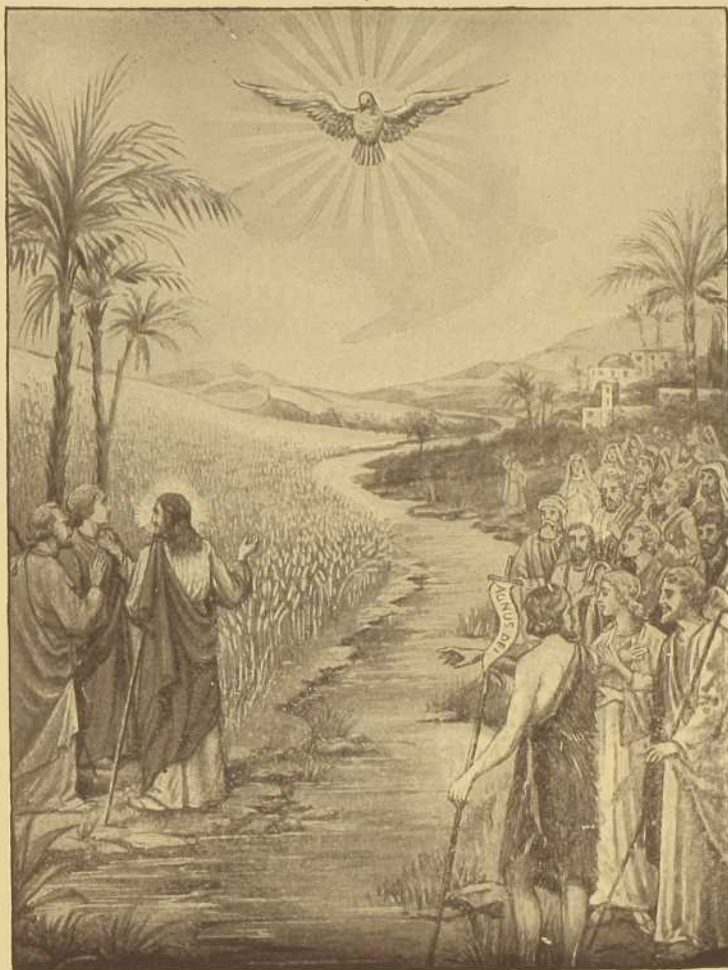


# THE PRECURSOR



Vol. XI., 16th Year

MONTREAL, March-April, 1938

No. 8

# Works of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

## IN CANADA

### MOTHER HOUSE, 2900 St. Catherine Road, Montreal, 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)

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

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

### GRANBY, Que., 35 Dufferin St. (Founded in 1930)

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### 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.

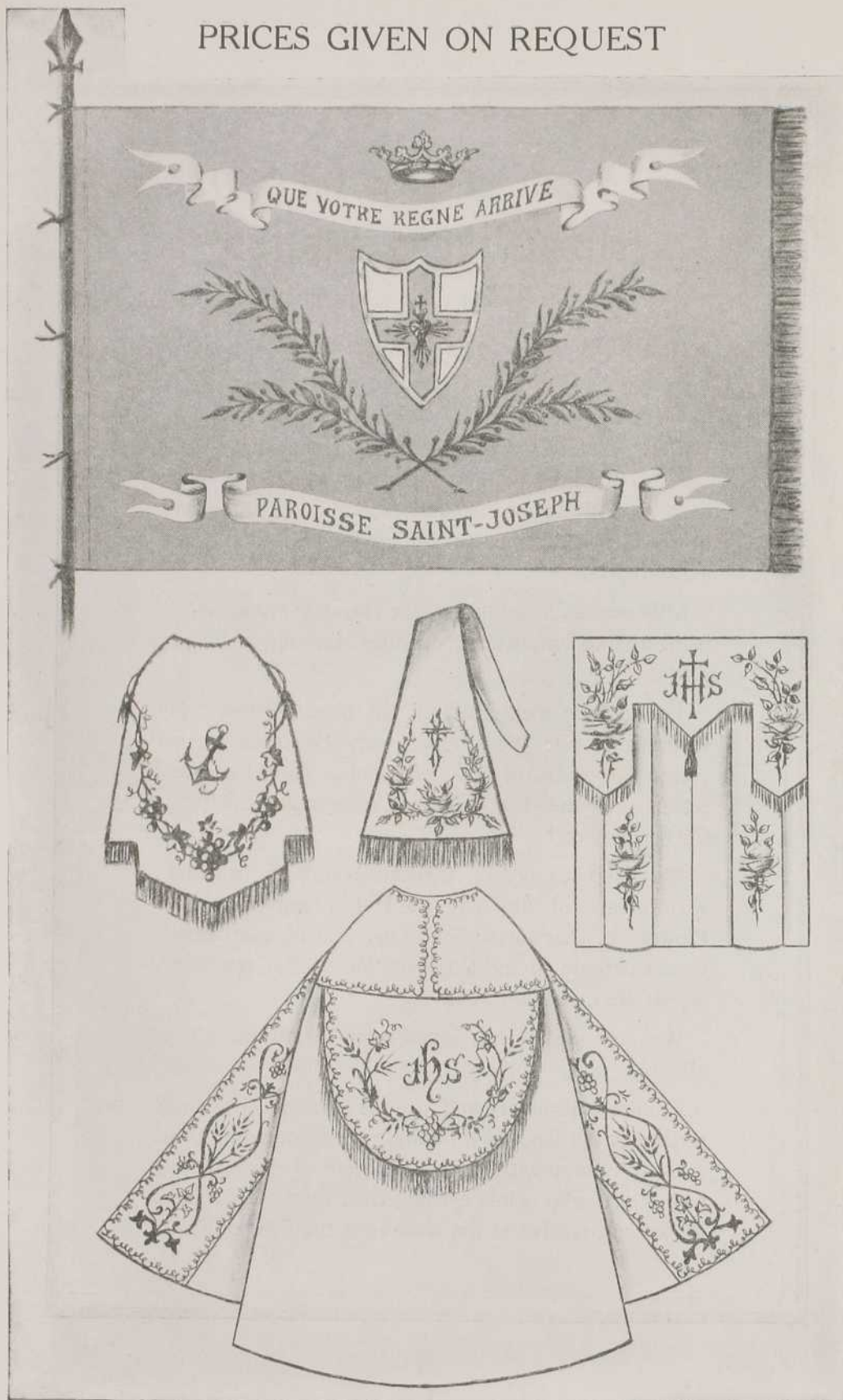
The articles mentioned on the page entitled "By Patronizing our Workroom", may be procured, on reasonable terms, at the workroom of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, 2900 St. Catherine Road, Montreal, Que.

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.

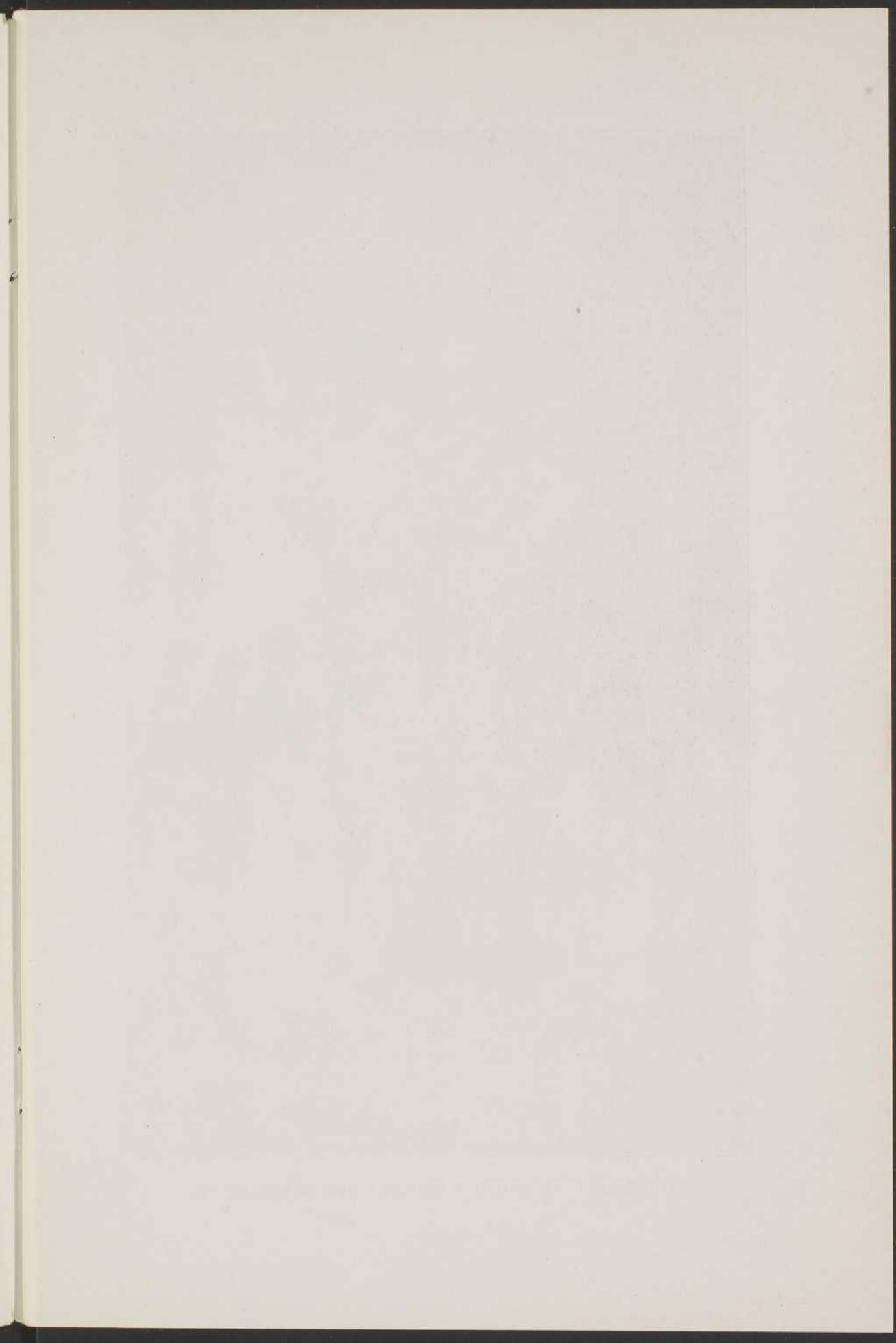
We also make wax infants for Christmas Cribs, all sizes.

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.

PRICES GIVEN ON REQUEST









" O IMMACULATE MOTHER, PROTECT OUR BENEFACTORS! "



# THE PRECURSOR

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of the Immaculate Conception

*with the approbation of the Archbishop of Montreal*

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## God's Providence

*Not one hair of my worthless head  
Falls to the ground unseen;  
Not one pang of my worthless heart  
Has ever unnoticed been  
Not one tear from my eyes has flowed  
Unknown to my dear Lord,  
Nor from my lips has e'er escaped  
Unheard a single word.*

*If thus o'er every hair of mine,  
O'er every word and sigh,  
So watchful is His loving care,  
So vigilant His eye,  
Securely, like a child upheld  
By a kind Father's Hand,  
I well may trust in Him, nor fear  
To tread life's shifting sand.*

— Selected.



## Go to Joseph

---

**S**T. JOSEPH was solemnly declared Protector and Patron of the Universal Church, on December 8th, 1870. His Feast has been raised to the rank of doubles of the first class with an octave, and transferred to another day after Easter, so that it can always be celebrated. No doubt, his worship cannot equal that of hyperdulia which is reserved to the Mother of God; but it comes immediately after it, preceding all the others, and is declared supreme in the order of the worship of simple dulia, which is given to the saints. Associated with Mary upon earth and in Heaven, Joseph will also be associated with her in the prayers of the Church. Mary will no longer be invoked without him.

The Church, therefore, does not fear to call him *the prop of the world*, one of the supports upon which the world rests, *columen mundi*. What a powerful title! It is as if, on account of his merits and through deference to his prayer, God tolerated and conserved the world, despite the iniquities which disfigure it on all sides.

Devotion to the foster-father of Jesus has shone in our midst like the evening star beside the morning star. The Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph appear united upon earth as they are in Heaven. Together, they emit their beneficent rays over the agitated world, and it is not in vain that the Church counts upon their all-powerful intercession to obtain from the Heart of Jesus its deliverance and victory...

St. Joseph's power greatly surpasses that of all the angels and saints together, for he is, at the same time, influential upon the Heart of Our Heavenly Father, upon the Heart of Jesus and upon the Heart of Mary. What could God refuse to the Saint whom He has preferred to all the princes of heaven and earth, in choosing him to be the foster-father and protector of His Divine Son, and who has so worthily fulfilled his noble mission? What could the Incarnate Word refuse to the Saint who, in the sweat of his brow, provided Him with all the necessities of life, who lived and worked only for Him, who loved Him so tenderly, served him so faithfully and surrounded Him with so much care and vigilance? What could Jesus refuse to Joseph, whom He loved upon earth to such a degree that He anticipated his every desire?

For this reason, the Church, after St. Teresa's testimony that she had never invoked St. Joseph in vain, chose the guardian of the Virgin of virgins, the foster-father of the Child Jesus, to be her own guardian and protector, the universal Patriarch of the Christian world.

Let us, therefore, respond with ineffable confidence to the invitation of the Church, *Ite ad Joseph*, and let us confide all our troubles and cares to this venerable Patriarch.

One day, Pius IX, radiant with joy, exclaimed prophetically: "Saint Joseph will be singularly honoured in the Church of God!" And, in fact,

loving and confident devotion to the foster-father of our Saviour has made striking progress in Catholic souls. It is not surprising. The Church in her offices recalls to us that the Patriarch Joseph, son of Jacob, was chosen by Pharaoh to govern Egypt. This king imposed upon him the duty of distributing wheat, money and favours; and he said to those who came to him: "Go to Joseph, *Ite ad Joseph.*" In recalling to us this fact, she wishes to make us understand that St. Joseph is, for all Christians, what the Patriarch Joseph was for the Egyptians, for his brothers and for his aged father. As the king of Egypt had delegated his power to his minister, so has Our Lord delegated part of His authority to St. Joseph who, while on earth, sustained Him by his labour. He has chosen him for His prime minister. How could Jesus, this model Son, not grant an exceptional power to the Saint, who was not only, as the Gospel calls him, *a just man*, but who was also His foster-father? He never refuses him anything. He grants many extraordinary favours through his intercession and, especially, the most precious of all, that of a happy death. St. Joseph — we are all aware of the fact — is revered by the whole Church as the model, hope and protector of the dying.

Let us, then, be confident and pray. During the month of March, specially dedicated to St. Joseph, let us beg him to shower his paternal blessings upon us and our families, upon the Church and our country. God had His reasons in reserving for those unhappy times a more extensive knowledge of the greatness and power of this august Patriarch. No doubt, He wished to proportion the remedy to the evil; He wished to place an unlimited power of intercession at our disposal, in our excessive needs.

Rev. Father HUGUET, S. M.

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## His Hope Was Not Vain

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I WAS riding with difficulty along a lonely path on the sandy bank of the Senegal. I had never travelled on that road before and I was following it without any determined purpose. The only attractions of my ramble were serpents disappearing in the grass, frightened alligators plunging into the swamps and the sun darting forth its burning rays; however, an incomprehensible power seemed to urge me on until I came to an inhabited cabin. My first thought was to enter; and, when I had crossed the threshold, a terrified voice cried out, "Who is there?"

"A missionary priest," I answered. "Fear not. Peace be with you and yours!"

"A priest!" said the stranger, with a good French accent. "You are welcome, Father; make haste."



"What do you mean? Who are you? You are a French soldier? How do you happen to be here? What is the matter?"

"Useless questions, Father. I am in my third attack of fever and, as you know, it spares no one. Purify my conscience without delay, and we shall chat afterwards, if God prolongs my life."

At that moment, the savage yelping of jackals attracted by the odour of decomposition confirmed the soldier's apprehensions.

"I am ready, Father," he said. "Let us begin."

It was then quite comprehensible why I had been influenced to continue in that direction; and, eager to scrutinize the ways of Divine Providence, I said to the dying man: "You must have begged God very fervently to send you a priest at this moment; for, evidently, it is your Guardian Angel that has led me here."

"Do you wish to know the gist of the matter, Father?"

"Indeed, I am very desirous to know."

"I was sure that a priest would come to me."

"How, sure? If you were in France, I might understand you; but, remember that you are in Africa, and in Senegal, one of the most deserted countries in Africa!"

"What does all that matter? Let me tell you that I wear St. Joseph's cord and also his medal; and that I belong to the Confraternity of a Happy Death. Well, my conscience was not in order, and St. Joseph had to send me a priest. So I told him, and you see that I was not mistaken in placing my trust in him."

"I quite understand now. Be ever confident in St. Joseph. Death is near; but it will be death in company with Jesus and Mary, death which leads to eternal life with Jesus, Mary and Joseph."

The fever did not spare him; two hours later he was dead.

A MISSIONARY IN AFRICA.

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### A Distinguished Visitor from China

On the 15th of last February, His Excellency Bishop Yu-Pin, Vicar Apostolic of Nanking, China, honoured by his visit the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Outremont. He was accompanied by Reverend Father Horace Labranche, S. J.

He blessed all the members of the Community assembled and gave them very interesting news of war-stricken China, particularly of his Vicariate. In the city of Nanking, whose population is a million, there are only two priests.

On the same day, His Excellency also visited the Montreal Chinese Hospital, directed by the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. On the 17th, he celebrated Mass in the chapel of the Chinese Parish of the Holy Ghost.

## Congratulations

TO HIS EXCELLENCY P. S. DESRANLEAU

*Coadjutor Bishop-elect of Sherbrooke,  
formerly Pastor of St. Pierre Church at Sorel,*

the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception offer, through  
THE PRECURSOR, their humble congratulations, their most ardent  
prayers and best wishes for a prosperous episcopate.

## National Congress Dates Changed

His Eminence, the Archbishop of Quebec, has issued the following statement with reference to the change of date of the Canadian National Eucharistic Congress.

"It was first intended to hold the Congress from June 29th to July 3rd. But, because of the Confederation celebration, the railway companies are unable to assure satisfactory travel accommodations. For this reason, after consultation with the representatives of the C. N. R. and the C. P. R., the organization committee has decided to hold the Congress from June 22nd to June 26th. His Eminence has approved this decision."

