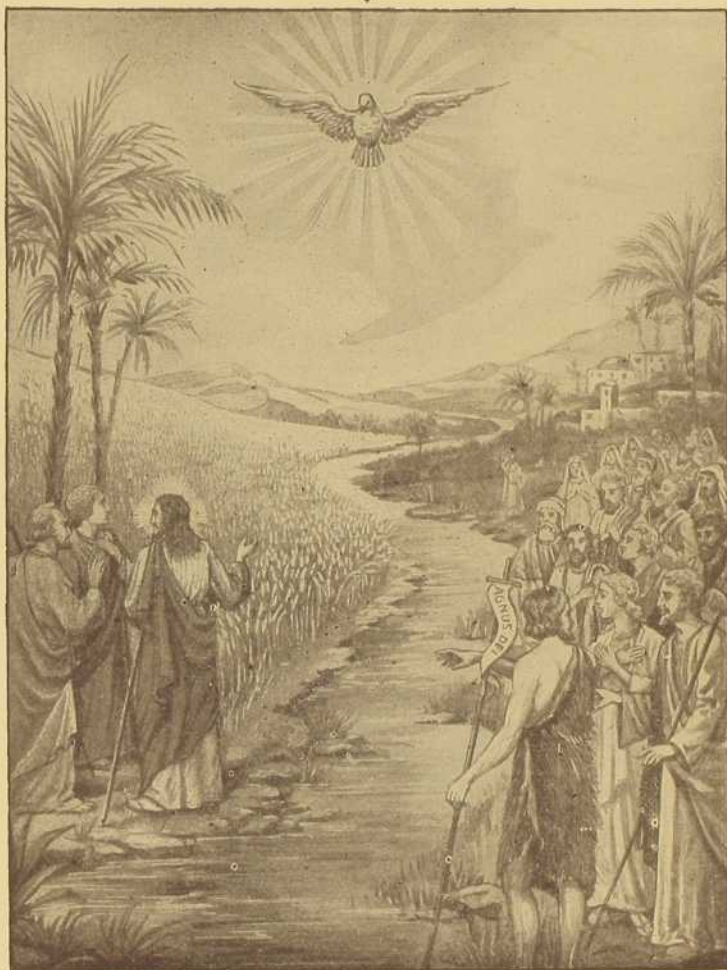


THE PRECURSOR



Vol. XI., 15th Year

MONTREAL, May-June, 1937

No. 3

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)

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

JOLIETTE, 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.

VANCOUVER, B. C., 236 Campbell Ave. (Founded in 1921)

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

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

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

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

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

GRANBY, 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.

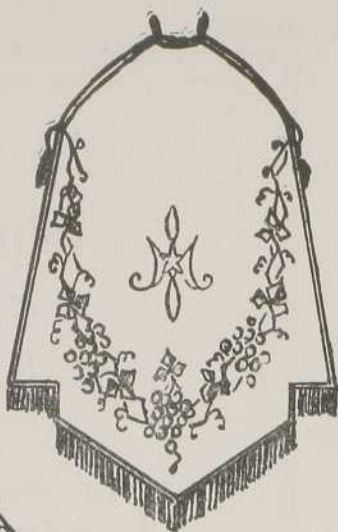
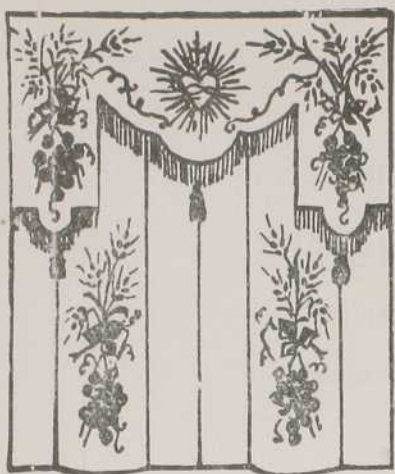
Missionaries must train for several years before being able to commence their apostolic work in foreign fields.

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 Deis*, cushions, etc.

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

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



By Patronizing Our Workroom, You Help Our Missions.

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

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

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

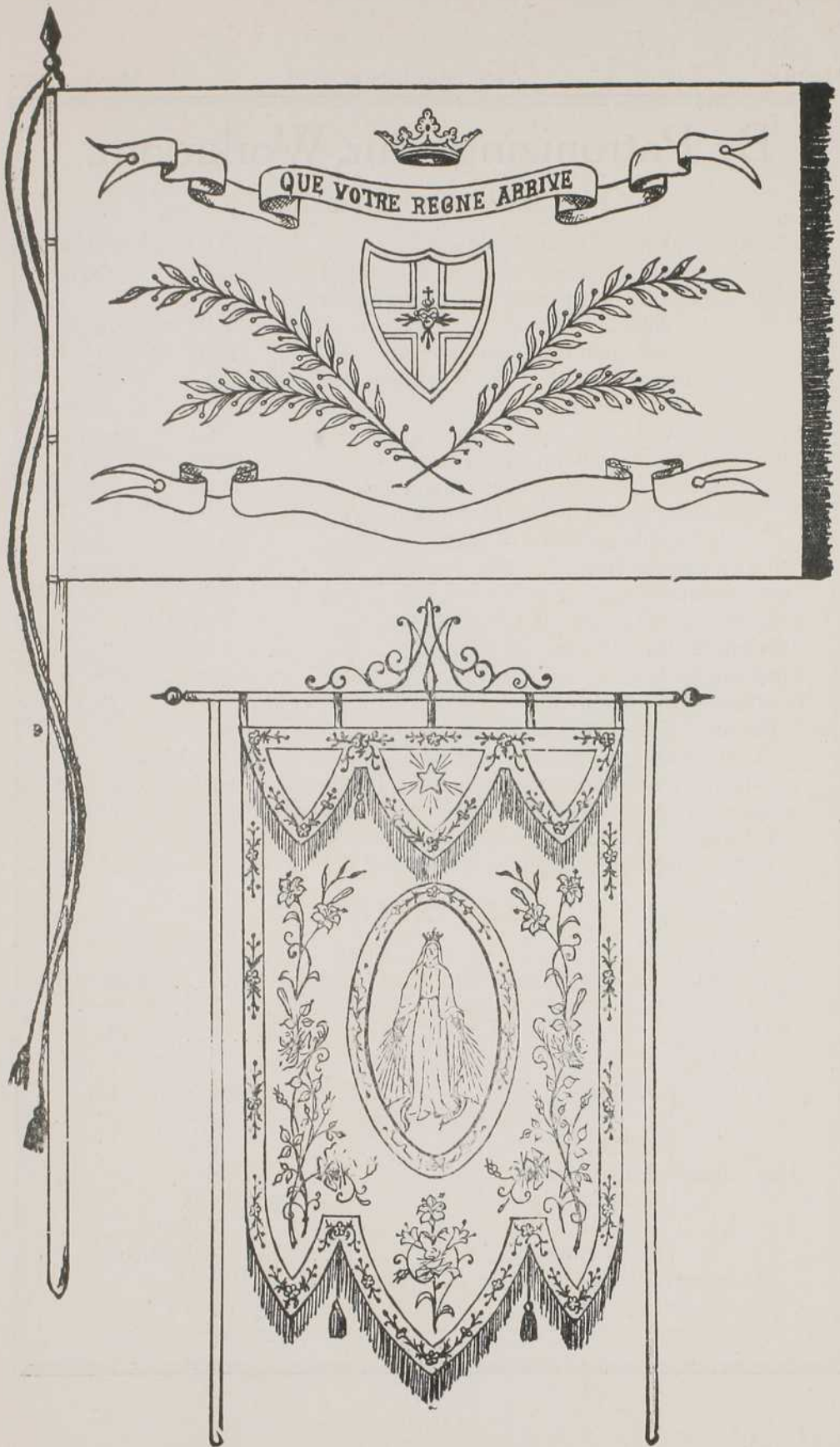
Description and prices given on request.

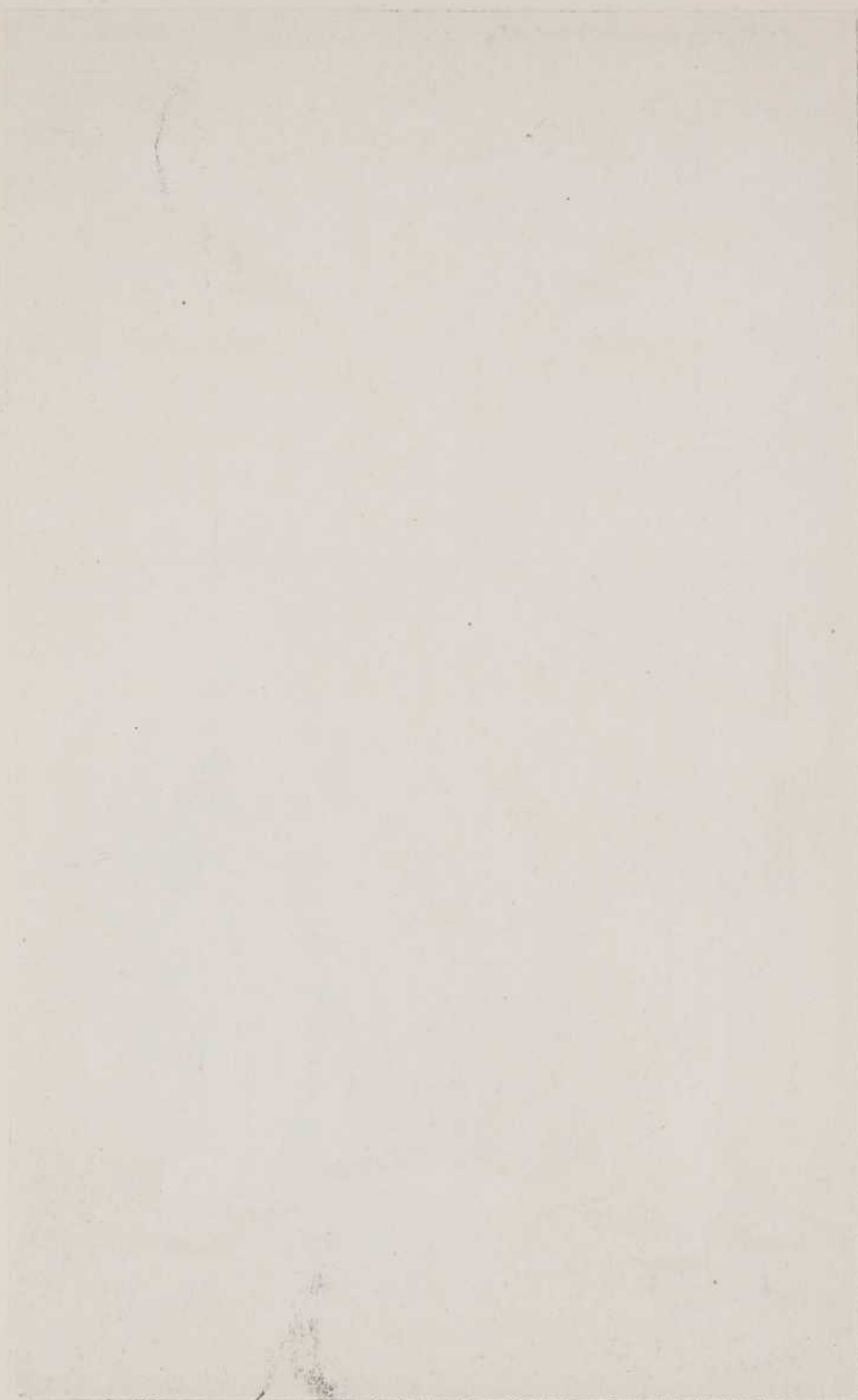
WAX INFANTS

Length		Length	
5 inches	\$ 2.50	14 inches	\$16.00
7 “	4.00	17 “	25.00
9 “	7.00	22 “	35.00
12 “	14.00		
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
Missionary Sisters

of the Immaculate Conception

with the approbation of the Archbishop of Montreal

Vol. XI., 15th Year

Montreal, May-June 1937

No. 3

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Our Lady, Queen of May

*All hail, O lovely Queen of May!
To thee we sing a song of praise.
Howe'er unworthy we may be,
We have a holy claim on thee
To mother us in all our ways.*

*Ere Jesus died, He looked at John,
And said to thee: "Behold thy son."
And hence we are by right Divine
Adopted children wholly thine
Until the course of life is run.*



*It is fitting that the fairest Queen
Should have the fairest month for dower;
On divers grounds we may assume
That the countless beauties now in bloom
Are cheap beside a fairer flower.*

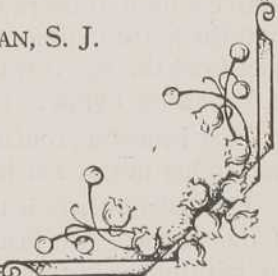
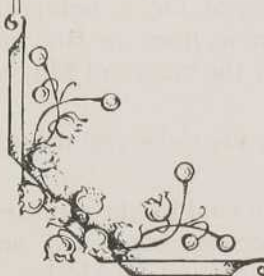
*Conceived without a stain of sin,
And from the first replete with grace,
Our Lady was supremely blest,
And of her sex far the best,
The sole exception of the race.*

*She crushed the serpent with her heel,
And vanquished him more thoroughly;
It is due to her Eternal Son
That Satan lost and man has won
The greatest war in history.*

*Then thanks and praise to the Queen of May,
Whom we revere as children should;
May she protect us to the end
As Mother true and faithful friend,
And find in us fit gratitude.*

*We hope to join the angel choirs
In thanking Mary and her Son;
We'll sing where song is ecstasy,
And sing for all eternity
Of battles fought and conquests won.*

—Patrick J. CORMICAN, S. J.



May Devotions

MANY Christians have learned that a ray from Up Above occasionally appears to fall upon the earth, and that several are attracted by this heavenly light. These good people immediately feel the need of having recourse to some particular saint, or of honouring one of the Mysteries which relate to our divine Lord or His Blessed Mother. Why are all the souls in the state of grace actuated by the same impulse? The answer is to be found in the article of the Creed in which we declare that we believe in the Holy Ghost, the Fount of Grace. The visible manifestations sometimes correlate with the needs of the times, and Holy Mother Church has found that they are efficacious.

When the Jansenists were doing all in their power to persuade the faithful to cease from honouring Mary, the Spirit of Truth, who abides with the Church, inspired the faithful to praise her in a special manner during the month of May. Who was chosen to spread the devotion to Mary? A few say that it was St. Philip Neri, who was such a devoted servant of the Mother of God, and who died in 1595. Others state that it was Father Lalomia, a famous missionary, who flourished in the middle of the eighteenth century. Some attribute the spreading of this devotion to Father Muzarelli, a great Jesuit, who established it in the Roman College. From the Roman College, the devotion spread to the other colleges of the Society of Jesus, to other religious orders, and to the different parishes. As Pope Pius VII re-entered Rome during the month of May, devotions in honour of Our Lady began to be held in the States of the Church. Before very long, this manner of testifying one's love for Mary was known of all over the Catholic world.

We do not really know who it was who established this devotion, but we are certain that it is an excellent way of honouring the Blessed Virgin, and a source of the most precious graces. Truly, it is a practice worth carrying out.

May devotions are for the Blessed Virgin a universal token of respect. The spark which flew from Italy during the 18th century has lit a fire of love. This fire has been enkindled in the hearts of Mary's clients, not only in Catholic countries, but also in mission lands. Every Catholic missionary makes it his duty to proclaim the name of Mary along with that of Jesus. From the small country churches and from the most beautiful cathedrals, from civilized countries and from lands wherein social life is unknown, from the hottest climes and from regions of ice and snow, from the land and even from the sea, is wafted heavenwards each day of the month of May an incomparable hymn in honour of Mary!

How beautiful, touching, and pleasing to Our Lady are the joyful tributes paid to her during her blessed month!

First of all, there is the announcing of the Word of God by the ministers of the Gospel. On hearing this Divine Word, sinners are converted, and the faithful are inspired with the greatest love for their bountiful Mother.

Then there is the recitation of the beads. Oh! who can tell of the efficacy of the "Hail Mary" said with piety and confidence!

The most beautiful hymns are also wafted heavenwards. St. Augustine has said that a hymn is an expression of love. It is through love for Our Lady that the faithful gather round her altar and sing the sweetest canticles, which are a source of great joy.

The fresh flowers with which the altars of the beautiful churches and of the humblest chapels are decorated, are emblems of the virtues of Mary. The lights burning on her shrine tell of her goodness and of the great love her children bear her. Mary is the daughter of the Almighty Father, Mother of the Saviour, Spouse of the Holy Ghost, the loving Mistress of earth, and her devout clients always strive to honour her in a fitting manner.

Truly, May Devotions are looked upon with delight by God, by the Angels, and by men. They are a touching expression of love for Our Lady, and from them may be drawn great supernatural wealth.

Father ROLLAND.

INDULGENCES TO BE GAINED DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

In 1815, Pope Pius VII granted 300 days indulgence to those who assist at the May Devotions; and a Plenary Indulgence to those who receive Holy Communion during the month of May in honour of the Blessed Virgin. These indulgences may be applied to the Souls in Purgatory.



Efficacy of the "Hail Mary"

ONE stormy evening, Reverend Father Baron, Curate at Douai, was asked to visit a very sick woman, who was anxious to see him. He immediately asked the name and address of the sufferer, and requested the messenger to go quickly to tell her that he would be with her before very long.

As soon as he had finished reciting his Breviary, the devoted priest put on his coat, and left in haste. On reaching the place indicated, he tried to find the janitor, but he was nowhere to be seen. He lost no time in climbing a flight of stairs at the end of a dark passage, and from room to room he went, asking for the sick woman who had sent for him. But he met with no success, for the few persons who came to the door looked distrustfully at him, saying that they had never heard of such a name and that he had better keep on going.

