

THE PRECURSOR



Vol. XI., 16th Year

MONTREAL, May-June, 1938

No. 9

Works of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

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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.

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(Continued on page 3 of the cover.)

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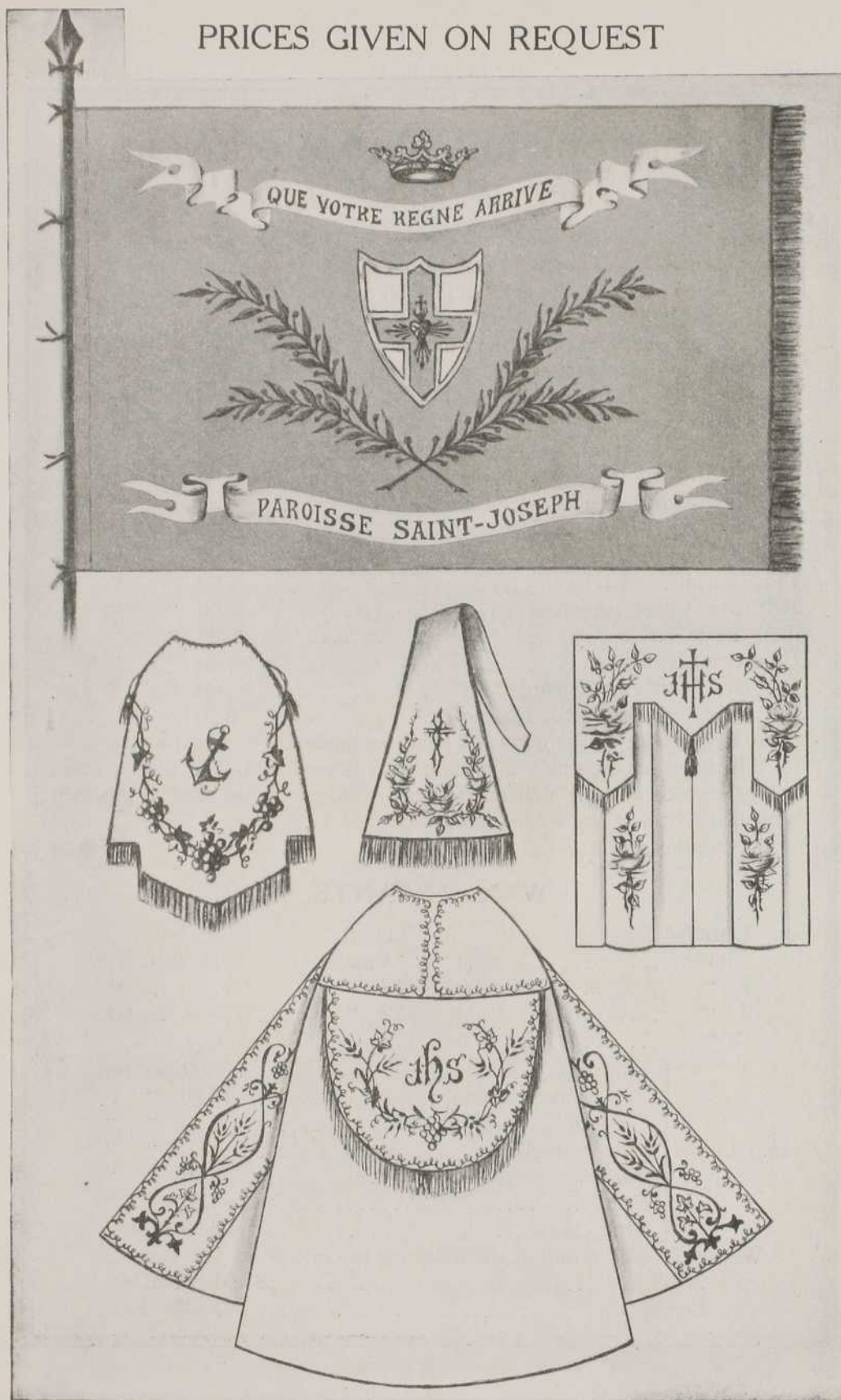
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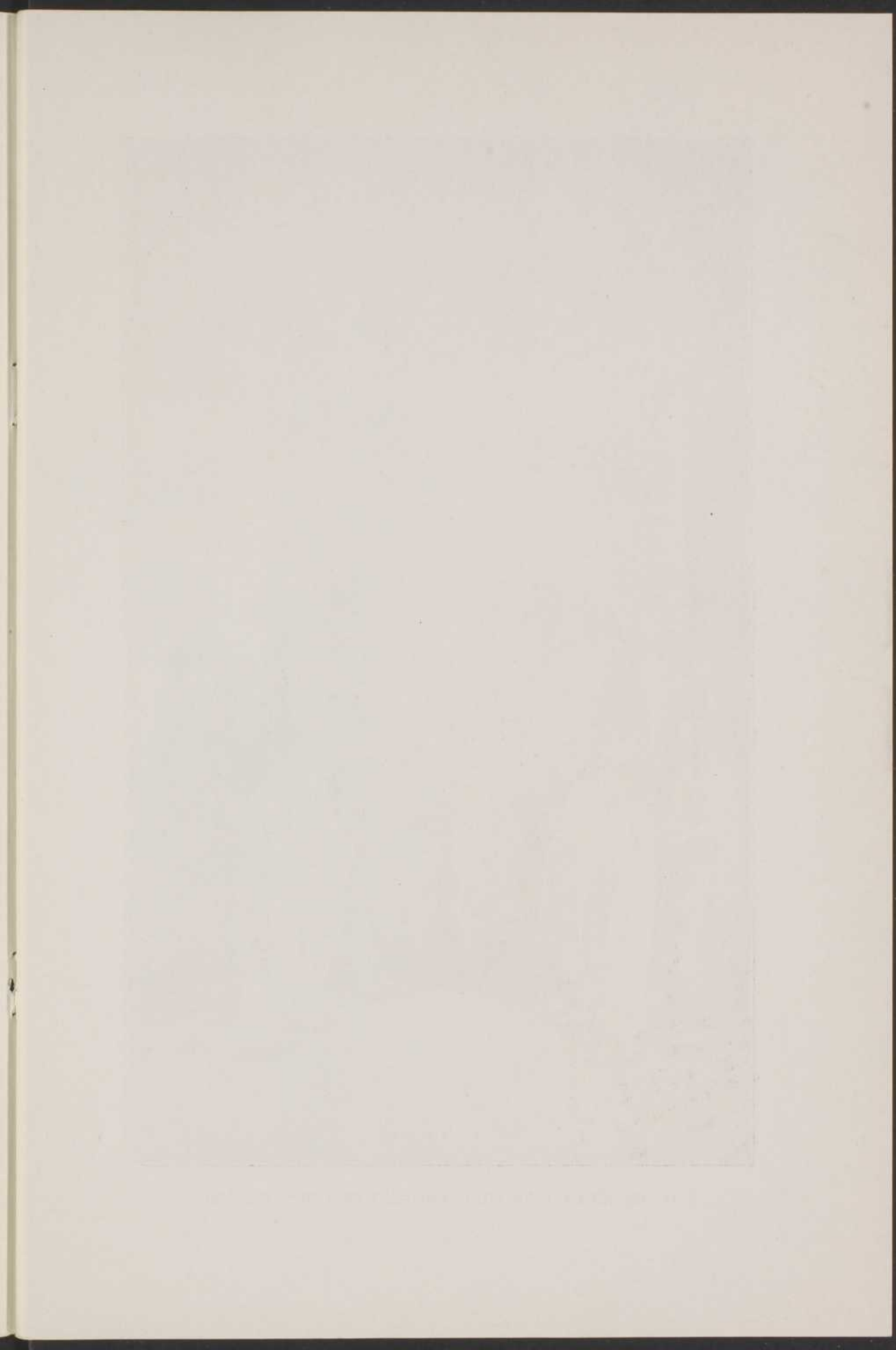
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" O IMMACULATE MOTHER, PROTECT OUR BENEFACTORS!"