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## Let Us Prepare Our Hearts

Formerly, the Holy Precursor travelled through the region of the Jordan preparing the people for the coming of the Redeemer. He preached, saying: "Do penance, for the Kingdom of God is at hand..."

May the voice of Canada's illustrious Patron still resound in our ears while, in the antique City of Quebec, preparations are being made for a great event: Canada's first National Eucharistic Congress, which will be a memorable triumph for our God and Saviour present in His Most Holy Sacrament.

Let us not remain indifferent while our Pastors are displaying so much zeal in the organization of this solemn demonstration of faith, gratitude, love and reparation to the Divine Guest of our tabernacles; but, following their example, let us prepare our hearts by prayer and penance. Let us contribute to its success according to our means and, in order to be able to go in greater numbers to swell the ranks of the procession, let us begin immediately to economize. Thus, in union with the adoring throngs, we shall extol Our Eucharistic Lord and proclaim Him King of kings and Ruler of all nations.



# Encyclical Letter on Atheistic Communism

(DIVINI REDEMPTORIS)

*To the Patriarchs, Primates, Archbishops, Bishops, and other Ordinaries  
in peace and communion with the Apostolic See.*

*(Continued.)*

45. But the poor too, in their turn, while engaged, according to the laws of charity and justice, in acquiring the necessities of life and also in bettering their condition, should always remain "poor in spirit" and hold spiritual goods in higher esteem than earthly property and pleasures. Let them remember that the world will never be able to rid itself of misery, sorrow, and tribulation, which are the portion even of those who seem most prosperous. Patience, therefore, is the need of all, that Christian patience which comforts the heart with the divine assurance of eternal happiness. "Be patient, therefore, brethren," we repeat with St. James, "until the coming of the Lord. Behold the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the herat, patiently bearing until he receive the early and the later rain. Be you therefore also patient and strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand." Only thus will be fulfilled the consoling promise of the Lord: "Blessed are the poor!" These words are no vain consolation, a promise as empty as those of the Communists. They are the words of life, pregnant with a sovereign reality. They are fully verified here on earth as well as in eternity. Indeed, how many of the poor, in anticipation of the kingdom of heaven already proclaimed their own: "for yours is the kingdom of heaven", find in these words a happiness which so many of the wealthy, uneasy with riches and ever thirsting for more, look for in vain!

## *Christian Charity*

46. Still more important as a remedy for the evil we are considering, or certainly more directly calculated to cure it, is the precept of charity. We have in mind that Christian charity, "patient and kind", which avoids all semblance of demeaning paternalism and all ostentation; that charity which from the very beginning of Christianity won to Christ the poorest of the poor, the slaves. And We are grateful to all those members of charitable associations, from the conferences of St. Vincent de Paul to the recent great relief organizations, which are perseveringly practising the spiritual and the corporal works of mercy. The more the working-men and the poor realize what the spirit of love animated by the virtue of Christ is doing for them, the more readily will they abandon the false persuasion that Christianity has lost its efficacy and that the Church stands on the side of the exploiters of their labor.

47. But, when on the one hand We see thousands of the needy, victims of real misery for various reasons beyond their control, and on the other so many round about them who spend huge sums of money on useless things

and frivolous amusement, We cannot fail to remark with sorrow not only that justice is poorly observed, but that the precept of charity also is not sufficiently appreciated, is not a vital thing in daily life. We desire therefore, Venerable Brethren, that this divine precept, this precious mark of identification left by Christ to His true disciples, be ever more fully explained by pen and word of mouth; this precept which teaches us to see in those who suffer Christ Himself, and would have us love our brothers as our Divine Saviour has loved us, that is, even at the sacrifice of ourselves, and, if need be, of our very life. Let all then frequently meditate on those words of the final sentence, so consoling yet so terrifying, which the Supreme Judge will pronounce on the day of the Last Judgment: "Come, ye blessed of My Father...for I was hungry, and you gave Me to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me to drink... Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it to one of these My least brethren, you did it to Me." And the reverse: "Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire... for I was hungry, and you gave Me not to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me not to drink... Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it not to one of these least, neither did you do it to Me."

48. To be sure of eternal life, therefore, and to be able to help the poor effectively, it is imperative to return to a more moderate way of life, to renounce the joys, often sinful, which the world to-day holds out in such abundance; to forget self for love of the neighbor. There is a divine regenerating force in this "new precept" (as Christ called it) of Christian charity. Its faithful observance will pour into the heart an inner peace which the world knows not, and will finally cure the ills which oppress humanity.

#### *Duties of Strict Justice*

49. But charity will never be true charity, unless it takes justice into constant account. The Apostle teaches that "he that loveth his neighbor hath fulfilled the law," and he gives the reason: "*For, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal...* and if there be any other commandment, it is comprised in the word: *Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*" According to the Apostle, then, all the commandments, including those which are of strict justice, as those which forbid us to kill or to steal, may be reduced to the single precept of true charity. From this it follows that a "charity" which deprives the working-man of the salary to which he has a strict title in justice is not charity at all, but only its empty name and hollow semblance. The wage-earner is not to receive as alms what is his due in justice. And let no one attempt with trifling charitable donations to exempt himself from the great duties imposed by justice. Both justice and charity often dictate obligations touching on the same subject-matter, but under different aspects; and the very dignity of the working-man makes him justly and acutely sensitive to the duties of others in his regard.

50. Therefore We turn again in a special way to you, Christian employers and industrialists, whose problem is often so difficult for the reason that you are saddled with the heavy heritage of an unjust economic régime whose



ruinous influence has been felt through many generations. We bid you be mindful of your responsibility. It is unfortunately true that the manner of acting in certain Catholic circles has done much to shake the faith of the working-classes in the religion of Jesus Christ. These groups have refused to understand that Christian charity demands the recognition of certain rights due to the working-man, which the Church has explicitly acknowledged. What is to be thought of the action of those Catholic employers who in one place succeeded in preventing the reading of Our Encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno* in their churches? Or of those Catholic industrialists who even to this day have shown themselves hostile to a labor movement that We Ourselves recommended? Is it not deplorable that the right of private property, defended by the Church, should so often have been used as a weapon to defraud the working-man of his just salary and his social rights?

### *Social Justice*

51. In reality, besides commutative justice, there is also social justice with its own set obligations, from which neither employers nor working-men can escape. Now it is of the very essence of social justice to demand from each individual all that is necessary for the common good. But, just as in the living organism it is impossible to provide for the good of the whole unless each single part and each individual member is given what it needs for the exercise of its proper functions, so it is impossible to care for the social organism and the good of society as a unit unless each single part and each individual member — that is to say, each individual man in the dignity of his human personality — is supplied with all that is necessary for the exercise of his social functions. If social justice be satisfied, the result will be an intense activity in economic life as a whole, pursued in tranquillity and order. This activity will be proof of the health of the social body, just as the health of the human body is recognized in the undisturbed regularity and perfect efficiency of the whole organism.

52. But social justice cannot be said to have been satisfied as long as working-men are denied a salary that will enable them to secure proper sustenance for themselves and for their families; as long as they are denied the opportunity of acquiring a modest fortune and forestalling the plague of universal pauperism; as long as they cannot make suitable provision through public or private insurance for old age, for periods of illness and unemployment. In a word, to repeat what has been said in Our Encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*: "Then only will the economic and social order be soundly established and attain its ends, when it offers to all and to each all those goods which the wealth and resources of nature, technical science, and the corporate organization of social affairs can give. These goods should be sufficient to supply all necessities and reasonable comforts, and to uplift men to that higher standard of life which, provided it be used with prudence, is not only not a hindrance but is of singular help to virtue."

*(To be continued.)*



## The Third Centenary of the First Catholic of Tsungming Island

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**T**HE Vicariate Apostolic of Haimen (Chinese Clergy, Bishop Tsu, S. J.), situated at the mouth of the Yang-tse kiang River, comprises three distinct regions: the region of Nang-tung, Yu-koa, Tsin-yang and Tai-sien; the region of Haimen and K'itong, which is a tongue of land, formed of alluvial soil, stretching like a spur into the yellow Sea; and Tsungming Island, of alluvial origin, also.

These regions are indebted for the Catholic Faith to Zi-Ki-Yeu, who was born on Tsungming Island in the beginning of the seventeenth century. This man, who was pious and upright, belonged to a religious sect called fasters; and, through love for his fellow-men, he had chosen the medical profession. He had transformed his house into a small pantheon. He prayed, gave alms and made pilgrimages to all the great Buddhistic centres.

As he was suffering cruelly from an ulcer in the stomach, one of his friends who was a Christian said to him: "These idols of earth and wood can do nothing for you. Go to the church just erected at Shanghai by our Minister Zi-kouang-ki; there, you will find Father Brancati, who, with the Emperor's approbation is preaching the true religion." This was in 1638.

One day during that same year, while Father Brancati, S. J., one of the most zealous apostles of the new mission at Shanghai, was at Pao-chang, on the right bank of the Yan-tse-kiang, he perceived Tsungming Island in the distance and began a novena to obtain that it might be opened to the Faith. On the last day of the novena, the missionaries saw four pagans entering their church. Zi-Ki-Yeu and three of his friends had come to be instructed in the new religion. Before undertaking this short voyage, Zi-Ki-Yeu, like a good Buddhist, had consulted the fortune-teller and had received this answer: "It is like fire added to fire and like gold added to gold." Father Brancati invited his visitors to take tea and, the following day, Zi-Ki-Yeu, perfectly convinced, requested Baptism. Strange to say, on being baptized, John Zi-Ki-Yeu recovered his health and not even the slightest trace of the ulcer which had been consuming him was to be found.

The fervent neophyte, in the vigour of manhood, from thirty to thirty-five years old, began immediately to propagate his Faith. The chronicles of that time relate how he threw his idols into the water, multiplied his prayers and good works and rapidly progressed in the spirit of mortification, patience and love for his enemies. Several members of his family and persons of the neighbourhood were converted. His little pagan oratory was transformed into a chapel; but it was only in 1639 that the first Mass was celebrated on the Island. During his short visit, the missionary had

the opportunity of conversing with a number of literati and converted them. It was the beginning of a new era; and, thenceforth, Christianity continued to spread throughout the future Vicariate of Haimen. Before his death in 1676, the Founder of the Mission at Tsungming had the joy of seeing the first church erected there. In 1696, Tsungming possessed nine churches and over three thousand Christians. Families emigrated from the Island to the mainland of Haimen, which was being formed by the alluvial deposits of the river. Not only did these simple peasants preserve the Faith, despite numerous difficulties and persecutions; but they also laid the foundation of the mission which actually comprises 35,000 Christians; 24 Native Priests; a Chinese Congregation, the Tere-sians, composed of 17 professed Sisters and 17 novices; and nine Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Montreal.

This mission, which was founded by a native of good-will, had the happiness of receiving one of the first Chinese bishops, Bishop Tsu, S. J., in 1926. Thus, the visit made by Zi-Ki-Yeu has been returned by a Chinese bishop, three centuries later. In 1938, solemn festivals will be held at Haimen in honour of its Founder, upon whose tomb, according to Most Reverend Gregory Lopez, the first Chinese bishop, many miracles have been wrought.

### **In Loving Memory of a Friend and Benefactress**

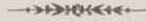
On December 6, 1937, Miss Elodie Boulais, residing at 590 Côte St. Antoine Road, Westmount, suddenly expired before the altar in the Church of the Dominican Fathers of Notre Dame de Grace, at the moment when the prayers of the Triduum preparatory to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception were about to commence. She was 74 years of age.

The dear deceased, esteemed and lamented by all who knew her, was a devoted auxiliary of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and a member of the sewing-circle of Our Lady of the Missions. She was most assiduous in attending the reunions and was ever ready to give a helping hand.

On numerous other occasions, during the many years that she lived in St. Viator's Parish, Outremont, she manifested her sympathy and generosity towards the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. For this reason, these religious do not fail to pray for the repose of her soul and they will ever have a most grateful remembrance of her.



## A Song of the Cross

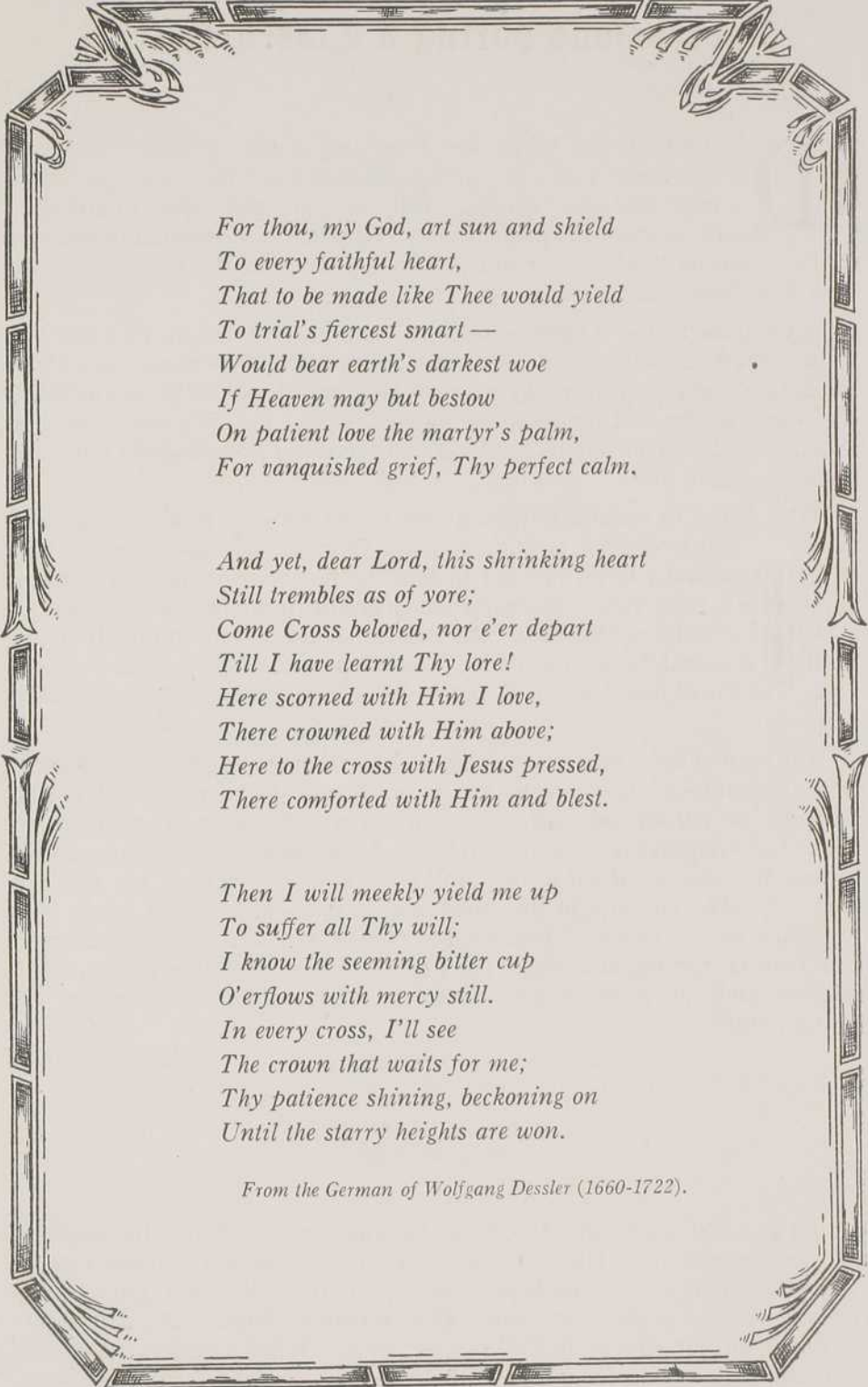


*Courage, my heart! Press cheerly on  
Along the thorny way;  
For joy shall come with victory won:  
Though pain be ours to-day:  
Nor shrink the load to take  
Which love shall easy make.  
Can these light, transient woes compare  
With glory that awaits us there?*

*'Twas by a path of sorrows drear  
Christ entered into rest;  
And shall I look for roses here  
Or think that earth is blest?  
Heavens' whitest lilies blow  
From earth's sharp crown of woe.  
Who here his cross can meekly bear  
Shall wear the kingly purple there.*

*Where would the garden's splendour be  
If north and south winds slept?  
Its spices flow most fragrantly  
When long the clouds have wept.  
Only do Thou remain  
My rest in every pain;  
My sun that cheers me still with light,  
When storms of grief would else affright.*





*For thou, my God, art sun and shield  
To every faithful heart,  
That to be made like Thee would yield  
To trial's fiercest smart —  
Would bear earth's darkest woe  
If Heaven may but bestow  
On patient love the martyr's palm,  
For vanquished grief, Thy perfect calm.*

*And yet, dear Lord, this shrinking heart  
Still trembles as of yore;  
Come Cross beloved, nor e'er depart  
Till I have learnt Thy lore!  
Here scorned with Him I love,  
There crowned with Him above;  
Here to the cross with Jesus pressed,  
There comforted with Him and blest.*

*Then I will meekly yield me up  
To suffer all Thy will;  
I know the seeming bitter cup  
O'erflows with mercy still.  
In every cross, I'll see  
The crown that waits for me;  
Thy patience shining, beckoning on  
Until the starry heights are won.*

*From the German of Wolfgang Dessler (1660-1722).*

## Impressions during a Closed Retreat

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**M**EMORIES are borne away on the wings of time. They all disappear; however sweet or however sad they may be, not a trace of them remains. But the pure and sweet impressions of a retreat are ineffacable. The peace and tranquillity enjoyed during these days of recollection remain engraved in the hearts of those who have benefited by them.

After these hours of close union with God, His Blessed Mother and the Saints, the Christian, purified by the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist, is gratified with a foretaste of Heavenly joys. Who can measure the many graces and precious advantages poured into her soul during a closed retreat? They are incalculable and exercise a preponderant influence upon the whole life.

Why refuse to make a retreat, giving as pretext lack of time or lack of money? You would not hesitate to leave your occupations for a nice trip or for illness and you do not fail to find the necessary money for clothes, amusements, cigarettes — pleasures which result in remorse and disgust.