Just as he was on the point of giving up, he noticed on the stairs a little girl, who told him that, in a certain room on the second floor, there was a poor sick woman, who was alone with her husband. He immediately made

his way to the room the child had spoken of. The discontented man who came to the door drew back on catching sight of a priest, and mutteringly asked him what he wanted. The door was half open, and Father Baron could see a very pale woman lying in the back of the room. When he tried to advance, the snarler, who was in his way, told him that he would throw him down the stairs if he went any farther. But the sick woman immediately cried out: "Father, for the love of God, come to my assistance, I do not want to die without having confessed my sins." On hearing these words, the priest placed his hand on the shoulder of the wretch, and said resolutely enough to make him stop still: "You see very well, Sir, that your wife wishes me to minister to the needs of her soul. I have no more right to refuse to help her than you have to hinder me from doing my duty. In the name of God, my Master and yours, step out of the way and leave me alone with your dying wife." The angry man began to grumble, and withdrew almost immediately. On seeing her husband retreating, the poor woman was overjoyed, and, stretching out her arms, she whispered: "Father, you have been sent to me by our dear Lady herself. My husband has always refused to send for a priest. It is ten years since I have been allowed to visit a church, but I have faithfully recited a "Hail Mary" every day. Hear my confession right away, for I shall not live very much longer."

On leaving the poor woman, Father Baron wished to shake hands with her husband, but the unhappy man resentfully turned away.

The curate looked at his note book to find the address of the sick woman he had been asked to visit, and, to his surprise, he discovered that it was No. 28 that had been indicated to him instead of the number he had gone to. While thanking God for having permitted him to make such a mistake, he hurried to the place he had been asked to go to, and he there found another poor sufferer. After hearing her confession, he hastened to awaken the sacristan of the parish. Taking the Blessed Eucharist and the Holy Oils, he went back to see the two women he had just visited. However, when he reached Room No. 18, he learned that his penitent had just breathed her last. Her sins had been forgiven her, and our all-merciful Lord had undoubtedly rewarded her for the good-will she had shown.

Truly grateful to the Blessed Virgin, who is rightly called the Refuge of Sinners and the Comforter of the Afflicted, Father Baron went to anoint the other sick woman; and it is he himself who related this touching story to me. It proves to us what wonderful blessings are showered upon those who have a devotion to Mary, and how merciful Jesus is to those who love His Mother.

Father MILLOT.

The glorious Virgin Mary is most kind and grateful, for she will not even suffer a salutation to pass unanswered. If you say a thousand times "Hail Mary", she will return your salutation as often.

St. Bernardine of Sienna.

The Pope's Christmas Message

(Continued.)

SALVATION WILL COME FROM THOSE WHO ARE PARTICULARLY DEVOTED TO THE SACRED HEART AND TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CHURCH.

We have had several occasions even recently to explain what the Holy and Apostolic See has always believed and taught and what she, according to her opportunities, has sought to accomplish and contribute — up to yesterday, even up to this day and whatever greater dispositions may be for the future — to the welfare of all against a common enemy.

It is needless to say that in such condition there is nothing more for us to do but to renew more insistently and more paternally and imploringly the invitation and pressing entreaty so frequently repeated to the faithful throughout the world, to all souls particularly devoted to the Sacred Heart and to the interest of the Church, to all bishops, to all the secular and regular clergy and to all the laity especially to those who, with such enlightened faith and Christian charity, labor for the interests of Christ and of souls by their active participation with the hierarchical apostolate in the multiple forms of Catholic action.

Our highest thoughts, full of particular confidence, go out in a special way to those heroic souls who are making an apostolate out of their daily work and even of their suffering. And more especially still do they go out to those legions which from all corners of the world send up to Heaven the perfume of their purity: We speak of these little ones who believe in Jesus and who belong to the Church in a special manner precisely because they are Christ's beloved.

THE POPE OFFERS HIS SUFFERINGS FOR THE CONVERSION OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE GONE ASTRAY, FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHURCH, AND FOR SPAIN.

This year, most beloved sons, the Divine Goodness granting us the opportunity to contribute to the prayers and work and sacrifices of all by a personal experience of suffering and until now has marvellously spared us and for which the same Divine Goodness is most readily and generously recompensing us with a wondrous and touching union of prayers which lately from every part of the Church are incessantly being offered up for the well being of the Common Father.

From the fulness of our hearts we take this opportunity to thank all for this manifestation of filial affection, so loving and so devoted.

And although what we have to suffer is very little indeed compared to that which so generously and painfully people suffer in the world; and compared with that, above all, which He himself, the Head, the Founder and the King of this Divine Church had to suffer for us, both in soul and in body, may He none the less deign to accept our offering which we wish always to be in conformity with His most holy will.

May He accept it, we repeat, for His own glory, now more than ever so impiously attacked, for the conversion of all those who have gone astray, for the peace and for the good of the entire church and in a particular manner for Spain, now so troubled and for that very reason so dear to us.

With this fervent sentiment of our heart we make ours and we send out to the world the heavenly message of Christmas "Glory to God in the Highest and on Earth Peace to Men."

THE CONSOLING EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

We gladly avail ourselves of this occasion so happily offered to us by this annually recurring Christmas gathering to turn our thoughts to all those other spiritual joys, the full enjoyment of which Divine Benignity has prepared for us.

It is for us to-day and none the less for all a holy gratification and an apostolic consolation to recall with gratitude and with the profound esteem that is due persons and events which impress the pages of the year now drawing to a close, the special marks of greatness and holiness of the faithful and the steadfast union of souls about the See of Peter.

Still present in our memory is the sight of the Senate of the Church with the entire Italian Episcopate come to rejoice with us at the beginning of this year of our life, during which our Lord often makes us sense the companions "work and sorrow."

We hear again in our memory the filial homage of the Congress of Catholic Journalists and artists of different degree and extent, of what solemn demonstration of faith and learning and of the action and the sacrifice which it offered to the admiration of pilgrims by the Catholic Press Exhibition collected from the five points of the globe.

Our heart rejoices also because of two works which have taken on a new form — one in stone and the other in thought. We mean the new Palace of the Congregations and the Pontifical Academy of Science.

To these new events at the turn of the year are added the centenaries of two great events of old which are the glory of the Gospel and of the Church.

We mean, as you have already anticipated, the 19th centenary of the conversion of St. Paul and the 16th centenary of the death of St. Sylvester.

Of the Apostle of the Gentiles, vessel of election, sublime and indefatigable teacher of Christian faith. Rome glories to have heard the message alongside her first Pontiff and to have felt the sword-stroke of one of his epistles.

In Sylvester, Rome admired the aureole of sanctity, which was freely developed on earth under the standard of Constantine and which leaves in the magnificent basilicas of the city testimony of the beginnings of our faith, a victory over the world.

THE POPE MAKES A SOLEMN APPEAL TO THE WORLD.

But more still, Paul, an untiring herald of peace and of Christ who wrote to the Corinthians of his time these profound words "for God is not a God of dissension but of peace," and Sylvester, who after a long night of per-

secution could greet a rule of liberty and peace, invites us this year to direct to the rulers and the peoples of the earth a new and still more fervid and pressing exhortation to peace and to its maintenance where it reigns and to its re-establishment where it is but a sorrowful, tragic memory, and up to this time, alas, unfulfilled yearning, and with this appeal to the world we join — and to-day more fervently than ever — in our prayer to God for that “tranquillity of order” in which alone peace can exist for the execution of that individual collective justice without which no order is possible.

This, our prayer, we reverently lay before the Crib of the Prince of Peace.

And so we go back again, in spirit and in heart, to the cave of Bethlehem whence we behold the whole Catholic world, to give thanks to that Divine Infant and to that all-knowing Child, who became a child to be more lovable and thus to draw the whole human race to Himself, to His Cross, to His flock, to His Church, and to His clients.

He is to-day in the midst of us and in union with Him, His Vicar extends his hand to bless you all, beloved sons, and to invoke upon all an abundance of the gifts and graces which He came to scatter as seeds of eternal and imperishable triumph on the face of the earth for men of good will.

And the Sovereign Pontiff pronounced in Latin the formula of the Apostolic Benediction.

Come Apart

“Come apart into a desert place, and rest a little.” These words our divine Lord addressed to His disciples just after they had related to Him all the things that they had done. All immediately sailed to a quiet spot.

“Come apart into a desert place, and rest a little,” does Jesus say to each of you. Far from the noise of the world and the thousand and one worries of each day, He is waiting to converse with you and to have you think of the everlasting truths. Sweetly and peacefully is He drawing you to Himself...

But how are you to get away from the tumult of the world and the worries of life? Jesus has seen to your needs by causing to be established in your midst different “Houses of Closed Retreats,” where you have no need of thinking of your household duties, where you may attend to the needs of your soul.

The life of each one of us may be compared to a stream, whose swift-flowing waters never return. It will not be very long before we are called to the happy or the unhappy eternity we have merited.

Everyone has not received communications from Up Above, which are often the reward of a lively faith and of a generous love. Each one of us, however, is obliged to believe the revealed truths and to follow the precepts of our divine Lord.



HOUSE OF CLOSED RETREATS DIRECTED BY THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, 61 JACQUES CARTIER ST., CHICOUTIMI.

During the pious exercises of a closed retreat, you naturally think of the sublime truths of our holy religion and of the duties of your state of life, which your own weakness and the idle talk of others have made you forget about.

Men, women, and children should come at least once a year, to these blessed oases which go by the name of "Houses of Closed Retreats." Jesus is asking you all to come to take a little rest and to receive from Him special graces.

CLOSED RETREATS FOR LADIES AND GIRLS

The ladies and girls who desire to make a Closed Retreat, will be made welcome at one or the other of the following Houses:

Retreat House dedicated to Our Lady of the Cenacle, 651 St. Cyrille St., Quebec.

Retreat House dedicated to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, St. Jean Baptiste St., Rimouski.

Retreat House dedicated to Our Lady of the Missions, 61 Jacques Cartier St., Chicoutimi.

Retreat House dedicated to the Immaculate Conception, 100 St. Louis St., Joliette.

Retreat House dedicated to Mary Mediatrix, 35 Dufferin St., Granby.

Retreat House dedicated to St. Bernadette, 430 Champlain St., St. Johns, Que.

Retreat House "Bethany", Nominigue, Co. Labelle.

For any information, apply to the Superior of one or the other of these Retreat Houses.

The Relics of St. John the Baptist



The followers of the holy Forerunner of Christ, after many an effort, succeeded in procuring the body of their leader. Wishing to keep it from being treated with irreverence, they carried it to Sebasta, which was no longer under the jurisdiction of Herod Antipas.

God did not delay in making known the glory of St. John the Baptist. No other tomb but that of Our Saviour drew such crowds as that of the son of Zacharias did. At it were performed many miracles.

In order to keep the Christians from coming from all over to visit Our Saviour's tomb, Adrian had desecrated it by erecting thereon a temple and a statue in honour of the most impure of the pagan deities. Julian the Apostate wished to follow his example by desecrating the tomb of St. John the Baptist. Faithful to an order from the renegade, the profaners uncovered the bones of the Saint, and thought of nothing else but of scattering them around. But these wicked men soon discovered how useless was the shameful attempt they had made. Miracles continued to be performed, and they served to make the powerlessness of the idols stand out more clearly. The anger of the infidels was stirred up, and, after gathering up the sacred bones, they decided to burn them and to see to having the ashes blown away.

But some pious monks disguised themselves, and succeeded in obtaining a number of the relics. On account of the profanation of his mortal remains, a few writers look upon St. John the Baptist as having suffered martyrdom a second time. Before very long, Julian met with a tragic death, and some say that it was a punishment for his crimes.

We are told that Herodias brought the head of St. John the Baptist to Jerusalem, and that she allowed no one to touch it. She herself saw to burying this head in a lonely spot near the palace Herod possessed in the City of David.

At least, it was among the ruins of this palace that, many years later, the head of the most illustrious of the Prophets was discovered in a marvellous manner.

While Valens, an Arian emperor was ruling, the head of St. John the Baptist was found by some religious of Jerusalem. The Emperor was immediately informed of the fact, and he commanded that the treasure be brought to his palace. But as this ruler was a heretic, he was not found worthy of possessing it. When those who had set out with the relic reached the village of Pontichion, fifteen miles distant from Chalcedon, the mules refused to advance, and the precious burden was left at a nearby village.

There it was kept until the reign of Theodosius, when it was brought to Constantinople. The pious Emperor carefully wrapped up the sacred deposit, and bore it away himself. This translation of the relic, which took place on August 29th, was a solemn one, and mention is made of it in the liturgy of the day commemorating the Beheading of St. John the Baptist. Some time after the translation, Theodosius had a magnificent church built seven miles from Constantinople, and the relic was brought to it during the reign of Heraclius, in the year 626. Theodosius was soon rewarded for his piety. Just before attacking the tyrant Eugenius, he went to the church he had had built in honour of St. John the Baptist, to place himself under the protection of the holy Martyr. The day Eugenius was defeated, an evil spirit came out of the sacred edifice, and cried: "Is it thus that you triumph over me... over the one who beheaded you." Those who heard the words have declared that they were uttered just when Theodosius was putting the tyrant's troops to rout.

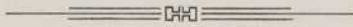
Since then, the faithful have had a great devotion to St. John the Baptist. Portions of his body are to be found in several churches. In St. Sylvester's Church, in Rome, part of his head is venerated. In the Cathedral of Amiens are to be found the upper lip, the eyes, and part of the forehead. These precious remains were taken from St. George's Church, and brought to Amiens in the year 1206, by Father Walon de Sarton. On December 17th, a few of the relics were received with great solemnity by the Bishop of Amiens. They were saved during the French Revolution, and are still venerated.

In 1247, the Emperor of Constantinople sent to the saintly King Louis the upper part of the head of the Saint, which was immediately placed in a precious reliquary, and deposited in Sainte Chapelle, Paris. The brain had already been brought to the Tyron monastery, and as a great many miracles were performed there, Robert de Joigny, Bishop of Chartres, had it taken from the wall in which it was concealed, in the year 1515. It was immediately placed in a precious head held by two angels. In the chapel of the castle of St. Chaumont there is a considerable portion of the Saint's jaws, which were brought there from the Orient, in a golden reliquary. The cities of Turin, Venice, Lyons, and Nemours also possess some of the precious relics. St. Paulinus, Bishop of Nola, had a few of them brought to his cathedral, and his example was soon followed by St. Gaudentius, Bishop of Brescia. The finger with which St. John the Baptist pointed to Christ, to make Him known to the Jews, is still preserved in Malta. A few of the ashes of the Saint are to be found in the Cathedral of Genoa, where they are looked upon with the greatest respect. These ashes, when held before the sea, calm the troubled waters.

St. Gregory of Tours has given an account of a number of miracles which have been performed in favour of those who have venerated the precious relics. Several of these miracles have been performed in Amiens, and it has been proved that the relic possessed by the people of that city is a true one. The relics are spoken of in the ninth tome of the Annals of Baronius, and a historical account of the translation of the relics of the Saint has

been written by Du Cange. This writing, like all the other works of this learned man, is sought after on account of its accuracy.

The principal cathedral of Rome and of the whole Catholic world, the one to which the Bishop of Rome goes in order to take solemn possession of the Primacy, and which is looked upon as the metropolis of Catholicity, is dedicated to Our Saviour and is known as St. John Lateran.



The Origin of the Novenas

What is the origin of the novenas? Why was the number *nine* chosen?

From Beringer's first tome about indulgences we gather the following information:

A novena is a pious practice which one carries out for nine consecutive days or for nine consecutive months, as the nine First Fridays, with a view to obtaining a special favour. The octave following a great Church festival has something joyful about it which makes one think of the feast, but there is a note of sadness in the novena preceding it. One has recourse to a novena in time of trial, or at the approach of some feast of the Church.

The people of olden times looked upon numbers as being symbolic. The number *ten* was regarded as the symbol of perfection and happiness, and the number *nine* was considered by the Pythagoreans as a symbol of imperfection and misery. That is why the Romans mourned the loss of their dear ones for nine days. However, this signification of sadness has nothing to do with the origin of the novenas.

Our novenas may not be traced back to the time of the Apostles, although these holy men, by spending the nine days between the day of Our Lord's Ascension and the Feast of Pentecost in prayer, made the first novena, the most fruitful one that has ever been made.

In the Middle Ages, it was the custom in Spain and France to solemnize the nine days preceding Christmas, in memory of the nine months spent by Jesus in His Mother's womb. In Spain, nine Masses were celebrated in honour of Blessed Virgin, while in France, nine anthems were sung instead of the seven which are now sung during the latter part of Advent. From this it may be seen that the first novena was a novena preparatory to the celebration of the anniversary of the Birth of Christ.

During the 17th century, the heads of the different religious orders saw to having a novena of Masses said before the feast of some great saint, simply as a preparation.

About the same time, many of the faithful who were anxious to obtain some special favour thought of going to places of pilgrimage and to the tombs of saints, to pray for nine days. Before long, indulgences were granted to those who made a private novena, in some particular church. In the 19th century, the same indulgences were granted to anyone making a novena at any time at all.