THE PRECURSOR

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of the Immaculate Conception

with the approbation of the Archbishop of Montreal

Vol. XI., 16th Year

Montreal, May-June 1938

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Month of May

*May is now ours, with foretaste of flowers,
Sylvan retreats and their fairest of bowers ;
Glad song of birds on their glorious quest —
Planning and building so cunning each nest ;
Insect creation awakes to the scene ;
Nature adorned in the tend' rest of green ;
Buds are bespeaking new leafage and life —
Buoyancy, Hope and Strength in the strife.*


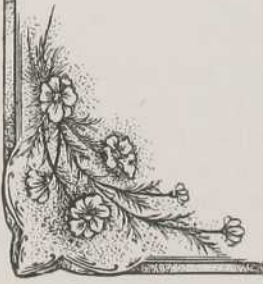


*May now is ours, and scent, sweet, of flowers
Lures to the Shrine that Our Lady endowers ;
Bids us come there and to whisper in prayer
Sorrows, ah many, their griefs and their care.
Wreathing her rosaries, join in her hymns
Mary glad soothes, and each worry bedims ;
Lavishes graces whilst, pleading, we seek —
Heaven's surcease when world buffetted, weak.*

*May now is here! And the Month of our Queen
Calls us all thither — and none are alien!
All are her children ; all are enshrined
Nigh to her bosom, maternal and kind.
Come to her altars ; united, our love,
Splendid and true will our loyalty prove.
Think of that Mother! Glad offered her Son —
Died for us all, and our Heaven thus won!*

*Shrines, dear, of Mary! Enshrine in our hearts
Tend'rest devotion to love she imparts :
Missions of Mary — where day after day,
Virginal daughters bring Heaven's glad ray —
Light unto Darkness! To bring to her Knee
Pagan lands far — new children to be.
Shrine us forever in bondage of love
Fond of her Missions! Give aid from Above!*

— Ronald Stephen MAC DONALD.



Let Us Honour Mary during Her Month

WHAT do we feel in the depths of our souls on the day following a worldly feast? What impressions, what remembrances do we retain of that day, of that evening, which previously appeared to be so charming, so full of sunshine?

Our gloomy countenance and techy humour reveal our sentiments. We feel the void, disenchantment, disgust and, perhaps, even what is worse, uneasiness and remorse.

And what do we feel on the day following a religious feast, with its beautiful ceremonies at which we have assisted with purified souls and heartfelt devotion?... The joy of a clear conscience, the satisfaction of a soul that constantly aspires to eternal life and that finds rest only when it has risen above all the perishable things of earth.

Let us not fail to celebrate worthily all our religious feasts. Let us enter into the spirit of Holy Mother Church and imitate her in her devotions, one of the most beautiful of which is, certainly, the Month of Mary. In union with her, let us make of this lovely month a thirty days' feast in honour of our Heavenly Mother. If it is possible, let us go and assist at the pious exercises in the church, praying, singing hymns to the Madonna and nourishing our souls with spiritual reading or the divine word. Let us offer flowers for the decoration of the Blessed Virgin's altar. This tender Mother will be pleased with our graceful present and will amply reward us for it, some day.

If it is impossible for us to go to the church every day, let us not fail to celebrate the Month of Mary at home, assembling the whole family around us to pray together, so that Jesus may be with us according to His promise, and to sing praises to our Heavenly Queen. This will have a beneficent influence upon all and will remain forever engraved in the minds of the children.

The consolations that we derive from our assiduity in religious feasts will soon detach us from the false pleasures of worldly reunions, and we shall soon acquire the greatest good here below — spiritual joy and peace of mind.

A Pleasure Trip

A young commercial traveller who, in his childhood, had belonged to a Perseverance Association, was returning from Paris for a few days' vacation. Paris was, in his opinion, the *City of Light*; and return from Paris, therefore, without being a braggart of impiety would have been unfashionable and unintelligent. Our commercial-traveller was very much opposed to religion. "Now," said he, strutting and stroking his beardless chin, "I am too big to believe all the stuff that the priests tell the old women."

On arriving in his home-town, he met a friend of his childhood, to whom he immediately proposed organizing a pleasure trip. "You arrive just on time," replied the friend. "Next Sunday we are making a trip to the sea; we are going to Luc, stopping for just a few minutes at Délivrande."

"That's marvellous," answered the traveller, "I'll be there."

On Sunday, the Parisian arrived in high spirits at the station, where he met a group of young fellows and, in their midst, he perceived a priest — the Director of the Association.

A significative grimace revealed to all that he would have willingly done without such a companion. Addressing the friend that he had met the evening before, he inquired: "Is the shaveling coming with us?"

"Yes, certainly, he is our best friend and you ought to remember how good he has been to you."

The priest, approaching in his turn, heartily shook hands with the newcomer and renewed his acquaintance. Then, seeing him join the pilgrimage, he congratulated him on his perseverance.

"But, Father, you are mistaken; I no longer believe all that. You understand, I have just returned from Paris and..."

The priest looked at him sadly. But it was time to leave. During the trip, the young men recited the beads in preparation for Holy Communion, that they were all to receive at Mary's shrine. During that time, the commercial-traveller looked out the window.

On entering the chapel, the director of the pilgrimage, with a holy and zealous audacity, seized the pilgrim by the hand and, in spite of his resistance, led him to the foot of the miraculous statue. "Kneel down," said he. The other hesitated, blushed, protested, became inflexible, began to bend, became inflexible again, looked around, finally became uneasy and fell on his knees. "O Mary," then exclaimed the priest, "here is a prodigal who was faithful to thee for a long time. I am consecrating him to thee once more and, as the grace of our pilgrimage, I beg of thee his conversion." These words, pronounced in an undertone and heard by the young man alone, upset him altogether. He recalled to mind all his past life and, by one of these miracles of grace sometimes wrought by Our Blessed Lady, he turned towards the priest and said to him: "I cannot consecrate myself to the Blessed Virgin thus, I am too guilty."

The remedy was easy to find. A few minutes later the young commercial-traveller came out of the confessional radiant with joy and, full of emotion, received Holy Communion with his friends.

On the evening of that day, the converted man said to his friend: "All the same, I was well caught to-day; after all, I thank God, for I have never had such an agreeable pleasure trip."

No man has done his duty until he has done his best.

The brightest ornaments in the crowns of the blessed in heaven are the sufferings they have borne patiently on earth.

The Nomination of a Japanese Archbishop at Tokio

ON THE 5th of last February — Feast of the twenty-six Japanese Martyrs, His Excellency Archbishop Chambon, recently translated from the Archiepiscopal See of Tokio to the Episcopal See of Yokohama, consecrated his successor, Most Reverend Peter Doi Tatsuo, the new Japanese Archbishop of Tokio.