Closed retreats are for those who wish to choose a state in life; they are for those who wish to become nuns. You think so?... You are quite mistaken... The aim of closed retreats is especially to form convinced and exemplary Christians.

The path of life is strewn with obstacles and dangers of all kinds. Everywhere temptations lay in wait for us until, weary and exhausted in the struggle, we fall on the road. Sometimes even, discouraged, we have no longer the strength to rise again. Where is to be found an efficacious remedy to heal the wounds of sin in our souls? It is to be found in the grace of God, of course, and also in the pious reminiscences of a retreat which give a glimpse of the eternal happiness reserved to the soul who has followed Our Lord on the Royal Road of the Cross and has generously borne all the miseries and sufferings of life. It is the inestimable recompense of all faithful souls.

A RETREATANT.

St. Gabriel, Nov. 1937.

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To save souls is to imitate Christ: to bring souls to Him is the sweetest offering we may make Him. To draw men to real and practical belief in the Incarnation, in the Eucharistic Presence, in the beneficent gifts of the priesthood, and in the intercessory office of Christ's Mother and His saints is worth all our efforts and all our sacrifices. What a field is there lying around us, stretching far on every side, for the zeal and the missionary spirit of Catholics.

# Father Damien

*The Apostle of the Lepers of Molokai*

BY MRS. AUGUSTUS CRAVEN, NEE LA FERRONNAYS

(Continued.)

I did not pretend to write Father Damien's life in these pages. He will be renowned in the History of the Church, and hands, more skilful than mine, will bestow upon him a more brilliant crown of glory. What I wished to signalize above all was the beauty of a soul unconsciously spreading its happy influence so far from the spot where it sought to conceal itself. It was the combination of natural and supernatural qualities, which gave the most humble of men the unusual power of attracting those who had never approached him, and of inspiring them with enthusiasm.

Mr. Edward Clifford, who was alluded to in the above-mentioned letter of Mr. Chapman, was a renowned artist, a man of great talent, more deeply impressed by moral beauty than by all the beauties of nature and art. On learning what divine love and fraternal charity had inspired a poor missionary to do, he, though Protestant, was, like his friend the Rector of St. Luke, filled with admiration and desirous of knowing Father Damien. Pressing duties hindered the rector's yielding to his desire, whilst Mr. Clifford had to leave but his interests, his occupations, his business, his pleasures; in a word, all that prevents so many people from doing less difficult things. Unhesitatingly, he put everything aside and announced that he was leaving for the Sandwich Islands. Then, a number of persons entrusted him with objects of all kinds for the missionary who was to dispose of them as he liked.

Laden with these tokens of universal interest, and besides, bearer of an oil which he believed to be efficacious in relieving the lepers, Mr. Clifford embarked, towards the end of November 1888, for Honolulu, whence he proceeded to Molokai. He soon found himself in presence of him whom he had come from so far to know and venerate.

The following are a few passages from one of his letters from Molokai, dated January 26, 1889. Therein are to be found the new and unexpected impressions which succeeded one another in his mind.

"This island is strange!... It is beautiful on account of its saints as on account of its valleys and mountains; but its volcanoes and mysterious abysses give it a terrible aspect! The air is mild and delightful and the sea, of a sapphire blue... The poor lepers seem to be singularly happy. Everything here is new and strange to me. I pictured this place to be somewhat like hell, and, in fact, it is so in many respects. Yet, I sometimes wonder if there are not pleasures here, which do not exist elsewhere. It is certain that the lepers would not like to be cured if they had to leave Molokai. Their sufferings are not always intense and their life is relatively easy; nevertheless, nothing is more horrible!...

"Father Damien is quite what I had imagined him to be — a man as easily loved as revered. He has not the slightest idea that he is a martyr



and a saint. Never before has such self-forgetfulness been seen! Happy, cheerful, affectionate and simple, he is a hard and skilful worker, a carpenter, an excellent mason, an organizer, a book-keeper!... He is, alas, deeply marked with leprosy; but it seems to me that the oil has already done him some good and that the swelling of his brow has diminished a little. He is suffering less from oppression during the night, so he says. God be praised!... But it is a remedy which the poor lepers will not easily consent to take. Father Damien is now assisted by two priests of his Order and three Sisters."

A few days later, he added the following lines to his letter:

"I am happy, because it seems to me that Father Damien is improving. Sunday, he was able to sing the Mass; he had not been able to do so for several months. He always seems really happy; yet we can scarcely imagine how hard this permanent contact with such a dreadful disease must be on the heart and nerves, besides, working untiringly, as he does, in every way!"

.....

The remarks that we shall quote further on were published by Mr. Clifford on his return. They add more than one interesting feature to this tableau and put into greater evidence the surprising simplicity which characterized Father Damien. For the relief of his lepers, he gratefully accepted the tokens of sympathy which came to him from so far; but, for himself, not only did he not desire them, but he would have even preferred not to have them. His letters never betrayed a personal sentiment. In one written to his mother in 1876, when his reputation was not yet as great as it afterwards became, we read this passage:

"Dearest Mother and Brothers, excuse me for not having answered your letters of May 10th. The cause of my delay is that every day I have been expecting a letter from Pamphile; but, also, because I was annoyed at finding my last letter to you inserted in the *Annals*. Once for all, let me tell you that I am not at all pleased with that. I wish to remain unknown to the world and, now, on account of these letters, I am spoken of everywhere, even in America..."

We well understand, however, that the mother of such a son should seek to console herself for his absence by speaking of him! Her other son, Pamphile, also shared this consolation with her. Deprived of the joy of serving God in the distant missions, as had been his ambition, and confined to the Monastery of Louvain, he followed with great interest his brother's apostolate and thanked Divine Providence for giving him such a substitute. Everybody in this family seemed to possess the same courageous self-forgetfulness. However, when the poor mother learnt that her heroic son had finally become affected with the horrible disease, which had so long spared him, her heart was broken and she died before he did. This was one of Father Damien's last trials here below, but also one more joy added to those which were awaiting him at his death!...

(To be continued.)

# 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.



Thanksgiving to St. Teresa for a cure obtained through her intercession. Mrs. L. H., **Montreal**. — I wish to thank the loving St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, who has obtained a favour for me. Mrs. Desjardins, **Verdun**. — Lively gratitude towards St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for the favours that I have received through her intercession. Mrs. T., **Richelieu**. — With lively gratitude, I acquit myself of my promise in honour of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, who has granted my prayers, in making me find an advantageous position.

Heartfelt thanks to my Heavenly benefactress. Miss A. J., **Notre Dame de Grace**. — Thanksgiving to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. Mrs. A. C., **Montreal**. — I thank St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, who has obtained a position for my son. Mrs. A. S., **Villeray**. — Thanksgiving to St. Teresa for a precious favour obtained. L. A. — I invoked St. Teresa for my husband, who was suffering with eczema on the face. He seems to be

on the path of recovery. Thanks to the dear Saint, whom I beg to obtain for me another grace. Mrs. H. B. — My most lively gratitude towards Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus, who has obtained for me the favour I so much desired. I am asking for another grace through her intercession. Mrs. R. G.,

**Guigues**. — Thanksgiving to the Patron of the Missionaries for a favour received. J. S., **Ville Emard**. — Thanks to St. Teresa of the Child

Jesus for a grace obtained. Mrs. F. R., **Springfield, Mass.** — Thanks to the Little Flower of Carmel for the favour she has obtained for me. M. N. T., **St. Jacques de Montcalm**. — Homage of gratitude towards the Little Flower of Carmel for a favour obtained. Mrs. C. L., **Worcester, Mass.**

— Lively gratitude to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a grace obtained through her intercession. Miss G. T., **St. Thomas de Joliette**. — I am sending an offering in honour of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for favour received. Mrs. J. L., **Indian Orchard, Mass.** — We wish to thank St. Teresa for a favour received. Please pray for our many necessities, spiritual and temporal. Mrs. T. J. B., **North Bay, Ont.** — I am offering a gift, as I have promised for a great favour I have received.

Mrs. E. T. T., **Holyoke, Mass.** — Heartfelt thanks to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a favour received. Please continue praying for us. Mrs. LeB., **Verdun**.

## 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	May-June 1937.....	\$ 48.10
November-December " .....	7.00	July-August " .....	29.75
Year 1936 .....	417.47	September-October " .....	18.00
January-February 1937.....	162.80	November-December " .....	31.86
March-April " .....	4.50	January-February 1938.....	64.10





CENTRE: SISTER MARIE DE LOYOLA (ORPHISE BOULAY, OF COATICOOK); TO THE RIGHT: SISTER MARIE DE L'ESPERANCE (AUREA VANNARD, OF MONTREAL); TO THE LEFT: SISTER MARIE DU ST. SACREMENT (ANNA BOURBEAU, OF ST. HYACINTHE).

BACK ROW: SISTER MARIE DE L'ANNONCIATION (ANNONCIADÉ STRASBOURG, OF CHENNEVILLE) AND SISTER ST. JEAN BAPTISTE (IRENE PELLAND, OF WEST GLOVER, VT.).

PUPILS OF THE EUROPEAN SCHOOL OF SHAMEEN, DIRECTED BY THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, CANTON, CHINA.





## Echoes from our Missions

### CHINA

*Extracts from letters written by the Missionary Sisters  
of the Immaculate Conception of Canton.*

*Canton, November 30, 1937.*

VERY DEAR MOTHER,

We mailed our last letter on the 30th of September, after giving you a few details of our life in the midst of the war. That same day, there was a great combat at Bocca Tigris; consequently, the Chinese mined the channel of the Pearl River. The boats that had come to Canton and those already stationed there were unable to move. The Europeans of Shameen are dismayed, for commerce is paralysed. We are told that they cannot procure the ordinary provisions and that the merchants are not renewing their stock.

After the first bombardment of August 31st, there was great confusion in Canton. During the first few days, 100,000 persons fled from the city, some for Hong Kong or Macao, others for the country; and the evacuation is going on continually.

Some of us were wondering what a bombardment could be like; we all know now! The most terrible shocks were felt at the Foundling-Home of Our Lady of Providence. Sister Superior<sup>(1)</sup> had gone up to the "knoll" to take care of Sister Marie de l'Annonciation<sup>(2)</sup> who had a violent fever. She had had a very bad night; neither of them had slept a minute. Towards morning, when they were about to rest a little, the siren suddenly announced the arrival of the Japanese. Immediately, Sister Superior hastened to have the patient removed from our earthen dwelling, which was apt to tumble down at the slightest shock, to the children's house, which, though not shell-proof, could at least stand the vibrations. Scarcely had they reached the ground floor, when the aeroplanes of the enemy arrived. For twenty minutes, there was a deafening uproar, caused by the Japanese bombs and the anti-aircraft cannons and machine-guns. Each time a bomb fell, it seemed as if the house were caving in and, instinctively, we crouched through fear. The surrounding hills and mountains, re-echoing the noise of the detonations, rendered more terrifying the combat which

1. Sister MARIE DE LOYOLA (Orphise Boulay, of Coaticook).

2. Annonciade STRASBOURG, of Chenneville, Que.

was taking place at a five minutes' walk from here. Finally, after an hour, the "all clear" siren announced that the Chinese had driven back the unwelcome visitors. We then thought of taking our breakfast; but, barely were we seated at the table, when another alarm interrupted us. The sirens screamed and mourned, as if to say: "Quick, seek safety." Between the explosion of two bombs, we again tried to take a bite; but these war-engines are not qualified for exciting the appetite. We could only think of praying. How many acts of contrition, resignation, and confidence in God's infinite goodness, have we not made during the past few months!... While awaiting the aeroplanes, we can easily recite our beads; but, when the detonations begin, three words only come to our lips: Jesus, Mary, Joseph. How fervently we repeat them, and how consoling they are in imminent danger! A second "all clear" signal relieved us, and, once more, we prepared to take breakfast, or rather dinner, for it was one o'clock; but our attempt was vain — a third bombardment immediately followed.

The evening brought a little respite; but, we were up every minute during the whole night, as the Japanese planes were continually discharging bombs. We were overcome with sleep and fatigue. We should have liked to rest a little; but, towards nine o'clock, there was another alarm and, at noon, a bombardment worse than all the preceding ones. They say that the idea of the Japanese in repeating their attacks is to demoralize the people. It is, indeed, enervating to hear the noise of the bombs, cannon-balls and machine-guns, the crash of the broken windows and the cracking of the buildings.

We have attached miraculous medals to all our doors and windows and we feel Our Heavenly Mother's protection.

In order to give you more complete details of our life, which is so disturbed by the actual events, we are enclosing our diary.

### **Sunday, October 3**

Sister Marie de la Miséricorde<sup>(1)</sup>, who had gone to Shek Lung, arrived very late this evening. As four Japanese planes were flying over the railroads, the train had gone back at full speed to take shelter in a wood. Perfect silence reigned among the eight hundred passengers who, without even awaiting orders, had gone down into the neighbouring rice-fields until the danger was over.

### **Friday, October 8**

The Japanese, so it seems, are now preparing extraordinary offensives. Their country reproaches them with not having fulfilled their promises of victory. In the beginning of the war, they had boasted that they would return in a week laden with laurels. It is October, and yet nothing has been accomplished but destruction and death. It is in answer to this reproach that the aggressors have resolved to distinguish themselves before the fifteenth of the month.

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



It is the third alert that we have had this afternoon. The clouds are a protection for our importunate visitors. We see them come out from behind these, throw their projectiles and slip back again before the Chinese have had time to reply.

The villages are suffering continually. Facts like the following are frequently related to us. A man who had left for his work in the morning, returned at night to find his home in ruins and all the members of his family buried under the débris! A whole family was suffocated in a dugout under a house that was destroyed by the bombs.

### **Tuesday, October 12**

It is 10.00 A.M. The sixty-sixth attack has just ended. Sunday and Monday the Japanese planes were only wheeling around high over Canton, but they have damaged the Canton-Hankow railway, also the villages and towns of the delta. We must be constantly on the alert while the planes are overhead, lest they drop their shells upon us.

### **Sunday, October 16**

Communication between Canton and Hong Kong has become difficult. Twenty-six Japanese aeroplanes dropped bombs weighing five hundred pounds each; four or five of these fell on the bridges and tracks, thus damaging the railway. The Shek Lung and Tungkoun bridges have been assailed.

### **Wednesday, October 20**

At 4.30 this morning, we were awakened by the noise of the planes passing over the city in their flight to Shek Lung... We pray for our dear Sisters and the poor lepers. The news brought to us recently by messengers from the Lazaretto, was not reassuring.

Sister Superior is going to the Island by water this afternoon. It is a safe way of travelling, but it requires very much time; however, she will succeed in arriving. She will take bed-clothes and winter dresses to the little orphans, because the cold has suddenly increased by ten degrees.

### **Friday, October 22**

Two large fleets of Japanese aeroplanes visited us to-day. The first was composed of twenty-five machines, at least, and the second, of seven or eight. They went northward throwing bombs outside the city.

The Japanese wish to interrupt all communication with Canton. If they deprive the city of its means of procuring necessities, what will become of it?

We hope peace will be restored before it is too late. Oh! we know that we shall not perish, for, we feel that God is protecting us. The number of babies and orphans is rapidly increasing, but the contents of the purse are constantly diminishing. May our dear benefactors hearken to the appeal of our little ones, to whom we can give rice but twice a day. The price of food has risen. Sugar, that was usually sold for seven cents, cannot be had for less than sixty! We cannot procure any butter, as the boats are not running between Hong Kong and Canton. As for the food, we





AT THE FOUNDLING-HOME IN CANTON, CHINA.  
A HUNDRED AND MORE ARE OUTSTRETCHING THEIR HANDS TO YOU  
IMPLORING YOUR PITY AND CHARITY.

shall not be hard to satisfy, nor will the children be; however, it is necessary to have some!...

### **Tuesday, November 2**

Sister Marie de la Miséricorde<sup>(1)</sup>, returning from Shek Lung, gives us news of the Lazaretto. Japanese raids have caused much damage almost everywhere in the neighbourhood, but our dear Sisters and lepers are still safe. A bomb fell in a flotage of logs that a swelling of waters had drifted to the river. The logs bounced a hundred feet in the air and fell with extraordinary force into the water. Just at the spot where the boat is usually moored, a bomb made a hole ten feet deep. Similar craters are to be seen almost everywhere along the river and railroad. Had the enemy passed two hours sooner, their bombs would have struck the boat which was conveying our Sisters. The projectiles, falling into the river, killed all the fishes. The boatmen are gathering them by thousands on the surface of the water.

Our little ones who are at the Lazaretto are becoming used to the visits of the Japanese. As long as the Sisters are with them, they are not afraid; but, nobody can become accustomed to the passing of the planes, which almost touch the buildings of the Lazaretto.

### **Monday, November 8**

Sister St. Barthélemy<sup>(2)</sup> and Sister Joseph de la Sainte Famille<sup>(3)</sup> have gone to Hong Kong by boat, to try to procure certain provisions

1. Berthe DUFRESNE, of St. Helene, Co. Bagot.

2. Maria LAMBERT, of St. Barthélemy, Co. Berthier.

3. Jeannette DELISLE, of Worcester, Mass.

which we are entirely lacking. We shall carefully spare what they will bring, for we do not know when another voyage will be possible. There is a great advantage, even now during the war, in going to Heng Kong for our provisions, because there exists a beautiful spirit of solidarity in this large English city, which is often called: "The Colony". Most of the merchants have announced that they will continue selling their merchandise at the ordinary prices, in order to help the population and the numerous refugees from Shanghai and elsewhere.

### **Thursday, November 18**

It is the hundredth attack. Shanghai has actually fallen into the hands of the enemy, after a heroic resistance of three whole months. Their next objective was Soochow, which is half-way between here and Nanking. During the past few days, more than seven hundred bombs have been thrown over that city, which is now a mass of ruins. Nanking and Canton remain. The former is alarmed; the citizens are fleeing from the place in crowds; the Government Officers alone remain. We must not deceive ourselves, it will soon be Canton's turn, unless things change. And after?... The Japanese have stratagems which assure their success: they settle peacefully everywhere, and when the time has come, they take advantage of their positions as centres of operation.