The Greatest Charity

There are many ways of showing kindness to those around us, but the one which is the most meritorious is that of helping them to save their soul. Such a service is indeed valuable, for the soul is to be prized more than the body, and Eternity more than the present life. When you are standing before the tribunal of the Sovereign Judge, you will not be able to give an excuse for having neglected to do your neighbour a good turn of the kind. It may be that on account of not having much of this world's goods, you have been obliged to receive help yourself, and have not been able to provide others with food and clothing. That does not matter, for you will not have to give an account of the use you have made of the things you have never possessed. But there is one thing that all will have to answer for, and that is the use they have made of the graces granted them.

God has allowed you to realize how valuable are the things of Eternity, and no one has hindered you from showing your unfortunate brothers how to acquire them and to thus procure themselves happiness which is a thousand times greater than any earthly joy.

It is true that God has not called you to be a missionary, and the duties of your state of life cannot be made to accord with those of the apostolic life. But Our Lord did not assign the task of saving souls to the Apostles alone. God imposed this duty upon the head of every family when He gave him a companion and placed under his control children and servants, whom he should edify by his good example and his words of advice. In fact, everyone is obliged to do all that he can to procure others happiness in this life, and to save them from the torments of hell.

Father HERBET.

God has placed in the hands of Mary the whole price of our redemption.

St. Bernard.

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

Father Damien

The Apostle of the Lepers of Molokai

BY MRS. AUGUSTUS CRAVEN, NEE LA FERRONNAYS

(Continued.)



REVEREND FATHER DAMIEN DE VEUSTER
APOSTLE OF THE LEPERS OF MOLOKAI.

Just before embarking, Bishop Maigret, who was deeply emotioned, turned to the lepers and said: "Up until now, my children, you have been alone, but you will no longer be so. Here is one I am leaving in your midst to be your father and your brother. Your immortal souls are very dear to him, and he is so anxious for your temporal welfare that he has not hesitated in asking to become one of yours, in order to live and die with you."

"Thus it was," Father Damien afterwards wrote, "that by a special design of Our Saviour, who took such pity on the lepers during His life upon earth, I arrived at Kalawao, on the Island of Molokai. I was then thirty-three years of age and I was strong and healthy."

The Island of Molokai, chosen by the Hawaiian Government as a refuge for the lepers, seemingly had been destined by Divine Providence for the happiest people living. The air there is balmy, the sky clear, and the soil adorned with all the admirable and luxuriant vegetation of the Tropics.

In the north, on a promontory in the Pacific Ocean, is to be found an immense verdant plain, which is separated from the rest of the island by rugged peaks. The rocky mass is covered by a carpet of climbing plants, a barrier which the inhabitants of the plain find to be just as insurmountable as the sea that hems them in on the other side. In 1873, Father Damien decided to pay a visit to the lepers, and he found them in Kalawao and Kalapaupa, two villages of this distant plain.

It was in the public interest that the Hawaiian Government had had all the plague-stricken creatures looked up and driven away. A near relative of the queen of these islands, affected with leprosy, had been brought thither, and had been treated no better than the other lepers. Up until Father Damien's arrival, the lack of helps to religion and the negligence of the Health Officers left these poor creatures victims to all that drunkenness, vice, and debauchery could possibly add to their dread disease. One natu-

rally draws back on being given a description of this island inhabited by human beings who have been condemned to suffer unceasingly and to die within a short time, of human beings whose souls are just as sick as their bodies. Yes, sad indeed is it to hear that these poor creatures, after having given up all hope of gaining anything on this earth, have seemingly despaired of reaching heaven.

However, it would not be right to think that the inhabitants of the Sandwich Islands took such measures because they are cruel-hearted. On the contrary, these people are, according to the reports of all voyagers, meek, hospitable, and as kind to one another as they are to strangers. The delightful climate of these islands and the beauties of Nature do not contribute in the least to the wiping out of the malignant disease, and the government officials are duty-bound to do all in their power to keep the pest from spreading. Time and again, English seamen have declared that they are very sorry to see that the remedy which the Hawaiians have made use of (segregation) is not in use in India and in all the British possessions, where leprosy is raging almost like it is in the Sandwich Islands, and where fewer think of fighting against it. Further on, we shall see that the Hawaiian Government did all that wise and charitable Father Damien suggested for the relief of the unfortunate creatures whose fate he had come to share, and in whose midst, by the working of a miracle just as great as that of restoring them to health, he was about to establish order, peace, and morality.

On his arrival, the Missionary had learned that there were as many as eight thousand lepers on the island, and that about half of them were Catholics. Every week, ten or twelve of them died, but the number of poor unfortunates was often increased by lepers sent to Molokai from the other islands. Each time a boat arrived, many a heart-rending scene took place. Anxiously did the inhabitants of the Island gaze at the newcomers, to see if they could find among them a few of those they had left behind them, although the reunion they longed for only meant the sharing of a common misfortune. A little later, Father Damien remarked that the island at that period was seemingly filled with walking corpses. Very wretched indeed were the dwellings occupied by the poor outcasts. It was true that the climate was delightful, but it had supplied the people with a plant, the botanical name of which is *dracoena terminabilis*, and which they called *ki*. With this plant they had succeeded in making a drink for which they continually craved, and, while they were under the influence of the liquor, their conduct was far from being exemplary. The five words of a terrible axiom in their dialect: "There are no laws here," served as a code. Pious Father Damien was filled with more pity on discovering the moral evil that existed, than he had been on finding out everything about the horrible disease which he was liable to contract.

The spectacle was certainly of a nature to horrify one who knew full well that, sooner or later, he would fall a victim to leprosy. But Father Damien never let himself grow discouraged at the sight of danger. I have decided to tell you a little about the mysterious and terrible plague which has stricken the human race for such a long time that it seems to have ap-

peared on the earth at the same time as sin, to which it is so often compared. And one finds that there is a good reason for such a comparison when he learns about the effects of the dread disease, and of the terrible image which it presents to us of the deforming of the soul, which has been made to God's likeness.

There may be some persons who know but little about leprosy, or who have forgotten all that they have been told concerning it, so I shall speak of it here. This strange disease does not quickly appear to be as bad as it really is. Some of its victims begin by having swollen features, and, after some time, they no longer resemble human beings. Others suffer from ugly sores on their face and hands, and, when the disease has made headway, their flesh decays.

Much more could be said of leprosy, but what I have stated is sufficient to give one an idea of the meaning of the comparison already spoken of. One may now picture to himself the people among whom Father Damien had settled and with whom he had decided to remain always.

I have already remarked that depravation was as common on the Island as the plague itself when Father Damien arrived. The devoted priest thought of remedying the evil existing, and the poor Hawaiians, being naturally loving and kind, were not slow in proving that they were grateful to the one who had come to live among them. Before long, the Missionary succeeded in getting these people to listen to him. He compelled them to leave aside the liquor which made them wild, and which increased the pain they already had to endure. Besides this, he helped them in many ways, and he tried so hard to get them to love labour, order, and obedience, that they soon were capable of advancing. Father Damien was always very charitable, and energetic. He realized that if he wished to be successful in his work he needed to see to having spacious dwellings for the inhabitants, and much more water. Before very long he thought of erecting one or two churches.

Here let it be remarked that, while the different plans were being made, Father Damien went every night to lie under a *pandanus*, which was his only shelter for a considerable time after his arrival in Molokai.

(To be continued.)

Good Example

One day, a good Christian father was asked what he had done in order to have such upright children.

"I have tried to set them a good example," he answered. "Instead of saying to them: *Children, you must pray*, I say: *Children, let us say our prayers*. Instead of saying to them on Sunday morning: *Children, go to Mass*, I say: *Children, let us go to Mass*. Instead of saying to them: *Children, go to confession*, I say: *Children, to-morrow is the first Sunday of the month, let us go to confession this evening*. And all my children willingly follow my example."

(Le Devoir.)

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.



Some time ago I promised to send something in honour of the Little Flower of Jesus if I obtained a cure. My prayers have been heard, and I am enclosing a donation. Mrs. A., **Barnaby River, N. B.** — I wish to thank St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for the favour she has obtained me. Mrs. E. A., **Windsor, Ont.** — Thanks to the intercession of the powerful little Patroness of Missionaries, my husband has been able to keep his position. Mrs. N. D., **Montreal.** —

I am grateful to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a cure obtained through her intercession. Mrs. A. L. — Part of my request has been granted, and I am truly thankful. I am asking the Little Flower of Jesus to continue to watch over me. Mrs. B. — I have obtained a favor through the intercession of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, and I wish to thank her. C. L., **Holyoke, Mass.** — I have had recourse to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, and am grateful for the answer to my prayers. H. L. —

I wish to thank the dear little Patroness of Missionaries for the favors she has obtained me. Mrs. O. R., **Willimansett, Mass.** — I have received a favour through the intercession of the Little Flower of Jesus and am enclosing an offering, as promised. Mrs. E. M., **Montreal.** — St. Teresa of the Child Jesus has

obtained me a favour, and I wish to thank her for interceding for me. Mrs. H. L. — I am grateful for the favours I have received through the intercession of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. R. C. — The favour I asked the Little Flower to obtain me has been granted, and I am truly grateful. Miss K., **Verdun.** — Kindly unite with me in thanking St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for the favor she has obtained me. Mrs. F., **Woonsocket, R. I.** — I wish to thank the Little Flower of Jesus for the favour she has obtained me. Mrs. C., **Verdun.** — St. Teresa of the Child Jesus has come to my aid. I am very grateful to her, and am asking her to intercede for me again. A. C. — I have received some great favours through the intercession of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. Mrs. T. — Enclosed please find a small offering, in thanksgiving for a favour obtained through the intercession of the Little Flower of Jesus. H. R. — I have obtained

some favours through the intercession of the dear Patroness of Missionaries, and I am asking her to continue to intercede for me. L. L. — A position has been obtained through the intercession of the Little Flower of Jesus. Mrs. H. G. — I am grateful for the favour St. Teresa of the Child Jesus has obtained me. Miss D. — I am truly thankful for all that St. Teresa of the Child Jesus did for me last year. I am now asking her to obtain me a number of special favours. Mrs. C. — St. Teresa of the Child Jesus has helped my son to find work, and I wish to thank her for interceding for him. Mrs. E. D.

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	July-August 1936.....	152.25
November-December "	7.00	September-October "	16.50
January-February 1936.....	159.42	November-December "	6.00
March-April "	45.70	January-February 1937.....	162.80
May-June "	\$ 37.60	March-April "	4.50



CHINA

A VISIT TO THE SHEK LUNG LAZARETTO

Canton, December 15, 1936.

On Saturday, October 24th, I had the happiness of paying my first visit to the Shek Lung Lazaretto. The evening before, I had reflected that a desire I had had for a long time was about to be realized, and my heart was filled with joy. While young, I had looked upon a life of devotedness and sacrifice among the poor outcasts of humanity as an ideal one. Looking at things in the light of faith, one finds that the Sisters have a wonderful gold mine to work out.

At two o'clock in the afternoon, we arrived in Shek Lung. We were greeted by a joyful *Tin tsu po yao* (God bless you), the salutation of the Catholic Chinese. Very cheerfully did we reply while confiding our valise to a kind and honest-looking man, who had a crucifix around his neck. He was a Christian leper.

After a ten minutes' walk, we reached the wharf, where a little boat, *The Star of the Sea*, was awaiting us. Four lepers took hold of the oars, and, a half an hour later, we arrived at the Convent, where we were given a hearty welcome. Needless to say, a pleasant recreation immediately commenced. Sister Claire de Jesus⁽¹⁾ offered to show us through the lepers' dwellings.

First of all, we paid a visit to the chapel, and found Sister St. Francois d'Assise⁽²⁾ busy adorning the altar for the Feast of Christ the King. Then we proceeded to the abode of the helpless. Shall I describe the place? A large room, the only one there is. The sick women were sitting or lying on boards placed upon trestles. We were not allowed to enter, but I can assure you that a look through the open door is enough for one's eyes, and a great deal too much for one's heart... From each of the rude beds came a joyful *Bon jou ma soeu*, which brought a smile to our lips. How is it that people with such wasted bodies can experience such happiness? Only Christians can account for it.

In the other houses, the lepers are not quite so sick, but each one had a sad story to tell. The last patient our Sisters received, a little eight-

1. Exilda COTE, of Montreal.

2. Clara HEBERT, of Montreal.



A WARD IN THE SHEK LUNG LAZARETTO, WHERE THE LEPERS SPEND THEIR DAYS. SEVERAL OF THE POOR UNFORTUNATES ARE HERE SEEN STUDYING CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE.

year-old boy, asks to be given a number of injections every day so as to get better sooner and be able to return home to see his mother.

We simply passed the section inhabited by the men, but all were at the door ready to bow to us.

I am unable to tell you of the sentiments of compassion that filled my heart this afternoon. However, what I saw was nothing compared to the scene I was to witness the following day while the festering sores were being dressed.

In the evening, we assembled in a spacious hall, in which there was but a lamp to dispel the darkness. The lepers put on a little play. They were overjoyed, for, besides the Sisters, the French Commander from Shameen was present with thirteen of his soldiers and their chaplain. The parts were very well played. One would have thought that the actors were happy millionaires, but under the long sleeves of the costumes there were hands without fingers, arms without hands, etc...

After the concert, we returned to the convent, and Sister St. Raphael⁽¹⁾ gave a little lunch to the actors. They needed it, for they were wet with perspiration. I imagined that they would certainly be obliged to remain in bed all the next day, but I was soon told that these little entertainments are a pleasure for them, and make them forget that they are outcasts of humanity.

Long before five o'clock the next morning, I heard the chanting of the prayers in the chapel. I hurried out of bed, thinking the Sisters had forgotten to awaken me, but no... it was not yet time for rising. It was still very dark, and already I could distinguish, in the glimmering light of the candles, human forms dragging themselves to the church. A few of the poor creatures were being helped along by charitable companions. What faith!... And it seems that there is nothing to prevent these Christians from arriving an hour before Mass for the recitation of the prayers.

After breakfast, Sister St. Pierre Apôtre⁽²⁾ and I accompanied Sister St. Francois d'Assise, who was to dress the sores. We were deeply touched on seeing the wretched condition of an old blind woman. Her eyes, which are always closed, are infected with leprosy, and tears keep running from them. Her hands and feet are covered with large red sores. I shuddered when I was told that she washed her bandages herself. How painful must her mutilated limbs be while she is doing her work.

Not far from her we could see a few patients, who were waiting to be treated. Each of these poor women had taken a pair of scissors, and was busy cutting the flesh hanging from her sores.

One of the patients did not appear to be as happy as the others. She has just arrived at the Lazaretto, and is still a pagan. The light of faith has not yet shone on her soul, and as she does not cherish the hope of sharing eternal bliss, she does not know that sufferings endured with courage and love bring happiness to one's heart.

1. Malvina BIRON, of Coteau Landing.

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



A VICTIM OF LEPROSY.

After dinner, the four Sisters of the Lazaretto: Sister Marie Bernadette, ⁽¹⁾ Sister St. Raphael, Sister St. Francois d'Assise, and Sister Claire de Jesus came to converse with us a little while.

We left Shek Lung at a quarter past five. We shall not soon forget about this large family of six hundred and fifty lepers, who have received the Gift of Faith, and who have learned to live happy in spite of the fact that their bodies are gradually decaying.

May our divine Lord bless the work of our dear Sisters, and direct towards "The Isle of Suffering" the help they need in order to be able to take in all the poor people affected with the terrible disease.

Sister JOSEPH DE LA
SAINTE FAMILLE, ⁽²⁾
*Missionary of the
Immaculate Conception.*

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MANCHUKUO

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Missionaries to Szepingkai

Tuesday, December 15, 1936

Sister Marie Esther ⁽³⁾ goes to visit a dying child who has been prepared for Baptism by a catechist. After giving the little one the necessary care, Sister inquires if there are any other sick persons in the house. The man who lives next door takes her to the bedside of his wife, who is very ill. Sister speaks about our holy religion, and the seed falls on well-prepared soil. Both husband and wife tell us that they wish to have someone explain the Catholic doctrine to them. They are good-living people, and we trust that they will be just as good Christians as they are fervent worshippers of the *fouo* (spirits). As we enter their home, the tablet of the gods, with its numerous decorations, attracts our attention. It contrasts strangely with the furniture of the miserable dwelling. Questioned as to the meaning of all this, the husband answers: "A long time ago, at a moment

1. Alma LEGER, of Green Valley, Ont.
2. Jeannette DELISLE, of Worcester, Mass.
3. Alice BUTEAU, of St. Evariste, Co. Frontenac.

when my life was in danger, I invoked the gods, and they saved me. Since then, I give them all my earnings, I haven't a cent ahead of me. My money has been spent on incense sticks and on other things that can be used to honour the spirits."

God's good time has come for these people. Complying with their request, the Mission catechist goes to give them a Catechism lesson to-day. He sees to taking down the idols they have adored for so many years, and to putting up the picture of the Sacred Heart, who will henceforth be the King of their dwelling.

How many sad things happen in this poor country! A few days ago, a woman brought us her daughter-in-law, a morphinomaniac but thirteen years old. The patient was quite small, and her hair was arranged like that of a child. She could have been taken for a youngster under ten, yet she craves for the drug.

Wednesday, December 16

The flood has spoiled the crops, and the price of grain is unreasonably high. Entire families are dying of hunger. There is dire distress. Every day, the porter of the Mission gives food to the poor who come to the door, and they are becoming more and more numerous. The miracle of the multiplication of the loaves would need to be renewed daily in order to satisfy so many famished creatures. "If we had more money," sadly repeats Mgr. Lapierre, "what good we could do!" Fortunately, it is not too cold. We do not fail to render thanks to the Lord, for these poor people will have less to suffer from.

