: "Now, dear God, I'm going to prepare for my Communion to-morrow." Immediately after, he gropingly helped his dying companion to move to the other end of the *kang*, and even offered to light his pipe and to give him some food, but the poor sick man no longer desired such things.

Just lately, something happened that can hardly be believed. A poor wretch, while on his way to a certain place, came across a dead dog. Overjoyed, he thought of what a feast he was going to have, and he immediately seized the animal, which had fallen dead while running over a live wire. Before getting very far, he himself fell, but some charitable passers-by hastily came to his aid. We are now treating him at the Dispensary, and we hope that his mishap will win him the precious gift of Faith.

In spite of difficulties, our holy religion is triumphing in Tungleao. In the month of March, His Excellency Mgr. Lapierre confirmed thirty-six new Christians, and, on May 30th, Reverend Father Baron baptized ten catechumens.

Owing to the lack of funds, we are unable to establish even the works which are really needed in this pagan land, but, while awaiting God's good time, we carefully follow the advice which our revered bishop, His Excellency Mgr. Lapierre gave us while paying us a visit: we sow seeds of charity, and endeavour to make our little convent resemble Bethany, so that our loving Lord will be pleased to dwell therein. In this heathen land, there are so few places to which He may come to reside!...

On seeing the way certain staunch pagans carry out their superstitious practices, our zeal is stimulated. The other day, a Mongolian woman told us that she adored the sky, and that she bowed to it a great many times daily. She said that she could not begin to count all the bows she made, and that, each day, after growing tired of making them, she prostrated herself. What a contrast there is between such folly and the sweet obligations of our holy religion! Truly, the way the pagans act towards their idols is of a nature to make lukewarm Catholics feel ashamed of themselves.

Report of the Dispensary of Tungleao from February to May inclusive:

Baptisms.....162			
Patients.....8,116	Treatments.....12,322	Dressings.....3,517	
Teeth extracted.....19	Homes visited...185	Vaccinations....121	

Report of the Dispensary of Siaokaiki (open three times a week) from February to July inclusive:

Baptisms.....28	Patients.....1,965	Treatments.....2,321
Dressings.....360	Homes visited...15	Teeth extracted..6

* * *

WAKAMATSU, JAPAN

VISITS PAID TO THE POOR

Thanks to a generous offering sent us, we were able to procure each of the fifteen families we have been helping, six pounds of rice and a smoked fish. This we brought ourselves to the poor people, one day in January.

It snowed more than usual this winter and, as the roads were blocked up, our two Sisters, accompanied by a Japanese woman, were obliged to walk single file, to the homes of these unfortunate pagans, which were about two miles distant.

Here, it is easy to lose one's way, for the sections, and not the streets, have names, and the numbers do not always follow in order. When our Sisters reached their destination, they found in a little room, a lean-faced lad with long dishevelled hair. The poor fellow was sitting on some rags and torn paper, with which the cracks in the smoky wall were to be stuffed up later on. A few vegetables in a pail of water were all that the paupers had to prepare a meal with. Five children near the idiot were trying to warm themselves at a charcoal fire, and we asked them where their parents were. On catching sight of us, the neighbours notified the head of the house, who was busy shovelling snow. The poor man, who was stiff with the cold, told us that it was probably owing to their dire distress that the eldest of his six children was destitute of reason. The mother had died, and the wretched father was unable to earn a living for his children, for he was a

coolie, and there was no work for him during the winter season. It was the shivering idiot whom we pitied the most, for he had only a thin cotton kimono on. The things we brought were appreciated by the poor pagan father and his little ones. We did not fail to tell them all to remember to thank the Lord of heaven and earth for providing them with food.

The second of the five hovels we visited was inhabited by a cheerful old man. We had been told that the "palace" we were looking for, was behind an isolated dwelling, in a narrow lane, and, after watching our steps for a while, we finally found it. When we arrived, we were told that the old man had gone to a neighbour's house to warm himself. The children, who had gathered round us, quickly ran to tell him that some foreigners had come to pay him a visit. We were bowed to several times before being asked to go inside. As soon as we did get in, we found that the three of us filled up the largest of the two rooms in the earthen hut. We learned that the old man was in the habit of spending the greater part of the day in the other room, under a *futon* (thick blanket).

The poor fellow, who is happy in spite of his poverty, was greatly pleased on receiving our gift, and he immediately thanked *Kami Sama* (God), in Japanese fashion. We seized the opportunity to speak to him of the great Lord of Heaven, who had sent him food, and we did not fail to leave him a miraculous medal. He was deeply touched on receiving it, and he took pleasure in thinking that he had a *Kami Sama* in his home. He regarded Mary's blessed image as an *Omamori* (noble protection).

We also went to see an aged paralytic, who, on learning of our arrival, pushed back the *kotatsu*. The Japanese are in the habit of putting a little charcoal covered over with ashes in a tin vessel, which they place on the floor. When they wish to warm their hands and feet, they slip under the thick blanket which they have seen to hanging over this vessel. The patient, who could hardly drag himself along, greatly excited our pity. During the evening recreation, we spoke with compassion about the poor idiot, the jolly old man, and the fund-holder, as our language teacher, who had come along with us, called the paralytic. She did not think that the last poor man we visited should be pitied, as he wore *zubons* (underclothes). Here, a pauper is no longer regarded as such if he manages to procure some underclothes. This goes to show that the people in this region must be satisfied with but a little...

The following day, five other families, three of which counted some blind members, received their share of the rice and fish. The children's limbs were blue with the cold. The blind people earn their living by practising massage. In the afternoon, as soon as the children come home from school, they let themselves be led by them, and they go through the streets ringing a bell to announce their arrival. The Japanese believe that a massagist is able to cure many diseases.

The snow is from six to ten feet deep, and a few of the homes we visited were almost snowed in.

EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION OF MGR. LEMIEUX, O. P. — HIS EXCELLENCY'S
VISIT TO WAKAMATSU

The episcopal consecration of Mgr. Lemieux, which took place on June 29th last, brought to Sendai all the ecclesiastical dignitaries living between Sapporo and Formosa; there were representatives from Korea and Manchuria, as well as from all the Communities of the Diocese. The pagans who assisted at the beautiful ceremony were deeply impressed. The universality of our holy religion was proved by the gathering together of Catholics belonging to twelve different nations.