REVEREND FATHER LAN BAPTIZING TWELVE CHILDREN AND AN ADULT AT THE FOUNDLING-HOME OF OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE, DIRECTED BY THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, CANTON, CHINA.

We shall quote a passage of a letter received yesterday from a Helper of the Holy Souls. November 4. — The whole village of Zi-ka-wei is actually in a panic because the Japanese have approached. The evacuation of all these poor people is indescribable. The Mission compound is decorated with French flags, which the enemy has respected. We had feared a combat at the foot of our walls, but the protection of France having



thus been extended, the line of battle was removed farther away. We look upon this as a special grace of Divine Providence and we beg you to unite with us in thanking God".

The Chinese in the Zi-ka-wei mission are the only ones left in Shanghai. In a single day, sixty thousand persons from the city took refuge in the French Concession and as many others, in the International Settlement. A food shortage is dreaded. The City Council has taken over the monopoly of the rice and has designated fifty shops where it is to be sold. In order that the rich may not make provisions to the disadvantage of the poor, no more than one dollar's worth can be sold to each purchaser.

The grace of God, dear Mother, is sustaining us in the present trial; but we cannot dissimulate our anguish. Our confidence in God has not diminished, but the prospects are not reassuring. Alone, with her actual forces, China cannot withstand the invaders. In fact, what nation, even better equipped, could withstand air raids at a height ranging from ten to fourteen thousand feet? The only thing to be done would be to return the compliment to the aggressive nation; but China is not prepared for that. In recalling what was said above regarding the Japanese stratagems, it can be easily understood that China has all the disadvantage.

The Chinese Pastor of Our Lady of Providence left at the beginning of the war after removing the Blessed Sacrament from the church and



ON ACCOUNT OF THE WAR IN CHINA, THE ABANDONED BABIES ARE MORE NUMEROUS IN THE FOUNDLING HOME OF OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE. SISTER JOSEPH DE LA STE FAMILLE (JEANNETTE DELISLE, OF WORCESTER, MASS.) HASTENING TO RECEIVE THE NEW-COMERS.

convent. A young French missionary, displaying a Gallic courage, paid us a visit and exhorted us to trust in God; but, the Japanese having bombarded his village and machine-gunned quite near his church, the good missionary writes to us that he is leaving on "the trot", for he has had enough frights of all kinds. A European of Shameen told us that he was



terrified once, when the balls of a machine-gun of defense, at a height of eight hundred meters only, had fired at planes that were more than ten thousand feet high and the projectiles had fallen in front of his house... Nevertheless, at Shameen, it is rare that alarms need to be given, while here, the mournful screams of the sirens are heard on all sides. Besides, who would not shudder when bombs are flying overhead?

We have a very consoling fact to relate to you this evening. A young Chinese woman, sister of one of our pupils of the English course, was baptized this morning at Shameen. She came yesterday, saying: "I know



SISTER MARIE DE LOYOLA (ORPHISE BOULAY, OF COATICOOK)  
WITH SEVEN FIRST COMMUNICANTS OF THE FOUNDLING-  
HOME OF OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE, CANTON, CHINA.

the Catholic Doctrine, and I wish to be a Christian. On account of the war, I am greatly exposed to losing my soul; I cannot live in such a state any longer, I must be baptized!" She was conducted to Reverend Father Chatelain, who appointed the hour for the ceremony.

Scarcely had the new Christian been regenerated, when the air resounded with the noise of the sirens, which had not been heard for about ten days. Deeply impressed by the great action which had just taken place, it seemed to our neophyte that the voice of the sirens was that of death; her emotion was indescribable. It would, however, be preferable that Mary Jane live to be an apostle among her relatives. Her father, the son of a rich mandarin of the North, had an immense fortune. He had married at the age of fifteen; then, during trips in China and foreign lands, he married again repeatedly, so that he had thirty wives when he died — at the age of thirty-five. His death was sudden and tragical. One day, six years ago, several of his children, including Mary Jane, went to see him. At the end of the visit, they affectionately took leave of him; but they had scarcely left, when they saw the house cave in upon their unfortunate father. It was the penalty of his misconduct. The family is still rich, but the father's sudden disappearance has complicated his affairs. The wo-

men and children live comfortably, wondering if they still have millions to spend or if the subsidy received is not the last. Poor China, there is still much to be done to free her from her pagan customs!

### Wednesday, November 24

The Japanese are here again. Towards ten o'clock, the sirens shrieked more plaintively than ever, and it was not long before the air was vibrating with the rumbling of the planes. Our whole personnel hastened to the refuge zone, where people from the neighbourhood were also taking shelter. It was not a useless precaution, for bombs were dropped only three streets from here; but, deviated a little by the wind, nine of them fell on vacant lots or into the water. One exploded among passers-by, in a street of Honam, on the other side of the river, killing about two hundred persons, so we are told. These bombs had been aimed at the bridge of Honam — a steel bridge which cost over a million dollars and is not yet paid for. The destruction of the Canton-Kowloon station was also the enemy's objective. Thanks again to the wind, this point also was saved; but a factory was struck and houses were blown up and their inhabitants killed. The disaster was horrible!

From 3.20 to 4.25 this afternoon, the aggressors made repeated attacks. Each time, they were greeted by the machine-guns but they slyly hid behind the clouds. The droning of their machines could be heard but not a glimpse of them was to be had.



THE THREE OLDER PUPILS OF THE ORPHANAGE OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, CANTON, CHINA, WHO HAVE JUST RECEIVED THEIR PRIMARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA.

BESIDE THEM, SISTER MARIE DE LOYOLA (ORPHISE BOULAY, OF COATICOOK) SISTER ST. BARTHELEMY (MARIA LAMBERT, OF ST. BARTHELEMY).



**Sunday, November 28**

We are continually visited by the Japanese. During the last few days, they have greatly damaged the railroad of Canton-Kowloon and one of the bridges of Shek Lung. They arrived at 10.30 this morning. There was not a cloud in the bright blue sky. Although the noise of the planes allowed us to follow the direction of their flight we could not see one of them — they were flying at such a height, in order to keep beyond the range of the anti-aircraft cannons. They dropped bombs in the east and north. Clouds of smoke rose hundreds of feet high and spread out to the horizon. Where the bombs fell the noise must have been terrible, for here it sounded like thunder-claps. The aerial visitors seemed to be going towards the railroads which they are determined to destroy. They must have been quite numerous, judging by the noise they made.

**Tuesday, November 30**

The reports are more and more alarming. At Shanghai, the Japanese are becoming so audacious that the Europeans are extremely annoyed. They have announced that they are going to interrupt communication between Hong Kong and Canton and that they will then take the latter by bombardment. Canton is well fortified... there will certainly be resistance. Every day we commend ourselves unreservedly into God's hands. He knows better than we what the final result will be.

To-day, Thanksgiving Day in our Institute has been spent in presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We have much to be thankful for, Our Lord and His Blessed Mother do not cease to shower their favours upon the Community and particularly upon its humble members in distant China. We are so surrounded by the Divine protection that we are confident that no harm will befall us.

Begging you to remember us in your prayers, We remain

YOUR LOVING DAUGHTERS OF CANTON.

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

**Thursday, October 14, 1937**

The centenary of the troubles of 1837 finds this unhappy country again ravaged by war.

Towards two o'clock, this afternoon, we perceived three Japanese aeroplanes above the Lazaretto. Far from suspecting that our isle was to be the object of their visit, we went out on the veranda to see what direction they were going to take. All of a sudden, the bombs began to fall with a crash, shaking our building like a card-house. The machine-gun and Chinese cannons hastened to return the attack. The bombarding of the railway and bridges was the aggressors' objective and, although we are two miles and a half away from the spot, it seemed as if our convent were going to tumble down. We sought shelter beneath the trees; but the attack was



already finished, and the aeroplanes returned after missing their aim. The workmen immediately commenced to repair the track, which was somewhat damaged, and the trains continued running.

### **Friday, October 15**

Shek Lung has not, like other cities and towns, sirens to announce the approach of aeroplanes. We must depend upon our own ears to warn us; and sometimes, before we have had time to distinguish whether it is the noise of the train, the boats, or the aeroplanes that we hear, the latter are already overhead.

At 11.40 this morning, we scarcely had time to leave the house and seek shelter under the trees, when the bombarding commenced. The planes were flying so low and so near that they seemed to be throwing their projectiles on the Mission-Pastor's house and on the lepers' dwellings; but no, it was the bridges that they were attacking. We watched them fly very high in the air, dive down to drop a bomb, then rise again and return immediately to drop another one. Twenty-six of them carried on this work for half an hour. The machine-gun and Chinese cannons retorted vigorously; the cannon-balls discharged into the air exploded and the powder floated for a few minutes like clouds. Two of the enemy's planes were hurled down. One fell on the other side of the river, just in front of the island which was the former site of the Lazaretto; the other stranded in the direction of Toung Koon. In the first, there were three Japanese, one of whom is still living; the other two had their heads blown off in the explosion of the petroleum tank. The dead bodies were taken to the station of Shek Lung; the surviving one is attached to a post until he will be put with the other prisoners. There is a rumour in the city that, yesterday, while the Japanese were attacking the bridge, a man and a woman were seen hovering over the women's chapel, receiving the Japanese bombs and throwing them far away. At Canton, the pagans declared having also seen a lady protecting the Catholic Mission. During the attack made to-day, it is said that it was no longer a man and a woman, but a person with pierced



BRIDGE SITUATED OVER THE PEARL RIVER, NOT FAR FROM THE LAZARETTO OF SHEK LUNG, CHINA: THE DESTRUCTION OF WHICH WAS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE JAPANESE BOMBS.

hands, who was watching over the Mission. It is certain that the Sacred Heart will not fail to protect us, for we are all armed with His scapular. Moreover, besides the league of continual prayer that we have established among our lepers since the beginning of the war, we make a procession in honour of the Blessed Virgin, every Saturday, and another in honour of St. Joseph, every Sunday and Wednesday, to solicit their protection. We know, also, that prayers are rising from the four corners of the universe for this unfortunate country. Almighty God cannot, therefore, refuse us His assistance.

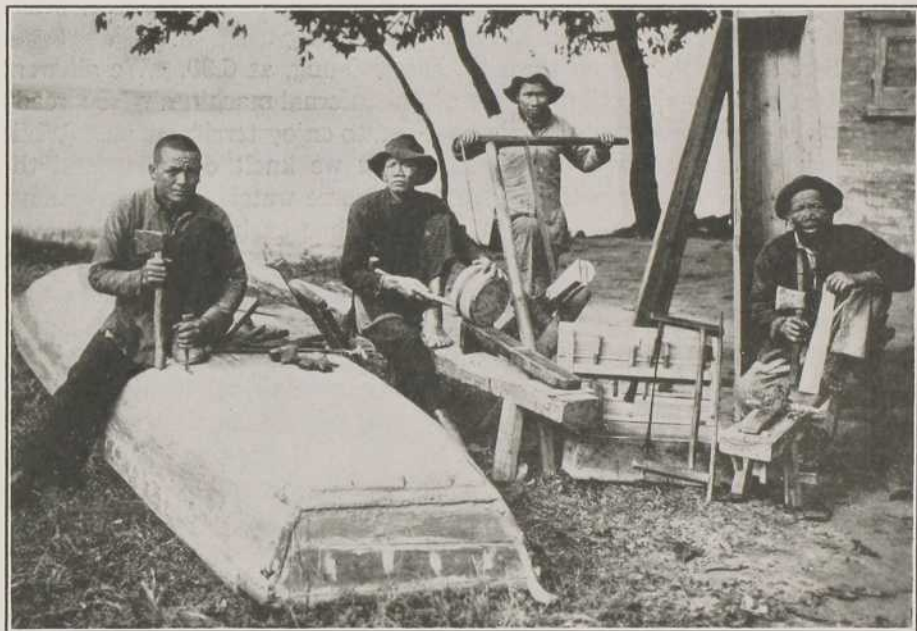
### **Tuesday, October 19**

Third attack towards 12.30 P.M. At all costs, the Japanese wish to destroy the railroad. As soon as the bombardment ceases, the Chinese courageously set themselves to repairing the damage caused, and the trains continue running. The sad part of it is that there are swarms of traitors in the country; the enemy even pays girls to burn Roman candles in order to indicate the coveted spots.

### **Wednesday, October 20**

It was but 4.45 A.M. when we were startled out of our sleep by the cataclysmic roar of three aeroplanes flaunting in the moonlight over our heads. As no place was safe, each of us, following the inspiration of the moment, took refuge there where she thought her life would be less in danger. Sister Claire de Jesus<sup>(1)</sup>, accompanied by some patients, sought shelter among the bamboos, whence she watched the planes in their flight. They

1. Exilda CORE, of Montreal.



LEPERS OF SHEK LUNG, CHINA, REPAIRING THEIR BOATS.



seemed, at times, to be coming straight down upon her. She quietly changed place; but, all of a sudden, a terrible crash shook the whole island. The three aeroplanes dropped seven bombs in the direction of the bridge and the railroad. Their task done, they returned to their quarters. The damage caused was insignificant, compared to what it had cost them. Most



POOR FACES RAVAGED BY LEPROSY.

of the enemy's bombs fell into the water and the others, in the trees, where they did not explode. Heaven is visibly protecting us.

Another attack put us on the alert this evening, at 6.30. We all went down into the passage on the first floor. The infernal machines were already flying slowly over our heads, as if they wished to enjoy terrifying us. While waiting for them to decide to do something, we knelt down around the table and stormed heaven with our prayers. Some watched the movements of the aeroplanes and notified us in an undertone each time a bomb fell, in order to spare us the shock caused by the crash. It is necessary to speak very low while the planes are in the neighbourhood, for it is said that they are all provided with a radio. After several inevitable starts, we began to be calm, for we felt that they had thrown all their projectiles and that we were spared once more. We heard them droning over our heads for a few moments—moments which seemed very long—then all was silent.

#### **Thursday, October 21**

It is the anniversary of our dear Sister St. Anne Marie's<sup>(1)</sup> death. We beg her to protect us in the present danger. Our requests will most probably be granted, for the unrelenting fury of the last few days seems to diminish. Two planes paid us a short visit and then left us in peace. On the other hand, we have received a contingent of lepers, fifteen women and sixty-nine

1. Annette GALLIPOLI, of Montreal.

men. A few weeks ago, the authorities of Canton asked Father Marsigny to receive these unfortunates and added that, otherwise, they would be shot.

### Saturday, October 23

The seventh attack was made between 10.45 and 11.10 this morning. The planes dropped all their bombs together, causing a terrible cracking in all the dwellings.

Our ice-boat, anchored quite near the Shek Lung bridge, was pierced in two places by splinters from the bombs. Luckily the two young lepers who were conducting it had time to hide in the bamboos. About a dozen cottages tumbled down.

### Thursday, October 28

We have registered the death of a second victim of fear. Mary, a little twelve-year-old girl that we adopted when her mother died, had a strong attack of fever, brought on by the fright which the bombardment of the 21st inst. had caused her. She died this evening, in spite of all the treatments and remedies that were given her. In her delirium, she continually spoke of the *fay quay*, (aeroplanes).

What has the future in store for us? God alone knows, but we place all our trust in Him. His Divine Providence will be ever there to assist us

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*Letter from Sister Marie de la Protection, Superior of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Suchow, to her Superior General.*

*Kingantsi, China, December, 1937*

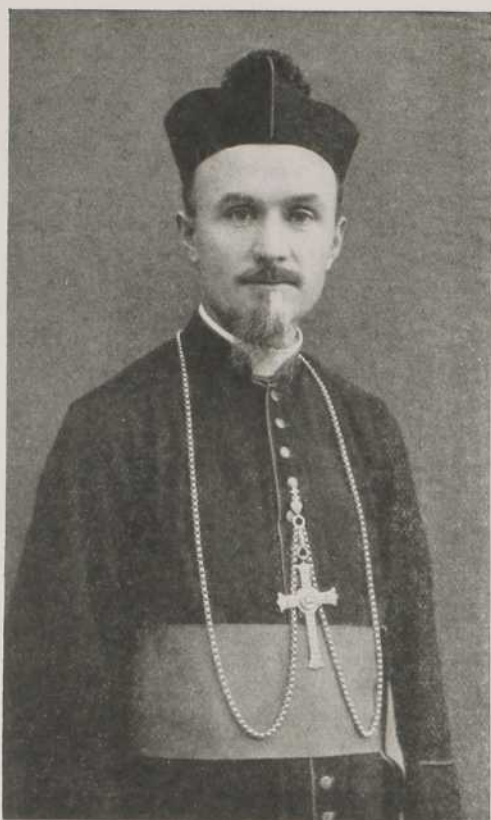
REVEREND AND DEAR MOTHER,

It is from our retreat of Kingantsi that we are sending you our New Year's wishes. We are here since the end of last September, as His Excellency thought that we would be safer in this little post than in Suchow.

Kingantsi is quite an important town situated at a distance of twenty-four miles from the city. In the midst of its sympathetic population, we can exercise our zeal while awaiting better days which will permit us to resume our Works in Suchow. The house which shelters us belongs to the Catholic Mission and serves as a residence for the Missionary priest who comes to visit the Christians, five or six times a year. There are three rooms, two of which have a wooden floor; but, in the third, we are on the bare ground. We use oil lamps.

We have confided the care of our house and furniture in the city to the Blessed Virgin. The soldiers were several times on the point of establishing their quarters therein, but they did not carry out their intention. Our Immaculate Mother is Mistress of our dwelling. It is decided that we shall spend the winter here, for nothing can be done at Suchow as long as war is waging. Every minute the alarm signals warn us of the danger but the planes only pass overhead and do not bombard.





HIS EXCELLENCY BISHOP PHILIPPE COTE, S. J.  
VICAR APOSTOLIC OF SUCHOW, CHINA.

I am sitting on a little stool and writing on a chair. This accommodation is in keeping with the rest. We are not to be pitied, however, since we are so happy in our entrenchment where reign peace and relative security.

Our Patronal Feast was the occasion of much joy. About sixty persons received Holy Communion during Mass, and it was consoling to see their childlike piety. We hope to have ten persons baptized at Christmas. The chapel, which is quite near the house, is also very poor. There is no floor and the only furniture consists of a tiny altar; a communion-railing in round wood, simply barked, with two large stones for the communicants to kneel on; and bundles of sorghum stalks for seats.