Saturday, December 19

A poor man, who has an infected sore on one of his fingers, comes to the Dispensary. "Doctor," says he, "please try to cure me as soon as possible, for my children have nothing to eat. They're waiting until I'm able to use my arms, and even when I work, we must be satisfied with husks of grain."

When we visit the people in their homes, we find still more hardships. How pitiful it is to see a family of eight grown-up people who have but a small quantity of flour, ten cents' worth, to share among themselves for the day. Needless to say, they have no fuel. The person to whom we gave treatment said: "I hide all day under the bed-clothes, for it's so very cold."

Friday, January 8, 1937

A man asks the Sister infirmarian to go quickly to see his wife, who has let her angry passions rise, and whom he thinks is dying. For two days, she has been lying on the *kang*, and is moaning all the time, refusing to take any food whatever. "She won't live long," says the stranger. We immediately go to his home, and we find a woman whose pulse beats regularly, and who is not at all feverish. Making use of kind words, we persuade her to take some food, and we tell her that she should try to keep from sighing so much if she does not wish to lose all her strength. To save appearances,



HIS EXCELLENCY MGR. LAPIERRE, VICAR APOSTOLIC OF SZEPINGKAI, MANCHUKUO,
AND THE FIRST PROFESSED SISTERS OF THE NATIVE SISTERHOOD
OF OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY.

To the right: Sister JULIENNE DU SAINT SACREMENT, M. I. C., (Beatrice Lareau, of Chambly);
to the left: Sister Ste. JEANNE DE CHANTAL, M. I. C., (Jeanne Caron, of Montreal).

we give her some medicine, and when we leave her, she looks altogether different.

Very often do we meet with cases of the kind. When one is contradicted, disappointed, or *loses face*, he tries in one way or another to take his own life. Courage soon gives way when it is not kept up by Faith. He who has not the example and love of our Saviour to strengthen him in the trials of life, soon finds his burden too heavy.

Monday, January 18

Since last Wednesday, the Sisters of the Native Novitiate of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, and the personnel of the Apostolic School, have been enjoying in silence the delights of close friendship with our divine Lord. The retreat ends this morning, at the Mass which His Excellency Mgr. Lapierre kindly celebrates himself in our little chapel. Before the Holy Sacrifice commences, three professed nuns renew their vows in his presence.

At ten o'clock this morning, His Excellency, accompanied by several priests of the Foreign Mission Society and some Clerics of St. Viator, comes to our chapel to preside at a ceremony during which five native postulants are to take the veil and three novices to make profession. The latter come up to the altar, where they pronounce the formula of Holy Vows, which unites them to God. Then, after receiving the profession veil, they are handed a silver cross, which they hang around their neck. The postulants, in turn, come up to the officiating prelate to solicit the favour of receiving the Habit of the Congregation of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. In a touching sermon, His Excellency explains the deep meaning of the ceremony that is taking place, and the benefit the Church expects from it. "Why," says he, "does the Pope wish that there be many religious in the world? It is because he hopes that by their life of prayer and sacrifice, the religious will do much for the Church. If the priests and religious attain the end of their vocation, if they are saintly, they will obtain all that they desire from God. They will ask for the conversion of the pagans, and their request will be granted them. The Christians in mission lands are becoming more numerous every year, yet they still form but the minority of the people. Who will convert the mass? God alone can grant the Gift of Faith, but He will reward us for our prayers and sacrifices, by bestowing this gift upon the poor pagans."

After Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, His Excellency goes to the Novitiate to congratulate the happy chosen ones. The day is a joyful one for all. The members of the youthful Society of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary are happy to see new recruits coming to join them. There are to-day eighteen Professed Sisters labouring in different mission stations, and they are a great help to the Missionaries.

Report of the Dispensary of Szepingkai for the year 1936:

Baptisms.....	263	Patients.....	28,598
Treatments.....	46,459	Dressings.....	6,165
Homes visited....	334	Teeth extracted....	48
		Injections.....	964
		Vaccinations.....	331

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

Saturday, August 1, 1936

This evening, we are asked to receive an orphan fifteen years of age, whose father died some time ago. The day has been a hot, sultry one, and she has been obliged to walk thirty *li*. The poor girl is extremely thin; her feet, hands, and face are swollen, and she suffers from dysentery. Moreover, her nose is eaten away by a cancer, and there is a hole an inch wide in the middle of her face. As for her eyes, one of the lids is almost entirely gone, and it seems to us that the ball will soon be affected with the terrible disease. The man who has brought the maiden to us, returns satisfied that he has rid himself of her. We immediately begin to rejoice, for we realize that we have an opportunity of saving one more soul.

Wednesday, August 19

A young woman brings us her baby, a few months old. On examining it, we notice that the tip of its little finger is gone. Could one believe it? The mother herself bit it off a few days after its birth, in order that the child might live long. For the same reason, a red and green blouse has been put on a little boy. His trousers are the same colour, but instead of being green on the right side, like the blouse, they are red on the right, and green on the left. Strange superstitious practices!...



SISTER BLANDINE DE JESUS, M. I. C.
(BLANDINE SIMARD, OF ROBERVAL), SHOWING
A LITTLE BLIND GIRL OF PAMIENTCHENG,
MANCHUKUO, HOW TO SAY THE BEADS.

Friday, September 18

A baby girl, seven months old, is baptized at the Dispensary. She is named Agnes, according to the desire of some pupils of a class in Joliette, Canada, who had asked this favour in return for the services rendered our dear Sister Marie de la Ste. Famille⁽¹⁾. We, in turn, shall ask these good pupils to beg the Lord to send many little children to our dispensary, so that all those who are in danger of death may be baptized.

Sunday, October 4

Sister St. Lazare⁽²⁾ has hardly entered the Orphanage this morning when she hears the servant of the Mission calling to her from outside. "What is the matter?" she asks, seeing him appear in an attitude denoting a certain shame. "I've some-

1. Marie Rose St. PIERRE, of Boucherville.
2. Juliette RAINVILLE, of Beauport.

thing to tell you: While taking in wood for the Sisters, this morning, I saw some nice tomatoes in the cupboard, and I ate two of them. I'm telling you about it right away, because if I didn't I'd be guilty of theft..." We admire the frankness of this good Christian.

Saturday, October 10

Reverend Father Gilbert, M. E., comes back from Szepingkai, bringing with him four old men for the Home. According to a custom, the inventory of their belongings is made. Besides the three shirts and the three pair of trousers he wears, the first has an old quilt, a very thin mattress, a few rags, and about twenty cents. The second, whose baggage is still smaller, holds in his hand a precious parcel, which Sister St. Lazare has the privilege of opening. The work is a little long, for a first piece of paper, quite creased, is wrapped around another one, which hides a dirty rag containing a third and a fourth piece, all serving to wrap up seven cents and a half! The third has but the tattered garments he has on. The last possesses some spare clothes, and a dollar which he has seen to hiding in one of his stockings. The four dear old men were baptized at Szepingkai, and receive Communion every morning. How lovingly our Lord must look upon these big children, who have known Him so late in life, but who love Him with their whole heart.



AN OLD MAN OF THE HOME
IN PAMIENTCHENG,
BRINGING IN SORGHUM STALKS,
WHICH WILL SERVE AS FUEL.

Thursday, October 22

Our little orphans charm us by their simplicity and candour. One of them *Nioutze*, aged three, seems to have no feelings. She never shows the least mark of joy, satisfaction, or bad temper. She is very clever, and runs errands with such exactness that her older companions could look up to her as a model. If she is called to accompany us to the sacristy of the church, she continues playing undisturbed. It is only when she sees that we are on our way that she starts off. Once we arrive, she carefully brings us all we ask for, quietly approaches us, pulls our apron, and gives us the article required, all this without changing her expression.

Nioutze is inclined to be lazy. When Sister is not at the Orphanage, and it is time for prayer, she pouts and remains seated on the *kang*, while her companions kneel down. Sister is informed of the fact, and for her penance, the child is told to make a *k'ol'eou* (bow) to the Blessed Virgin, to beg pardon for her laziness. *Nioutze* solemnly gets down on her knees, and slowly and majestically bows down to the floor.

Sunday, November 22

We are given a few explanations concerning certain talismans the Chinese

make use of. The black triangular bag they hang in their hair, around their neck, or over their clothes, is used to chase away the devil, and also as a preservative against the diseases attributed to evil spirits. It contains a piece of yellow paper, on which are some red characters that have been traced by a sorcerer. A quadrangular yellow paper bag is worn for the same purpose.

Little bags of different shapes and of all colours are also made. They are filled with sweet-scented herbs or camphor. These are looked upon as preservatives against stings and epidemics.

Sunday, December 13

There is great rejoicing at the Mission of Pamientcheng. A number of Christians have come to pay homage to their revered Pastor, His Excellency Mgr. Lapierre, who arrived yesterday afternoon.

High Mass is sung at half-past eight, after which the boys of the school put on a little play they have prepared for the occasion. It is a great success. At half-past twelve, the faithful again assemble in the church, for a Confirmation ceremony. One hundred and fourteen Christians are to be con-



CHRISTIANS GATHERED AROUND HIS EXCELLENCY MGR. LAPIERRE
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS PASTORAL VISIT TO THE MISSION
OF PAMIENTCHENG, MANCHUKUO.

firmed, among whom are fifty-one women, a number that has not been heard tell of for a great many years. At three o'clock, it is the turn of our orphans and of the girls of the school to pay homage to our distinguished visitor. At five, all the people of the Mission group together in the yard to greet His Excellency, who is to return to Szepingkai this evening.

Friday, December 25

After having assisted at three Masses during the night, in the Mission chapel, which was prettily decorated, we went to the Orphanage to witness

the surprise of our dear little charges on catching sight of the beautiful Christmas tree. It is thanks to the generosity of our kind benefactors in Canada that we were able to decorate it for them. The little ones, who were beside themselves with joy, laughed, danced, and clapped their hands. Their happiness was still greater when they noticed that the things were labelled. "Oh! just look, my name is on this little dog!..." "And the pretty doll is for me!" etc. It was a big sacrifice for them to go back to bed. As soon as they have a few spare moments this morning, we see them approach the tree, and look eagerly at the treasures hanging on it.



THE CHURCH OF PAMIЄNTCHЄNG, MANCHUKUO, DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS.
THE LANTERNS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE LITTLE BOYS
OF OUR SCHOOL.

After High Mass, which was sung at half-past eight, all the children are invited for the giving out of the presents. If our benefactors could only visit the Orphanage to-day and witness the joy of the dear little ones, how they would rejoice for having been so generous, and how happy they would feel. The youngsters find that the day goes by only too quickly. They would be willing to do without their night's rest in order to be able to play a little longer with their pretty toys.

The old men of the Home also share in the joys of the day. A good *kiaotze* (meat pie) dinner, prepared by themselves, is served them. They are happy to feast on meat and white flour.

Happiness also reigns in our little convent, for all the Sisters are delighted to be together on this great festival.

Sunday, December 27

An old man of the Home arrives at the Dispensary with one of his fingers covered with blood... One of his companions has bitten him... The big children cannot help from quarrelling at times. To-day, these two went a

little too far. They called each other names, fought, and finally one bit the other... The fighting did not last long. We are surprised and edified to see



CHRISTMAS JOY AT THE ORPHANAGE IN PAMIENTCHENG.

Sister St. JEAN D'EPHESE (Laurette Moran, of St. Boniface, Man.); Sister BLANDINE DE JESUS, (Blandine Simard, of Roberval), and a few of our orphans, who have in their hands the toys sent them by our Canadian benefactors.

the culprit going to Confession before the half-past eight Mass. Mr. P'eng was baptized and confirmed the last time Mgr. Lapierre was here, and we can see that he wishes to become a fervent Christian.

Saturday, January 30, 1937

Another little orphan is brought to us from Tungleao. The child is only two months old and is blind, but it looks quite pretty when we put on it the warm woollens that have come from Canada.

Report of the Dispensary of Pamientcheng from August, 1936, to January, 1937, inclusive:

	Baptisms.	45		
Patients.	12,053	Treatments.	22,147	Dressings. 3,054
Teeth extracted.	87	Homes visited.	115	Injectons. 236

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

ECHOES FROM THE BOARDING-SCHOOL

A boarder, nine years old, wishes to become a Christian, but her parents object. One day, when Sister Therese d'Avila⁽¹⁾ was doing some work, the little girl climbed up on a bench without being noticed, and threw her arms around Sister's neck saying: "Oh! pray, *Cheou lao che* (teacher),

1. Therese SAUVE, of St. Scholastique.

that I may be baptized!" Sometimes her tears reveal her great grief. What a striking contrast there is between her and those who have received the many graces that flow from the first one granted: Baptism. If the Christians who do not value their holy Faith, could but live in these countries where so many are deprived of this precious gift, they would certainly have a better idea of the great love God has shown them.

When Chinese parents decide on their daughters' future, it is not always their pagan prejudices that move them to do so. One of our pupils has asked her father and mother to let her remain single, and they have told her that she may do so if she is willing to leave home without delay. It seems strange, that Christian parents should act thus, but, as they have explained to Mgr. Lapierre, they could not support the girl any longer, and had thought of finding her a mother-in-law. His Excellency, who was at *T'ou Tsuan* at



SISTER THERESE D'AVILA, M. I. C.

(Therese Sauve, of St. Scholastique)

RECEIVING A NEW PUPIL AT THE BOARDING-SCHOOL IN TAONAN, MANCHUKUO.
THE FATHER OF THE LITTLE GIRL HAS BROUGHT HER ALL HER THINGS.

the time, was told all about what had gone on. He decided to protect the child and to send her to the Boarding-School until she would be allowed to enter the Native Novitiate of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, in Sze-ping kai.

Another pupil wept bitterly on leaving us. She was going to get married. She said she intended coming back to school a month after her wedding, in order to continue her studies. "I don't want to be married, I don't want to be married!" she kept saying. The girl was only acting as it is customary on such an occasion, but our helper at the Dispensary was on the point of believing that she meant it. Her mother, moved by her tears, decided to speak no more of the planned alliance. Just as soon as this was known of, things changed. The maiden, who was afraid of losing the man she had asked her mother to choose for her, declared that she was willing

to do whatever she was asked to do. Her companions laughed at her behind her back, and she was quite ashamed for having *lost face*.

The evening of an examination day, we heard our best pupil crying because one of her classmates had come first. Her teacher tried to get her to understand that there was no reason for being so grieved, since she was second, a place that is to be envied. "You know quite well," answered the little girl, "that I've *lost face* just the same, I really haven't the courage to appear in class again." In China, still more than in Canada, competition days are days of anxiety, for everyone thinks only of keeping from *losing face*!

CHRISTMAS DAY IN TAONAN

At seven o'clock on Christmas Eve, fifty catechumens received Holy Baptism at the Mission church. Mrs. Han and Miss Tchong, who attend the Boarding-School, were two of the privileged ones. They are glowing with enthusiasm, and very willing are they to lose all and to endure the greatest hardships rather than be unworthy children of Holy Mother Church.

From one end of the earth to the other, happiness beams on the features of every good Catholic. A number of happy-looking Christians come from a distance to assist at Midnight Mass. Each Mission in the vicinity has sent a contingent of at least twenty-five persons. The houses of the Mission are just as full as the inns of Bethlehem were on the eve of the first Christmas. However, the priest sees that no one is sent away. The good people prepare for the great Mystery of Christ's Birth by receiving the Sacrament of Penance and by paying hourly visits to the church, which is too small to shelter them all. A High Mass is sung for the men, and then one is celebrated for women. Little boys see to keeping the different coloured lanterns burning.

On Christmas morning, there took place at the Boarding-School the distribution of pretty stockings and other little presents, such as woollens, articles of devotion for the Christian girls, copy books, pencils, and toys, all of which had been found in the cases that had come from Outremont. Having received a generous offering from Reverend Fathers Desroches and Fortin, we had prepared for each pupil a stocking, which we filled with sweets. All the Missionaries of Taonan were present at the distribution. The joy of the children was at its height.

The women and girls came to pay us a *Pai tchan* (feast day visit) before returning home. The spirit of charity that united us was the same as that of the early Christians, who formed but one family regardless of race or country.

THE BIG CHILDREN OF THE MISSION

How happy the old men of the Home were when Sister Marie Germaine⁽¹⁾ spoke of taking their picture. They hastened to put on their best clothes,

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

and lined up like school-children do. All of them thought that they would look better in front, and not one wished to be put in the back row. Mr. Tsien, their Catechism teacher, who generally has his beads around his neck, also had his picture taken.

On going to the Home one morning after breakfast a Sister found an old man busy preparing some hash. "Have you not had your breakfast



OLD MEN OF THE HOME IN TAONAN, MANCHUKUO.
IN THE CENTRE: MR. TSIEN, THEIR CATECHISM TEACHER.

yet?" inquired Sister. "I'm preparing something to eat for the young fellow," was his answer. He meant the youngest of the band, who, on account of suffering from tuberculosis, was obliged to remain on the *kang*.

One of these old men was brought to us by a good Samaritan, a new Christian, who had found him lying on the road, crippled up and covered with the most horrible sores. Having asked Reverend Father Bonin to admit the sufferer to the Home, the devoted Christian brought him to the Mission and, although the man was a perfect stranger to him, offered to pay all expenses. Truly, it was the love of God alone, that moved the neophyte to perform such a good deed, for up until a short time ago, he knew only the pagan maxim: "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth."

Report of the Dispensary of Taonan from July to December inclusive:

Baptisms.....	264	Patients.....	15,572	Treatments.....	21,052
Dressings.....	6,678	Teeth extracted	119	Homes visited....	359

Report of the Dispensary of Tong Tang from July to December inclusive:

Baptisms.....	96	Patients.....	4,942	Treatments.....	6,883
Dressings.....	962	Teeth extracted....	29	Homes visited....	113

"What offends Jesus, what wounds Him to the Heart, is lack of confidence."