Let us admire the Apostolic disinterestedness of the Paris Foreign Mission Society which, mindful of the fact that it was founded in the seventeenth century for the purpose of establishing native churches in the Far East — successively abandons flourishing dioceses and withdraws into more ungrateful regions where the labour very much exceeds the reaping, as soon as the Holy See judges the time favourable, the missions solid enough, and the clergy qualified, for the establishment of such native churches. Is it known that, since 1926, the Paris Foreign Mission Society has likewise abandoned ten important missions — representing a total exceeding 300,000 Christians — to the Japanese, Corean, Chinese, Indian, Anamese and Cochinese Clergy?

The new Archbishop of Tokio, Most Reverend Peter Doi Tatsuo, born in 1892, at Sendai, belongs to a family of genuine *samourai*, that kept the heritage of strong Japanese virtues. His younger brother is an officer of the Imperial Guard.

His most striking qualities are remarkable prudence and firmness tempered by meekness. The Apostolic Delegate to Japan, Archbishop Marella, whose secretary he was from December 1933 to January 1938, was especially in a position to know and appreciate his qualities.

When reflecting on the place that this nomination of a Japanese Archbishop at Tokio will later on occupy in the History of the Church of Japan, it is impossible not to admire the rapidity with which the organization of the Catholic hierarchy has been effected in that country.

A hundred years ago, no one had the least idea that there could be any Christians in Japan, which had been, so to say, closed to missionaries since the middle of the seventeenth century. Although a Vicariate Apostolic was established in 1846, it was only towards 1858-1860 that the Priests of the Paris Foreign Mission Society succeeded in settling in Japan. There was, nevertheless, another serious persecution from 1867 to 1873; and it was only in 1899 that the last measures which hindered the liberty of the Catholic Religion and endangered the life of the missionaries, were definitely abolished. About twenty years sooner, however, Japan was divided into two Vicariates Apostolic. The northern region had its religious centre and Episcopal See at Tokio, which became an archbishopric in 1891, when Pope Leo XIII re-established the ecclesiastical hierarchy in that country, in compliance with the desire of the Japanese Government to be treated like "the most civilized modern countries."

Bishop Chambon, who was at the head of the Archbishopric of Tokio since 1927, was its fifth Archbishop. It was recalled recently, that, at the moment of his nomination in 1927 — which was also the year of the consecration, by Pope Pius XI, of the first Japanese Bishop, that of Nagasaki — he had expressed the wish to see one of his Japanese priests occupy, some day, his See at Tokio. At that moment it was not even suspected that, ten years later, this wish would be realized.

— Paul LESOURD.

Decree Granting a Plenary Indulgence to Those Who Piously Assist at Solemn Eucharistic Processions

Among the sacred rites which contribute most efficaciously to revive Catholic Faith, are, truly, those solemnities commonly called *processions*, provided *that they be directed, not only according to the rules of the liturgy, but also with recollection and piety.*

And there is no doubt that the most excellent of all processions are those in which, not only sacred objects, relics or images of the saints, of the Blessed Virgin Mother of God, or even of Our Lord Jesus Christ, are presented to the veneration of the faithful, but the very King of Glory Himself, really and substantially present under the Eucharistic veils, where He is hidden in an ineffable manner: whether these processions be held within churches; whether they defile in the streets, so that the multitudes may thus manifest their ardent devotion by public adoration and prayers; or whether they solemnly proceed towards the dwellings of the sick, bringing them the Bread of Life to relieve them in their sufferings or to fortify them at the hour of death.

Our Holy Father, Pope Pius XI, in an audience granted to the undersigned Cardinal Penitentiary on the 8th inst., treated of such processions and, especially, of the most solemn ones, which are more apt to excite Christians to the sentiments of faith and charity so dear to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

And as he has recently granted new indulgences to those who, *in observing what should be observed*, assist at the Forty Hour's Devotion, so now, the same Sovereign Pontiff, in order to revive in the hearts of the faithful, devotion to the August Sacrament carried in triumph *according to the rules of sacred liturgy*, and in order to increase Eucharistic worship, has now deigned to grant a plenary indulgence in perpetuity to those who, having confessed their sins and received Holy Communion, take part in Eucharistic Processions, either inside sacred edifices or in public streets, and pray for the Holy Father's intentions. Notwithstanding everything contrary.

Given at Rome in the Palace of the Sacred Penitentiary, September 25, 1933.

L. Cardinal LAURI, Grand Penitentiary.

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.)

53. It happens all too frequently, however, under the salary system, that individual employers are helpless to ensure justice, unless, with a view to its practice, they organize institutions the object of which is to prevent competition incompatible with fair treatment for the workers. Where this is true, it is the duty of contractors and employers to support and to promote such necessary organizations as normal instruments enabling them to fulfil their obligations of justice. But the laborers too must be mindful of their duty to love and deal fairly with their employers, and persuade themselves that there is no better means of safeguarding their own interests.

54. If, therefore, We consider the whole structure of economic life, as We have already pointed out in Our Encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*, the reign of mutual collaboration between justice and charity in social-economic relations can be achieved only by a body of professional and inter-professional organizations, built on solidly Christian foundations, working together to effect, under forms adapted to different places and circumstances, what has been called the Corporation.

Social Study and Propaganda

55. To give to this social activity a greater efficacy, it is necessary to promote a wider study of social problems in the light of the doctrine of the Church and under the ægis of her constituted authority. If the manner of acting of some Catholics in the social-economic field has left much to be desired, this has often come about because they have not known and pondered sufficiently the teachings of the Sovereign Pontiffs on these questions. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to foster in all classes of society an intensive program of social education adapted to the varying degrees of intellectual culture. It is necessary with all care and diligence to procure the widest possible diffusion of the teachings of the Church, even among the working-classes. The minds of men must be illuminated with the sure light of Catholic teaching, and their wills must be drawn to follow and apply it as the norm of right living in the conscientious fulfilment of their manifold social duties. Thus they will oppose that incoherence and discontinuity in Christian life which We have many times lamented. For there are some who, while exteriorly faithful to the practice of their religion, yet in the field of labor and industry, in the professions, trade, and business, permit a deplorable cleavage in their conscience, and live a life too little in conformity with the clear principles of justice and Christian charity. Such lives are a scandal to the weak, and to the malicious a pretext to discredit the Church.

56. In this renewal the Catholic Press can play a prominent part. Its foremost duty is to foster in various attractive ways an ever better under-

standing of social doctrine. It should, too, supply accurate and complete information on the activity of the enemy and the means of resistance which have been found most effective in various quarters. It should offer useful suggestions and warn against the insidious deceits with which Communists endeavor, all too successfully, to attract even men of good faith.

Distrust of Communist Tactics

57. On this point We have already insisted in Our Allocution of May 12 of last year, but We believe it to be a duty of special urgency, Venerable Brethren, to call your attention to it once again. In the beginning Communism showed itself for what it was in all its perversity; but very soon it realized that it was thus alienating the people. It has therefore changed its tactics, and strives to entice the multitudes by trickery of various forms, hiding its real designs behind ideas that in themselves are good and attractive. Thus, aware of the universal desire for peace, the leaders of Communism pretend to be the most zealous promoters and propagandists in the movement for world amity. Yet at the same time they stir up a class-warfare which causes rivers of blood to flow, and, realizing that their system offers no internal guarantee of peace, they have recourse to unlimited armaments. Under various names which do not suggest Communism they establish organizations and periodicals with the sole purpose of carrying their ideas into quarters otherwise inaccessible. They try perfidiously to worm their way even into professedly Catholic and religious organizations. Again, without receding an inch from their subversive principles, they invite Catholics to collaborate with them in the realm of so-called humanitarianism and charity, and at times even make proposals that are in perfect harmony with the Christian spirit and the doctrine of the Church. Elsewhere they carry their hypocrisy so far as to encourage the belief that Communism in countries where faith and culture are more strongly entrenched will assume another and much milder form. It will not interfere with the practice of religion. It will respect liberty of conscience. There are some even who refer to certain changes recently introduced into Soviet legislation as a proof that Communism is about to abandon its program of war against God.