Since our arrival, His Excellency has kindly appointed a resident priest; consequently, Our Divine Lord dwells day and night in the tabernacle and we have Mass every morning.

We visit the surrounding village to attend the sick. An improvised dispensary affords us the opportunity of doing a little good. There is also a school for the catechumens.

The Sister Infirmarians notice that on the first Saturday of the month their work seems to be particularly blessed; there are greater numbers of patients, more frequent occasions of explaining the Christian Doctrine to pagans and baptizing dying people, etc. They attribute these graces to the guard of honour that is made at the Mother House; no doubt, they are right. Kindly continue to pray for our dear Missions!

We are all well and happier than ever in our present condition. This enables us to understand that happiness does not depend upon riches and abundance. In the fresh air and tranquillity of the country, we are recovering from the emotions that we had during the bombardment of Suchow. Whenever the bells warned us of the enemy's approach, we took refuge in the cellar, as we had been advised to do, and fervently repeated *Aves* and acts of confidence while the detonations of bombs and crackling of machine-guns were to be heard. I now understand better than ever that true peace is to be found in perfect resignation to God's Holy Will.

There is much good to be done among the people. They are so good and so simple even though they are pagans. They welcome us as they would members of their family and, when we are passing in the street, the women come out and offer us a cup of tea.

\* Renewing our best wishes for the New Year, dear Mother, we beg you to invoke Heavenly blessings upon us.

Your loving child,

Sister MARIE DE LA PROTECTION (1).

Report of the Dispensary of Suchow, from October 17, 1936 to June 30, 1937, inclusive:

Baptisms.....	33	Patients.....	3,409	Treatments.....	4,251
Dressings.....	1,113	Teeth extracted..	21	Homes visited....	174
Consultations.....	925	Injections.....	370	Vaccinations.....	8

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*Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters in Tsungming*

**Thursday, August 5**

A servant informed the Portress that the boat which had left for Shanghai last Tuesday, conveying Sister Superior and Sister Marie de Jésus had been unable to make the voyage and had been wrecked quite near the quay of Tsungming. Immediately, we sent a man to Paochen to inquire into the matter. After a few hours which seemed very long to us, he returned with the good news that no person had been drowned, although the boat had sunk not very far from the Tsungming quay.

Our Sisters arrived towards three o'clock after a series of incidents that they will certainly never forget. The boat-officers had undertaken the voyage; but, apprehending the danger after half an hour's navigation, they returned towards the city, being unable to moor at Paochen on account of a violent wind. Consequently, our dear Sisters were obliged to remain on the boat, which was continually rocked by the hurricane. Towards eight o'clock in the evening, they decided to draw out a little from the quay; but they soon regretted it because, owing to the storm, the sailors could not succeed in casting anchor. Needless to say, the boat was tossed furiously and was, more than once, on the point of foundering. The night was most distressing. Finally, towards four o'clock in the morning, an officer notified the crew that the boat was about to perish. Going out on the deck, our Sisters noticed that they were about twenty feet from the shore. Without losing a minute, they put on the life-belts which were offered them and went to the lower deck. A plank and a rope were thrown from the boat to the shore in order to help the passengers and the crew to cross the sinister passage.

Invoking the blessed Virgin, our Sisters proceeded safely to the shore on the plank, which was not very solid on account of the wind. It was

1. Cécile ROBERGE, of Quebec.



pouring rain, and they had to walk over an hour in the water and mud before reaching shelter. The Virgins of the church of Tsunming kindly welcomed them and gave them the most cordial hospitality for a day and a half; then, the weather permitting, they returned to the convent.

### **Friday, August 13**

Venders of melons who had left early for Shanghai were forced by the Japanese to turn back. All traffic with this city is interrupted. About 9.00 A.M., we heard a cannon-shot and, towards three o'clock this afternoon, a cannonade warned us that the war had begun.

### **Sunday, August 15**

The glorious Feast of the Assumption has not been very joyful at Tsungming and Shanghai. A heavy rain accompanied by wind continued during the whole day while the detonations of cannons from Shanghai were dreadful. How many souls only twenty miles away from here are entering into eternity, and so tragically! We do not cease to implore Our Immaculate Mother, Queen of Peace.

### **Saturday, August 21**

If we are suffering on account of the war, we are also cheered by consoling facts. On the Feast of the Assumption, Sieang, a good old woman, eighty-one years old, not resigned to being deprived of hearing Mass and receiving Communion, went to church notwithstanding the bad weather and remained there, nearly all day, in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and the Immaculate Virgin. Returning home in the evening, she fell ill, and to-day, she expired.

### **Wednesday, August 25**

While the Sister Infirmarian was treating patients at the Dispensary of Paochen, a native virgin called her attention to what was taking place in the street. A crowd of people fleeing towards the north were disputing rickshaws and wheelbarrows. It was a real panic!... Three Japanese ships are moored in the port; but, the quays having been destroyed, the soldiers cannot easily penetrate into the Island. By way of precaution, the keepers of the Dispensary went to Kong Sou for the night. This date will be a memorable one in our history. Following His Excellency Bishop Tsu's advice, we each prepared a small satchel with the articles that would be necessary, if we were obliged to flee at any moment. A Chinese priest suggested that the French flag be hoisted upon our buildings in hopes that it might protect us from the attacks of the planes, which, like the sword of Damocles, are suspended over our heads and seem ready at any instant to drop the terrible bomb which will cast us into eternity. We stayed up all night, but uselessly, for everything was calm. The beautiful moon in the starry firmament was most charming to see. The three-coloured flag seemed to be proud of the honour which it was enjoying. It waved nobly, seeming to say: "Fear not, there is no danger; in company with the Cross and the Virgin's mantle, I am happy to protect you." When

the bell rang the *Benedicamus Domino*, we answered, "*Deo Gratias*" with an accent of profound gratitude. Thanks, O Lord, for having preserved us during the night which we dreaded so much!

#### **Thursday, August 26**

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed upon the altar for three days at the native novitiate in order to obtain peace between the nations engaged in war. As the Japanese boats are only five miles away from the Dispensary of Paochen and there are eight hundred Chinese soldiers near the quay, we have interrupted our visits to the sick in that district.

#### **Friday, September 24**

The Sister Infirmarian of Paochen heard that a poor man in the neighbouring town was dying. She went there immediately with a virgin; but, to her great disappointment, he had just expired. As his body was still warm, she baptized him on condition, imploring the all-merciful Virgin to save his soul. His relatives informed us that he and five companions having left Shanghai in a skiff, were met by the Japanese, who questioned them and threatened to behead two of them. They preferred drowning themselves in the sea to having their heads cut off. The above-mentioned young man, who was suffering from dysentery, was very much frightened; however, the Japanese did not do him any harm. He arrived last night and died this morning. What miseries we have witnessed since the beginning of the war!... Let us hope that God will have pity on so many unfortunate people and soon grant us peace.

#### **Tuesday, October 12**

"What is the matter, this morning?" asked the Sister in charge of the children, on entering the Orphanage. "It is nine o'clock and the sweeping is not yet begun." Instead of answering this question, Ya Sieu said: "Momo, will you come right away and show me how to make a button-hole?" "Come," replied Sister to the child, who was delighted to have prevented Sister from seeing the preparations which were being made for her feast.

At the Orphanage, there are thirty-nine little girls varying in ages from three to thirteen years. Most of them are very skillful and have an excellent appetite which enables them to relish several bowls of rice every day. While contemplating these dear little ones, we are touched by the misery of some and charmed by the intelligence and cleverness of others. Gnon Sie, a poor idiot, sits in the same corner from the first of January to the 31st of December. As she is scarcely able to walk, once settled down, she does not disturb herself again. Rescued by the Sister Infirmarian, one evening in July, she was brought to us, crippled by the ill-treatment which she had received in her home. The slightest noise made her tremble with fear, for she thought that somebody was coming to take her away. Since she has been baptized, she asks us several times during the day when it will be time to go to church.

Our poor children were very much frightened while the Japanese boats were at Tsungming for the cannonade during the night of August 31st.



Ya Sieu remarked, a few days later, "You know, I did not sleep a minute; if you had gone away, I would have followed you." On opening their bundles, we noticed that each of them had slipped in her little statue of the Blessed Virgin. "With that, there was no danger," exclaimed Tse Lai.

Quite like the children in Canada, our little ones quarrel from time to time; but they are not less fond of each other for that. If you could only see the smallest ones when they go to make the guard of honour to the



SISTER MARIE BERNARD (EMMA VANASSE, OF ST. GUILLAUME D'UPTON) SUPERIOR IN TSUNGMING, CHINA, WITH A GROUP OF CHILDREN DRESSED IN THE COSTUMES THAT WERE MADE BY OUR DEVOTED BENEFACTRESSES OF CANADA.

Blessed Virgin! They make the genuflection backwards and the Sign of the Cross with the left hand; then they recite the Hail Mary on the crucifix, with angelic fervour... One of them was complaining that she did not know how to pray. Her companion said to her; "*Momo*, said that it is the heart that counts in all that we do. Tell God that you love Him, and the war will stop..."

The boy's Orphanage is noisy... Za Heu is five years old, although he looks like a child of seven, he is so tall and strong. "When I shall be big," said he, "I shall be a priest." His favourite pastime is to play Mass with his companions. He is very observant and talks little. Zen Faong is only four years old. He is tall and nervous, with flashing eyes. "I," declared he to Za Heu, "I shall be a bishop. I shall make priests to convert all the pagans. I shall have red clothes like Bishop Tsu." Yeu Tching is six years old. When he was brought to us, he was a one-year-old baby, full of health. He was soon adopted by a well-to-do family; but, after some time, he was brought back because he was a cripple. A victim of opium or something similar, he had a very strange illness which endangered

his life. After continual treatments, he recovered his strength and is now preparing to make his First Communion.

In the Foundling-Home are to be found treasures not less precious to an apostolic heart. 1,495 little ones came this year to take refuge there, and the majority of them received their passport for the kingdom of the angels. Nevertheless, how many of them could have been confided to nurses, if we had had the necessary funds!... But, despite our efforts to save their lives, they died after two or three months.

### **Monday, October 25**

While visiting a sick person in Paochen, we were invited to go to the place where the refugees from the war-stricken cities of Shanghai and Hou Song are sheltered. How wretched is this floorless hovel where, instead of beds, branches have been spread on the ground and covered with straw to serve both as mattresses and pillows. The greater number of these poor people were quite well-off until the war despoiled them of their homes, belongings and, in some cases, of one or two members of the family. Suffering is plainly written on their pale, gaunt faces. If, at least, they were Christians; but no, all are pagans and are suffering without consolation or merit. We are praying fervently for the cessation of hostilities.

Report of the Dispensary of Tsungming, from July to October, 1937, inclusive:

Baptisms of children....	71	Baptisms of adults....	25
Patients.....	2,071	Treatments.....	2,864
Homes visited.....	228	Teeth extracted.....	37
		Injections.....	39

Report of the Dispensary of Paochen, from July to October 1937, inclusive:

Baptisms of children....	93	Baptisms of adults....	38
Patients.....	3,093	Treatments.....	8,198
Homes visited.....	365	Teeth extracted.....	19
		Injections.....	180

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## **MANCHUKUO**

*Extracts from letters of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Szepingkai.*

VERY DEAR SISTERS,

It is with pleasure that we come to have a chat with you about our dear Mission in Szepingkai, as we know that you are always interested in what happens here.

Sunday, September 12, Msgr. Larochelle, Prefect Apostolic of Lin Tong, wore his episcopal vestments for the first time and officiated pontifically in the Cathedral. Never before in the Diocese of Szepingkai had so much pomp been displayed in a religious ceremony. To the harmonious sound of the brass band, escorted by a great number of priests, brothers and seminarians, the new Prefect Apostolic, in company with His Excellency





MSGR. EDGAR LAROCHELLE, P. M. E.

WHO HAS BEEN NAMED PREFECT APOSTOLIC OF LINTONG, MANCHUKUO, ON THE 15TH OF LAST JULY BY THE SACRED CONGREGATION OF THE PROPAGANDA.

Bishop Lapierre, entered the church, which was filled to capacity. The Mass was sung with great solemnity. Was it not just to express in such a way our gratitude towards the Divine Master for this signal grace granted to Manchukuo; and should not all glory be returned to the Supreme Being?

As usual, there was an explosion of fireworks; no feast is complete without that, and the Chinese spare nothing to assure its success.

In the afternoon, Msgr. Larochelle, accompanied by His Excellency Bishop Lapierre, paid us a visit. We kissed his ring and offered him our best wishes for health and prosperity. They then proceeded to the Native Novitiate, where the novices and the pupils of the Apostolic School executed, in honour of the new dignitary of Lin Tong, a nice play which, though simple, was very appropriate. Our joy to-day was in-

creased by another incident: the presence of all the members of the Lieou family at the High Mass. These are wealthy Chinese of the neighbourhood whom we have been treating for over two years but who, until now, seemed to be quite indifferent towards our Holy Religion. The four generations of this patriarchal family have their dwellings in the same courtyard, and belong to the Wan tchee hoei religion, which admits only rich people. By including the word Wan (thousand), the founder intended to indicate that, sooner or later, all the religions of the world would be united to his... a thousand or more of them would be submitted to it. The Lieous would have considered themselves humiliated in embracing a Religion which admits the poor as well as the rich; consequently, every allusion to Catholicity was evaded.

Although the Dispensary service seemed to be appreciated, the serious illness of one of the girls who was suffering from tuberculosis was kept a secret. Having heard of it in the month of June, we elicited an invitation from the family. The most cordial welcome was given to the visiting Sisters; but, as soon as they manifested the desire to see the girl, many pretexts were given in opposition to their request. They, therefore, returned to the Convent without seeing her. Towards eight o'clock, that same evening, one of the Mrs. Lieous came in haste, saying that the sick girl



MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN SZEPINGKAI, MANCHUKUO. SITTING, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: SISTER SAINTE JEANNE DE CHANTAL (JEANNE CARON, OF MONTREAL); SISTER ST. GERARD (ANNA ROBERGE, OF GRANBY); SISTER JULIENNE DU ST. SACREMENT, SUPERIOR (BEATRICE LAREAU, OF CHAMBLY); SISTER DU ST. CŒUR DE MARIE (AGNES LAVALLE, OF WINNIPEG, MANITOBA); SISTER MARIE DE LA CHARITE (CORINNE BOURASSA, OF ST. BARNABE NORD, ST. MAURICE CO.) STANDING: SISTER ST. EDMOND (IRMA DE LADURANTAYE, OF CAP ST. IGNACE, MONTMAGNY CO.); SISTER JOSEPH ARTHUR (LAURA THERIEN, OF ST. LEONARD D'ASTON); SISTER MARIE CELINE (REGINA BELIVEAU, OF ST. PAUL DE CHESTER, ARTHABASKA CO.); SISTER MARIE EMMANUEL (BERTHE CREVIER, OF STE ANNE DE BELLEVUE); SISTER MARIE DU PERPETUAL SECOURS (FLORINE MORIN, OF MONTREAL); SISTER MARIE ESTHER (ALICE BUTEAU, OF ST. EVARISTE, FRONTENAC CO.); SISTER EUSTELLE DE L'EUCARISTIE (EUSTELLE SAMSON, OF LAUZON, LEVIS CO.)



SISTER JULIENNE DU SAINT SACREMENT (BEATRICE LAREAU, OF CHAMBLY), SISTER SAINTE JEANNE DE CHANTAL (JEANNE CARON, OF MONTREAL), MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, AND THE PERSONNEL OF THE NATIVE NOVITIATE OF OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY, SZEPINGKAI, MANCHUKUO.



requested the Sisters. Though it is not our custom to go out at night, this being an extraordinary case, they complied with the desire of this girl, who was terrified by the thought of death. They profited by the occasion to exhort her to be baptized. She answered that she did not understand anything about it; but she accepted the crucifix, which she kissed several times and consented to repeat some short prayers, such as: "O my God, I love Thee, and I know that Thou lovest me, etc." The other members of the family also recited aloud these invocations. Then, as it was becoming late, the Sisters returned to the Convent, grieved by the thought of not having won this soul to the Catholic Faith. Early the next morning, they were again called to the patient, who had not ceased asking for them during the whole night. "She is unconscious and no longer recognizes anyone", were they told on entering the house. Sister Marie Esther<sup>(1)</sup> approached her bedside. The dying girl opened her eyes and smiled sweetly at her. All the persons present remarked it and said to one another: "See how pleased she seems to be." She was no longer able to utter a word. As the miraculous medal had been removed and pinned to one of the satin gowns prepared for the burial, Sister demanded it and replaced it on the dying girl's neck. A moment later, she breathed her last. Clad with rich garments, her corpse was immediately brought to the crematorium to be burnt, and the ashes were buried without further ceremony. It was a girl, we must not forget, and, having died of tuberculosis, she was to be considered as possessing neither merit nor virtue and, consequently, unworthy of attention.

We asked Mrs. Lieou, who returned to us the crucifix which we had left in her daughter's hands, if the child had never manifested the desire to embrace the Catholic Faith. "One day," answered the mother, "she asked her father if, in becoming a Christian, she would not violate her vow to Buddha. Her father explained the matter to her and she adhered to his counsels."

Shortly afterwards, as we were visiting a new building of the Lieous, we had the happiness of hearing another version. It seems that the night preceding her death, the tuberculous girl had requested Baptism; but no one approved of our being notified of it. This is the solution of the enigma of her confidence in us; of her desire to die in presence of a religious who, naturally, should have annoyed her by speaking to her, as Sister always did, of a religion which she did not accept; and, finally, of her sweet smile, in her last moments, for the Sister Infirmarian exclusively. It is to be hoped that Baptism of desire has put her in possession of eternal happiness; and that, there, in heaven, she will take a holy vengeance on her people by obtaining for them the grace to become children of Our Holy Mother the Church.