St. Teresa of the Child Jesus.

*Extracts from letters written by the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate
Conception of Tungleao to their Sisters in the Mother House.*

Tungleao, December 31, 1936.

BELOVED SISTERS,

We thought you would be pleased to hear about our work and joys in this dear mission station, and we feel confident that when you know more about our needs, you will redouble your prayers for us.

Every day, a number of sick people come to the Dispensary. They belong to every class of society, but the majority of them are poor. They seem to be satisfied, and they are very grateful for the treatment given them. Very often do they say to us: "My, but it's nice here! Everything's so clean, and the *doctors* are so good to the sick... You're very happy aren't you?" "Oh! yes," do we answer, and we seize the opportunity to explain to them that they can be happy like we are, by becoming Christians.



SISTER ST. BERNARDIN DE SIENNE, M. I. C.

(Antoinette Foisy, of Waterloo)

SISTER FOU, AND A FEW OLD WOMEN OF THE HOME
IN TUNGLEAO, MANCHUKUO.

Doctor Gao, who treats others, comes to the Dispensary when he is not feeling well himself. Just lately, he was suffering from otitis, and we gave him some medicine. A few days after, however, finding that he was not getting better quickly enough, he took a fancy to pour iodine down the auditory canal. Needless to say, he was soon writhing with pain, and the results were not satisfactory. We are inclined to think that in the future this doctor will practise patience instead of trying to make experiences.

We are sometimes astonished on seeing how courageous our patients are. One day, having asked a woman what had brought about the big wound she had on her shoulder, we received this answer: "For a long time, I had

an abscess which caused me great pain. Being unable to be treated, I took a pair of scissors and cut it all around." We could hardly believe our ears. The poor woman had made use of a piece of newspaper to dress the wound. Just imagine what she had to endure! If she only could have offered it up and acquired merit for heaven! But, what help is paganism to the soul?

We have already told you about the doings and sayings of the people of the Home. Last summer, one of the old men came to work in our garden, simply to kill time. He was in his bare head, and he took leaves and made himself a crown. However, he often remarked that he would like to have a hat. Sister Superior bought him one for two cents (Chinese money), and the good old man went on with his work with a light heart.

Our aged charges are a great consolation to us. Just lately, a number of them left us for a better land, after being fortified by the Last Rites of the Church. Charity continues to reign in the Home. Mr. Tsoui is looked upon as being very fortunate because he possesses many blankets, two mattresses, sufficient clothing, and even a good pillow. One day, he saw one of his companions who was not so well-off, and he resolved to give him at least his pillow. His friend did not know what to think of such kindness. "I've too many things," said the cheerful old man, "and you've nothing. Take this, and be glad."

An old woman of eighty, deaf and dumb, was once over-zealous. She undertook to cut the men's hair, but she was soon caught by Sister St. Bernardin de Sienne⁽¹⁾, who had a hard time getting her to understand that she should not go into the men's ward.

One day, we decided to find out just what the old women possessed. Most of them had but strips torn from old garments and wrapped up in a big piece of cloth. When the inventory was just about finished, Mrs. Tchang declared that she had another parcel, but that she could not show it to us. We insisted, and finally she decided to let us see the hidden treasure. The bundle contained the necessary clothes for her burial: double-lined garments, wraps, and even a pair of pink-embroidered shoes. We promised Mrs. Tchang that her belongings would be given to her at her death, and she was greatly relieved.

What shall we tell you regarding the numerous visits made to the pagan homes every day? Our Sister infirmarians find that there is much good to be done, and they are amply rewarded for their labour and fatigue. It is with the greatest joy that they comfort the suffering members of Christ and strive to make Him known to the unfortunate pagans.

On glancing at the Baptism register this last day of the year, a fervent *Magnificat* bursts from our heart. Most of the little ones we have baptized are now singing God's praises. How beautiful is our holy vocation! Very anxious are we to make God and His Blessed Mother known in this pagan land.

We hope to be remembered in your prayers, dear Sisters, and we wish you all a Holy and Happy New Year.

YOUR LOVING SISTERS OF TUNGLEAO.

1. Antoinette FOISY, of Waterloo.

Report of the Dispensary of Tungleao, from June to December inclusive:

Baptisms.....	238	Patients.....	15,319	Treatments.....	21,696
Dressings.....	5,147	Homes visited....	324	Teeth extracted...	107

Report of the Dispensary of Siao Kai Ki, from June to December inclusive:

Baptisms.....	27	Patients.....	1,459	Treatments.....	1,735
Dressings.....	434	Homes visited....	62	Teeth extracted....	26



REVEREND FATHER EDGAR LAROCHELLE, P. M. E.
MISSIONARY IN MANCHUKUO, ABOUT TO MAKE HIS ROUNDS.
A MONGOLIAN IS HOLDING THE CAMEL BY THE BRIDLE.

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JAPAN

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

Tuesday, December 8, 1936

The ground is covered with a blanket of snow. Seemingly, our divine Lord wishes to honour the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. Mother Nature, in her own way, exalts the Queen of heaven, while there are thousands of reasonable beings who have not yet learned to praise the spotless Virgin.

The first snowstorm brought great joy to the Japanese. Untiring admirers of Nature, they gazed with delight upon the beautiful white flakes. They consider those who do not share their feelings as very unfortunate. They have taken out their winter clothes. Their kimono is protected by comfortable *mompes*, while on their head they wear either a towel or a piece of muslin of wool, according to a very old custom. The more modern people have rubber boots, but the folks from the country keep to the old traditions and wear the straw ones, which are very practical and economical, because

it does not take long to make them. Of course, the straw boots are not waterproof. The Japanese peasants make great use of straw. The roofs of their dwellings, like their mats, are made of it. It is also used in making ropes, bags, wrappers, sandals, hats, raincoats, etc. Even the hoofs of the horses and oxen are covered with straw.

Thanks to a charitable person who has had the kindness of buying tickets for us, we have the touching pleasure of spending our patronal Feast with our Sisters of Koriyama.

Monday, December 21

The joy God sends to the Missionaries to-day is one of those which make one forget the years spent away from home and country, and the sufferings attached to the apostolic life. With the Reverend Fathers, we have the happiness of seeing the Sacred Waters of Baptism poured on the brow of Mr. Mori, who has solemnly and publicly renounced his pagan beliefs. His virtuous wife, who has been a Catholic for over a year, cannot keep from showing her joy. The new Christian is just as happy, and he is wondering how the miracle of grace happened to be wrought in his favour.

All the members of the neophyte's family are present at the Baptism ceremony. The younger of the boys, a student at the University, and still a pagan like his brother and little sister, cannot help from shedding a few tears. This does not go unnoticed by the mother, who is doubly happy at the thought that the child may have been touched by God's grace, and that she may one day see him embrace the Faith. Two Christian Brothers who have come purposely from Sendai to assist at the ceremony, make the Feast more attractive by singing hymns during Mass.

When all is over, Mr. Mori invites the Missionaries of Wakamatsu and the Reverend Brothers to his home to take breakfast.

Friday, December 25

Christmas! How we enjoy this happy day! We are delighted to see a girl become the child of God. The new Christian and one of the pupils attending our Kindergarten make their First Communion during Midnight Mass, which is preceded



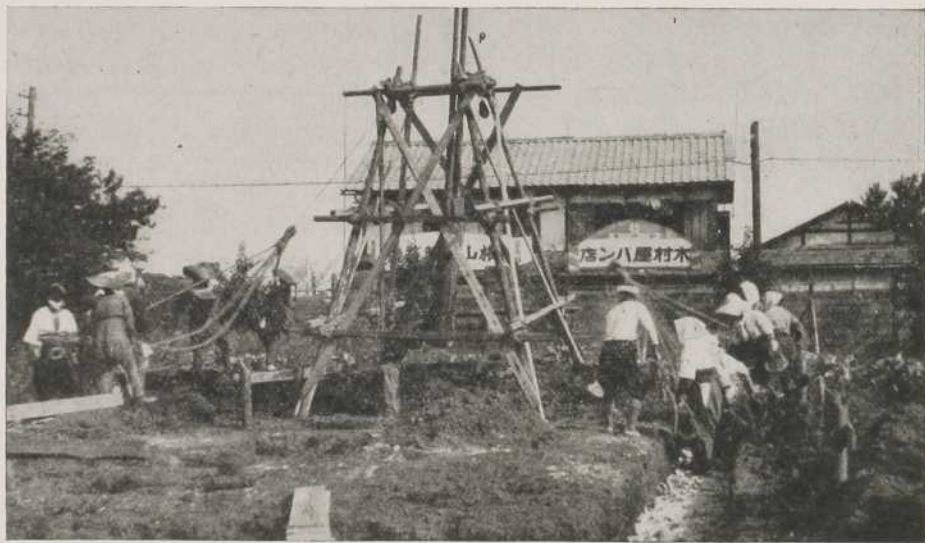
JAPANESE SERVANTS DRESSED FOR THE WINTER.
THEY ARE BUSY SWEEPING AWAY THE SNOW.

by a sermon by the curate of the Mission, Reverend Father Sawade, a Japanese priest, who has just arrived here from Europe.

After the Mass said at daybreak, the Reverend Pastor comes to our chapel to say his third Mass, during which we sing our lovely Christmas hymns. Some ten young Christians and catechumens are present, and they spend the rest of the night at the convent. Their parents, who are pagans, would not have allowed them to come if we had not been able to give them shelter.

At nine o'clock, all the Christians of the Mission assist at the last Mass, which is followed by the traditional banquet, speeches, and a little play, the repetition of the one which was put on in the Christians' hall before Midnight Mass.

It is three o'clock before we are able to have our dinner and to open the missives received during Advent. The letters from our beloved parents contain cheering news, and those from the dear Mother House and from our Sisters in the different mission stations bring us great joy.



THE KINDERGARTEN CONDUCTED BY THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, KORIYAMA, JAPAN, IS BEING ENLARGED.

It is interesting to see the way the work is carried on. A ditch is made and filled with stones, which are packed down as shown in the above picture. A man arranges the pestle, and thirteen women, while singing to urge one another on, pull the ropes. Two of them in particular have been asked to excite the others to action, and they are paid for the trouble they go to. There is not a nail in the scaffolding, the pieces being tied together with straw ropes. When the work is finished, the men begin to remove the scaffolding, and the workers joyfully wheel round it.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

Gleanings from the Diary of the Chinese General Hospital of Manila

Wednesday, March 25, 1936

This morning, four little girls attending our Chinese School, make their First Communion. Three of them belong to the same family. We first met them shortly after the Patronage was opened, when we assembled the Chinese children in a corner of the house on Tefinpin St., to teach them Catechism. The opening of the School brought them back to us, and they are now our brightest pupils. The smallest of the three, who is only six years old, but very clever, has had the courage to give up all the spending-money she received during Lent, for the buying of her First Communion wreath.

Monday, March 30

We all attend the school closing exercises. The children put on a little play, at which Reverend Father Morrow, Secretary to His Excellency Archbishop Piani, kindly assists. The most deserving pupils are awarded prizes which have been offered by Chinese friends. All the youngsters bid good-bye to the Sisters before going home for the holidays. May our Immaculate Mother watch over the dear little ones for whom we have toiled for ten long months. It is always hard to begin any work, but what does that matter, if the Lord blesses the harvest.

Thursday, April 23

To-day, seventeen of the student nurses graduate. His Excellency Bishop Finnmann, former Pastor of our Parish and always a kind Father to all in the Chinese Hospital, adds to the day's joy by being present at the Graduation. Reverend Father O'Donnell, who preached a retreat for the students, kindly addresses them. After the ceremony, the graduates pay homage to the Blessed Virgin, and lay at the foot of her altar the crowns they have received.

Everyone voices the *Magnificat*, to which they add the *Memorare*, entreating our Holy Queen to smile down protectingly upon those who will soon be struggling on the stormy sea of life.

Tuesday, June 16

Our divine Lord has just called Miss Flores to Himself. This young lady had come to the Hospital to study to be a nurse. Her mother, who was a Catholic, had had her and her twin sister baptized a short time after their birth. Being graceful, skilful, and lively, Miss Flores brought happiness to all around her. Less fit for study than for manual work, she was obliged to take a year more than the others to finish her course. During



PUPILS AND TEACHERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY, WHICH WAS OPENED
ON JUNE 15TH, 1935, BY THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MANILA, P. I.

*This Chinese school is the complement of the Little Flower Patronage, which they inaugurated in the month of January, 1933,
by visiting the different Chinese homes for the purpose of grouping the children, of teaching them Catechism,
and of preparing them for Baptism or for their First Communion.*

In the centre: Sister St. PIERRE CLAVER, Superior (Aldee Hebert, of Montreal).
To the right: Sister St. LOUIS DE GONZAGUE (Anne Girard, of Claremont, N. H.).
To the left: Sister St. JOSEPH DE BETHLEEM (Yvonne Routhier, of St. Pierre de Broughton).

that year, she was found to be suffering from tuberculosis. She was to remain but two years longer here below. After having spent some time at the Santel Hospital, she came back to us to die. She was given the best of care, and all the spiritual help she wished for.

The nurses accompanied her mortal remains to the cemetery, and all recited fervent prayers for the one they had loved so dearly, and whom we hope is now in heaven rejoicing with the angels.

Wednesday, June 24

A young man studying law, was about to receive his university degree, when he was forced to come to our Hospital for some time. We imagine that all kinds of treatises ought to interest a future lawyer, so we lend him a Catholic treatise. On looking through the book, which is altogether new to him, he is so delighted that he exclaims: "It is really very good." But there is a big difference between appreciating a principle and putting it into practice. As he is learning the Commandments, he is heard to cry out: "How beautiful the Catholic religion is, but how difficult!" He concludes that on account of his desire to be a lawyer it is altogether impossible for him to profess a religion that requires such rigorous justice.

We are more successful with his companion, a civil engineer, who studied with the Sisters until he was ten years old, but who soon after abandoned his religion simply to please his friends. Thanks to the reading of the good books we lent him, and also to a few Catechism lessons, we have the happiness of getting him to admit that he is wrong. He becomes once more a friend of the Lord who deigned to visit him on the day of his First Holy Communion.

Sunday, July 12

Two Masons, who arrived here the same day, have expired. One of them received Extreme Unction; he was half conscious, but we hope he profited by the priest's exhortation, to make an Act of Contrition. It is a terrible thing to leave this world without hardly knowing it, and wearing a symbol of a diabolical contract.

The second was unconscious when he was brought to us. His people, who are bigoted, did not allow the priest to approach him. We tied a medal of the Blessed Virgin around his neck, and from the bottom of our hearts we asked our loving Mother to save his soul. During the absence of his relatives, the dying man was urged to repent. Our merciful Lord has many ways of drawing souls to Himself, and we cannot help from entertaining the hope that these two men will one day be received into the Heavenly Abode.

Friday, August 14

Just lately, an aged Chinese suffering from a cancer of the stomach was brought from the provinces to be put on a ship bound for China. As he

had no relative to accompany him, he was not accepted, so it was decided that he should be brought to the Chinese Hospital. The old man is very low. We ask his people if he has not been baptized, since he has been living in the Philippine Islands under the Spanish Government. We are told that the patient was baptized and married by the priest, but that he afterwards married a pagan. Reconciliation with God is deemed necessary, and it is brought about by a good confession. The dying man is anointed, and we are asked to prepare him for Holy Communion. What a debt of gratitude we owe to Divine Providence! If this old man had left for China, who would have seen to the needs of his soul?

Report of the Chinese General Hospital, Manila, P. I.

YEAR 1935

Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception.....	10	Confessions of the personnel.....	2,079
Student nurses.....	57	Confessions of patients.....	422
Graduates during the year....	12	Confessions at the Patronage.....	572
Graduates since the opening of the school in 1921.....	126	Communions among the personnel.....	16,782
Graduates employed in the Hospital.....	4	Communions among the patients.....	1,785
Employees.....	30	Communions at the Patronage.....	625
Patients received.....	1,716	First Communions made by adults.....	42
Operations.....	399	First Communions made by children.....	60
Treatments.....	147,676	Marriages rectified.....	19
House Doctors.....	3	Extreme Unctions.....	68
Doctors on the staff.....	88	Members of the League of the Sacred Heart.....	338
Births.....	80	Children of Mary.....	126
Deaths.....	215	Hours of Catechism.....	687
Prescriptions filled.....	12,349	Hours spent in adoration....	1,470
Laboratory tests.....	535	Retreat days.....	1,145
Homes visited.....	789		
Baptisms of adults.....	109		
Baptisms of children.....	71		

I counsel you to devote yourself to aiding the soul of your neighbor in such a manner that you may always have for your own the care that is fitting to preserve it and to perfect it in every kind of virtue, to the glory of Our Lord God.

St. Ignatius Loyola.

Think of Mary, call on Mary; let her not depart from your mouth; let her not depart from your heart; and that you may obtain the suffrage of her prayers, never depart from the example of her conversation.

St. Bernard.

VANCOUVER

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters of St. Joseph's Oriental Hospital.

Year 1936



SISTER TERESA
A CHINESE SISTER,
WHO IS TEACHING CATECHISM
AT ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL, VANCOUVER.

On April 6th, a great wish of ours was granted: that of having a Chinese Sister to give instructions to the sick who are being treated at our hospital and dispensary. On that day, we welcomed to our convent Sister Teresa, a native nun sent to us by our dear Sisters of Canton, who had already told us how good she was. She reminds us of the Chinese nun who died in 1930, Sister Lucy (Agatha Yip), whom we knew at the Mother House, and who did so much good to the Catholic Chinese of Montreal.