58. See to it, Venerable Brethren, that the Faithful do not allow themselves to be deceived! Communism is intrinsically wrong, and no one who would save Christian civilization may collaborate with it in any undertaking whatsoever. Those who permit themselves to be deceived into lending their aid toward the triumph of Communism in their own country will be the first to fall victims of their error. And the greater the antiquity and the grandeur of the Christian civilization in the regions where Communism successfully penetrates, so much more devastating will be the hatred displayed by the Godless.

Prayer and Penance

59. But, "unless the Lord keep the city, he watcheth in vain that keepeth it." And so, as a final and most efficacious remedy, We recommend, Venerable Brethren, that in your dioceses you use the most practical means

to foster and intensify the spirit of prayer joined with Christian penance. When the Apostles asked the Saviour why they had been unable to drive the evil spirit from a demoniac, Our Lord answered: "This kind is not cast out but by prayer and fasting." So, too, the evil which to-day torments humanity can be conquered only by a world-wide holy crusade of prayer and penance. We ask especially the contemplative Orders, men and women, to redouble their prayers and sacrifices to obtain from heaven efficacious aid for the Church in the present struggle. Let them implore also the powerful intercession of the Immaculate Virgin who, having crushed the head of the serpent of old, remains the sure protectress and invincible "Help of Christians".

V

MINISTERS AND CO-WORKERS IN CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION

Priests

60. To apply the remedies thus briefly indicated to the task of saving the world as We have traced it above, Jesus Christ, our Divine King, has chosen priests as the first-line ministers and messengers of His gospel. Theirs is the duty, assigned to them by a special vocation, under the direction of their bishops and in filial obedience to the Vicar of Christ on earth, of keeping alight in the world the torch of Faith, and of filling the hearts of the Faithful with that supernatural trust which has aided the Church to fight and win so many other battles in the name of Christ: "This is the victory which overcometh the world, our Faith."

61. To priests in a special way We recommend anew the oft-repeated counsel of Our Predecessor, Leo XIII, to go to the working-man. We make this advice Our own, and, faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Church, We thus complete it: "Go to the working-man, especially where he is poor; and, in general, go to the poor." The poor are obviously more exposed than others to the wiles of agitators who, taking advantage of their extreme need, kindle their hearts to envy of the rich and urge them to seize by force what fortune seems to have denied them unjustly. If the priest will not go to the working-man and to the poor, to warn them or to disabuse them of prejudice and false theory, they will become an easy prey for the apostles of Communism.

(To be continued.)

If we abandon Christ, atheistic Communism will conquer us, and we shall be prostrate under its heel. But with Christ, the victory is certain. For, as says St. Augustine: "Christ is never conquered... He hath conquered in thy behalf, and He hath conquered for thee, and He hath conquered in thee."

— John LaFarge, S. J.

En Route to the Distant Mission Fields



On Saturday, April 16th, 1938, two Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception left Vancouver, on the Empress of Russia, to go and work with their predecessors for the salvation of souls in the distant mission fields.

One of them, Sister St. Mathieu (Agnes Guénette, of Ste. Anne des Plaines, P. Q.), after devoting herself during sixteen years to the Apostolic School and House of Closed Retreats in Rimouski, received, in August, 1937, her nomination for the Chinese General Hospital of Manila, Philippine Islands. Since then, she has been at the Mother House.

On Monday, April 11th, after bidding farewell to their religious family, their beloved parents and relatives, and devoted friends, she and her companion, Sister St. Alphonse Rodriguez (Cécile Anctil, of Montreal), left for Vancouver, to which Mission the latter was recently appointed.



SISTER SAINT MATHIEU

(AGNES GUENETTE, OF STE. ANNE DES PLAINES, P.Q.)



SISTER SAINT PHILIPPE

(ANNETTE BEAUDOIN, OF CHAMPLAIN, P.Q.)

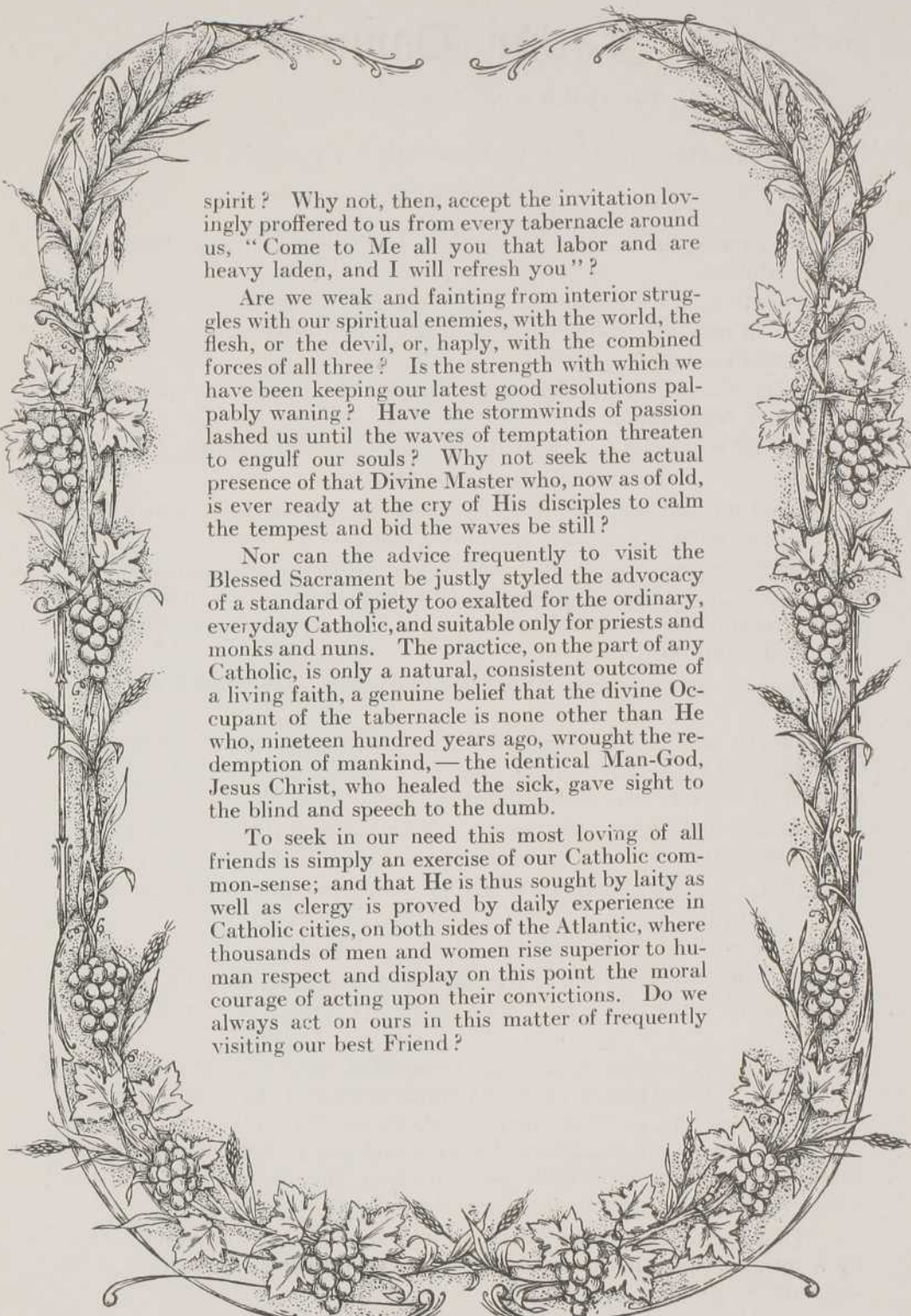
Thence, the new auxiliary of the Philippine Mission was accompanied by Sister St. Philippe (Annette Beaudoin, of Champlain, P. Q.), who is returning to Hong Kong after a sojourn of two years and a half on the coast of her native country, to regain her health.