May we not consider as a first sign of this holy vengeance, their assistance at the Pontifical Mass, that of the business men and students, especially, although we suppose them to have been induced more by curiosity than by devotion. Can their fanaticism and human respect have dimin-

1. Alice BUTEAU, of St. Evariste, Frontenac Co.



SISTER MARIE ESTHER (ALICE BUTEAU, OF ST. EVARISTE, FRONTENAC CO.) AND A VIRGIN OF OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY WITH THE PERSONNEL OF THE APOSTOLIC SCHOOL OF SZEPINGKAI, MANCHUKUO. THESE GIRLS ARE ASPIRANTS FOR THE NATIVE NOVITIATE AND RECEIVE A FORMATION IN CONFORMITY WITH THEIR FUTURE LIFE.



SISTER MARIE DU PERPETUAL SECOURS (FLORINE MORIN, OF MONTREAL) AND THE TWO NATIVE VIRGINS OF OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY DEVOTED TO THE CARE OF THE INMATES OF THE OLD PEOPLE'S HOME, SZEPINGKAI, MANCHUKUO. THE DEAR OLD WOMEN, NEATLY CLAD, CHEERED BY THE CONSOLATIONS OF OUR HOLY FAITH, TERMINATE THEIR LONG LIFE OF SUFFERING IN HAPPY TRANQUILLITY.



ished? Will the scales fall, at last, from their eyes and let them be opened to the light. So many prayers and sacrifices are offered every day for this intention!...

Another event of the season was the Final Profession Ceremony of our dear Sister Marthe de Jésus, which was presided over by His Excellency Bishop Lapierre, on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin.

We have all kinds of cases at the Dispensary. A poor woman, blind of her right eye, came to us one day. Like all Chinese, she had an unlimited confidence in injections for any disease whatever. As her eye was aching, she immediately ventured to perform the operation, using a darning needle by way of surgical instrument, and... she pierced her eye. The unfortunate woman was just as much astonished by the fact that we were unable to cure her, as she had been in not being able to see after having thrust the needle in the iris of her eye.

Certain patients are artful. One of them, living quite near the Mission, seems to have made the vow to come every day. His daily refrain is: "Taifu, to-day, give me medicine for two days, because I shall not be able to come to-morrow." The next day at the same hour, he again appears, repeating the same refrain and requests another box for his ointment, declaring that he has lost the preceding one. What does he do with the extra portion?... No doubt, he sells it... His Excellency, whose charity is never vanquished, having sometimes witnessed the man's importunity, said to us: "Let him think that we believe him."

A mother, altogether too provident, was less fortunate. After the Sister Infirmarian had rubbed ointment on her little girl's sore hands, the good woman, wishing to bring some of the salve home, thought she had a good plan to have some given to her. "My little girl's body is covered with similar sores," said she, "but it is too much trouble for the *doctor* to treat each one. Give me some of that medicine and I shall apply it myself, at home." The little girl, who was not aware of her mother's intention, quickly exclaimed: "But no, mamma, I have some only on my hands." In return for this ingenuous avowal which made the mother lose face, she received a good slap and the order to keep quiet.

This man was more simple. After having dressed his ulcerated hands, Sister told him to bring a little box, so that she might give him some ointment. The next day, he arrived with a five pound pail, saying: "It is the smallest one that I have."

Another one who had come to have an injection given to his little boy, touched with compassion on seeing the series of accidents which preceded the operation: ampullas broken, Infirmarian's apron stained with medicine, syringe broken to pieces by an unexpected jerk of the patient, etc., said: "Doctor, it is my child's fault if you have had so many mishaps. It is but just that you should take a little holiday. Come to the circus to-night. I am going to sing there, and I shall get you a free ticket."

A rich lady made us a still more generous offer. Her husband owns, so it seems, the most splendid theatre of the city. "If my daughter is cured," said she to Sister Marie Emmanuel, "come to the theatre with all



SISTER ST. JEANNE DE CHANTAL (JEANNE CARON, OF MONTREAL), MISSIONARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, SZEPINGKAI, MANCHUKUO, WITH NATIVE NOVICES AND PROFESSED SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY. SHE IS EXCITING THEIR ARDOUR AND GAYETY DURING THEIR WORK AS DURING RECREATION.



SISTER SAINTE JEANNE DE CHANTAL (JEANNE CARON, OF MONTREAL) AND SISTER MARIE EMMANUEL (BERTHE CREVIER, OF SAINTE ANNE DE BELLEVUE) MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, SZEPINGKAI, MANCHUKUO, PRESIDING AT THE RECREATION OF THE NATIVE VIRGINS OF OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY.



the *doctors* of the Mission as often as you wish, and you will always have free admission."

These good people do not know that a circus or a theatre is nothing compared to the reward which is promised to us.

A good old woman of the Home died recently in a most edifying manner. Having hurt her hand, she went to see a Chinese doctor, who treated the sore with a medicament which aggravated it and caused it to become gangrenous. Flesh-flies were soon attracted to the affected limb, which was in such a repulsive condition. Sister Joseph Arthur<sup>(1)</sup>, who assisted the poor woman in her last moments, witnessed her many acts of patience and resignation and had the happiness of seeing the Baptismal Waters flow over her brow wrinkled by age and suffering.

On his way to the city, two weeks ago, a professor of the Mission was attracted by the sound of cries and moans. He thought, at first, that it was some kind of a quarrel; then, he decided to enter to see what was the matter and bring help if possible. Crossing the threshold, he found himself before a mother preparing to go and throw away her dying child. The members of the family were lamenting loudly, as it is the custom on such occasions. In order not to arouse suspicion, he suggested that the *doctor* of the Mission be called. "She possesses wonderful remedies capable of preserving your child's life. I am going for her; she will be here in a minute." The professor returned a few minutes later with the Sister Infirmarian. It was high time, for the baby was on the point of expiring. The *wonderful medicine* was poured upon its brow, purifying its soul for everlasting life.

A few days later, a dying man was brought to the Dispensary lying on a mattress. As he had but a short time to live, the catechist instructed him briefly in the truths of our Holy Religion; then, the Regenerating Waters made him a child of the Church and he expired shortly afterwards.

While the body of the deceased was being conveyed to his dwelling, we met a funeral procession leaving a house situated opposite the mission and going to the pagoda for the Buddhistic rites. Instinctively, we made the following reflection: "Why has one, coming from so far, received the grace of Baptism, while the other has died a pagan at a few steps from the Catholic Mission?" It is the secret of Him Whose mercy and wisdom are incomprehensible.

Inside the Girls' Boarding-School yard, near the entrance gate, a triangular block of cement was erected, last spring. Ever since, teachers and pupils who pass, either alone or in groups, must stop, step up on the block and make a profound reverence to the Emperor of Manchukuo. We cannot become accustomed to seeing this pagan practice; because, to honour a human being residing miles away from here, the Chinese turn their backs to the King of kings, dwelling there quite near, in His prison of love.

The arrival of our new missionaries, Sister St. Jeanne de Valois<sup>(2)</sup> and Sister St. Pierre Julien<sup>(3)</sup>, on October 6th, was a real feast for us. They themselves were overjoyed at having reached, at last, the land of their

1. Laura THERIEN, of St. Léonard d'Aston.

2. Agathe DION, of Three Rivers.

3. Jeannette TREMBLAY, of St. Fulgence, Chicoutimi Co.

dreams. How describe our joy on receiving the messages that our companions have brought to us from our distant and ever-beloved country. For many days, Outremont and Pont Viau were the only subjects of our conversations. We have there so many dear ones about whom we are never tired of hearing.

To the joy of seeing our family increasing was added that of extending hospitality for a few days to the Antonian Sisters of Mary who were on their



SISTER MARIE EMMANUEL (BERTHE CREVIER, OF SAINTE ANNE DE BELLEVUE) AND SISTER EUSTELLE DE L'ECHARISTIE (EUSTELLE SAMSON, OF LAUZON, LEVIS CO.) RELIEVING THE SUFFERERS AT THE DISPENSARY, SZE-PINGKAI, MANCHUKUO.

way to Lin Si Sien. After too short a stop here, they resumed their journey, making this last part of it in company with Msgr. Larochelle, two Missionary Priests and two Chinese girls.

The joy of arrivals was succeeded by the sadness of a departure, that of Bishop Lapierre for Canada. On Sunday, October 16th, after officiating at a Pontifical Mass, His Excellency came to pay us a short visit, during which he offered to convey our messages to our loved ones. Monday the 18th, assisted by Reverend Fathers Roberge and Crevier, he gave us solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Then, alternating with the priests in the choir, he recited the itinerary prayers. On their return to the residence, His Excellency and Reverend Father Turcotte, who is accompanying him on his voyage, took leave of their companions. The former offered them his ring to kiss and gave them each a special blessing. Then, with fatherly solicitude, he greeted them in his customary way: "Courage!" All hearts were filled with emotion and all eyes dimmed with tears.

His Excellency deigned to come and give us also his ring to kiss, repeating once again: "Good-bye, good-bye, Sisters. Do not forget to pray for me."



He then took his place in a carriage, with the Reverend Fathers Roberge and Masse, Superior and Procurator of the Mission, who were accompanying him to the station; and he blessed, as he passed, the pupils and Christians, lined up along the Mission wall.

Leaving you, dear Sisters, we renew the expression of our affection and invite you to come and join us, for "the harvest is great and the labourers are few..."

YOUR LOVING SISTERS OF SZEPINGKAI.

\*  
\* \*

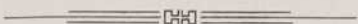
*Report of the Montreal Chinese Hospital*  
1937

Baptisms.....	16	First Communions.....	4
Confirmation.....	1	Extreme Unctions.....	5
Patients admitted.....	100	Days spent in the Hospital.....	1,769
Deaths.....	7	Operations.....	14
Electric Treatments.....	394	Injections.....	2,057
Dressings.....	837	Prescriptions filled.....	1,412
X-Rays.....	23	Homes and Hospitals visited....	144
Patients received at the Dispensary.....			1,571



I would enlighten the world, travelling in every land, preaching Thy name, O my Beloved, and raising the standard of Thy Cross in every heaven place. One mission would not suffice. I would spread the Gospel everywhere, even to the farthest parts of the earth, and I would work thus, not for a few years only, but from the beginning to the end of time.

— *St. Teresa of the Child Jesus.*



## 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

# Extracts FROM THE Novitiate Chronicles

*Dedicated to our dear Parents*



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

*St. Bernard.*

## Monday, November 8, 1937

Assembled in the lecture hall and listening with interest to Reverend Father Chaumont's explanation of the attributes of God, we do not pay attention to the sound of the door-bell or to the voices speaking in the corridor, but we are soon attracted by a certain movement in the rear of the hall and discreet exclamations of surprise: "Bishop Lapierre! Bishop Lapierre!"

Turning around, we behold His Excellency, the Vicar Apostolic of Szeping kai, whom we all know for having seen his photograph many times and for having heard of him.

Reverend Father Chaumont introduces this zealous apostle of the Far East to us and invites him to speak.

Resuming the instruction that his arrival has just interrupted, His Excellency exhorts us to spare nothing in acquiring as perfect a knowledge of God as possible, for we can not give what we have not; and, if we wish to make Him known to souls, we must, first of all, know Him well ourselves.

His thrilling words of esteem and love for the Foreign Missions make us appreciate more than ever our sublime vocation.

When, after giving us a paternal blessing, His Excellency is about to withdraw, we have the pleasure of hearing Father Chaumont speak of... a holiday. The suggestion is quickly approved, and we become beneficiaries of an episcopal holiday. However, according to His Excellency's desire, we shall not take it until the sun will have chased away the ugly clouds that have darkened the sky for the past few days.

Passing through our ranks, our distinguished Visitor recognizes some of the professed Sisters and recalls memories of the past. He speaks to us of our Sisters in Manchukuo and reassures us as to the situation of our other missionaries who are in those parts of China now ravaged by the war.

His Excellency leaves us after having assisted at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

## Thursday, November 11

"Thursday, if it is fine," had said His Excellency Bishop Lapierre, in suggesting the date of the given holiday. Now, as Thursday was to fall on the 11th, Feast of St. Martin, we had good hopes of having the fine weather desired. In reality, although St. Martin's or Indian Summer is somewhat cool for chilly people, it is none the less radiant with sunshine.



A particular circumstance makes us greatly appreciate this holiday: yesterday, our dear Mistress finished her retreat, which had lasted eight long days during which we had been deprived of her presence at recreation. We joyously group around her as children would around their mother returning after an absence, too long for their loving hearts.

**Sunday, November 21. — Presentation of the Blessed Virgin. Patronal Feast of the Novices.**

This beautiful day has passed like a flash, filling us with joy.

Yesterday evening, in the little concert which is the usual prelude to this Feast, the postulants represented the life of Bega, a little Irish saint, who, at the cost of many sacrifices, obtained the happiness of becoming the spouse of Jesus. We have learnt from her example never to shrink from any act of self-denial in order to be faithful to the Divine Call.

There was also a comedy, in which, owing to a blunder, the cook of a boarding-school for young ladies was placed in charge of a class, while the teacher, to her great perplexity, found herself in the presence of pots and pans.

Needless to say, the entertainment, rendered more charming by music and singing, was very pleasant.

To-day, we were the object of the special attention of our professed Sisters and postulants. They replaced us in our offices, and we had the enviable privilege of making the guard of honour before the Blessed Sacrament exposed and our little Patron and Model, the Child Mary in the Temple.

How dear to us are our ecclesiastical and community feasts! Really, we are tempted to say with St. Teresa of the Child Jesus that, inasmuch as the religious life reveals to us the mysteries hidden in each of them, these days here below become heavenly.

**Friday, December 3**

This morning, we could have imagined ourselves in mission lands for the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis Xavier.

The sanctuary of our chapel, which is usually so carefully adorned for the different festivals of the Church, is, since yesterday, destitute of the main altar, which was its ornament and which has been removed to our new Mother House. The one which is to replace it will arrive in a few days; meanwhile, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered on one of the side altars which has just been erected and has yet had only a thin coat of gray paint.

As St. Joseph has not yet taken possession of this throne which is reserved to him, we have placed thereon the picture of the Patron of Missionaries and have bedecked it necessarily very modestly.

We strive, by our fervour, to compensate for the poverty of the decoration which, however, must be pleasing to our holy Protector inasmuch as it recalls to him his zealous efforts to erect altars for Our Eucharistic Lord, wherever he went.

**Wednesday, December 8**

While we were endeavouring, by a pious triduum, to prepare our hearts for the Feast of our Immaculate Mother, Almighty God was clothing all nature with a mantle of dazzling whiteness in her honour. The sight of the snow sparkling in the sunshine helps us to meditate on her incomparable purity.

It is with joy, this morning, that we find the chapel in festival attire. Such is quite natural; and yet we are greatly surprised for, late in the afternoon, yesterday, as the workmen were still there putting the altars in place, there was nothing to indicate that it was the eve of a great feast. After supper, however, the Sisters who have charge of the chapel gave it quite another appearance. It was nothing extraordinary, but it revealed a tender love for the best of Mothers.

The main altar, though unfinished — there being the lower part only — is surrounded with lilies and palms, and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered upon it for the first time.

Repeatedly during the day, we joyfully sing the praises of the Immaculate Virgin. We rejoice with her and confide our desires to her.

This beautiful feast, which has been spent in glorifying our Immaculate Mother, is brought to a close by a Marian entertainment, during which the postulants play: "One of the Virgin's Victories" — a double miracle of conversion and preservation wrought by the ever loving and merciful heart of Mary in favour of two of her children in peril.

**Saturday, December 11**

The workmen have finished setting up the three altars. We have now to paint and embellish them.

At a quarter past five, this evening, Reverend Father Chaumont blesses them and removes the Blessed Sacrament from the sacristy to St. Joseph's altar.

Our Chapel has seemed so void and cold for the last ten days, that we appreciate still more the Divine Presence of Our Lord and the privilege of assisting at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament every evening.

**Saturday, December 25**

Just a few minutes more and it will be Christmas. Already, the melodious voices of our older Sisters invite us to celebrate the Birth of our sweet Saviour as, of old, the angels called the shepherds to the stable of Bethlehem. As we enter the chapel and perceive in the crib, the Divine Child with His arms lovingly extended towards us, our hearts are filled with purest joys, similar to those experienced on this beautiful Festival, during our childhood.

Yesterday, Our Eucharistic Lord became the Guest of our new main altar, where the Holy Sacrifice is celebrated to-night and will henceforth be offered daily.

After Mass, we go to the refectory, where the customary silence and the solemnity of this blessed night add a particular charm to the *reveillon*.



This morning our hearts are all bubbling over with merriment at the sight of the beautiful Christmas tree, which decks the Novitiate Hall. The opening of the surprise-boxes which are distributed to us and the reception of letters and gifts coming from our dear parents are the source of great pleasure for us. May the enjoyment that we find therein be a pledge of our progress in the path of spiritual childhood traced out for us by the Little Flower, our Patron.

### **Tuesday, December 28**

On the Feast of the Holy Innocents, we assist at moving pictures of the Vicariate of Haimen, China, given to us by Reverend Father C. L. Meeus, a priest of Bishop Tsu's diocese who filmed these interesting scenes. He explains them to us, according as they appear on the screen.

We see His Excellency Bishop Tsu, his episcopal city, the principal mission centres of his diocese, the Catholic activities of this district and a few scenes of the present war in Shanghai.

A visit to Tsungming is particularly pleasing to us, for it is the mission field of some of our Sisters. They appear to us in the midst of their orphans and native religious.

Such visits to mission countries are often afforded to us in one way or another. The day after Christmas, we spent our recreation reading the diary of the priests of the Foreign Mission Society who left for the Philippine Islands in September; and we are counting on the pleasure of soon visiting all the mission centres where some of our elder Sisters are stationed, for their New Year's letters are daily piling up on Sister Superior's desk.

### **Saturday, January 1, 1938**

A festive charm pervades the air; but a tone of solemn and sacred feeling blends with our exhilaration and suggests to us a thousand serious reflections: the flight of time, the infinite value of these fleeting moments, the uncertainty of the future, etc... However, as we consider them but in the light of the infinite Goodness and Providence of our Heavenly Father, these thoughts do not alter our joy and serenity.

Moreover, kneeling in adoration before our Sacramental Lord, have we not consecrated to Him the whole of this new year, ardently begging Him to bless every day of it, so that not one hour may be profaned and not one moment lost.

After Mass, this morning, Reverend Father Lacroix, P. M. E., gives us his blessing and wishes us abundant and choicest graces; he also distributes pious leaflets.