Sister Marie des Archanges⁽¹⁾ is doing all that she feels able to do in regard to teaching Catechism to the Japanese in their own language. How much good still remains to be done in this little China and Japan!

Very often do we have recourse to St. Joseph, and we feel confident that through his intercession, we shall succeed in securing a more spacious abode for our patients, most of whom have not been baptized and do not believe in God. A goodly number of our charges are made Christians on their death bed, and do not delay in flying to heaven. Mikiko, a tubercular patient, fifteen years of age, having expressed the desire of dying a Catholic, was baptized one night by Sister Marie de la Presentation,⁽²⁾ and expired the following morning. The evening of the same day, another Japanese who, two days before, had been baptized and given the name of Joseph Robert, had the happiness of receiving Holy Viaticum and Extreme Unction. At the Home, the priest who ministers to the needs of the Chinese Catholics of the city, baptized a good old man, admitted the night before.

The day after, just as the *Angelus* was ringing, Joseph Robert's purified soul gently left this earth. At that very moment the priest was baptizing and anointing a woman of Indian extraction.

The Feasts^{of} of the Church are always celebrated with as much solemnity as possible at the Hospital, wherein piety and charity reign, and all the new patients are deeply impressed. After being with us but a few days, a Japanese lady who had been two years in a hospital conducted by certain sectarians,

1. Germaine NOISEUX, of Montreal.

2. Berthe SURPRENANT, of Swanton, Vt.

said to our Sister infirmarian: "It's not at all dull here. Since the moment I arrived, I've found that everybody looks happy. In the other hospital, the patients uttered complaints, and many of them cried. I don't know just what is the pervading influence here, but one feels at ease. I'm not a bit lonesome. I'm glad to be with my companions, who are so loving and kind, and always so cheerful." What is a puzzle for our unenlightened patients is solved as soon as they begin to think over what we have told them about the Faith.

On Wednesday, June 10th, towards nine o'clock in the morning, a car which the Canadian Pacific had placed at the disposal of His Eminence Cardinal Villeneuve, arrived in Vancouver. Great was the enthusiasm among our patients, a goodly number of whom had had their bed placed near the windows facing the railroad, in order to have at least the satisfaction of getting a look at the coach that had brought to the City the Primate of the Church in Canada.

The following day, at three o'clock in the afternoon, there took place at the Cathedral the opening ceremony of the Eucharistic Congress, which was presided over by His Eminence. Crowds of pious people were to be seen on the nearby streets and squares. As the ecclesiastics were marching from the Archbishop's house to the church, the bells rang out merrily.

Our revered Archbishop addressed a few words of welcome to the worthy President of the Congress. His Eminence, after expressing his joy on finding himself among the Catholics of the western coast, praised the zealous and courageous missionaries who had carried the Faith to this region. The ceremony was brought to a close by the giving of Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

On the 12th, at midnight, a High Mass was celebrated in all the churches of the city by His Eminence, and by the archbishops, bishops, and priests attending the Congress. There was General Communion, and sermons on the Blessed Eucharist. Reverend Father Benedict celebrated the Holy Sacrifice in our humble chapel on this occasion.

The following day, over six thousand little Catholics assisted at a Mass celebrated in the open air, in one of the most beautiful



ONE OF THE CORRIDORS OF ST. JOSEPH'S
ORIENTAL HOSPITAL, VANCOUVER.

sections of the city. The assembly was composed of all kinds of children: English, Irish, French, Chinese, Japanese, Negro, Indian, etc. His Eminence Cardinal Villeneuve, who was at the Throne, preached to these little soldiers of Christ.

Immediately after Mass, the crowds dispersed. His Eminence was already seated in his car when he noticed our Sisters on the other side of the road. He made a sign to them, and, when they approached, he presented his ring to them, saying "I bless all of you and all your works. I shall tell your Sisters in Quebec that I have seen you..." A young Anglican, who came from the Hospital with his companions, to assist at the Holy Sacrifice, thinks it is the most wonderful thing to have been so near the Cardinal.

In the afternoon, Their Excellencies Bishops Carroll, of Calgary, Monahan, of Regina, and Sinnott, of Winnipeg, honoured us with their visit. Bishop Sinnott was accompanied by Father McNeil, who takes such an interest in our work. Our distinguished visitors told us that they were surprised to see so many Orientals in our hospital; they were struck by their good dispositions and their smiling countenances.

The Eucharistic Congress of Vancouver closed on Sunday, June 14th, under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency Archbishop Andrea Cassulo. We have been told that over twenty thousand persons assembled for the second Mass in the open air, in spite of the fact that the weather was changeable. The moment the processionalists reached their destination the rain began to fall, and did not cease until the *Ite missa est* was being sung. The roaring of the thunder did not hinder the Holy Sacrifice from being celebrated, and the faithful did not appear to be the least disturbed. However, the sermon, which His Excellency Bishop Murray, C. SS. R., of Saskatoon, was supposed to deliver, had to be omitted.

The same day, Bishops Breynat, O. M. I., Bishop Sinnott, and Father Forget came to tell us not to be grieved because we had not received a visit from the Cardinal, who had asked them to convey to us his special blessing. His Eminence had been obliged to leave in haste for an Ordination, and had been unable to visit our Hospital. He had said that he would send us his portrait as soon as he arrived in Quebec. It will be a compensation. Their Excellencies, after telling us to take a holiday in honour of the Cardinal, gave us one themselves. Before taking his leave, Bishop Breynat gave Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Report of the Montreal Chinese Hospital

Year 1936

Baptisms.....	10	Consultations.....	1,061
Patients admitted.....	66	X-Rays.....	14
Patients deceased.....	8	Operations.....	15
Electric treatments.....	679	Injections.....	1,859
Other treatments.....	1,620	Prescriptions filled.....	627
Dressings.....	972		

Extracts FROM THE Novitiate Chronicles

Dedicated to our dear Parents

Sunday, January 10, 1937



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

St. Bernard.

The bell rings to announce a holiday, but hardly any noise is heard in the rooms in which we have assembled. All of a sudden, however, there is a burst of laughter, and many pleasant remarks are made, which prove that we Sisters of the Novitiate have not been slumbering, but have simply been captivated by the contents of the interesting New Year's letters sent by our dear elder Sisters in our different convents in the Province of Quebec and in the far-off mission field.

The Feast of the Holy Family has brought us this joy, a joy which we look forward to every year, and which proves to us how closely united are all the members of our dear Community.

Monday, January 25

As Septuagesima Sunday is early this year, we are obliged to take the pretty Christmas Crib from the chapel, but before the departure of the sweet Infant, who, ever since Christmas, has been stretching out His arms to us and has been preaching to us simplicity and self-denial, we take advantage of our monthly procession in honour of His Holy Childhood to bear His dear image away in triumph, and to tell Him of our love for Him and of our desire to be entirely His own.

Monday, February 1

The arrival of a group of aspirants makes us think of the first steps that we took in the religious life, and it reminds us that we must be more grateful than we have been to our divine Lord and His Immaculate Mother for the beautiful vocation we have been given.

Ever since the time we were admitted to the Novitiate, we have daily learned to appreciate more and more the wonderful favour accorded us, and we entreat the Blessed Virgin to intercede for our new little Sisters, that the same grace may be granted them.

Thursday, February 11

It is on the happy Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes that the retreat preached by Reverend Father J. L. Bergevin, O. M. I., is ended up.

For several of the retreatants, these days of recollection were as a prelude to the mystical betrothals and nuptials at which we assist to-day.

Nineteen novices at last hail the long-desired day of Holy Profession and, during the morning, they kneel at the foot of the altar to pronounce their First Vows.

The ceremonies of the Taking of the Holy Habit and of Final Profession are held in the afternoon, and are presided over by His Excellency Mgr. A. O. Comtois, Bishop of Trois Rivières.

The sermon, which is delivered by our Retreat Master, teaches us the obligations and the sublimity of the religious life, as well as its sweetness, of which Our Lord assured us when He said: "My yoke is sweet and My burden light."

As soon as the speaker is through, the postulants, who, for six months, have seen for themselves how true are these words, ask for and receive the Holy Habit of our Society. They are nineteen in all, and they will fill up the empty places left by our companions who left our ranks this morning to pronounce their Holy Vows.

They are: Miss Pauline Longtin, of Montreal (Sr. St. Leon le Grand); Miss Marie Roy, of Paincourt, Ont. (Sr. Joseph Marie); Miss Genevieve Aymond, of Montreal (Sr. Genevieve de France); Miss Agnes Dupuis, of St. Elizabeth, Man. (Sr. Ste. Elisa); Miss Eudoxie Coursol, of Ste. Anne des Plaines (Sr. St. Jules); Miss Irene Cornellier, of Lowell, Mass. (Sr. Ste. Priscille); Miss Emela Rousseau, of Ste. Rosalie (Sr. Marie Antonin); Miss Yvonne Desbiens, of St. Ambroise, Chicoutimi (Sr. Marie Emilie); Miss Beatrice Girard, of Hebertville, Co. Lac St. Jean (Sr. Marie Theophile); Miss Gertrude Laforest, of Montreal (Sr. Marie des Oliviers); Miss Germaine Frechette, of St. Frederic, Drummond (Sr. St. Frederic); Miss Marthe Pelletier, of Hebertville, Co. Lac St. Jean (Sr. Marthe du Redempteur); Miss Marie Jeanne Plante, of Notre Dame, Co. Levis (Sr. St. Pierre de Verone); Miss Cecile Labrie, of Dunham, Missisquoi (Sr. Marie Simone); Miss Juliette Falardeau, of Montreal (Sr. Marie Etienne); Miss Annette Watchorn, of St. Jovite (Sr. St. Thomas de Villeneuve); Miss Irene Ouellette, of St. Ulric, Co. Matane (Sr. Marie Priscillia); Miss Alice Fournier, of Warwick (Sr. Marie Amedee); Miss Yolande Mercier, of St. Ferdinand (Sr. Marie Conrad).

When it is time for the Final Profession Ceremony, which renders solemn and touching the seal that is affixed to the lives of the happy chosen ones, there kneel in the sanctuary eleven Sisters who are very anxious to dedicate their lives to God's service.

They are: Sr. Marie Majella (Majella Allaire, of Pont Viau); Sr. Ste. Foy (Elisabeth Lemire, of La Baie du Febvre); Sr. Joseph Octave (Marguerite Begin, of Quebec); Sr. Marie de la Purification (Rita Laurent, of Quebec); Sr. Ste. Constance (Aline Fyfe, of Laprairie); Sr. St. Thomas Apotre (Antoinette Michaud, of Notre Dame du Sacre Coeur, Co. Rimouski); Sr. Ste. Eveline (Annette Bergeron, of Kenogami, Chicoutimi); Sr. Ste. Febronie Juliette Bournival, of Trois Rivières); Sr. Ste. Jeanne de Valois (Agathe Dion, of Trois Rivières); Sr. St. Gabriel Lalement (Francoise Lacoursiere,

of Trois Rivières); Sr. Marie Fabiola (Fabiola Mailly, of St. Pierre les Becquets).

Present in the sanctuary are: Very Reverend Canon J. Avila Roch, Superior General of the Foreign Mission Seminary; Reverend Fathers J. C. Coursol, Pastor of St. Martin; Bernard Bisson, S. J.; P. Cayer, S. S. S.; M. Cote, O. P.; A. Rondeau, P. M. E.; Leo Lomme, P. M. E.; Gustave Vigneau, of St. Hyacinthe; Joseph Gariépy, Chaplain at the Novitiate of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception; Conrad Cote, S. M. E. Maurice Michaud, S. M. E.; Reverend Brothers Laval Laurent, O. F. M.; Hermann Pinard, S. S. S.; J. O. Begin, S. J.; Nicolas M. Cote, O. F. M.; Ambroise, O. M. I.; Oliva Mercier, S. S. S.; Jean de Brebeuf, F. M.

After the singing of the *Te Deum*, there is Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, which brings to a close the beautiful ceremony, which is attended by numerous relatives and friends of the privileged ones.

In the far-off mission field, two of our Sisters, Sister St. Clement (Juliette Maltais, of Sacre Cœur, Co. Saguenay,) and Sr. St. Alexandre (Alexandrine Surprenant, of St. Alexandre, Co. Iberville), also receive the ring of fidelity on this beautiful day.

Friday, February 19

For a few weeks past many of the Sisters have been suffering from influenza, which is to be found almost everywhere. But thanks to the good care they received, all have recovered except one novice, Sister St. Virginia. We are very anxious about this dear companion of ours, whose case seems so serious that we deem it prudent to have her anointed this afternoon.

She has been unconscious ever since yesterday, and we pray fervently to our Blessed Lady, asking her to grant that our dear Sister may regain consciousness in order to be able to pronounce her vows, for if she does, and God sees fit to call her to Himself, she will appear before Him enriched with the merits of Holy Profession.

Saturday, February 20

Our supplications, which have not been interrupted since yesterday, are finally heard. Towards three o'clock this afternoon, Sister Superior receives the vows of our sick Sister, to whom our chaplain afterwards brings Holy Viaticum. Our Immaculate Mother has not ceased to watch over her child, who, even while she was unconscious, kept repeating the words of the "Hail Mary."

A beautiful statue of Our Lady, Queen of the World, which has been donated by a generous benefactor, Mgr. Dubuc, Pastor of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, of Montreal, is set up to-day in the assembly hall. The Blessed Virgin, who wears a royal diadem, holds in her left hand a golden sceptre, an emblem of her sovereign dominion over the world, and the Infant Jesus, who is resting on her right arm, holds a sphere. As we look upon

the new statue, we ask our loving Queen to give us the desire of labouring with even greater zeal for the spreading of devotion to her, and for the glory of God.

Tuesday, February 23

On seeing that our dear Sister St. Virginia keeps struggling against the disease and that, although she is in a critical condition, she never grows worse, Dr. Champagne, who is doctoring her with great kindness, gives us encouraging news. He thinks that she is going to recover, but scarcely two hours after we have been given the good news, she is snatched away by death. Our Blessed Lord, after trying the generosity and love of His dear bride, calls her to her reward.

Towards half-past eleven, Sister Superior is informed that the end is fast approaching. Reverend Father Lomme, who has come to hear confessions, is about to leave, and Sister Superior asks him to go up to the infirmary. After giving our dear Sister absolution, he commences the prayers for the dying, and, while they are being recited, she peacefully expires.

Sister St. Virginia had been conscious ever since receiving Our Lord on Saturday afternoon, and she had had the happiness of communicating every morning since then. Sister Superior had helped her to make her thanksgiving by suggesting acts of love, which the dear novice completed. She had had her renew her vows, and had urged her to submit to the Will of God. Our fervent companion had generously acquiesced, but the big tears on her cheeks had revealed to us that her resignation was not without merit. She knew what life was really worth, and, for over a year, the thought of arriving before God empty-handed had been weighing upon her soul. As she had told us herself, that fear had made her decide to become a Missionary Sister in order to labour more efficaciously for the glory of God and the salvation of the pagans. But before she was able to realize her desire of saving souls, our divine Lord came for her. However, we feel that she appeared before the Sovereign Judge full of confidence, for had she not to offer Him, besides her holy and apostolic desires, the generous donation she had made of herself?

This sudden departure causes us great grief, and it is by our fervent prayers that we wish to prove our love to our dear companion.

Thursday February 25

Sister St. Virginia is laid out near the infirmary, at the foot of a beautiful statue of the Blessed Virgin, who is represented with a wreath of lilies, a symbol of the crown she will place on her child's head. The dear novice presses to her heart her rosary and a small statue of our Blessed Mother, whom she loved so dearly here below. Her life, which lasted but twenty-four years, was not without trials, for she was an orphan. In all her sorrows, however, she had had recourse to the Blessed Virgin.

What serious and salutary thoughts come to us as we go each in turn to

kneel near her coffin! After six months of noviceship and a few days of illness, she has crossed the threshold of death.

While offering our prayers for the repose of her soul, we ask our dear Sister to obtain us the grace of making good use of the time that is given us to prepare for Heaven.

Friday, February 26

A number of relatives of Sister St. Virginia, (Berthe Bonvouloir, of Iberville), assist at her funeral service, which is sung in our chapel this morning. Father Lomme goes to meet the body, and Father Gariepy, our chaplain, celebrates the Mass. The Superior of the Foreign Mission Seminary and Father Geoffroy manifest their sympathy by their presence in the sanctuary.

When the last prayers have been said, we turn to the Blessed Virgin and sing the *Salve Regina*, entreating our holy Queen to receive our dear Sister into the Blissful Abode.

The mortal remains escorted by relatives, friends, and all the Sisters of the Novitiate, are borne to the new cemetery, at the far end of our little grove, and, after the grave has been blessed, the coffin is placed in it.

When this "resting-place" was being prepared last fall, many a thought came to our minds, but we were far from thinking, and our dear Sister St. Virginia herself must not have thought that she would be the first one to sleep her last sleep therein. She is resting very near us, within the shadow of the dear Novitiate, where she experienced the purest happiness, and which she will now lovingly watch over.

When we return to the Convent, our beloved Sister Assistant General, who has come from the Mother House to assist at the Requiem Mass, asks us to go to the assembly hall, where she addresses us a few words of comfort.

Thursday, March 4

As it is Mid-Lent, we are invited to assist at a little concert prepared by the postulants, and we all spend a pleasant recreation.