May the wishes and prayers which accompany our courageous missionaries help them to be ever worthy of their noble and meritorious vocation.



Our Best Friend

In the tabernacle of each of the thousands of Catholic churches, chapels, and oratories throughout the land, there dwells perennially, really present with His divinity and His humanity, the Friend of all friends — our Blessed Lord Himself. His presence there is incontestable evidence of our Saviour's love for us, is convincing proof that His delight is to be with the children of men. Do we give Him any love in return? Do we sometimes show that our delight is to be with the Eucharistic God? How often from Sunday to Sunday do we visit our best Friend? Of the thousands of Catholics who in city or large town daily pass by from two or three to half a dozen churches, how many turn in to the entrance to spend fifteen or ten or even five minutes in adoration of the Lord whom they unquestionably believe to be really there? And yet should not our urgent need, if not our gratitude and love, bring us frequently to His feet? Who among us is not burdened from day to day with crosses and cares, with trials and troubles in the spiritual or temporal order, or in both? Business anxieties, financial difficulties, unsuccessful projects, accumulating debts, household vexations, family worries, exhausting physical or mental labor, coldness and indifference and neglect from those we love most fondly, — does not some such burden often leave us ailing in body,
heavy at heart, depressed in



spirit? Why not, then, accept the invitation lovingly proffered to us from every tabernacle around us, "Come to Me all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you"?

Are we weak and fainting from interior struggles with our spiritual enemies, with the world, the flesh, or the devil, or, haply, with the combined forces of all three? Is the strength with which we have been keeping our latest good resolutions palpably waning? Have the stormwinds of passion lashed us until the waves of temptation threaten to engulf our souls? Why not seek the actual presence of that Divine Master who, now as of old, is ever ready at the cry of His disciples to calm the tempest and bid the waves be still?

Nor can the advice frequently to visit the Blessed Sacrament be justly styled the advocacy of a standard of piety too exalted for the ordinary, everyday Catholic, and suitable only for priests and monks and nuns. The practice, on the part of any Catholic, is only a natural, consistent outcome of a living faith, a genuine belief that the divine Occupant of the tabernacle is none other than He who, nineteen hundred years ago, wrought the redemption of mankind, — the identical Man-God, Jesus Christ, who healed the sick, gave sight to the blind and speech to the dumb.

To seek in our need this most loving of all friends is simply an exercise of our Catholic common-sense; and that He is thus sought by laity as well as clergy is proved by daily experience in Catholic cities, on both sides of the Atlantic, where thousands of men and women rise superior to human respect and display on this point the moral courage of acting upon their convictions. Do we always act on ours in this matter of frequently visiting our best Friend?

Father Damien

The Apostle of the Lepers of Molokai

BY MRS. AUGUSTUS CRAVEN, NEE LA FERRONNAYS

(Continued.)

The following are a few extracts from Mr. Clifford's notes, during his stay at Molokai:

"When the doctor discovered in him the first symptoms of leprosy, he hesitated to reveal it to him, fearing to cause him a painful emotion, but it did not affect him in any way.

" 'I have been always expecting it,' replied he, 'and, for some time past I have been sure of it.'

"And he continued to work with the same cheerful courage, accepting the Holy Will of God without hesitation or murmur.

He told me several times that he would not consent to be cured if he should, then, have to leave the Island and abandon his work.

"Among several letters that I read to him, there was one from a woman who wrote that, having abandoned all the things of the world to serve God and his neighbour, she thought that Father Damien should now possess a joy which could not be altered.

" 'Indeed,' remarked he, with a peaceful smile, 'I do possess such joy, it is true.'

"While I was making his portrait, he was reading and, from time to time, paused to listen to a hymn that was being sung near-by. The expression of his eyes was extraordinarily sweet.

"When I had finished the drawing, he looked at it, for a few moments, somewhat sadly.

" 'What ugliness!' said he, 'I did not think that the disease had made so much progress.'

"Mirrors, it can be supposed, are rare at Molokai.

"It is impossible to detect the least sign indicating that he imagines himself to be a martyr, a hero or a saint. Evidently, he thinks nothing of the kind.

"During my sojourn in Molokai, I inhabited the house reserved to the strangers. Father Damien never consented to enter it, for fear of bringing the contagion; but, in the evening, he would sit down in the open air, on the lower steps of the veranda and chat for a long time with me in his pleasant, simple and cheerful way, while the stars were shining overhead and the whole valley was bathed in the golden moonlight.

"Though this Isle is sometimes agitated by terrible storms and swept by a furious wind, the firmament remains, nevertheless, resplendent with sunshine or sparkling with stars.

.....

Like Father Damien, the two missionaries who now assist him live in most affectionate intimacy with all these poor lepers... They are thus in perpetual contact with them and, not only do they take care of them to the end; but, they lay them out and bury them with their own hands, as Father Damien often did. Naturally, it is impossible for them not to contract the disease some day or other.

VII

"The lepers sing very well. A barytone had beside him a child whose sweet silvery voice, harmonizing with his, produced a beautiful effect. A woman, who seemed unable to move her hands ravaged by leprosy, succeeded, however, in playing the harmonium very well. She had been a famous musician in Honolulu.

"The *Adeste Fideles* sung by them in Latin, greatly pleased me; but I was more touched by a lament entitled "The Lepers' Song", composed by a Hawaiian poet. Their lot is described therein in most striking and pathetic terms. There are actually almost a thousand of them."

.....

"On Christmas-day, I gave him Father Faber's Hymns, which had been entrusted to me for him by Lady Grosvenor's three children. He read over and over again these words written in their childish writing on the front page: *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy*; and he told me with the sweetest expression *that he would often use this book and that it was precious to him*. He is particularly fond of children."

.....

"The following day, I was to leave the Island on a boat which was expected to arrive at Molokai in the morning with two hundred friends of the lepers, who were to spend the day with them and return in the evening. These excursions had been organized by Mr. Samuel Damon of Honolulu, for the purpose of affording the poor lepers, and their parents and friends, the pleasure of short periodical reunions. Never shall I forget the scenes produced by this arrival and departure! When the parting hour had come, the entire population came to the shore to say good-bye to those who were leaving. There was weeping and lamenting on both sides; nevertheless, these reunions are a great consolation to all and diminish the horror of the forced departures which, formerly, left no hope of ever seeing again in this world those separated by the disease.

"When our boat weighed anchor, light silvery clouds crowned the dark blue cliff whose cascades fell noisily from its summit. At its foot, the little village with its white houses and churches could be distinctly seen. Father Damien remained standing there, in the midst of his people, on the rocks of the shore, as long as we could perceive him. The last rays of the setting sun were tinging the mountains, when I beheld Molokai disappearing in a golden mist."