As soon as it is possible for us to assemble after breakfast, Sister Superior reads to us Reverend Mother's letter, which expresses her special solicitude for her daughters in China, who are exposed to so many dangers and fatigues on account of the war. What enjoyment have they during this festive season which abounds in such sweet joys for us? We frequently think of them and, in response to our dear Mother's request, we earnestly beseech

our Blessed Lady to protect them and to shower upon them her most precious favours.

After admiring the gifts which accompany this letter: Annals of the Mother House, a spiritual book, candies, calendars and pictures, we exchange greetings — and how cordial they are!

The postulants have stopped our Mistress on her way to the Novitiate hall and... there we are orphans... for New Year's evening! We really cannot be resigned to our fate. Our younger Sisters have prepared a surprise for her — it is very nice of them, indeed; but we also have presents for her, so we decide to go and claim our rights. After repeated entreaties, we succeed in winning our cause and return with her to the Novitiate hall.

The packages destined to her are piled under the Christmas tree. She opens them, to the great enjoyment of all. Several of the gifts which they contain are quite modest. Each Sister desirous of giving her share, had visited her trunk and belongings. After all, it is the intention that counts, and ours is replete with gratitude and filial affection.

### Sunday, January 2

We welcome the professed Sisters of the Mother House who have come to visit their younger sisters here. It has been decided that the entertainment prepared for the Feast of the Epiphany will take place this evening in their honour.

On entering the hall at the given hour, we are struck by the appearance of the scenery which gives us an idea of what the program is going to be. It certainly will not be something insignificant. The prognostics are to be justified and even surpassed, for it is Racine's tragedy, "Esther" which will be played.

The parts are acted naturally and simply and the choruses thrill us with fear, hope and joy alternately. The whole play is a success, and we are most grateful to Sister Superior for having given us the pleasure of assisting at it.

### Saturday, January 8

At three o'clock, we assemble in the hall to receive His Excellency Bishop Lapierre. Reverend Father Chaumont who accompanies him expresses to him our New Year's wishes.

His Excellency speaks to us, exhorting us to praise God. He urges us to make of our whole life a perpetual act of praise offered to the Creator in compensation for the homage which is refused Him by so many of His creatures, especially in pagan lands. Is not true happiness to be found in such a life of unselfishness and abnegation for God's glory?

He then speaks of Manchukuo and China, of the wretched condition and extreme poverty to which the people of these countries are reduced by the wars and by the incursions of bandits, who pillage everything on their way. "I do not think," says he, "that there is at present, in the



world, another nation suffering so much as the Chinese." On the other hand, he sees in these afflictions a pledge of spiritual life for them.

The best missionary organization that has ever existed in the Church is to be found in China. Will not this organization, the result of so much apostolic labour, be compromised by the present war whose issue is so uncertain? In this case, there is only one attitude to take — absolute confidence in God, Who has at heart His children's happiness and Who never fails to draw good from evil.

These few remarks are far from giving a perfect idea of the interesting talk, which has so captivated our attention that we do not notice the flight of time.

His Excellency glances at the clock and finishes in two words. He gives us his blessing and grants us in honour of the three Wise Kings, three lovely holidays, which are greeted with joyous applauses.

### **Monday, January 10**

We are privileged, for to-day another prelate of the Church honours us with his visit, His Excellency Bishop Prud'homme residing at the Foreign Mission Seminary.

His Excellency's wishes are imbued with the spirit of the great festivals that we have just celebrated: Christmas, the Epiphany and the Feast of the Holy Family.

The mysteries of these solemnities are eloquently presented to us in a striking tableau, in which we can admire the examples given to us by Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

"If you wish to be happy," says His Excellency, "practise the virtues disclosed in these Feasts — the virtues of Nazareth, love and humility, especially."

After giving us his blessing and according us a nice holiday which he forbids us to postpone, His Excellency goes to the chapel, where he assists at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

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I worship Thee sweet Will of God! and all Thy ways adore,  
And every day I live I seem to love Thee more and more.  
When obstacles and trials seem like prison-walls to be,  
I do the little I can do, and leave the rest to Thee.  
I have no cares, O blessed Will! For all my cares are Thine;  
I live in triumph, Lord! for Thou hast made Thy triumphs mine.

*F.W. Faber.*

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We are children extremely dear to Mary, because we cost her so much suffering. Those children are much dearer to a mother whose lives she has preserved. We are those children, for whom, that we may have the life of grace, Mary suffered the pain of sacrificing the dear life of her Jesus, submitting for our sake to see Him die before her eyes in cruel torments.

*St. Liguori.*



## *The Children's Page*

DEAR CHILDREN,

You need not tell me that you are longing to know what has become of the Pink Pearl whose story I began to relate in my last chat. Your sparkling eyes tell me how eager you are.

I shall not keep you waiting too long. However, before resuming the graceful legend, let me say a few words about... about... Guess...

About St. Joseph?

Just so! You very well know how devoted I am to this great Saint and what a pleasure it is for me to praise his prerogatives and bounties, during the month which is consecrated to him. Yes, indeed, we are never weary of speaking about those whom we love or of hearing others speak about them. He experienced this, who said: "Love has but one word in which to express itself, and while it is ever saying this one word it never repeats."

Some children imagine that devotion to St. Joseph is for grown-up people only. Such, however, is not the case. Children, too, should love this Saint very dearly for he is fond of them, as he was while still on earth.

See him planing, chiselling, joining wood, etc., in his humble workshop in the Orient. The door and windows are open, for Joseph likes the sunshine and the gentle breeze, the beauties of nature and the sweet-scented flowers which Mary cultivates for Jesus' pleasure. In meditation or vocal prayer, he loves to raise his eyes towards the azure vault and contemplate the marvels of the Blessed Abode which his lively faith reveals to him beyond these fathomless depths. After Jesus and Mary, Heaven is the only object of his affection, and his mind is constantly occupied with the thought of the One or the other.

Children who often pass by his workshop, talking and laughing, perceive this venerable old man busy at his work. They are attracted by his smiling and recollected look and the expression of heavenly kindness which illumines his countenance. Quietly approaching, they pause on the door-step, without fear of being sent away, and gaze at the noble carpenter intent upon his work. They do not say a word, for he is praying.

His meditation finished, Joseph smiles at the curious little ones. "Come, children," he says, "come and see Jesus." If the loving Child is not nearby gathering chips, He is with His Mother. Joseph goes to seek Him and.





*"Come, dear Children" said he,  
"come and see Jesus."*

bringing Him tenderly in his arms, places Him in the midst of the young visitors. "Oh! how lovely He is! How lovely He is!" they exclaim; but hush! He is going to speak... He does speak and, while His Divine Lips utter words of grace, while His candid Eyes reflect heavenly light upon them, and while His tiny Hand is raised to bless them, their hearts are all aglow.

By this simple act, dear Children, St. Joseph was accomplishing his sublime mission of keeping and protecting Jesus and giving Him to the world. Now that He is in Heaven, do you think that his task is finished? Not at all; he is continuing to accomplish it on earth and will continue doing so until the end of the world, for Jesus is still here below and will remain here throughout all time. Jesus is here below, really present in the Tabernacle. He is also in the Mystical Body of the Church, of which He is the Head; and He is in each one

of us, its members. St. Joseph, therefore, will continue to keep, protect and show Jesus to the world throughout all ages. Is he not almost always represented with Jesus in his arms?

Go, then, to St. Joseph full of confidence and affection. Not only will he receive you with kindness and grant your requests, but he will, moreover, bring you to the loving Son of Mary. He will say to you, as he used to say to the little children of the Orient: "Come, dear children, come and see Jesus," and there, near Jesus, you will be transported with delight, you will become better while listening to His Divine teachings, and your hearts will be inflamed with His love.

Now that your Great Friend has confided to you what is so dear to his heart, he will continue the story which you are all so eager to hear.

### THE LEGEND OF THE PINK PEARL

*(Continued.)*

Many years had gone by. Melchior Sadi's rich palace with its imposing marble porticoes, still dominated the entrance to the beautiful city of Ca-

riathsame. Its doors were kept constantly open, for the princess Azuba, did not wish the poor and unfortunate to have to knock and wait. Her heart was as widely open as was her dwelling. She was highly respected in her solitude, which had become more than ever endeared to her by the remembrance of a sweet vision. The Star was constantly before her mind.

One day, when offered a rich and noble alliance, she simply answered, "I belong to the Son of Mary."

In the most private of her apartments, she had reserved a room to which her faithful Zareda alone had access. In that room with its white marble parvis, where beautiful clusters of roses and lilies bloomed in all seasons, there was nothing to be seen, nothing but one name engraved on the wall in cuneiform writing: JESUS!

It was there that Azuba spent all the time that she did not devote to the poor. It was there that she recalled... and awaited. She was no longer to be seen in sumptuous attire and dazzling jewels; one only ornament adorned her neck: a string of pure white pearls, to which was attached an exquisite pink one.

But, if the roseate tint of her cheeks was formerly richer than the delicate pink of that precious jewel, the whiteness of her brow and the pallor of her complexion now resembled the magnificent lilies that bloom and wither in the alleys of the garden.

Azuba's life seemed to be held only by a thread; it was like a gentle flame that a sudden breeze might extinguish or like a sweet melody dying away in the distance.

Melchior Sadi was no longer there. Messenger of the Star, he had left his beloved child and rich palaces to direct his steps towards the idolatrous lands of Persia and India.

When he informed Azuba of his intended voyage and its object, the princess raised her eyes towards Heaven and simply answered, "Let us follow the Star!"

Life was entirely changed for this father and child. The people but slightly noticed it and did not understand. The precious secret was not to be revealed until the moment when God would manifest the power of His Name.

Melchior was travelling over distant regions announcing to men of good will that the Kingdom of God was at hand.

For the thirty-third time since the journey to Bethlehem, spring had clothed the fertile plain of Cariathsame with new charms. The increasing paleness of Azuba's face seemed to intensify the lustre of her black eyes.

"Zareda," she said, "we must leave. I am longing to see the Son of Mary once again; I can no longer live so far away from Him."

Her faithful servant had the most elegant Arabian steeds harnessed to a light chariot. Driven by a skilful negro slave and seemingly conscious of their mistress' anxious desire, the fiery coursers glided over the space. Azuba scarcely left them the necessary time to rest. The hills of Moab could soon be seen on the horizon and the towers and cupolas of Jerusalem appeared in the distance.



At noon, the sun suddenly disappeared, the sky became overcast and the whole earth was in obscurity. Terrified, the wild beasts fled to their dens.

Azuba was breathless. "More quickly! More quickly!" said she to the slave, who, with shouts and gestures, excited the animals to greater speed. "O lovely Star of Bethlehem, where art thou? This darkness, the fear which has come over me, the horror which this beautiful city causes me, what does it all mean?"

At full speed, the chariot passed through the gates of Jerusalem where all was rumour and confusion. Necessarily, the beasts' pace had to be slackened.

Zaredda grasped a few words that were said in the crowd which surrounded them. "It is a Jew," she told her mistress, "a prophet, some say, that the priests of the nation have just crucified on Golgotha."

Azuba fell back on the cushions of her chariot, as if dead. "To Golgotha, quickly," she gasped.

It was difficult for them to proceed on account of the crowds that were coming down from the place of execution. The nearer they came, the greater seemed to be the consternation of those whom they met. Some were striking their breasts, women were crying; but the Sanhedrists and the rabbis still had a scornful grin on their sardonic lips and a treacherous look in their savage eyes.

"Shall we arrive?" asked the princess in anguish. "Ah! I felt it in my heart. They have put Him to death, Him, Jesus!"

The chariot stopped at a short distance from the place of execution where the tragic forms of three crosses stood out against the dark and threatening sky.

Upon one, Azuba perceived a halo of heavenly light. To this Cross was attached a Body divinely beautiful which was disfigured by a thousand bleeding wounds and whose sorrowful Head was crowned with thorns. The heart of the princess throbbed; she had recognized Him!... Frantic, she sprang forth from the chariot and took a few steps, supported by Zaredda.

All of a sudden, a loud cry was heard. It seemed as if the Crucified, from His gibbet, was announcing to the world His immortal triumph over death.

Uttering a groan of anguish, Azuba made a supreme effort and attained the summit of Calvary where she fell at the foot of the Cross, like a wounded dove regaining its shelter after its last flight.

A profound silence followed the last cry of the Divine Martyr, while everyone fled in terror. Standing near the solitary Cross remained only His Mother, overwhelmed with grief, a few women weeping and one disciple.

On the ground lay Azuba, the Princess of the Orient.

.....

The blood still trickling from the wounds of the Redeemer bathed the ungrateful land of Jerusalem and fell also upon the brow of the dying princess.

Approaching Azuba who was apparently unconscious, Zareda and the slave lifted her and removed her to a short distance. In vain did the faithful servant strive to bring life into the eyes of Melchior Sadi's daughter and reanimate her motionless body.

Crimsoned with the Divine Blood, the beautiful lily of Cariathsame was to bloom no more upon earth.

To her great amazement, Zareda noticed that the precious pearl of Azuba's necklace had changed its delicate tint for the colour of blood and seemed like a brilliant ruby. Scarcely did she touch it when it broke and fell to dust.

So, also, Princess Azuba's heart, that heart which she had kept pure and faithful to the Divine Child of Bethlehem, was consumed with love and grief at the foot of the Cross.

(The end.)

## Thanksgivings to the Blessed Virgin for favours obtained



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

BL. HENRY SUZO.

I am happy to acquit myself of my promise for I have obtained the favour I was asking. Mrs. R. B., **Montreal**. — Enclosed, please find my renewal subscription in thanksgiving for a favour received. — Some time ago, I requested a novena for my intentions. I wish to thank God, the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph for my request has been granted. Please publish my thanksgiving and pray for the success of other intentions. Mrs. R. Farrell, **Kirkland Lake, Ont.** — Heartfelt thanks. Mrs. E. T., **Cleveland, Ohio**. — Grateful thanks to our Heavenly Mother for a favour obtained. Please continue praying for my intentions. Mrs. L. D., **North Malden, Ont.** — Enclosed, please find offering that I promised to send if I obtained a favour. L. L., **Indian Orchard, Mass.** — Enclosed, please find my renewal subscription to THE PRECURSOR as promised in thanksgiving for favours received through the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin. Mrs. W. A. K., **Brunswick, Me.** — I am sending my renewal subscription to THE PRECURSOR. I have obtained a special favour through the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin. Mrs. W. Corriveau, **Zurich, Ont.** — I wish to express my most heartfelt gratitude to the Blessed Virgin for the graces she has granted us. — Kindly accept my donation in thanksgiving for a favour received. A Friend, **Leomington, Ont.** — My most heartfelt gratitude towards the Blessed Virgin for a favour received. U. C., **Parisville**. — Our Heavenly Mother has granted me a successful operation and another favour. A thousand thanks. Mrs. R. R., **Montreal**. — In thanking the Blessed Virgin with my whole heart, I am acquitting myself of my promise. Miss R. S., **West Springfield, Mass.** — Thanksgiving for success in our affairs. Mrs. J. C. — I succeeded in finding a good position, please help me to thank the Blessed Virgin. M. R. A. — Lively gratitude for favour obtained. Miss R. A. R., **Willimansett, Mass.** — My most heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin who has partly granted my request. Mrs. A. Raymond, **St. Hubert**. — I am acquitting myself of my promise in honour of the Immaculate Virgin who has hearkened to my prayers. C. L., **Montreal**. — I wish to thank our Heavenly Mother who has obtained a great favour for me. Mrs. F. S., **Lowell, Mass.** — My eyes are much better since I made the novena to Our Lady of Lourdes. A thousand thanks to the Blessed Virgin. Miss M., **St. Jean**. — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin. Miss M. B., **Manchester, N. Y.** — My most heartfelt thanks to the Immaculate Virgin for the favours I have received in the