We recall with emotion that last year, on a like occasion, our dear Sister St. Virginia sang, in touching accents, a hymn to St. Joseph, whose feast it was. Dear little Sister, we feel that you are now singing with the angels, and we beg you to obtain that our lives may be an unending hymn of praise and love for the glory of God and that of our Immaculate Mother.

Saturday, March 6

Two of our Sisters who are leaving for our convent in Vancouver on Monday, pay us a visit. As all our Missionaries en route to Japan, China, Manchukuo, or the Philippine Islands are sheltered on their way at our Hospital in that city, we hope to see these two dear companions of ours when we are called to the far-off mission field. We wish them a safe trip and a fruitful apostolate, and we do not say adieu, but good-bye.



The Children's Page

DEAR CHILDREN,

When the fresh breeze brings to me the sweet perfume of the lilacs, when the limpid waters of a nearby stream whisper pleasant things to me, when the thousand and one joys of springtime make my heart rejoice, I think of these words of the Scriptures, which you will find somewhere in your prayer book:

The flowers have appeared in our land,
The time of pruning is come,
The voice of the turtle is heard in our land.
Arise, my love, my beautiful one; and come...

Do you know to whom these inspired words are addressed?... They are addressed to the Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, for she alone is all-beautiful, she alone is immaculate!

During this lovely month, when the cold weather has ceased, when the fields are dotted with flowers, when there is mirth in the woods, when the birds warble gaily, Holy Mother Church turns to our heavenly Queen and, after exalting her, entreats her to come and fill our hearts with joy.

And above the thousand sounds in Nature, as coming from every part of the globe, is to be heard the echo of the cherished hymn:

'Tis the month of our Mother,
The blessed and beautiful days...

DURING THIS MONTH

Dear Children, I feel the need of telling you to love Mary, to honour her, to have recourse to her every day of your life, and especially during this month, which is dedicated to her. Do not be afraid of drawing close to her in spirit, of surrounding her shrine, of leaning upon her heart; her arms are always stretched out to receive you. Being the Mother of men, she dearly loves us all, but she is particularly fond of children, especially of those who show her the greatest love and confidence. And you must not be backward and fail to ask her to obtain you many graces. Remember that she is the Mother of Jesus, and that her intercession is all-powerful.

How many of you are doing your best to honour the Blessed Virgin during this month? Who is offering her the greatest number of tributes and praises, the greatest number of prayers and sacrifices, the greatest love



The Blessed Virgin loves the little ones.

and confidence? Who?... Who?... All of you must set to work, your Angel Guides are eager to help you, to tell you what you should do, to stimulate your zeal. Already, they are delighted to think that they will have a number of beautiful deeds to inscribe in God's big Book of Gold.

A GIFT FOR MY FEAST DAY

As you already know, dear Children, it will soon be my feast day, the feast of my holy Patron, of the one who cried out in the desert: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight His paths," of the one who, by an order from God, received the name of John, and who was known as John the Baptist because he baptized in the Jordan all those who were converted and did penance. This great saint was

looked upon as the Precursor of the Messiah, because he prepared the minds and the hearts of men for the coming of their Saviour.

Each year, the Feast of St. John the Baptist is piously celebrated, and I your *Great Friend* am always pleased, for I love our dear land and wish it to be more and more prosperous and entirely Christian.

Like the great poet contemplating the majestic mountains, immense plains, magnificent waterways, and the many beauties of Nature, I sometimes sing our beautiful National Hymn.

And, while I am singing, I see before me, like a vision of the past, the birch-bark canoes rowed by the Indians; the log houses that were occupied by our brave pioneers; the numerous exploits of these valiant defenders of the Faith and of our beloved country; here and there, the figure of the "Black Robe" (the missionary priest received such a name from the Indians), the defender of the Faith in our land in days of yore, and the spreader of the Gospel Tidings; little by little, the disappearing of many old trees, the preparing of fertile soil, the springing up of little villages containing a devotional church, and the rapid growth of important trading posts, which are now large cities.

But, all of a sudden, I find that I have tears in my eyes, and that I am speaking in a broken voice. Your *Great Friend*, dear Children, is deeply touched, and fears that your homes and your rights may be attacked, for the Faith, which was ever a protection for our ancestors, is in peril. Those

who have risen up against God and the Church, those who are helping on the devil, are set on driving our beautiful Faith from our country. Their ambition is to assail the young folks, for, as you know, the youth of to-day are the men of to-morrow.

Therefore, you must fear and flee from those who wish you to think no more of the grace you have received in Baptism and in Holy Communion, of the love of the Church and of its Pastors, of the belief in the sacred dogmas, of the respect you should show your parents and your lawful rulers. You must not listen to their deceitful discourses and their false promises, and you must throw away their bad books...

At times, on seeing all the evil that is being done by these wicked men, you may be tempted to cry out, as the Apostles did on seeing the way Jesus was received by certain Samaritans: "Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" However, instead of doing so, you must follow the example of our loving Saviour, whose answer was: "The son of man came not to destroy souls, but to save." It is your duty to labour for the conversion of these unfortunate beings, that they may see that they are in the wrong and escape the everlasting flames. You must make sacrifices, and ask God to be merciful to them.

Dear Children, what I want you to do on my feast day is to pray very fervently and to make acts of self-denial, that, through the intercession of my holy Patron, God may grant that the bright light of Faith may ever be found in the "land of the maple," and that all those who are determined to extinguish it may humbly bow before their Creator and Saviour.

I also wish to ask you, Children, to pray for Our Holy Father, who is deeply grieved on account of the disorder there is in the world. Yes, the Sovereign Pontiff, the Common Father of the faithful, besides being ill, is



I see before me, like a vision of the past...

overwhelmed with sorrow, for he reflects that God is being offended by the people all over the world, that several nations are upset, that wars have broken out, and that Catholics are being persecuted...

Yes, you must pray fervently, for it is prayer alone that will sustain Our Holy Father, that will keep our country from being overrun, and the world from being ruined.

Your *Great Friend*,

THE PRECURSOR.

Our Holy Father Thanks the Children For Their Prayers

Among the tokens of ardent attachment which are continually being sent to the Vatican, because of the illness of the Sovereign Pontiff, the most touching are those of the children. In their own little way they wish Our Holy Father health and happiness during the entire year, and promise him that they will remember him in their prayers. A little fellow living in St. Etienne is proud to take a beautiful sheet out of his exercise book and to write a letter to the Pope, and a ten-year-old lad is glad that he is big enough to join with the others in praying for Our Holy Father. A poor little boy of nine writes as follows: "I'm like you, I'm always sick."

Each of the children asks the Divine Child to cure the Pope. One says that he is offering up his sufferings for him, and another, his classwork. The Sovereign Pontiff is touched on reading these letters, and feels that his sufferings are not as great as they were. Being unable to send all the children the Blessing they have asked for, he has requested *La Croix* to thank them in his name.

Did I This Morning ?

Did I this morning devoutly pray
For God's assistance through the day ?

Did I to all who came my way
Due courtesy or kindness pay ?

Did I my thoughts with prudence guide
Checking ill-humor, anger, pride ?

Did I from every word refrain
That could give any creature pain ?

Did I with cheerful patience bear
The little ills we all must share ?

And did I when the day was o'er
God's watchful care again implore ?

— *Selected.*

Thanksgivings to the Blessed Virgin

for favours obtained



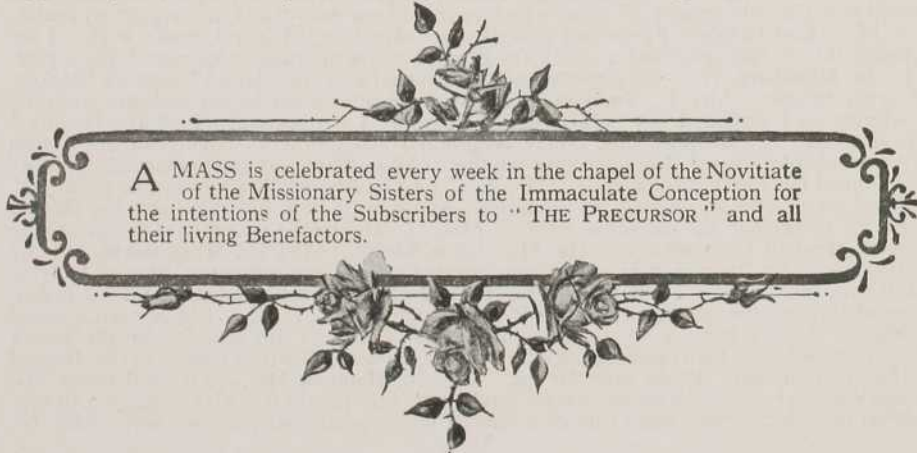
"O MARY, the entire universe would perish before you refuse your assistance to those who, with all their heart, implore your help and protection."

BL. HENRY SUZO.

A few months ago I asked for prayers that I might recover from an operation. I am very much better and am enclosing an offering for the ransom of Chinese babies who are left to die. A Client of Mary, **Montreal**. — Enclosed please find an offering for a novena of lights, in thanksgiving for favours received from the Blessed Virgin. M. C., **Sherington, Que.** — Enclosed find a small donation for favours received through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. Please pray that my other petitions may be answered. Miss C., **Windsor, Ont.** — I wish to return thanks for a cure obtained through the medium of the Miraculous Medal. Mrs. C., **Peterboro, Ont.** — I promised to send you a substantial donation if I obtained a special favour. I am enclosing part of the sum promised and will send you the rest as soon as I am able to. M. P., **Montreal**. — I am happy to say that I feel much better after asking Our Immaculate Mother to help me. I am enclosing a small offering for your missions, as promised. Please pray for my husband. Mrs. E., **Rockland, Me.** — Enclosed please find a Postal Note in thanksgiving for all the favours I have received from the Blessed Virgin. I am now asking this tender Mother to intercede for me again. L. O'L. — I am enclosing an offering for the ransom of twenty dying babies. My request has been granted.

L. P., **Hebronville, Mass.** — I have obtained a great favour through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. M. G., **Montreal**. — The Blessed Virgin has helped me to find work. May this loving Mother be thanked a thousand times over. A. P., **Webster, Mass.** — I am grateful to Our Blessed Lady for what she has done for me. Please pray that I may obtain some very special favours. M. A., **Montreal**. — I have obtained a favor, and would ask you to publish my thanksgiving. Mrs. G., **Lawrence, Mass.** — I have obtained a wonderful favour through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. Miss M. B., **Montreal**. — I wish to thank Our Immaculate Mother for coming to my assistance. Mrs. E. C. — The Blessed Virgin has come to my aid, and I wish to thank her for all her kindness. Mrs. G. — A cure has been obtained through the intercession of Our Blessed Lady. Mrs. D. — I wish to thank the Blessed Virgin for the favour she has obtained me. Mrs. L., **Montreal**. — I have obtained a great favour through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. M. S. — I have obtained a favour through the intercession of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, and I am now fulfilling my promise by sending you the enclosed Postal Note. Mrs. P., **Montreal**. — Please find enclosed the ransom price of a dying Chinese baby, in thanksgiving for a favour received. Kindly ask the Blessed Virgin to obtain me another favour. E. M. — We are very thankful, for our request has been granted. We are sending an offering in thanksgiving. Please pray for our intentions. C. L., **Southbridge, Mass.** — I am grateful for the answer to my prayers. Please pray for my father. You may use the enclosed offering as you see fit. A Friend. — Enclosed please find an offering for the ransom of some Chinese babies, in thanksgiving for a favour obtained. Mrs. B., **L'Epiphanie, Que.** — I have obtained a favour and am sending you the ransom price of four dying babies, as promised. Mrs. S., **Indian Orchard, Mass.** — The enclosed offering is for a novena of lights in honour of the Blessed Virgin. Some time ago, I promised that I would send you this amount if I obtained a favour. Please pray that I may regain my health. C. A. M. — Last October, I promised to send you a donation if I found steady work. I am enclosing the amount promised and will try to send you something every month for a year. L. D., **St. Johnsbury, Vt.** — Kindly unite with me in thanking the Blessed Virgin for hearkening to my prayers. Mrs. L., **Swanton**. — I have obtained a great favour and am enclosing an offering, as I promised. A Subscriber, **Montreal**. — I am grateful for all the favours I have obtained. Please pray that I may be granted a few others. Anonymous. — I wish to return thanks to our dear heavenly Mother. Mrs. A. G. — Our Immaculate Mother has obtained me a very great favour. Mrs. L. C. — The Blessed Virgin has come to my aid. Enclosed please find an offering, as promised. Anonymous. — I wish to thank the Blessed Virgin for the favour she has obtained me. Mrs. D., **Montreal**. — I am grateful for a cure obtained through the medium of the Miraculous Medal. Mrs. D., **Woonsocket**. — I am truly thankful for the favour that has been granted me. I am asking our Blessed Lady to watch over me. Mrs. C., **Ottawa**. — The enclosed offering is in thanksgiving for a favour obtained through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. P. C. — I have been restored to health. Kindly publish my thanksgiving. Mrs. J. B. — I am grateful for the favour I have obtained, and I am enclosing an offering for a novena of lights in honour of Our Blessed Mother, as promised. Please pray for me. Mrs. R., **Houlton, Me.** — Enclosed please find a small offering. I have obtained a favor, and I am truly thankful. May I ask you to continue to pray for my son and to make a novena for my sister, who is very sick. Mrs. G.,

Lewiston, Me. — Enclosed please find my renewal subscription, in thanksgiving for a favour received. **A Friend.** — I am subscribing to THE PRECURSOR for one year, as my son has obtained a position. Please pray that my daughter may find something to do. **Mrs. T., Brunswick, Me.** — The enclosed offering is in thanksgiving for a favor obtained. If my other request is granted, I will send you a substantial donation. **A. D., Lewiston, Me.** — Enclosed please find a small offering in thanksgiving for a favour obtained. Please pray that I may obtain what I am now asking for. **Mrs. S., St. Vincent de Paul.** — I have received a favour through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. The enclosed offering is in her honour. **Miss L.** — Enclosed please find an offering in thanksgiving for favours received. **Miss T., Portland, Me.** — Enclosed find a small offering. I have received a favour, and would ask you to pray that my other requests may be granted. **K. D., Tecumseh, Ont.** — Enclosed please find a small offering, in thanksgiving for favours received. Kindly remember us in your prayers. **Mrs. C. R., Sutton, Que.** — Enclosed please find a donation, which we are sending in thanksgiving to Our Blessed Mother for favours received. Please continue to pray for us. **I. C., Portland, Me.** — I have obtained a favour and am enclosing a small donation, as promised. **Mrs. B., Windsor, Ont.** — I am thankful to Our Blessed Lady for a favour received. **Mrs. A., Montreal.** — I am grateful for the favour that has been granted me. **C. S.** — I wish to thank the Blessed Virgin for a favour obtained through her intercession. **Anonymous.** — I have obtained a favour through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, and am enclosing an offering, as promised. **A. S., Montreal.** — I wish to thank our Blessed Lady for all that she has done for me. **W. L.** — I am grateful for the favor that has been granted me. Please pray that I may obtain what I am now asking for. **Mrs. R. C., North Troy.** — A great favour has been obtained through the medium of the Miraculous Medal. **A. G.** — I wish to thank Our Lady for helping my two boys to find work. **Mrs. F.** — My request has been granted. Please pray that I may obtain another great favour. **E. M.** — I wish to thank the Blessed Virgin for the favour she has obtained me. **Mrs. P.** — The Blessed Virgin has come to my aid, and I am asking her to intercede for me again. **Miss M. T.** — I have received a favor through the intercession of Our Blessed Lady. **Mrs. M., Holyoke, Mass.** — I wish to thank Our Immaculate Mother for coming to my aid. **Mrs. F., Montreal.** — Our Blessed Lady has obtained me a very great favour. **A. D.** — Enclosed please find a small offering, in thanksgiving for a favour obtained through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. **Mrs. P. C.** — Enclosed please find an offering for a Mass of thanksgiving to God and His Blessed Mother for graces and blessings bestowed on us. **M. A., Montreal.** — I am enclosing an offering in thanksgiving for a favour received from the Sacred Heart and His Blessed Mother. I hope you will continue to pray for me. **Mrs. J. L.** — I am sending an offering in thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin for favours received. **A. P., Westmount, Que.** — I am sending a small offering in aid of the Missionaries. I had a novena said for my boy, who was very ill. I promised to send you an offering every month if he recovered. I am happy to tell you that he is alright now. **Mrs. M. C., Verdun.** — I have received a very great favour and am sending you a small offering, as promised. Please remember me in your prayers. **Mrs. C., Montreal.** — Enclosed please find the ransom price of a dying Chinese baby, in thanksgiving for favours received through the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph, and St. Anthony. **A. C., Plympton, N. S.** — You will find enclosed an offering for the ransom of some Chinese babies. This is in thanksgiving for a great favour obtained through the intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Joseph, St. Ann, St. Joachim, and St. Anthony. If I am granted several other favours, I will publish my thanksgiving. **Mrs. R., Quebec.** — I am sending an offering in thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin and St. Anthony for trouble averted. May I ask you to pray that I may be able to overcome a few difficulties. **H. S., Norwich, Conn.** — I have received some favours through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Anthony. Enclosed please find a small offering. **Mrs. S.**