VIII

Father Damien remained for a few more weeks "standing in the midst of his people," as Mr. Clifford described him, when leaving. He still continued in his labourious work without in the least relaxing his exertions or disturbing the calm activity of his life, although the pitiless disease was rapidly pursuing its course. In the latter days of March, feeling that his end was approaching, he wrote the following lines:

Hearty remembrance to my dear friend, Clifford. I am slowly ascending the way of the Cross and shall soon be at the summit of my Golgotha.

DAMIAN DE VEUSTER.

In his last letter to his brother, dated February 19, 1889, are to be read these lines:

"...In consideration of the character of the disease with which I am affected, I abstain from writing to you as often as formerly. I am still happy and contented; and, though I am so grievously sick, still I desire nothing but the accomplishment of the Will of God."

A good priest from Liege, Father Conrardy, was then with him, and another replaced him in the neighbouring village. Moreover, two Lay Brothers helped him to look after the hundred orphans confided especially to his care, and three Sister Nurses were charged with the medical treatment to be given to the thousand lepers in the hospital.

After giving his brother an account of the condition of the mission, at the moment when the end of his labours was approaching, after confiding to him his most affectionate remembrances for the Fathers and Brothers of the Congregation of Louvain, as well as for all the members of his family, he thus concluded this last missive:

.....
"I am still able to go every day to the altar, though however with some difficulty. I do not forget any of you in my prayers, and so do you pray and get others to do the same for me, who am being drawn gently towards the tomb. May the good God strengthen me and give me the grace of perseverance and that of a happy death!"

On the 30th of March, he began his immediate preparation for death by a general confession and the renewal of his vows. He was assisted by two missionaries of his Order, Fathers Windolin Moellens and Conrardy, who had partaken of his life and labours for over a year.

He received Holy Viaticum the following day.

"Look at my hands," said he with his usual calm. "They are becoming black and the sores are healing up. It is, you know, a sign that death is near. You will see the same signs in my eyes. I have seen so many lepers dying that I cannot be mistaken. Death will not delay any longer. I

should have liked to see our Bishop once again; but God is calling me and wants me to celebrate Easter with Him. His Holy Name be praised!..."

He received Extreme Unction on April 2nd.

"How good God is," exclaimed he, "for having preserved my life long enough to have the happiness of seeing two priests near me in my last moments and three Sisters of Charity at the Lazaretto! After that I have only to say my *Nunc dimittis*. The work of the lepers is now secure; I am no longer necessary; I can now go to Heaven."

"When you will be there, dear Father," said Father Conrardy, "You will not forget, will you, those whom you have left orphans?"

"Oh! no, certainly. If I can obtain graces from God, I will ask some for all those of our Lazaretto."

"Obtain for me your big heart," said Father Conrardy. "Leave me your mantle like Elias."

"What would you do with it?" replied he smiling. "It is impregnated with leprosy."

A few days' respite followed, during which his admirable patience did not waver for a single instant. There he was, he so ardent, so active, so robust shortly before, lying motionless on a mattress on the floor, like that of the poorest of lepers. We had great difficulty in making him accept a bed. All the money that had passed through his hands had been devoted to the poor. He had not even kept for himself enough to procure the necessary clothing.

After midnight on April 13th, he received Holy Communion for the last time. No longer able to speak, he still clasped affectionately his Brothers' hands. Finally, on the 15th, he died calmly like one falling into a peaceful sleep. After his death, all signs of leprosy disappeared from his face and hands.

At his request, his grave was dug beneath the tree (the *Pandanus*) where he had spent so many nights in the beginning of his apostolate and which now overshadowed the cemetery.

(The end.)

So conformed to her Divine Son was Mary His Mother that we should expect that as the Cross loomed so large in His life, so it should also mean much in hers. Hers was a willing and intelligent co-operation in God's designs for man's salvation. The Angel assured her that her Son's name would be Jesus, because "He shall save His people from their sins." Later, Simeon warned her that her "Child is set for a sign which shall be contradicted" and that her "own soul a sword shall pierce."

Conformed to God's holy will and confident in God's loving Providence, she accepted with peace and love the trials awaiting her.

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 of the Child Jesus for favour obtained. — Enclosed please find offering for "The Little Flower" Burse, in thanksgiving for a favour obtained. Mrs. J. O'D., **Montreal**. — St. Teresa of the Child Jesus has granted me a favour after I had promised her an offering for your works. Kindly pray to the Blessed Virgin and the dear Little Flower for us, for we need prayers very badly. Mrs. LeB., **Verdun**. — I am sending an offering in honour of St. Teresa to thank her for a

favour received through her intercession. Mrs. J. L., **Indian Orchard, Mass.** — Enclosed, please find offering in thanksgiving for a favour obtained some time ago through the intercession of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. I also would like to obtain other requests. Mrs. M. McK., **Millinocket, Me.** — Sincere thanks for favour obtained through the intercession of the "Little Scatterer of Roses". Anonymous. — I am acquitting myself of

my promise in honour of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus and thank her from the bottom of my heart for the favour received through her intercession. Mrs. N. B. — Thanksgiving for favour obtained through the intercession of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, I beg her to obtain me another favour. Maria

Dubois, **Montreal**. — Lively gratitude towards St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for cure obtained. M. M., **Contrecoeur**. — Thanksgiving for great favour received through the intercession of the "Little Flower of Carmel". **Saint Joachim**. — Kindly publish my gratitude towards St. Teresa of the Child Jesus who has obtained a great favour for me. Mrs. A. Déry, **St. Félicien**. — St. Teresa of the Child Jesus has protected me in a special circumstance. I thank her with my whole heart. Mrs. P. R., **St. François Station**. — Thanksgiving to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a favour obtained. Anonymous. — Thanksgiving to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a great favour obtained through her intercession. Mrs. A. L., **St. Michel des Forges**. — Sincere thanks to the Patron of Missionaries for a favour obtained. Mrs. A. Labrie, **Saint Lazare**. — Thanksgiving for a grace received through the intercession of the "Little Scatterer of Roses". Mrs. A. Noel, **Montreal**. — I have obtained from St. Teresa the graces requested. I thank her with all my heart and I am happy to fulfil my promise. Miss M. Dubois, **Montreal**. — Heartfelt thanks to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for favour obtained. Mrs. M., **Guerette, Me.** — Thanksgiving to St. Teresa who has saved me from an accident. Anonymous. — Homage of gratitude towards the "Little Flower of Carmel", for a benefit received through her intercession. Mrs. D. Simard.

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	Year 1937.....	\$295.01
November-December "	7.00	January-February 1938.....	64.10
Year 1936	417.47	March-April "	16.00



Echoes from our Missions

CHINA

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters in Canton.

Wednesday, December 1, 1937

The year is drawing to a close and nothing yet announces peace for China. We commend ourselves entirely to Our Heavenly Father's care. He sees into the future and knows what the issue of this period, so crucifying and so full of anguish, will be.

Twice to-day, our neighbours of the Pacific, whom we cannot call "our pacific neighbours" have flown about in the air over the railroads, dropping bombs at random, thus damaging the railroad, the villages and the fields of rice and vegetables.

During the month of November, we had forty-six Japanese air-raids; the planes came, from three to thirty-eight at a time, and dropped three hundred and seventy-one bombs. More than five hundred persons were killed or wounded, and four hundred and seventy houses were destroyed.