On Sunday July 19th, at four o'clock in the afternoon, we went to the station with a number of Christians of Wakamatsu, and, at seven o'clock,



HIS EXCELLENCY MGR. LEMIEUX, O. P.

and the Reverend Dominican Fathers who accompanied him on July 20th, 1936,
the first time he visited the Kindergarten conducted by the Missionary
Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Wakamatsu, Japan.

His Excellency made his way to the Mission. The Christians kept staring at the distinguished visitor, for most of them had never before seen a bishop wearing the episcopal vestments. After Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, a reception was held in the Christians' assembly hall. Each one present was introduced to His Excellency, who afterwards delivered a touching discourse. The new prelate is greatly loved by the Japanese, whom he wins over by his thoughtfulness and leniency.

The following day, we were privileged to receive a visit from our revered Pastor and to invite him and the three priests who had come along with him, to partake of a Canadian dinner. Shortly before the meal was served, the children of the Kindergarten put on a little play.

In the afternoon, we assembled in the parlour to listen to what our visitor had to tell us about our dear native land. His Excellency, who will leave for Canada before very long, kindly offered to take any messages we had to give him.

At four o'clock, the revered prelate got ready to leave Wakamatsu, and we went with the personnel of the Mission and several Christians, to see him off. All the Christians of the district still take pleasure in thinking of the wonderful visit.

A JAPANESE FUNERAL

Complying with the request of the Reverend Pastor, three of us, Sister Marie de la Redemption⁽¹⁾, Sister de l'Enfant Jesus⁽²⁾, and Sister St. Francois de Sales⁽³⁾, set out for a Christian village, to attend the funeral of Mr. Koyama, a fervent Catholic.

After assisting at Holy Mass and taking breakfast, we made our way to the station at half-past four in the morning, for we knew it would take us at least two hours to reach our destination. On our way, we admired the many graceful hills, at the foot of which lie beautiful fields of rice, which reminded us of immense patched quilts. We noticed some pretty streams winding in and out along the railroad, little springs bubbling up here and there, and we occasionally saw, between the trees, the thatched roofs of a few small dwellings. We found that but one thing was lacking: a towering steeple of a Catholic church.

At seven o'clock, we reached Iajima, the railway terminus. As we were still two miles away from the chapel in Fukumezawa, we asked for a bus. The relatives of the dead man were waiting for us outside the little church. On an occasion of the kind, the people of our native land appear to be deeply impressed, but the people here wore such a broad smile that one would think that something very pleasant had happened. We immediately went inside to see to getting everything ready for the singing of Requiem High Mass, which commenced at eight o'clock.

The Christians here, as the Reverend Pastor has often remarked, show, first of all, that they are Japanese, and, afterwards, that they are Catholics. The devoted priest did his best to persuade the relatives of the deceased to have the body brought to the church, but he met with no success. According to a tradition, a corpse that passes along the same road twice draws misfortune upon the entire village.

After Mass, the Acts of Thanksgiving were said in common, and all the people went outside and began to bow to one another and to chatter as if nothing had happened. The catechist's wife brought us into one of the rooms adjoining the chapel and which serves as a residence. As it is customary, the funeral was fixed for three o'clock, and, in the meantime, we went to the little grove behind the chapel, and there took pleasure in gazing

1. Basillise MAILLET, of West Bathurst.

2. Florentine DANSEREAU, of Vercheres.

3. Georgine LATOUR, of Montreal.

at the beautiful landscape. At noon, dinner was served us on a little table ten inches high, and we were obliged to eat with chopsticks.

At half-past two, we made our way to the home of the deceased, a large dwelling with a thatched roof and smoky walls. The coffin, which was simply a rough wooden box, had been placed on a sort of catafalque, which looked half like the one used by Christians and half like that of the pagans.



A DINNER TAKEN IN JAPANESE FASHION.

On either side, two candles were burning, and a statue of Our Lady of Japan had been set up between two Japanese lanterns. On a little table were to be seen some flowers, a crucifix, a saucer containing some holy water in which a flower had been placed, to be used as a sprinkler, and, on another table close by, there were offerings in honour of the dead man. While we were chanting the *Libera*, the persons in the other two rooms who had sat down to a meal, took an interest in what was going on, and spoke about the singing. As soon as the prayers of the Church were over, the men were told what they were supposed to hold at the funeral: a flower, a candle, some sticks of incense, etc. Each of the near relatives of the deceased had donned the costume of the *samurai* (knights), for the Koyama family belong to an ancient order of knights. The coffin was placed on the verandah, and all the women folks came to gaze for the last time at the dead man, without appearing to be sad.

A few individuals in working clothes then placed the coffin upon their shoulders, while the women of the household, with a blue kimono on their heads, took hold of a long strip of yellow cotton, which had been tied to the coffin by a cord made of rice straw. The friends of the deceased went along a winding road to the cemetery, which is in the middle of a small wood. As soon as they reached their destination, they said good-bye to the dead man, and laid their offerings on the coffin. After the coffin had been lowered into the grave, a mat was spread over it and, when the prayers of the Church were ended, the eldest son threw in the first few shovelfuls of earth. Although

Mr. Koyama had been held in high esteem by the pagans as well as the Christians, no one looked sad. He was baptized at the age of eighteen, and he was sixty-eight when he died. It may be said of him that he led a truly Christian life. When we were obliged to remain in Fukumezawa to assist at a few religious ceremonies, it was at his home that we were given hospitality. His youngest son, who intends to be a priest, is attending the Major Seminary.

AT THE KINDERGARTEN

On March 20th, the children were more neatly dressed than usual, for, on that day, eight of the biggest pupils were to receive certificates, and, according to a Japanese custom, an occasion of the kind is always very solemn. After the singing of the *Kemi ga yo*, the National Hymn, took place the distribution of the certificates, and the children bowed gracefully on receiving them. The oldest girl thanked her teachers in the name of all her little companions. The Reverend Pastor congratulated the pupils, encouraged them to be always diligent and obedient, and told them a good story. On every festive occasion in Japan, a *gochiso* (lunch) is served. While the children were taking theirs, songs were sung to the accompaniment of musical instruments, for the Japanese are very fond of music.