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

Petitions

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

I should like to have some prayers said for a very special intention. Would you be kind enough to begin a novena for me. If I obtain my request within a month I will send you a substantial donation for your missions. Mrs. F., **Westmount**. — I am suffering from neuritis. Would you please pray for me. B. G., **Montreal**. — I wish to obtain two great favours, one of which is spiritual. Pray hard for me for guidance and light. H. McD., **Bermuda**. — Please pray that a certain certificate may be restored to me promptly, and if my petition is granted I will send you an offering. I am enclosing the ransom price of a dying baby. Mrs. M., **Verdun**. — Would you kindly make a novena to our Immaculate Mother for my husband, who has stomach trouble. If he is cured, he will send an offering in thanksgiving. I also wish to be remembered in your prayers. Mrs. A. M., **Barnaby River, N. B.** — Please pray that I may obtain two desired favours. If my requests are granted inside of two months, I will pay for the ransom of four dying Chinese babies. M. McC., **Montreal**. — Will you please commence a novena, asking that my husband may be successful in business. Mrs. B., **Outremont**. — Please remember me in your prayers. B. P., **Montreal**. — My sister is in poor health. Please pray for her. A Subscriber, **Indian Orchard, Mass.** — Please find enclosed a small offering for the Missions. Kindly remember me in your prayers, that I may be cured of a weak eye. Miss C., **Notre Dame de Grace**. — Please pray that my brother and sister may find work. When they are employed, I will renew my subscription. I will also send the ransom price of a few dying Chinese babies as soon as I am able. E. H., **Chatham, N. B.** — Please find enclosed an offering which I am sending you for a novena of lights to be burned at Our Lady's altar for my intentions. If my requests are granted, I will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR and will also publish my thanksgiving. Mrs. J. O'C., **Chute Rouge, Que.** — Kindly remember me in your prayers. Mrs. L. S., **Rosemount**. — May I ask you to make a novena for my sick daughter. I am enclosing a donation to be used as you see fit. Mrs. R., **Hemmingford, Que.** — I am writing to ask you to entreat our Blessed Mother to help a friend of mine to secure the position he has in view. If he meets with success, I will send a donation. J. C., **Windsor, Ont.** — Please pray that my husband may be successful with his work and that all my requests may be granted if God so wills. Mrs. S., **Notre Dame de Grace**. — 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 request is granted, I will renew my subscription to THE PRECURSOR. Miss L. A., **East Bathurst, N. B.** — Kindly make a novena to the Blessed Virgin, asking her to obtain me two favours. I am enclosing the ransom price of a dying child and a small offering for your work. If my requests are granted, I will send you another offering. Mrs. T., **Montreal**. — Please make a novena to our Immaculate Mother for me, that I may obtain a very special favour. If this favour is granted, I will send an offering for the support of a Missionary Sister. F. G., **Delhi, Ont.** — I am enclosing an offering in honour of the Blessed Virgin, that peace may reign in our household. I am in poor health. Please pray for me. I. C., **Portland, Me.** — Kindly remember us in your prayers. Mrs. D. C., **Dalhousie, N. B.** — Will you please commence a novena, asking that I may be restored to health. I am enclosing an offering for candles to be burned during the novena. J. D., **Lewiston, Me.** — Please pray that I may obtain two desired favours. If I am granted them, I will send an offering for the ransom of a dying baby. R. E., **Montreal**. — May I ask you to start a novena to the Blessed Virgin for a special intention. If my request is granted, I will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR as long as I am able and will send you the ransom price of some dying babies. Mrs. M., **Notre Dame de Grace**. — Please pray that I may be restored to health and that a friend may stop drinking. A Subscriber, **Montreal**. — I am coming to ask you to please commence a novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help, asking that an operation may be avoided. I am enclosing a small offering for your works, and I promise to send you a substantial donation and to continue my subscription to THE PRECURSOR. M. A. — Please pray that I may receive the rent from my house each month. If my request is granted, I will send a donation. Mrs. D., **Montreal, Que.** — I am writing to ask you to make a novena to our Blessed Mother, that my husband may be restored to health. I am enclosing an offering to be used as you think best. If my request is granted, I will do something else for your good work as soon as I can. Mrs. J. R., **Hemmingford, Que.** — Please pray that I may obtain a special favour. If it is granted, I will send an offering. M. R. — My husband is losing his sight. Will you please make a novena to our Immaculate Mother, asking her to cure him. If my request is granted, I will send an offering for the ransom of a baby likely to live and will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR as long as I am able to. Mrs. J. D., **Val Melanson, N. B.** — Would you please ask the Blessed Virgin to cure my little girl. If I obtain the favor I am asking, I will send something every month until the child is eighteen. Mrs. W. R., **Leominster, Mass.** — Enclosed please find an offering for a votive light in honour of the Blessed Virgin. If I receive an answer to my prayers, I will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR as long as I am able. Mrs. W. McK., **Calumet, Que.** — Will you kindly pray that

I shall not have to undergo an operation. If my wish is granted, I will send you a donation. M. S. R. — Please make a novena to our Immaculate Mother, that I may obtain a special favour soon. If my request is granted, I will send you a substantial donation. D. G., **Inverness, N. S.** — Enclosed please find a small offering. May I ask you to make a novena for my brother, who is very ill. If he is restored to health, I will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR. E. H., **Stratford, Ont.** — I wish to obtain a special favor. Enclosed please find the ransom price of four dying babies. Miss G. M., **Caribou, Me.** — Kindly remember us in your prayers. Miss B. P., **Montreal.** — I wish you would make a novena for me, asking that I may be able to pay a debt before a certain date. If my request is granted, I will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR for five years. Anonymous. — Enclosed please find an offering for a light to be placed on the Blessed Virgin's altar. May I ask you to pray that I may obtain a very great favour. Mrs. H. C., **Redmondville.** — 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. E. C., **New Brunswick.** — Enclosed please find a small offering. Kindly burn a candle for my intention. Mrs. M. C., **Pineville, N. B.** — I am enclosing a small offering. Please make a novena to our Immaculate Mother for me, that I may obtain a favour. Mrs. J. W. S., **Loggieville, N. B.** — I am sending you the price of a votive light to be burned at Mary's shrine. If a special favor is granted me, I will send other offerings. I. B., **North Vassalboro, Me.** — May I ask you to make a novena to our Immaculate Mother that I may obtain some special favours. If they are granted, I will send you the ransom price of four dying Chinese babies. Mrs. R., **Maidstone, Ont.** — 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. Mr. C. C., **Pineville, N. B.** — I am enclosing a small offering. Please burn a candle for my intention. My children are looking for work, and I would ask you to pray that they may be successful. If my requests are granted, I will send an offering for the ransom of a pagan baby. Mrs. B., **La Salette, Ont.** — Enclosed please find a small donation. I wish to obtain a very special favour. Kindly commence a novena for me. Mrs. W., **North Bay, Ont.** — Please ask the Blessed Virgin to grant that we may be able to rent a certain farm. If my request is granted, I will send you a donation and will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR for a year. Mrs. F. R. — Kindly remember a friend of mine in your prayers. H. M., **Cape Breton.** — I am writing to ask you to kindly commence a novena to Our Lady, that I may obtain two special favours. If my requests are granted, I will send you a donation. Mrs. E. S., **London, Ont.** — Enclosed please find my renewal subscription. I wish to obtain a great favour. Kindly ask the Blessed Virgin to intercede for me. K. S., **Beauharnois, Que.** — Please make a novena to our Immaculate Mother for me. If some desired favours are granted me, I will send you a donation. R. D., **Riverside, Ont.** — Enclosed you will find my renewal subscription. Please pray that my son may find work. Mr. H., **Worcester, Mass.** — Please remember me in your prayers. Mrs. B., **Waterville, Me.** — Will you please ask the Blessed Virgin to intercede for me. If my request is granted, I will send a donation. R. L., **Kouchibouguac, N. B.** — I wish to obtain a very special favour. Please make a novena to our Immaculate Mother for me. Enclosed you will find an offering for lights to be burned during the novena, and the ransom price of a dying Chinese baby. Mrs. H., **Marlboro, Mass.** — Enclosed please find a small offering. Kindly commence a novena to the Blessed Virgin, that I may meet with success. Miss T., **Northampton, Mass.** — Enclosed please find a small donation. Kindly remember me in your prayers. Mrs. W. L., **Pineville, N. B.** — Please pray that I may obtain a position. Mrs. B., **East Windsor, Ont.** — 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 a substantial donation. Mrs. D., **St. Johns, Que.** — May I ask you to make a novena to the Blessed Virgin for me. If I obtain a very special favour, I will help to ransom as many Chinese babies as I can. I. Mc C., **Westmount.** — Please pray that I may obtain two special favours. If the Blessed Virgin comes to my aid, I will send you a donation. Mrs. R., **Sandwich, Ont.** — 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 a donation. Miss B., **St. Johnsbury, Vt.** — Enclosed please find a small offering. May I ask you to pray that my husband may be restored to health. Mrs. D., **Kenogami, Que.** — Will you kindly make a novena, asking that my son may obtain a better position. I would also ask you to pray that I may regain my health. If my requests are granted, I will send you an offering, which you may use as you see fit. Mrs. J. B., **Schuylerville, N. Y.** — Please ask the Blessed Virgin to grant that my mother and I may be restored to health. L. C., **Blizzard Valley, Ont.** — Enclosed please find a small offering. Please pray for me. Mrs. R., **Nigado, N. B.** — I am enclosing an offering for a novena of lights in honor of the Blessed Virgin. Pray for me. Mrs. R., **Houlton, Me.** — I am writing to ask you to pray that I may obtain two favours. Mrs. H., **Tupper, B. C.** — Enclosed please find my renewal subscription. I would ask you to pray that I may obtain a very special favour. R. G. — Enclosed you will find a small offering. Please pray for my intentions. Mrs. P., **Harrow, Ont.** — I wish to obtain a favour. The enclosed offering is for a votive light to be burned in honour of the Blessed Virgin. M. B., **Pineville, N. B.** — Please make a novena to the Blessed Virgin, that my daughter and I may be restored to health. If we are cured, I will renew my subscription to THE PRECURSOR. Mrs. P., **Paincourt, Ont.** — I am writing to ask you to entreat the Blessed Virgin to cure my husband. I am enclosing a small offering.

Mrs. J. T., **Valleyfield, Que.** — Please pray that I may be restored to health. I promise to send you a donation every month for six months and to subscribe to THE PRECURSOR for a year. Mrs. W. C., **Limestone, Me.** — I am enclosing an offering for a novena of lights in honor of our Blessed Mother. Please pray for me. Mrs. R., **Houlton, Me.** — Enclosed please find my renewal subscription and a small offering. My son is in poor health, and I would ask you to make a novena for him. If he is cured, I will send an offering for your missions. Mrs. G., **Lewiston, Me.** — I am enclosing my renewal subscription. Please pray that all in my family may keep well. Mrs. G., **Douglstown, Que.** — I am not feeling well. Please pray for me. If I am restored to health, I will send you an offering. Mrs. A. M. — Please make a novena to Our Immaculate Mother for me, that I may get steady employment. If my request is granted, I will send you an offering. C. S., **Campbellton, N. B.** — The enclosed offering is for the ransom of six dying Chinese babies. Please remember me and mine in your prayers. B. T., **Schenectady, N. Y.** — Enclosed please find my renewal subscription. May I ask you to pray that I may obtain two great favors. Mrs. L., **Waterville, Me.** — I am sending you a small offering. Please remember me in your prayers. Mrs. L., **East Windsor, Ont.** — Please pray that I may obtain a special favor. If my request is granted, I will publish my thanksgiving and will send you my renewal subscription and the ransom price of a dying Chinese baby. M. G., **Bangor, Me.** — Kindly remember my husband and myself in your prayers. Mrs. G., **Limestone, Me.** — I am writing to ask you to make a novena to Our Blessed Mother for a special intention. The enclosed offering is for lights to be burned during the novena. If my request is granted, I will send a donation later on. Mrs. B., **Collinsville, Mass.** — Please make a novena to Our Immaculate Mother for me, that I may obtain two special favors. If my requests are granted, I will send you an offering. Miss A. D., **Lewiston, Me.** — Enclosed please find a small donation. Kindly remember us in your prayers. Anonymous, **Chatham, Ont.** — Please ask the Blessed Virgin to intercede for me. If my request is granted, I will send you a donation. Mrs. M. L., **Campbellton, N. B.** — Enclosed please find a small offering. May I ask you to make a novena for my mother, who is in poor health. If she is cured without being obliged to undergo an operation, I will send you a substantial donation. Mrs. F., **Houlton Me.** — Will you please make a novena to Our Blessed Mother, asking that my husband may get back his position. Mrs. P. L., **Belle River, Ont.** — May I ask you to make a novena to our Immaculate Mother for a special intention. If my request is granted, I will send you a donation. L. G., **Westmount.** — I would ask you to pray that I may obtain a very special favor. I will send you an offering as soon as my request is granted. Mrs. L. F., **New York.** — Please make a novena to Our Immaculate Mother for me, that I may not be obliged to undergo an operation. If I am restored to health, I will send you an offering and will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR as long as I am able. Mrs. T. R., **Nigado, N. B.** — Enclosed please find a small offering. Kindly make a novena for me. Mrs. D., **Island Falls, Me.** — I wish to obtain a favor. Please remember me in your prayers. Mrs. B., **Leominster, Mass.** — Kindly accept the enclosed donation. May I ask you to pray that trouble and disaster in my family may be overcome, averted, or borne with grace. Mrs. S. — Enclosed please find a small offering. May I ask you to pray that I may obtain a very great favour. E. L., **Montreal.** — Enclosed you will find my renewal subscription and a small donation. Please remember me in your prayers. Mrs. M. Mc G., **Chute Rouge, Que.** — Kindly make a novena, asking that my daughter may be restored to health. I would also ask you to pray that my husband may go back to work as soon as possible. If my requests are granted, I will send you a donation. Mrs. J. L., **South Bathurst, N. B.** — I am enclosing an offering to help on the missionary work. If I am restored to health, I will send you something every month. Mrs. C., **Verdun.** — Please pray for my intentions. G. W., **Montreal.** — Enclosed please find a small donation. Kindly make a novena for my family. A Friend, **North Bay, Ont.** — I am writing to ask you to pray that I may be restored to health. If my request is granted, I will publish my thanksgiving and will continue to subscribe to THE PRECURSOR. Mrs. L., **Pelletier's Mill, N. B.** — Please unite with me in asking the Sacred Heart to grant me a desired favor. Mrs. L., **Fitchburg, Mass.** — Will you please make a novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for me, that I may obtain three special favours. If my requests are granted, I will renew my subscription to THE PRECURSOR and send an offering. J. J. G., **Rumford, Me.** — Enclosed please find my renewal subscription and the ransom price of four Chinese babies. I hope I shall obtain the favor I am praying for. J. D., **Lewiston, Me.** — Please make a novena to the Infant Jesus, Our Lady and St. Joseph, asking that peace may reign in our home and that two other favours may be granted. G. C., **Timmins, Ont.** — Please ask Our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph to come to our aid. If we obtain what we are asking for, we will subscribe to THE PRECURSOR again and send you an offering. Anonymous, **Amherstburg, Ont.** — Will you please make a novena to Our Blessed Lady and St. Joseph, that my husband may get back a sum of money. If my request is granted, I will send you a substantial donation for your missions. Mrs. C., **Waterloo, Que.** — If the Little Flower of Jesus obtains me the favours I am asking for, I will send you a donation. Miss P., **Montreal.** — Enclosed please find my renewal subscription to THE PRECURSOR and a small offering. I am asking you to kindly join me in a novena to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, that I may be restored to health. Mrs. L. — I am enclosing my renewal subscription and a donation. May I ask you to unite with me in making a novena to the Little Flower of Jesus, that my daughter may regain her health. Mrs. C.,

Waterville, Me. — Please pray that my two boys may get work. When they are employed, I will send you an offering for your missions. **Mrs. J. P., Montreal.** — I am writing to ask you to pray for my brother, who has a very sore foot. Kindly accept the enclosed offering. **Mrs. C., Peterboro, Ont.** — Please pray for my mother. If she is restored to health, I will send you a donation. **Mrs. F., Houlton, Me.** — I should like to obtain some favours through the intercession of the Little Flower of Jesus. If my prayers are heard, I will send a donation for the Bursar in her honour, and will renew my subscription. **Mrs. J., Kenogami, Que.** — Kindly make a novena, asking that I may be granted a special favour. If I obtain it, I will send you an offering. **Mrs. B., Windsor, Ont.**



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



NECROLOGY

His Excellency Most Reverend Patrick Thomas RYAN, Bishop of Pembroke, Ont.; Mr. Francois Xavier MALTAIS, Chicoutimi, brother of our Sister Marguerite des Anges; Miss Jeanne d'Arc RANCOURT, St. Georges, Co. Beauce, sister of our Sister Marie Augustine; Mr. Anselme VACHON, St. Frederic, Co. Beauce, grandfather of our Sister St. Placide; Mrs. Joachim BIGRAS, Ste. Dorothee, grandmother of our Sister St. Paul de Rome; Mrs. Leandre CHENARD, Ste. Helene, Co. Kamouraska, grandmother of our Sister Ste. Nina; Mrs. Frank BOLTE, Montreal; Mrs. James CALLAN, Point St. Charles; Mr. Patrick WARD, Montreal; Mrs. Marion KILEY, Springfield, Mass.; Mrs. T. SCANLON, Montreal; Mrs. J. PAYETTE, Colerain, Mass.; Mr. P. T. MC CANN, Montreal; Mr. James CUNNINGHAM, Montreal; Mr. Israel PARO, North Agawam, Mass.; Mrs. W. BROPHY, Montreal; Mrs. P. MORIN, Springfield, Mass.; Mrs. Noah DIETRICH, Dashwood, Ont.; Mr. John HICKS, Springfield, Mass.; Mr. D. E. MERCURE, Holyoke, Mass.; Mrs. C. REILLY, Montreal; Mr. W. M. WHALEN, Lachine.

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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.