course of the year. I beg this Heavenly Mother to grant me other graces. O. R., **Montreal**. — Homage of gratitude for favour obtained. Mrs. P. R., **Lowell, Mass.** — I am fulfilling the promise that I made in thanksgiving for a grace with which I have been favoured. Mrs. L. D., **Granby**. — Grateful thanks to the Blessed Virgin for a favour obtained. Mrs. A. B., **Drummondville**. — Lively gratitude for work obtained. Mrs. S. G., **Worcester, Mass.** — My most heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin; my niece has found a position. Mrs. A. D., **La Minerve**. — Thanksgiving for a favour received. Mrs. H. E., **Vaudreuil**. — Cordial thanks to our Heavenly Mother for a favour obtained through her intercession. Mrs. J. A. M., **Bourget, Ont.** — Thanksgiving for graces received. Kindly pray for my husband who is out of work. Mrs. E. E., **Southbridge, Mass.** — Please forward this donation to the Chinese mission in thanksgiving for favour obtained. R. St. J., **Pittsfield, Mass.** — Enclosed find money order in thanksgiving for the help received through the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin. Please continue to pray for our intentions. A Friend, **North Bay**. — Please find enclosed ransom price for four dying babies. I thank our dear Mother for her intercession. One of my sons has found a position. I should like you to make another novena for a special favour. Mrs. D. L., **Westmount**. — We wish to thank the Blessed Virgin for all the graces she has granted us during the year. Kindly pray for the cure of my sore arm if it is God's Holy Will. Mr. and Mrs. C. L., **Southbridge, Mass.** — My most heartfelt gratitude to the Blessed Virgin for favour obtained. Mrs. A. L. F., **Wales, Ont.** — My husband and I are still wearing our miraculous medals. My health has improved a little but I could still be a lot better, and my husband feels that his favor has been granted in a small measure. Please pray that our requests may be fully granted. Mrs. L. M., **Worcester, Mass.** — I have obtained the grace I was asking, I wish to thank the Blessed Virgin and I should like you to pray for another favour. Miss Y. R., **Pawtucket, R. I.** — Our most heartfelt gratitude to the Blessed Virgin for success in an undertaking. H. B., **Riviere-Canard**. — Thanksgiving for a successful operation. Miss Christine Brunet, **Montreal**. — I am happy to acquit myself of my promise in publishing my thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for the cure of my two little girls. Mrs. W. Létourneau, **Quebec**. — Grateful thanks to our Heavenly Mother for a favour received. Anonymous. — Lively gratitude for a favour received. Miss A. S., **Notre Dame de Grace**. — I thank the Blessed Virgin with my whole heart for a favour received. Mrs. P. L., **Saint Antoine**. — I wish to thank the Blessed Virgin for a favour received and I beg her to grant me another one. A subscriber, R. R., **Montreal**. — Sincere thanks for favour received. Anonymous, **Beauceville**. — Kindly help me to thank the Immaculate Virgin for a favour that I have received through her intercession. Mrs. M., **Montreal**. — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a favour received. Mrs. V. M., **Outremont**. — Two years ago, I was suffering from a cancer and my case was said to be hopeless. After invoking Our Lady of the Holy Rosary with confidence, I followed a treatment which has had the most wonderful results. I am now cured and beg you to thank our Blessed Lady with me. Mrs. G. Plante, **Evain**. — Most heartfelt thanks to our Heavenly Mother for her protection. Mrs. O. P., **West Glover, Vt.** — Grateful thanks to the Blessed Virgin for a temporal favour obtained. Mrs. J. Kavanagh, **Montreal**. — Lively gratitude towards the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. O. P., **Montreal**. — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a position obtained. R. G. — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a favour obtained through her intercession. Mrs. D. L., **Cap de la Madeleine**. — Our Heavenly Mother has obtained a great favour for me. I thank her with my whole heart. Mrs. L. R. C. — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a favour received after promise to publish. Mrs. G. H. Blanchet. — My most heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin for a favour received through her intercession. Mrs. R. Robitaille, **Montreal**. — I thank the Blessed Virgin from the bottom of my heart for a favour received. Mrs. A. H., **Montreal**. — My requests have been partly granted. I wish to thank the Blessed Virgin and I beg her to continue assisting me. Mrs. B., **Montreal**. — Lively gratitude for favour obtained. R. B., **Verdun**. — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a favour obtained after promising to publish it. Mrs. G. B., **Montreal**. — Gratitude for a favour obtained. M. D. L. — Kindly thank the Blessed Virgin with me for her motherly protection. I also request her help for my two sick children. Mrs. C. E. M., **Limoilou**. — Thanksgiving for favour received. M. A. Larose, **Holyoke, Mass.** — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin, who has hearkened to my prayers. Mrs. G. G., **Montreal**. — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for favours received. I beg for other favours. Mrs. L., **St. Lambert**. — I am acquitting myself of my promise in honour of the Immaculate Virgin, who has granted my requests. A. D., **St. Hyacinthe**. — Lively gratitude for favour received. Mrs. E. L., **Brunswick, Me.** — My father has found work. He thanks the Blessed Virgin with his whole heart and acquits himself of the promise that he had made. M. D. L., **Brunswick, Me.** — Sincere thanks for favour obtained. Miss N. B., **Manchester, N. H.** — I am happy to tell you that our Heavenly Mother has granted my request. A thousand thanks! C. B., **Ville St. Michel**. — The Immaculate Virgin has granted me the favour I desired and I am pleased to fulfill my promise. Mrs. A. B., **Drummondville**. — I thank the Blessed Virgin for the grace that she has obtained for me and I beg her to continue protecting me. Mrs. O. D. — Thanksgiving for the sale of a wagon. Mrs. A. B. — My requests have been granted. Kindly publish my gratitude to the Blessed Virgin. P. E. R., **Montreal**. — Enclosed, please find ransom price of dying Chinese babies in thanksgiving for favours received, especially through the intercession of St. Jude. Miss K. M., **Vancouver, B. C.**

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

## Petitions

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

Please pray that I may find a position, for I have been without work for nine weeks. Mrs. G. E., **Warren, R. I.** — Please pray for my family. Mrs. Wm. B., **Windsor, Ont.** — Kindly pray for my husband that his leg may heal up again, for it worries me very much. Mrs. J. D. B., **Wallaceburg, Ont.** — Will you please pray for a special intention, and if granted, I shall send a donation. Mrs. L. P., **Springfield, Mass.** — I wish that you would pray for my husband, that he may obtain steady work. Mrs. E. F., **So. Brewer, Maine.** — Again I appeal to you for a special novena for a very special intention. I am trusting and hoping that the help I am seeking will be granted. Miss H. McD. — I am enclosing my renewal subscription to THE PRECURSOR, begging you to make a Novena to Our Blessed Lady that my husband may obtain a position at "Day Work". Mary C., **Montreal.** — Please pray for a very special intention. Mrs. J. J. M., **Windsor, Ont.** — Kindly make a Novena for my wife, who is ill. I would also like you to make a separate Novena for something very important to my life, both now and future. Mr. J. W. M., **Worcester, Mass.** — Will you please make a Novena for my little girl who is a cripple that she may be able to use her hand, also that I may be cured of eczema on my ears. Mrs. J. G., **So. Brewer, Me.** — Kindly pray for the following requests: health for myself, work for my oldest boy, a position for my husband, where he will not have to work on Sundays, and the favour that my girl may keep her position. Mrs. M. C., **Verdun.** — Enclosed find offering for two Votive Lights to be burnt in honour of the Blessed Virgin for two special favours. Mr. M. J. B., **Pineville, N. B.** — Kindly have a special intention in your prayers for a person very dear to me. I should like you to pray for two other temporal favours. Miss A. K., **Island Pond, Vt.** — Please pray for my children that they may obtain steady work and that I may have better health. Mrs. W. F., **So. Brewer, Me.** — Please pray for me. Miss Y. T., **Portland, Me.** — Please pray that we may meet our payments and, also, that the Auditors may find our books in good order. Mrs. H. McM., **Kippen, Ont.** — Kindly pray that I may get a position. Miss M. S., **Outremont.** — Please pray that our Blessed Mother may keep me in good health. Mrs. W. R., **Douglas-town, Gaspé.** — Please make a Novena for me to our Blessed Lady, that I may receive financial help to pay some long-standing debts. Thinking of them makes me greatly worried. Mrs. H. S., **Verdun.** — Kindly ask the Blessed Virgin to intercede for me, so that I may sell some property and that my health may improve. Mrs. M. C., **Verdun.** — Will you please make a Novena at once for a very special intention. C. O'C., **Montreal.** — Please make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin, that I may be restored to health. G. D., **Riverside, Ont.** — I wish you would make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin for my intentions. If my request is granted, I shall send you a donation. L. D. G., **Springfield, Mass.** — Will you please make a Novena to our Blessed Lady for my two special intentions. Mrs. E. J. A., **Montreal.** — I beg Our Lady of Perpetual Help to obtain a very special favour for me. Mr. R. J. C., **Windsor, Ont.** — Please continue praying for the spiritual and temporal welfare of our family and particularly for a very special intention. Miss K. D., **Belle River, Ont.** — I have been praying for years for two special favours and now I am writing to ask you if you will please pray to Our Lady for them. I am enclosing a small offering and I promise another if my petitions are granted. Mrs. MCP., **England.** — Kindly say a prayer for me that I may get news of a dear friend I am longing to hear from. Miss M. H., **Johnstone, Scotland.** — Find enclosed offering for a Novena of lights to burn at the Blessed Virgin's Shrine for my mother, that she may be cured from the pains and noise in her head. Mr. A. M., **Bathurst, N. B.** — Will you please make a Novena to our Immaculate Mother for me, that I may obtain two special favours soon. Mrs. McD., **Greenfield, Ont.** — Please make a Novena to our Immaculate Mother, that I may obtain a permanent position. I also wish for another special favour. Mr. G. H. B., **Montreal.** — Kindly remember me in your prayers for a very special favour. I promise to renew my subscription as long as I live. Miss A. H., **Westmount.** — May I beg you to make a Novena to our Blessed Mother for my husband, that he may become busy at work, for we are in urgent need of work. A Subscriber, **Montreal.** — I am begging your prayers, that God will preserve my sight without an operation. Miss M. C., **Holyoke, Mass.** — Kindly pray for a friend of mine, that she may be able to finish her course. She has still next year to complete and she fears her health will fail her. Miss R. C. LaR., **Montreal.**



— Please pray for my husband, that he may get a lighter job and that he may recover his health, if it is God's Holy Will. He has been sick for six months with low blood pressure. I am sending you an offering and will send more, if our request is granted. Mrs. Joseph Lennon, **Fitchburg, Mass.** — Will you kindly make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin for my son, that he may soon find a position. Mrs. J. A., **Cornwall, Ont.** — Kindly have a special intention in your prayers for my daughter, my son and little grandson. Mrs. E. H. I., **Dexter, Me.** — Please pray for me, that I may recover my health. I. R. W., **Montreal.** — Will you please pray for my baby sister, that she may get better and also for a French woman who has been suffering for a long time. If our requests are granted, we shall send a donation. Miss E. G., **Pineville, N. B.** — Will you please make a Novena for three special intentions and pray for the souls of one of my aunts and friends. Miss L. M., **Crystal, N. Dak.** — Kindly pray for my intentions. Miss A. C., **Waterbury, Conn.** — I should like you to make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin for my husband, that he may find work and for my two babies, that they may soon be better. Mrs. U. B., **La Salle, Ont.** — Please pray to the Blessed Virgin that my husband may soon find work and that I may have better health. Mrs. J. F. L., **Springfield, Mass.** — Please make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin, that we may sell our house and get the price we are asking for it. Mrs. G. C., **Timmins, Ont.** — Please make a Novena for a special intention. A Friend, **North Bay.** — Will you please pray for three special requests. J. K., — Please pray for my family. Mrs. M. G., **Portland, Me.** — Please pray the Blessed Virgin, that I may regain my health. Mrs. G. B., **Rumford, Me.** — Kindly pray that I may get a position. Mrs. E. M. C., **So. Hadley Falls, Mass.** — Would you please make a Novena for two special intentions of mine. H. J. T., **Montreal.** — Would you kindly make a Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help and to St. Joseph, that I may recover my health. Miss J. G., **Rumford, Me.** — Please pray Our Blessed Mother and the Little Flower, that I may be cured of stomach trouble and that my child may have a happy home life by whatever change should take place. Mrs. M. G., **Biddeford, Me.** — Kindly pray for a special intention and also for my daughter. Mrs. L. L. P., **Portland, Me.** — I wish to ask your kind prayers for my husband, who is ill in the hospital, that he may have a speedy recovery without undergoing an operation. Mrs. W. J. R., **Montreal.** — Please pray for all our intentions. Mrs. S. B., **Fitchburg, Mass.** — I am writing to ask you to pray for my husband, who is in the hospital. He is suffering from heart trouble. Mrs. V. W. W., **Portland, Me.** — Will you kindly begin a Novena for a very special intention of mine. Miss M. M. H., **Springfield, Mass.** — I should like you to begin a Novena, that I may regain my health. I am to undergo a slight operation and hope everything will be successful. Mrs. A. B., **Dover, N. J.** — Will you please make a Novena to our Immaculate Mother for me, I am very sick and my family needs my help. Mrs. H. S., **Quimby, Me.** — Please make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Francis Xavier for a special intention. Mrs. C. R., **North Agawam, Mass.** — Kindly make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin, that I may soon be able to return to my work. I am a married man and need money. Mr. H. R., **Cornwall, Ont.** — Please pray to St. Anthony, St. Gerald, St. Benedict, St. Ignatius and St. Michael, that my baby may get better. Mrs. J. DeP., **Otterville, Ont.** — Please pray to our Immaculate Mother, that my son may find work and that I may recover my health. L. W., **Rouyn, Que.** — Please make a Novena to St. Teresa for a special intention. Mrs. L. L., **Holyoke, Mass.** — Kindly pray the Blessed Virgin to enlighten me in the choice of my vocation. A Friend of Mary. — A favour is requested. Mrs. A. C., **Cap de la Madeleine.** — I beg the Blessed Virgin to protect my son, that he may ever be good and honest. M. E., **Rosemont.** — Will you please pray that I may be cured. L. B. — A little girl asks for the means to go to the Convent. Anonymous. — Kindly ask the Blessed Virgin to protect us. I should also like you to pray that I may have religious vocations in my family. Mrs. Frank R. Bell, **Detroit, Mich.** — I am a little girl eleven years old, and I have a dear uncle who is in trouble. Will you kindly pray for him. Miss E. B., **Capreol, Ont.** — Will you please make a novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary for a very special favour. If I obtain it, I promise to be a subscriber. Mrs. P. L., **Alexandria, Ont.** — Please remember me in your prayers. I am in my last year of high school and intend to go to college next year to study for the priesthood. Mr. A. McR., **Dalhousie Station, Que.** — As one of your subscribers, would you please pray for a favour which I ask. A. F., **Westmount.** — Would you kindly make a novena to the Blessed Virgin that I may be granted a very special favour. If I obtain my request, I shall send you an offering for the ransom of eight dying babies. A Friend in need. **Strathmore.** — Would you kindly pray that I may obtain the position I wish for. Mr. J. M., **Massena, N. Y.** — Will you please make a novena for a very special favour. Mrs. T. E. D., **Cobalt, Ont.** — Kindly pray for many intentions of mine. Mrs. M. C., **Verdun.** — Will you please pray that I may get a position soon. Mr. R. S., **Massena, N. Y.** — Prayers for a special intention would be greatly appreciated. Mrs. T. A. C., **London, Ont.** — Please pray the Blessed Virgin and St. Teresa that we may sell our home. E. L., **Stratford.** — Would you kindly make a special novena for my intentions both spiritual and temporal, but especially that we may succeed in business to enable me to pay my debts. Mrs. M. J. P., **Montreal.** — Please accept my offering for the ransom of dying babies in honour of the Little Flower, St. Teresa. May I ask you to continue to pray for my very special intentions. M. B. T., **Schenectady, N. Y.** — Will you kindly make a novena to the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin so that my brother may obtain a steady position at once; that he may be successful in his undertakings;

that he may make enough money to pay our bills. A Friend, **Waterville, Me.** — Please pray that my brother who has been ill for a few years may recover his health. Mrs. D. A. D. — Will you pray the Blessed Virgin for the conversion of my father and that a young lady may get a position. A young subscriber. — A cure is requested. Mrs. Art. Larochelle, **Three Rivers.** — I recommend the sale of a house, to the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. E. C., **Montreal.** — Please pray that my husband may stop drinking. Anonymous. — I am a sick mother and beg you to pray that my husband may stop drinking and that he may get work. Anonymous, **Woonsocket, R. I.** — Would you kindly pray for the following intentions: A happy death for my sisters, brothers and their families, as also for myself; peace of conscience, better health and a steady position. E. G. — Will you please make a novena that I may find work. M. J. M. T. — I beg the Blessed Virgin to grant positions to my brothers and to a friend; and health to my parents. Miss C. L., **Montreal.** — Would you kindly pray that a person dear to us may recover his health. Mrs. F. C., **Louiseville.** — Please pray the Immaculate Virgin for a very special intention. A Child of Mary. **Montreal.** — Kindly pray for the cure of two sick persons. A Subscriber, **Outremont.** — Please pray for the cure of a swelling. Mrs. A. L., **Sorel.** — Would you please pray for a special grace. R. F., **Granby.** — Please pray that I may not fall into sin. D. L. — Pray for two conversions and a position. M. B. F., **Westmount.** — I should like you to pray for a very special favour. Anonymous. — Would you kindly join us in asking the Blessed Virgin success in our work. Anonymous, **Point Clair.** — Kindly pray for a vocation and a temporal favour. Miss M. J., **St. Henri de Mascouche.** — Will you please pray that my daughter may recover her health. Mrs. F. T., **Quebec.** — Would you please pray for a very important affair. R. S., **St. Rédempteur.** — Kindly continue praying for me. I have confidence that the Blessed Virgin will soon grant my request. George Roy, **Montreal.** — I should like you to pray for my son, that he may stop drinking. Mrs. E. G. — Kindly pray that my husband may get a position. A Subscriber, **Val d'Or, Abitibi.** — I have a very important decision to take; kindly pray for me. Anonymous. — Please pray the Blessed Virgin, that I may sell my property. J. L. H. B.



## NECROLOGY

Reverend Father Albini Primeau, S. J., **Sault au Recollet**; Reverend Father Jean Louis Martin, former Parish Priest at **Joliet**; Reverend Sister St. Justine, Servante du Saint Cœur de Marie, **Limolou**; Mr. Alfred Couturier, **St. André de Matapédia**, father of our Sister Lazare de Béthanie; Mr. Napoleon Marchand, **Tétreaultville**, father of our Sister St. Emilien; Mrs. Charles Labonté, **Gentilly**, grandmother of our Sister Ste. Cécile; Mrs. Anselme Vachon, **St. Frederic, Beauce Co.**, grandmother of our Sister St. Placide; Mrs. Nathalie Bergeron, **Pembroke, Ont.**, grandmother of our Sister St. Delphis; Mrs. D. Blondin, **Pointe Claire**, grandmother of our Sister Marie Albertine, novice; Miss Elodie Boulais, **Westmount**; Mrs. Hermine Messier, **Pawtucket**; Mrs. R. Roberts, **Lakewood, Ohio**; Miss Edith O'Brien, **Montreal**; Mr. Roy Poupert, **N. D. G.**; Mrs. M. Ferron, **Notre Dame de Grace**; Mr. C. O. Dozois, **Montreal**; Mrs. Wm. Scully, **Knowlton, Que.**; Mr. Alfred Picard, **Centerdale, R. I.**; Mrs. I. Peel, **Verdun**; Mr. Delphis Proulx, **Biddeford, Me.**; Mrs. Imelda Murphy, **Lewiston, Me.**; Mrs. Maria Mathews, **Lewiston, Me.**; Mr. Sylvain Roy, **Waterville, Me.**; Mrs. G. Dietz, **Patterson, N. J.**; Mrs. Joseph Racine, **Outremont**; Mr. Chs. Auguste Moreau, **Outremont**; Mr. Ovila Vernier, **Outremont**; Mrs. Alfred Fortier, **Outremont**; Dr. Albert Laramée, **Outremont**; Mr. Victor Meunier, **Outremont**; Mrs. Aldéric Meunier, **Outremont**.

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



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Procure for the Missions.



# Benefactors of the Society

of the

## Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

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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.

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## Privileges Granted to Benefactors

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While commending their Benefactors to God, that He Himself may reward them according to their generosity, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception assure them as large a share as possible in the merit of their apostolic 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.