We have had many a consolation while teaching our pupils, but what has pleased us the most is that a pagan mother has asked us to teach Catechism to her little girl.

On Monday, April 6th, the children came back to school. They were thirty-eight in all, and, a little later, seven others were enrolled. As is customary here, the parents accompanied their darlings, and assisted at a little ceremony which, like the one held when the certificates were given out, opened with the singing of the *Kemi ga yo*. Reverend Father Larose, the pastor of the Mission, spoke a few words of welcome.



It would be no extravagance to say that all the joys of the angelic world could make no joy that should compare, either for quantity or quality, with the single joy of Mary's motherhood. She had many joys besides that; although, whether we look forward to her Assumption or backward to her Immaculate Conception, the Maternity was the fountain of them all. But considering exclusively the direct joy of her Maternity, it overtops and outshines the entire joy of the angelic creation.

Father Faber.

I see that it is sufficient to recognize one's nothingness and to leave oneself like a child in the arms of God.

St. Teresa of the Child Jesus.

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.

Saturday, July 11, 1936

Although it is a long time since the first of May, the novices moved last night. They asked their neighbours, the postulants, to extend them hospitality, and the latter, being very charitable and condescending, settled themselves in one of the classrooms. It must be admitted that they acted very wisely, for we with our belongings take up all the room. But what do we mean by thus moving around? Can it be that we are sorry that the days of our postulancy are lost in the past, and wish to begin them over again? No, such is not the case, for we have discovered that, according as we advance

in the religious life, our happiness increases and that it keeps getting purer.

We have simply wished to do a little housework, and we joyfully commence our task this morning. Every hour, a different group enthusiastically begins to rub and scrub.

Our work is indeed servile, but it is wonderfully transfigured when we reflect that, by our zeal in doing it, we may save a great many souls.

This afternoon, we are given recreation, and we keep on with our apostolic task. At three o'clock, our dear Mistress brings us a cheering lunch, and she has the kindness of waiting on us herself.

Sunday, July 19

This morning, we learn that His Excellency Archbishop Andrea Cassulo, who is to leave for Roumania very soon, is visiting the Foreign Mission Seminary. To his great sorrow, he foresees that he will not be able to visit the Novitiate. He is to pass our door towards half-past twelve and, at the appointed time, we line up on the lawn to receive his blessing.

After waiting for a few minutes, we are obliged to re-enter the Novitiate, on account of the rain, but we still cherish the hope of being blessed by the representative of Our Holy Father the Pope. Hastily do we open wide the doors, and take our places in the porch and on the stairs.

Before long a car appears in view, and we are delighted when we see that it stops in front of our abode. In spite of the rain, which is falling in torrents, the revered Delegate steps inside to give us his blessing and to address us a few kind words.

Alluding to our white costume, His Excellency says: "I find myself in the midst of lilies... Ever preserve the perfume of your purity, so as to be able to spread it over the countries which are still sunk in the shadows of

death. You have a sublime mission, be faithful to it... Go to carry the Name of Jesus to every place to which you are called by obedience. I hope that it will not be long before the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception will be able to come to labour in my new field of action: Roumania..."

These few words are accompanied by a fatherly smile and a blessing, and they reveal to us a programme which we shall not fail to reflect upon.

Monday, July 27

Ever since Saturday, the Professed Sisters, in joyful groups, have been coming here from our different convents throughout the Province of Quebec, to assist at the exercises of the annual retreat. They are a hundred and ten in all, and we take as much delight in bidding them welcome as they do in beholding anew the cradle of their religious childhood.

Last night, we put on a little play in their honour. St. Ann, whose feast was being celebrated, was mentioned in the programme, and we feel that she must have cast a sweet glance upon those who sang her praises.

We spend the day conversing together and, this evening, the bell rings to announce the opening of the retreat. Its notes speak to us of a period of silence, recollection, prayer, and of great love for the inner life, and it is with courage and confidence that we respond to the call.

The exercises are to be preached by Reverend Father Parrot, C. SS. R., whose persuasive sermons, delivered with great simplicity, were appreciated by us last February.

Wednesday, August 5

After the days of recollection and prayer, there is great excitement at the Novitiate. While all the retreatants, enlightened and filled with fresh ardour, are getting ready to return to their respective convents, the Sisters of the Novitiate make preparations for the ceremonies of Religious Profession and the Taking of the Holy Habit. The first of these ceremonies, which takes place at nine o'clock this morning, is presided over by Very Reverend Canon Archambault, an uncle of two of the happy chosen ones. Sixteen privileged novices have finished their time of probation, and have the happiness of taking their First Vows. They are very much happier than they ever thought they could be, and, on seeing them, we feel ourselves being urged to march with fervour towards the incomparable destiny awaiting us, that of becoming the happy Spouses of Christ.

This afternoon, a number of our relatives and friends are conducted to the chapel for the clothing ceremony.

Reverend Father Parrot, who presides at this ceremony, delivers a sermon fitting to the occasion. He speaks of the Blessed Virgin, who is to-day invoked under the title of Our Lady of the Snows, and also of the Feast of the Transfiguration. During the First Vespers of to-morrow's feast, the faithful will be reminded that, on Mount Tabor, Our Lord's garments became as white as snow.

The preacher thus addresses the postulants: "It is between these two festivals, which speak of purity, that you are donning the costume of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception... You must take as your model the spotless Virgin, and spend your life contemplating her. This clothing ceremony, during which you will receive the white dress and the blue girdle of Our Lady of Lourdes, is not only a beautiful symbol and, immediately after donning the Holy Habit, you should ask our Blessed Mother to adorn your souls with the virtues which she practised in such an admirable manner. Reverend Father clearly points out a few of the virtues which the future novices should strive to acquire, in order that they may be spiritually "transfigured" during the period of special spiritual training preparatory to taking the Holy Vows.

The aspirants then make their way to the foot of the altar to solemnly express their eagerness to be accepted as novices, and to receive the Holy Habit.