Our Foundling-Home on the hill of Our Lady of Providence is situated about three arpents from a wireless telegraph-office and about ten arpents from a railroad constructed, especially for military activities, between the railroad of Hong Kong and that of Hankow. As the position of our house is very dangerous, we have had a dug-out built to protect the personnel. Besides the babies arriving daily at the Foundling-Home, there are about twenty grown-up persons, including Sister Marie Céline⁽¹⁾, Sister Marie de l'Annonciation⁽²⁾, and Sister St. Expédit⁽³⁾. The sixty little orphans, from two to ten years old, have been sent to Shek Lung, where they are in greater safety, by the fact that they are far from the city and military centres.

The anti-aircraft refuge provided for us by our good old mother the earth, is between the Foundling-Home and the Orphanage. It is concealed from the aeroplanes by the long interlaced branches of a great number of trees. It is twenty-four feet long and six, wide; and has a door at each end, with sixteen steps leading to it. It is covered with three rows of Chi-

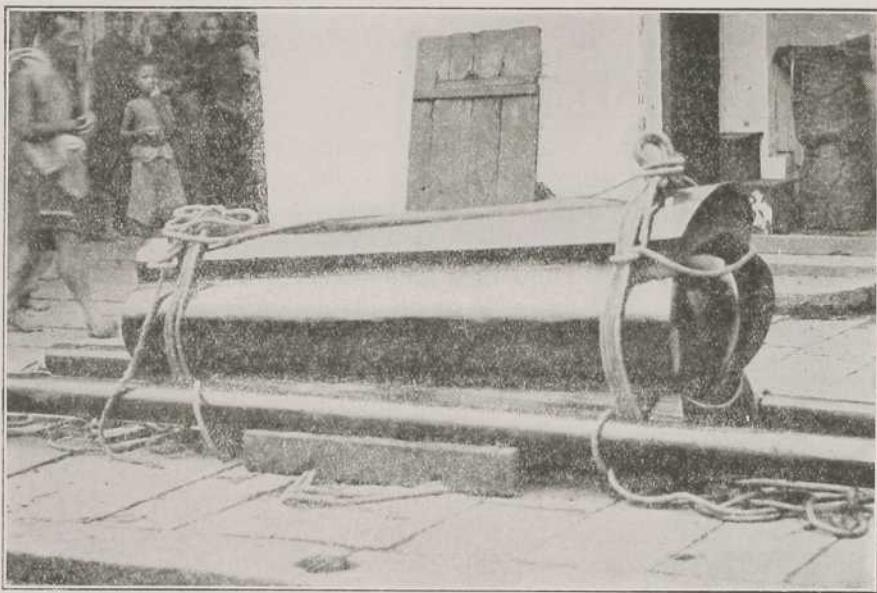
1. Gracia BLANCHETTE, of Drummondville.

2. Annonciade STRASBOURG, of Chenneville, Que.

3. Marie Anne ROMPRE, of Ste. Thècle.

nese coffin-boards — very thick, strong, planks — as well as with eight feet of earth and from two to three feet of bamboos, branches, etc., forming a certain elasticity capable of preventing the bombs from exploding. Two large hollow bamboos, traversing this thickness of over ten feet, serve for air-pipes. It is said that our dug-out is one of the best of those of the poor people of the neighbourhood. To tell the truth, ten feet of cement would be preferable; but, as we cannot afford this, we have placed our trust in the Sacred Heart, Our Immaculate Mother, our dear Protector St. Joseph, and St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, whose pictures we have hung on the walls, and who seem to assure us of their protection.

The coffin-boards employed are, as we like to call them, second-hand boards. The Chinese, especially the rich, take up the bones of their



A CHINESE COFFIN.

deceased relatives after eight or ten years, wash them and place them in stone urns, which they cover with a few inches of earth, or even leave leaning against a tuft of grass, on the hills. The coffin-boards — the good ones — are sold for forty or fifty cents a piece, and are generally used for constructing small bridges, dikes and even houses. There were numbers of these urns and hundreds of graves on this hill, when it was given to us by the Chinese Government, in 1932. They have now disappeared but we must not deceive ourselves, we can hardly take a step on this land without walking on the bones of some poor peasant or some great personage who lived in ancient times. In making our dug-out, we had to dislodge four skeletons that had been resting in peace for at least two hundred years, according to the opinion of the people in the neighbourhood.

Another precaution ordered by the police was to paint our pale yellow buildings dark gray, so that they may be less apparent to the Japanese

aeroplanes. All this was not done without prejudice to our purse; but our dear benefactors and good parents will not disapprove of these expenses made for the purpose of protecting ourselves.

In case that famine might be occasioned by the prolongation of the war, we have cleared and rendered cultivable about an acre and a half of the ground on our hill, rising in the centre to a height of twenty-five feet. It was not a small undertaking!... There, again, were ten or fifteen graves from which we had to remove the bones and transport them to another place. We had to level the ground by steps, cut the branches, pick up the stones, etc., in a word, make virgin soil. But our labour is well paid by the vegetables that we are gathering already. Most of the Chinese vegetables grow very rapidly. A crop can be obtained in thirty or forty days. We intend planting several kinds of European vegetables also, so that, if the continued period of distress should deprive us of bread, rice, meat, etc., we shall have vegetables to replace them. There is one inconvenience, however: we are among poor and thievish people... Even the animals take the liberty of climbing our hill and eating the fruit of our labours. A good wall only would give us the control of our land. In China, it is out of the question to have a fence; the wood would certainly all disappear in a few days. Like the poorest, we are having a wall made of hardened clay. Let us hope that it will last and rid us of the vegetable thieves and also the soldiers who like to come and spend their leisure time around our houses and who, even, have their military exercises there quite often.

The difficulty of cultivating in China is that, on account of the sun, in winter as in summer, it is necessary to water the plants two or three times a day. Where the land is low, the farmers arrange to conduct the water from the nearest streams into open wells. Descending into them, they only have to stoop a little to fill the bucket hanging at each end of the bamboo pole borne over their shoulders. Fortunately, on our property there are two good wells, one of which is provided with a pump. We dug a little reservoir near this well and, now, a blind woman can draw up water for the garden, thus saving much of the gardeners' precious time.

Sunday, December 5

The Japanese paid us two visits to-day; the first lasted from seven thirty-five to eleven fifteen this morning, and the second, from one o'clock to twenty past three this afternoon. The bombardment was violent in the direction of the station. We could see the clouds of smoke emitted by the planes to conceal themselves. The Chinese defense was vigorous; but, as is generally the case, the aggressors caused very much damage and escaped with little loss.

In an instant, our shelter was invaded by a crowd of scared-looking neighbours, men, women and children who — the greater number being Christians — prayed very fervently while the terrible detonations lasted. The air-raids, properly called, are never very long; and, as soon as the planes retreat, the people return by little groups, speaking low, impressed

as they still are by the awful noise which has filled their ears and penetrated them to the very heart.

Tuesday, December 14

The news of Shanghai is not reassuring! On the 3rd, the Japanese paraded for three hours in the International Settlement and the French Concession, covering a distance of six miles. The Chinese had closed the doors and shutters of their stores and had only to stand idly by, watching the armed soldiers and machine-guns defiling. One Chinese who had the unfortunate idea to throw a bomb, was shot on the spot by the police. An English lawyer, invited by the Japanese to wave the Japanese flag, declined the invitation and, being urged once again to do so, he broke the staff of the little ensign on his knee. He was immediately arrested.

After this incident, the French authorities categorically refused to let the Japanese soldiers pass on their territory; but, after repeated entreaties, the latter obtained permission, and the police on motor-cycles and trucks escorted them.

Saturday, December 18

Sister Marie Immaculée⁽¹⁾ and Sister Marie de l'Espérance⁽²⁾, who had gone to Hong Kong for urgent affairs, returned to Canton after midnight only... The railroad had been bombarded and had to be repaired. The train was stopped for several hours. Needless to say, travelling is now very tiresome and we are longing for peace!