They are: Miss Jeanne Bouchard, of Quebec (Sr. St. Isidore); Miss Cecile Gagnon, of Trois Rivières (Sr. Marie Eugene); Miss Jeannette Dufresne, of Val David (Sr. Ste. Olive); Miss Marguerite Simard, of Montreal (Sr. Joseph Edmond); Miss Marie Paule Gagnon, of Quebec (Sr. St. Conrad); Miss Agnes Dubuc, of Longueuil (Sr. Marie Arthur); Miss Marie Anna Laporte, of St. Gabriel de Brandon (Sr. Claire du St. Sacrement); Miss Berthe Bonvouloir, of Iberville (Sr. Ste. Virginie); Miss Annette Desrochers, of Limoilou, Quebec (Sr. Marguerite d'Ecosse); Miss Bernadette Gagnon, of Jonquière (Sr. Bernadette de l'Immaculée); Miss Denise Desmeules, of Albertville, Co. Matapédia (Sr. Marie Denise); Miss Cecile Frappier, of Sorel (Sr. St. Adelard); Miss Yvette Demers, of Quebec (Sr. Jeanne de la Croix); Miss Marie Claire Bergeron, of Issoudun, Co. Lotbinière (Sr. St. Albert); Miss Yvonne Clouatre, of Montreal (Sr. Maurice de Thebes); Miss Marie Rose Frechette, of Quebec (Sr. Marie Rollande); Miss Therese Cournoyer, of St. Simon, Co. Bagot (Sr. Therese de l'Eucharistie).

Present in the sanctuary are: Reverend Fathers C. Rondeau, Assistant General of the Foreign Mission Seminary, Pont Viau; P. O. Beausoleil, C. S. V.; A. Gariepy, P. M. E.; H. Demeule, of the Seminary of Rimouski; P. Chouinard, P. M. E.; and Reverend Brothers Mathieu, E. C.; M. Jean, E. C.; and Leonidas, F. H. J. D.

Saturday, August 8

On this the anniversary of the Religious Profession of our beloved Mother Foundress, a group of new aspirants take the place of those who have been accepted as novices.

After supper, they come to our recreation room and, in order that we may get to know them a little sooner, we have each of them tell us her name and the name of the place she has come from. We quickly feel that they are real sisters of ours, and we at once begin to converse with them, endeavouring to have them find out a little about the peculiar characteristic of our life in the convent, which is the cause of the greater part of our happiness.

Wednesday, August 12, and Thursday, August 13

The golden monstrance, surrounded by verdant foliage, pretty irises, and sparkling lights, beams on the altar throne, for the Forty Hours are being held at the Novitiate. We go four by four to kneel in adoration before our Eucharistic King, and it is with all our hearts that we thank Him and implore Him to shower abundant favours upon our Community, upon our relatives, upon our benefactors, and upon the entire world. We are indeed privileged to be thus in the presence of our Sacramental Lord, and we feel that the precious moments go by only too quickly.

Saturday, August 15

Those of our Sisters who help with the sewing, have been very, very busy all week, and they are extremely happy to think that they have worked so diligently, for the postulants are able to put on their new costumes to-day. On this beautiful anniversary of the day she was crowned Queen of Heaven, our Immaculate Mother cannot refuse to listen to our prayers, by which we ask her to take under her mantle the happy group of aspirants who are consecrating themselves to her, and who are longing to make her known from Pole to Pole.

Tuesday, August 18

Our last picnic was such a great success that we have been longing to make a second pleasant trip to the Point before the holidays are over. And we have given such good reasons that we have already obtained our favour. We wished to have the postulants contemplate the beauty of the attractive Point to which we go each year to have a good time, and we thought of how pleasant it would be for the newly-professed Sisters to again see, before leaving for the place assigned them by obedience, the scene of the joyful parties, which they will not soon forget about.

This morning, at the time appointed, we are invited to go to the refectory. On the table are piles of appetizing sandwiches, dishes filled with cakes and candies, and, close by, big baskets filled with tomatoes. We go, one by one, to receive our share of the good things, which tell of the solicitude of our Superiors and the kindness of our dear Parents, who have wished to add to our pleasure by sending us the many dainties.

All day long, we play, chatter, sing, and pray with the greatest enthusiasm. At sundown, we sing a sweet hymn to the Blessed Virgin, and return to the convent refreshed after a day of pleasure. Very anxious are we to prove our gratitude to Almighty God and to our dear Superiors, and we shall do so by doing all that we have to do with greater faithfulness.

Thursday, August 27

Since the happy day of their Religious Profession, several of our Sisters have left for different missions. Departures of the kind remind us of the flying away of timid swallows that are dreaming of vast horizons and daring ascents. Our dear Sisters, on leaving us, were filled with pious enthusiasm, and their hearts were beating fast.

To-day, another of the newly-professed Sisters is named for one of our missions, and Sister Superior gives us recreation in her honour. While she is busy packing up, a few of her companions slip into her trunk a large blue parasol, which is so faded that it is hard to believe that it ever was a handsome one. When the little trick is found out, there is a roar of laughter, which cheers us up just as we are beginning to feel sad. There is always something painful about separations of the kind, but we are careful not to let anything mar the great happiness we are in the habit of experiencing.

Tuesday, September 8

To the pleasure we take in celebrating the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin is added the sweet emotion of the taking of Final Vows by fourteen of our Sisters.

A number of relatives and friends of the happy chosen ones assist at the ceremony, which is presided over by our chaplain, Reverend Father Gariépy. In a sermon fitting to the occasion, Reverend Father Laferte, O. M. I., eloquently tells of the beauty and sublimity of the religious life.

Then comes the solemn moment. Our dear Sisters, with joy which cannot be expressed, but of which we guess the excessiveness, pronounce their Holy Vows "for ever."

They are: Sr. St. Charles Garnier (Graziella Langlois, of Quebec); Sr. Marthe du Sauveur (Jeanne d'Arc Champagne, of St. Prosper); Sr. Marie du Crucifix (Eva Tessier, of St. Bonaventure); Sr. Imelda de l'Eucharistie (Simonne Boisclair, of Shawinigan); Sr. Louis de Montfort (Marie Alice Isabelle, of Montreal); Sr. Louise de Marie (Amanda Roberge, of Charny); Sr. Marie Benigna (Eva Buteau, of St. Evariste); Sr. Madeleine Marie (Madeleine Loranger, of Montreal); Sr. St. Jean de Brebeuf (Alice Magnan, of Quebec); Sr. St. Claude (Laurette Roy, of Thetford Mines); Sr. Eustelle de l'Eucharistie (Eustelle Samson, of Lauzon). In the Manchurian mission field: Sr. Marie Therese (Marie Therese Roux, of Montreal).

Present in the sanctuary are Reverend Fathers Rondeau, Assistant General of the Foreign Mission Seminary, Pont Viau; J. Belanger, S. J.; Etienne Laporte, O. P., of Sendai, Japan; B. Baril, C. SS. R.; Leo Lomme, M. E.; A. Magnan, Chaplain at the Ursuline Convent, Grand'Mere; Omer Genest, S. J.; Henri Samson, S. J.; and J. O. Begin, S. J.

The golden ring of fidelity now sparkles upon the finger of each of the happy Sisters, as a token of the ineffable and eternal union existing between God and His little creatures.

The hearts of the dear privileged ones are filled with the greatest joy, and ardently do they unite with us in singing the *Te Deum*. All give themselves unreservedly to their divine Spouse, but four of them who, three weeks from now, will leave for the distant Missions, appear to realize more than their companions, how very sweet it is to dedicate their lives to God in return for all that He has done for love of them.

The three other departants have just arrived here from the Mother House and, after taking supper with us, they come to our assembly hall to gather round our dear Sister Assistant and our devoted Mistress.



The Children's Page

DEAR CHILDREN,

For already a long time you have been thinking of Christmas and of New Year's. A "little bird", which reveals to me the secrets of all my little friends, has informed me of many things... it has told me of your great desires at the approach of Yuletide. I have also learned that on many an evening, your Angel Guardians, after spreading their wings round you, tried to make you close your eyes, and that they could not get you to go to sleep, because your minds were filled with thoughts of the Christmas Crib and of the presents you were going to receive...

YOUR "GREAT FRIEND" IS NOT SANTA CLAUS

No, your "Great Friend," dear Children, is not Santa Claus. I have heard that the latter spoils children, because he gives them everything they ask for. I, your "Great Friend," on the contrary, only want you to have what is good for you, and I shall not come down the chimney, like Santa Claus, to put in your stockings the sweets you are so fond of and the toys you have been longing for. Nevertheless, I shall go to your homes, and shall bring each of you some lovely presents, the kind that will be the most useful to you. How shall I visit you?... I shall go in spirit to your heart, and shall be present with the Divine Infant Jesus, His Blessed Mother, dear St. Joseph, and your Angel Guardian. I shall draw from the infinite treasures of the little King, and shall make you each a few gifts. And these gifts will be more precious than all the jewels of the world, more beautiful than all the wonderful things in it, better than the many delicacies, for they will be graces!...

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

The gifts you will receive from your "Great Friend" will indeed be graces, which will make you happy all year round and which will help you to love God more, to hate sin, to pray more fervently, and to receive Holy Communion with greater respect. Oh! Holy Communion is truly an efficacious means of preserving in one's soul innocence, peace, joy, and resignation to the Holy Will of God, and, by receiving Jesus often, one obtains the strength and the courage to be faithful to duty and to amend one's life.



O SUPREME JOY! WHEN I RECEIVE
HOLY COMMUNION,
JESUS REALLY COMES TO ME...

On Christmas Day, I am sure, you will all receive our dear Lord into your heart. Oh! after adoring Him, giving Him your love, thanking Him, and asking Him to bless you, to bless your parents and all those dear to you, you will surely not fail to ask Him to have pity on the poor sinners, on the unfortunate pagans and, especially, on the millions of children who do not know Him, who have never had the happiness of receiving Holy Communion, and who have never experienced Christmas joy. And when you have done this, you must promise the Divine Infant Jesus that you will approach the Holy Table as often as possible, every day you are able to.

And this all-powerful little King, whom you so often receive into your heart here below, will Himself conduct you to heaven when your life is ended.

Your "Great Friend,"

THE PRECURSOR.

Prayer

BY NANCY BUCKLEY.

You are the way, the blessed way, O Mother,
To bring me to my Jesus — Little Brother!

Yours is the voice with utterance to cheer
My anguished soul through every stormy year.

Yours is the hand to lead me and to bless,
And bring me my full meed of happiness.

You are the rose of love, perfumed and sweet;
You are the star to guide my erring feet.

You are refreshing, longed-for, welcome, cool,
Like water in some clear oasis pool.

You are the way, the blessed way, O Mother,
To bring me to my Jesus — Little Brother!

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 have received an answer to my prayers to the Blessed Virgin. I wish to receive one more favour, and should like you to make another novena for me. I am enclosing a donation, and will send you more for the ransom of some dying Chinese babies if my request is granted. Mrs. Taylor. — I am enclosing an offering in honour of Our Lady, in thanksgiving for my sister's improvement in health. M. H., **Johnstone, Scotland**. — I have received a favour from the Blessed Virgin and, to thank her, I am sending you an offering for a novena of lights. Please remember me in your prayers. J. M. R., **Houlton, Me.** — My request has been granted. Enclosed please find a small offering, as promised. Mrs. R., **Sutton, Que.** — Enclosed please find an offering, in thanksgiving for a favour obtained. May I again ask the help of your prayers. L. P., **Hampstead**. — The Blessed Virgin has obtained me a favour, and I am enclosing an offering for the ransom of four Chinese babies, as promised. If I am granted the favour I am now asking, I will be a life-long subscriber to THE PRECURSOR. Mrs. L. C., **Leominster, Mass.** — Some weeks ago, I asked you to make a novena for my intention. Thanks to our Blessed Lady, my request has been granted. Enclosed please find a small donation. Mrs. C. L. — Please find enclosed a small offering for the Missions, in thanksgiving for a favour obtained through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. I would ask you to pray that my other requests may be granted. If I receive an answer to my prayers I will send you an offering for the ransom of two Chinese babies. Miss F., **Webster, Mass.** — Kindly accept this small donation. It is my thank-offering for favours received from the Blessed Virgin. Please pray for my intention. Mrs. C. G., **Holyoke, Mass.** — I wish to thank the Most Blessed Virgin for the great favour she has obtained me. Mrs. G. H., **Montreal**. — Enclosed please find my renewal subscription, in thanksgiving for a favour received. Mrs. J. B. — I am very grateful to our Immaculate Mother for the cure she obtained me after I promised to publish my thanksgiving and to renew my subscription to THE PRECURSOR. A Subscriber. — I obtained a position after promising to subscribe to THE PRECURSOR, and I am indeed grateful to the Blessed Virgin. M. C. — Please find enclosed an offering, in thanksgiving for favours obtained from our Blessed Lady. Mrs. R. A. H., **Waterville, Me.** — Our dear heavenly Mother has deigned to obtain me two favours, and I am truly thankful. Enclosed please find an offering, as promised. Mrs. R. J., **North Heath, Mass.** — Find enclosed the ransom price of two dying Chinese babies, in thanksgiving for a favour received. Please pray for all in our family, especially for two of my brothers. Miss R. C. — I am very grateful for the two favours I obtained after promising to subscribe to THE PRECURSOR. J. A. P. — I have obtained a cure and another special favour, and am enclosing the ransom price of four dying Chinese babies, as promised. I hope to obtain one more favour. Mrs. A. T. — I wish to return thanks to the Blessed Virgin, for, through her intercession, I have obtained a position. Mrs. A. S., **Montreal**. — My husband has begun to live up to his religion, and I am grateful for the answer to my prayers. May I ask you to make a novena to the Blessed Virgin, asking that he may persevere and that he may obtain a good position. If I obtain these favours, I will ransom four dying Chinese babies. A Subscriber. — Enclosed please find a further donation towards your mission work and in appreciation for favours received. We hope that we shall continue to be given a thought in your prayers. Mrs. R. L., **Rosemount, Que.** — I am sending a small donation which I promised if I obtained a certain request. I am happy to say I obtained it. Will you please pray that I may get better health. Mrs. T. E., **Rockland, Me.** — Some time ago I promised if my sons got work, I would send a subscription to THE PRECURSOR. I am enclosing the amount promised, as they were both successful in procuring work steadily. Please pray for me, as I have been ill and weak for some time. Anonymous. — Our dear heavenly Mother has helped me to find a position, and I am very grateful to her. Mrs. E. A., **Montreal**. — Please have a light burned on Mary's altar in thanksgiving for favours obtained. I will send you a thank-offering every month. May I ask you to make a novena to our loving Mother for me. Mrs. C., **Sutton, Que.** — Many thanks to God for great favour received. Subscription continued in thanksgiving. H. Brophy.

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."

Please make a novena to our Immaculate Mother for me, that I may obtain two special favours. If my requests are granted, I will send you an offering. **Mrs. M. F., Barnaby River, N. B.** — Will you please make a novena to our Blessed Mother, asking that my brother and I may soon secure employment and that I may obtain an improvement in health. If my favours are granted, I will send an offering in thanksgiving. **A. J. P., Bangor, Me.** — Please start a novena to our Immaculate Mother for my sister, who is very ill in Ireland. Ask our Blessed Mother to grant that she may recover without having to undergo an operation. If my request is granted, I will send you an offering. **A Subscriber, Mrs. L., Montreal.** — I would ask you to pray that I may obtain a very necessary favour from the Blessed Virgin. I promise to help your wonderful work if my request is granted this month. **Mrs. Potts.** — Please pray that I may obtain a cure and that a dear nephew of mine may get a steady position. I have an article which I have offered for sale and, if my prayers to the Blessed Virgin are answered, I will gladly turn in the proceeds to your mission. **C. McD., Montreal.** — Please ask our Immaculate Mother to restore peace in our family. May I ask you to make a novena for my intention. You will find enclosed an offering for a novena of lights. One of Our Lady's favoured children. — I am again asking you to make a novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, that I may obtain a cure without an operation. In return, I will send an offering to help in your good works and will also have a Mass said for the Holy Souls. **M. A., Montreal.** — Kindly make a novena to our Blessed Mother, asking that a sore on my arm may heal. If I am cured, I will send you a donation. **Mrs. M. H. B., Bangor, Me.** — Enclosed please find my renewal subscription. I am praying that my father may obtain a special favour. Please make a novena to our Blessed Mother for me. If my father is granted the favour he desires, I will subscribe to *THE PRECURSOR* as long as I am able and will also send an offering for a novena of lights for the Souls in Purgatory. May I ask you also to remember my father, mother, husband, and all my loved ones in your prayers. **Mrs. M. A. H., Marlboro, Mass.** — I am happy to send you the enclosed check. Please remember me in your prayers. **Mrs. A. W., Cote des Neiges.** — Please pray that I may obtain three special favours. If my requests are granted, I will send you an offering. **Mrs. A. E. M., Newport, Vt.** — Please find enclosed an offering for a Mass in honour of our Blessed Mother. I wish to obtain a special favour, and would ask you to get the little ones under your care to pray for me. **Mrs. K. C., Redmondville, N. B.** — If I soon secure the position I am promised, I will subscribe to *THE PRECURSOR* for two years and will send you a donation each month as long as I have work. **D. Kelly.** — It is very kind of you to remember me in your prayers. I am still asking Our Lady to obtain me a complete cure if it is God's Holy Will. I am enclosing an offering for a Mass for that intention. **Mary Hughes.** — The enclosed money was given to me by **Mrs. J. Mc V.** for your mission. Please pray for her. **A Friend.** — Will you please make a novena in honour of the Blessed Virgin for my intention. If my request is granted, I will send a donation. **Mrs. Hagan.** — I wish to obtain a favour, and am sending you an offering for lights to be burned in honour of the Blessed Virgin. If my petition is granted, I will renew my subscription to *THE PRECURSOR*. **Mrs. J. T., Auburn, Mass.** — Enclosed you will find a small offering. Please put some lights in your chapel for me, as I desire to obtain a special favour. **Mrs. J. E., Worcester, Mass.** — I want the Blessed Virgin to obtain me a very great favour, so I am asking you to beg her to intercede for me. If my request is granted, I will send you a substantial donation to be used as you see fit. **J. W., Newcastle, N. B.** — Find enclosed my renewal subscription to *THE PRECURSOR*. Please pray for me to our dear heavenly Mother, that I may recover from a serious illness. **Mrs. C., Watford, Ont.** — Will you please pray that I may obtain two special favours. If the Blessed Virgin comes to my aid, I will send you a donation. **E. D. L., Montreal.** — I am renewing my subscription to *THE PRECURSOR*, and would ask you to pray that I may meet with success. **Mrs. M.** — I am writing to ask you to make a novena in honour of our Blessed Mother for my intention. If my favour is granted, I will send you something for your missionary work. **Miss H., Rosemount, Que.** — I am sending you a small offering to use as you please, that my little girl may be restored to health. If my request is granted, I will send you something else to help on your good work. **Mrs. R., Hemmingford, Que.** — Please make a novena to our Immaculate Mother for me. If my request is granted, I will subscribe to *THE PRECURSOR*. **M. H. B., Hallowell, Me.** — Will you kindly make a novena for me and also pray to our Blessed Mother, that through the medium of the Miraculous Medal I may obtain a cure. If my petition is granted, I will send you a substantial donation. Enclosed find an offering for lights. **A. Subscriber, Newport, Vt.** — I would ask you to pray that I may obtain a special favour. If my request is granted, I will send you a donation. **Mrs. M. C., Montreal.** — Please pray that my brother may return to the Sacraments and that my sister may be cured. **Mrs. C. S., Montreal.** — I am writing to ask you to kindly make a novena for me and to get the little ones under your care to make one also. If my request is granted, I will have lights burnt in thanksgiving, send you an offering every month as long as I live, and subscribe to *THE PRECURSOR*. **Mrs. C., Redmondville.** — Will you please make a novena in honour of Our Mother of Perpetual

Help, asking that a friend of mine may obtain a permanent position. If my favour is granted I will send a donation for your missions. **M. H. G., Montreal.** — Enclosed you will find my renewal subscription to THE PRECURSOR. I would ask you to pray for my intentions. **M. M., Hardwick, Vt.** — Please pray that I may be successful in my examinations. I will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR as soon as I can. **Miss R., Midway, B. C.** — May I again ask you to make a novena for me. If I am restored to health, I will send you a substantial donation for your missions and will publish my thanksgiving in THE PRECURSOR. Enclosed you will find an offering for lights during the novena. **A Subscriber, Newport, Vt.** — Will you kindly offer up prayers to the Blessed Virgin for my intentions. If I obtain what I am asking for, I will send you a donation. **A. G. C., Lewiston, Me.** — Enclosed please find an offering for your missions. I wish to obtain a special favour, and would ask you to make a novena for me. If my request is granted, I will send you a donation. **A Friend, North Bay, Ont.** — Find enclosed my renewal subscription to THE PRECURSOR. Please pray for a special intention. **Mrs. H. D., Ville La Salle, Que.** — Will you kindly make a novena that my son may get a position and keep it. If he gets one, I will send in a subscription to THE PRECURSOR. **M. L. H., Portland, Me.** — Will you please make a novena to the Blessed Virgin, asking that my sister may be restored to health. Enclosed please find a small offering. **Miss G. T., Northampton, Mass.** — My husband is idle at present. Please pray that he may secure steady employment. If my wish is granted, I will send you an offering to ransom four dying Chinese babies. **Mrs. L. C., Leominster, Mass.** — Please pray that my parents may have a good crop this year. If my petition is granted, I will send a donation. **A Subscriber.** — I am renewing my subscription to THE PRECURSOR. Please pray that my daughter may obtain the position for which she has applied, and that it may be a permanent one. **Mrs. E. C., Webster, Mass.** — I wish to obtain a position. Please remember me in your prayers. As soon as I am employed, I will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR. **Anonymous.** — I am sending you a small offering. Please pray that my husband may be able to keep his position. **Mrs. E. G., Northbridge, Mass.** — May the Blessed Virgin watch over my mother and grant that she may be restored to health, for she is still greatly needed. **L. P.** — If I am successful in an undertaking, I will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR for a year. **Anonymous.** — Please pray that my husband may be restored to health, that he may obtain a position and be successful in selling his farm. **Anonymous.** — I would ask you to pray for a father of several little ones, who has been ailing for two years, and for a young man, who is addicted to drink. **A Subscriber.** — I wish to obtain several favours. Please remember me in your prayers. **Mrs. A. N., Montreal.** — Please pray that my husband and my sons may find employment. **Mrs. C., Montreal.** — My son has been leading a wayward life. Kindly ask our dear heavenly Mother to intercede for him. **Mrs. L.** — Enclosed please find a small offering. May I ask you to pray for a poor sick woman, who has several children to look after. **Anonymous.** — I recommend to your prayers all the members of my family, especially one of my sons, who is addicted to drink. **Mrs. P., Montreal.** — Please pray that I may be restored to health and that I may get back a sum of money. **Anonymous.** — I desire to obtain a special favour. Please pray that it may be granted me. **Mrs. J.** — May I ask you to pray that we may obtain several desired favours. **Mrs. G., Verdun.** — Please pray that a mother may obtain an unwavering faith, that a father may be successful in business, and that a friend may be restored to health. **N. D.** — Kindly unite with me in asking the Blessed Virgin to intercede for two neglectful persons. **A Subscriber.** — Please make another novena for me, asking that I may be successful in selling my property. **Mrs. L., Montreal.** — My eyes are very sore, and I am asking Our Lady of Perpetual Help to cure me. May she also obtain me the grace of a happy death. **Mrs. H. G.** — I would ask you to pray that peace may reign in a household and that a friend of mine may be successful in business. **O. L.** — I am asking the Blessed Virgin to intercede for all the sick members of my family and to help my children to discover their vocation. **Mrs. C.** — May our dear heavenly Mother watch over my daughters, and may she grant that my husband may lead a better life. **Anonymous.** — I am not feeling well, and would ask you to make four novenas for me. Enclosed please find a small offering. **A. C., Montreal.** — Please pray that things may be brighter in our city, and that my husband and my daughter may find work. **Mrs. C.** — We desire to obtain three special favours. Please pray for us. **C. B., Montreal.** — May I ask you to pray that I may obtain a desired favour. **Mrs. S. J.** — I am asking that all in my family may enjoy the best of health and that some big undertakings may be a success. **Mrs. D., Montreal.** — A mother of seven children asks that her husband may stop drinking. — Please pray that my mother and myself may find work, for we have big debts to pay. **Miss L.** — I would ask you to entreat the Blessed Virgin to intercede for two persons who have grown careless. **A. L.** — I have been suffering for some time past. Please pray for me. **Mrs. B.** — My husband is anxious to sell a piece of land. Kindly pray that he may be successful and that he may not lose his position. **Mrs. L. G.** — I wish to rent a store and two flats. Kindly remember me in your prayers. **Mrs. C.** — Please pray that I may obtain a very special favour. **Mrs. E. L.** — I am asking the Blessed Virgin to intercede for me before the Throne of God, that I may receive an answer to my prayers. **A. B.** — I have just lost my husband, and I have nine children to bring up. May our Blessed Mother come to my aid. **Mrs. M., Montreal.** — May I ask you to pray that I may be cured without being obliged to undergo an operation. **B. D.** — I desire to obtain three great favours and would ask you to remember me in your

prayers. Miss M. B. — May I ask you to make a novena for my son, that he may find a position and stop drinking. I am enclosing a donation and, if my request is granted, I will send more. Mrs. J. W. M., **Portland, Me.** — Enclosed please find an offering for a votive light in honour of the Blessed Virgin. If I am restored to health, I will burn a light in thanksgiving. M. J. B., **Pineville, N. B.** — I am enclosing a small offering, and wish you would burn a votive light and a candle that I may obtain a desired favour. I wish you would also make a novena, asking that another request may be granted. If I get my wish, I will continue to subscribe to THE PRECURSOR as long as I am able. Miss L. B., **Montreal.** — Find enclosed my renewal subscription. I wish to obtain a special favor, and would ask you to commence a novena for me. Miss T., **Northampton, Mass.** — The enclosed check is for the renewal of my subscription. Please ask our Blessed Mother to grant that we may keep healthy and be happy, and that a nephew may stop drinking. Mrs. J. M., **Providence, R. I.** — I am enclosing a donation, and will send a more substantial one later. I hope to receive two important favours. Mrs. J. K., **Dover Foxcroft, Me.** — Will you please make a novena to our Immaculate Mother for me, that I may obtain a special favour. If my request is granted, I will ransom five babies likely to live. Mrs. C. G., **Montreal.** — We are about to start out on a long trip, and I would ask you to entreat our Immaculate Mother to watch over us. When I return, I will send you an offering. Mrs. C., **Timmins, Ont.** — Please make a novena to our Blessed Mother, asking that my daughter may be restored to health. If she is cured, I will send a donation. Mrs. G., **Marlboro, Mass.** — Find enclosed a small donation. Kindly remember me in your prayers. Mrs. P. L., **Listowel, Ont.** — I am enclosing an offering for a novena of lights in honour of our Blessed Mother. Please pray for me. J. R., **Houlton, Me.** — Will you please make a novena to the Blessed Virgin, that peace may reign in our household. If my request is granted, I will send you an offering. F. M., **Tramore, Ont.** — Please remember me in your prayers. I will send you an offering as soon as I am able. Mrs. E. M., **Pawtucket, R. I.** — Please pray that I may obtain a desired favour. A Friend, **Leamington, Ont.** — I am writing to ask you to pray that I may obtain a special favor. I will send you a donation as soon as my request is granted. Mrs. F., **New York.**



NECROLOGY

Mr. Francis Joseph CLARKE, Orillia, Ont., father of our Sister of the Holy Name of Jesus and Sister St. Zita; Mrs. M. KEEGAN, Montreal; Mrs. Thomas FITZGERALD, Woodslee, Ont.; Miss Cecilia McMANUS, Montreal; Mr. Leslie COGILL, Edmonton; Mr. and Mrs. A. D. MCGILLIS, Westmount; Mr. Henry J. CONLEY, Portland, Me.; Mrs. Alfred LOCKRIDGE, Wingham, Ont.; Mr. D. J. BLODGETT, Newport, Vt.; Mr. Joseph BARTON, Barton, Vt.; Miss Mary MURPHY, Notre Dame de Grace; Miss Margaret McALEESE, Montreal; Mr. James O'LEARY, Port Lambton, Ont.; Miss Mary Evelyn DEAN, Goderich, Ont.; Mrs. Charles LEWIS, Montreal; Mr. William O'BRIEN, Valois; Miss Kate FLYNN, Kinkora, Ont.; Mr. Edward CONNOLLY, Stratford, Ont.; Miss Mary Rose KELLY, Stratford, Ont.; Mr. Thomas O'LAUGHLIN, Seaforth, Ont.; Mr. L. MAILLOUX, Manchester, N. H.; Mr. H. C. BOURRET, Stratford, Ont.; Mrs. George BOUCHER, Enosburg Falls, Vt.; Mr. Thomas DALY, Seaforth, Ont.; Miss S. BENETEAU, River Canard, Ont.; Mrs. John NOLAN, Seaforth, Ont.; Mrs. Sadie E. LEVEILLE, Bangor, Me.; Mrs. Catherine JACOTEL, Montreal; Miss Agnes McGLORE, Montreal; Mr. Edward GAGNE, Chisholm, Me.; Mr. John G. LEVIE, Quebec; Mr. John LAMB, Walton, Ont.; Mr. Edward BARRON, St. Philippe, Que.; Mr. E. J. KNITL, Strathroy, Ont.; Mrs. Julia WHELAN, U. S. A.; Mr. William PALMER, Montreal; Mr. Frank GAUTHIER, Salem, Mass.

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

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Native Novitiate " St. Teresa of the Child Jesus ".

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Procure for the Missions.

Benefactors of the Society

of the

Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

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

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

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

3. — **Subscribers**, those who give an annual offering of \$25.00.

4. — **Associates**, those who give the sum of \$2.00 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. This Guard of Honour is also made at the Shek Lung Lazaretto. There, the poor leper women, in successive groups of fifteen, continue the 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.