Saturday, December 25, Christmas

On account of the troubled times, we did not have Midnight Mass. This morning, we assembled in our little sanctuary to sing the charms of the Divine Child. The crib is set in a bower of poinsettias and pink chrysanthemums. The new-born King comes to bring peace to the world; but is the world ready to accept it? Let us hope that, at least, an intense interior peace will help us to bear the troubles of the times.

In the house, the day is peaceful enough; but, outside, the Japanese planes are making an uproar. Their dreadful droning now replaces the joyous chimes of the cathedral which, on great festivals, produced such sweet melodies! For four months, they have been almost silent; only a few almost imperceptible strokes announce the Angelus and the various religious ceremonies.

To-day's mail brought us reassuring news of our Sisters in Tsungming. They are all safe, we are told; and we thank God. An English boat, aboard which was the British Vice-Consul and Reverend Father A. Sansoucy, S. J., tried to go to Tsungming early in December to inquire about them, as the Island has been, for some time, a centre of operation for the Japanese. When it was a few hundred yards from the shore, it received two hundred cannon-balls from the enemy's machine-guns and was obliged to return to Shanghai without attaining its aim. An inquest was held

1. Alice Vanchestein, of St. Michel de Napierville.

2. Auréa VANNARD, of Montreal.

on this incident, which has cost the life of a Chinese naval-officer. We had remained anxious about our dear Sisters, so isolated and unprotected.

Mr. Choy Wong, who has been our gardener for several years, became a Christian yesterday afternoon. He was baptized at the Cathedral. When the time came to choose a godfather for him, we suggested the porter of the Bishop's House; but he replied quite plainly: "*Nenni!*". The porter did not suit him, because he was not distinguished enough. We aimed higher and offered him the Bishop's secretary. Again, he refused. It must be remembered that our gardener is very pretentious, but he has great confidence in Sister Marie Immaculée. Her suggestion was immediately accepted, and Mr. Luke Chan, whom she proposed, was chosen. The ceremony was performed according to the rubrics, and Choy Wong, who will henceforth be called Joseph, seemed very fervent.

Monday, December 27

As we have been informed that Canton is to be bombarded to-day, Sister Superior⁽¹⁾ has sent another group of our dear children to Shek Lung Island. Sister St. Expédit has accompanied them. Reverend Father Marsigny, Director of the Lazaretto, kindly welcomes each group that arrives.

To-day's alarm, the hundred and fifty-first, was one of the longest. We were on the alert from eight forty-five this morning to five minutes past four this afternoon, with a ten minutes' interruption only. The air-raids of the past few days were very violent. The day before yesterday, forty-two planes attacked the three railroads.

It is still possible to send letters with all the current news; but, if the invaders succeed in entering Canton, we shall be obliged to remain perfectly silent about our situation. It is said that a hundred thousand letters have been confiscated at Shanghai. Fifty thousand men were killed in Nanking, because they refused to have the characters "Great Japan" tattooed on their arms. The Chinese soldiers treated in the hospitals must promise never again to fight against Japan.

Tuesday, January 4, 1938

We have learnt of the tragic death of Lo Pah Hong, the great Catholic philanthropist of Shanghai. He was assassinated after having been elected president of the Civic Association of Shanghai, destined to protect the local interests. This death is a heavy loss to the many charitable works for which Lo Pah Hong was a Saint Vincent de Paul.

Wednesday, January 12

Our situation is not improving. There are very few pupils attending the Shameen school, which is our only source of revenue. Most of the children have been taken to Hong Kong or Macao for safety's sake; but we are quite busy, just the same. Actually, we are emptying our cupboards, in order to find something with which to make dresses for the little girls,

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

from four to ten years old. How we have to measure and calculate, to succeed in dressing all these little people!...

Reverend Father Fleury, who came to ask hospitality for three Cannoisian Sisters going from Hankow to Hong Kong, informed us that the Japanese have bombarded the Seminary of Nanning, killing one of his confrères, only twenty-seven years of age. Another priest who was older was wounded by the projectiles. This incident is causing great emotion in French circles.

Monday, January 31

Koung he! Koung he! Happy New Year! Happy New Year! It is the wish of the day among the Chinese, among the aged and the country-people, especially, who are not yet accustomed to the Gregorian calendar. Despite the municipal edict forbidding, on account of the war, all pyrotechnical demonstrations, we were awakened by fireworks quite early this morning. If the delinquents are caught, they will be punished by a new sort of fine: "TO FURNISH CLOTHES FOR THE SOLDIERS". That does not hinder the people, however, from celebrating the Chinese New Year, by observing as much as possible all the other festive customs.

Wednesday, February 2

The Chinese Priest who says Mass for us had scarcely left this morning, when he returned. "Sister," said he, on entering the porch, "there is an abandoned baby near your gate." Quickly we went to get the poor little creature and baptized it. We cannot become accustomed to the spectacle of abandoned babies... In this time of war, their number is greater than ever, for the poor people swarm the country. At Shanghai, it seems that, during the past few months, ten thousand dead bodies were gathered up in the streets; seven thousand five hundred of these were babies. All had perished of misery and hunger.

Last year, we had the consolation of registering 5,123 Baptisms in our Foundling-Homes and Orphanages. What will this year's total be?... Oh! if we could only be in all the places where these innocent little victims are cast away, to open Heaven to them!

Friday, February 4

From eight o'clock in the morning until half-past eight in the evening,



SISTER MARIE DE LOYOLA (ORPHISE BOULAY, OF COATICOOK, P. Q.) BAPTIZING A DYING BABY NEAR THE FOUNDLING-HOME, CANTON, CHINA.

the alarms succeeded one another almost continually. The night was likewise disturbed; but, thank God, most of the Sisters, being overcome with fatigue, were not awakened by the noise.

The boat on which Sister Marie de la Miséricorde⁽¹⁾ was coming from Shek Lung, yesterday afternoon, was attacked by the Japanese planes, which discharged upon it three volleys of cannon-balls. Fortunately, however, these fell here and there without touching the passengers, who had taken refuge inside.

Sister Marie de Toutes Graces⁽²⁾ and Sister Joseph de la Sainte Famille⁽³⁾, whom we expected from Hong Kong at eight o'clock last night, arrived only at day-break, this morning, after a succession of incidents. To begin with, the train was an hour late at Hong Kong, so they were to arrive at Canton Station at about 9.00 P. M., and at the convent, twenty minutes later; but, as the Japanese aeroplanes were hovering over the railroad, the train stopped within the boundary line of the British territory and stationed there for more than a couple of hours. Finally, it was about half-past eleven when the train came into Canton. The rickshaws, which were much less numerous than usual, were soon taken by the travellers who could pay fabulous prices, and our poor Sisters found themselves almost alone on the street. They then noticed a coolie who offered to conduct them for five times the ordinary price. The bargain was not yet made when, suddenly, all the lights of the city were extinguished. It was the signal warning the people that the "birds of death" were approaching. Our two Sisters began to think of returning to the station; but, as they looked back at it, it seemed so dark and dreary against the starry firmament (since the beginning of hostilities, the buildings are painted dark gray, so that the aviators may confound them with the surrounding earth), that they preferred to take the risk of returning to the Convent.

And they advanced... as bravely as possible; but, soon, a sentinel appeared in the obscurity and, barring the passage, asked: "Who are you? What nationality? Where are you going?" Recognizing that they belonged to a friendly nation, he let them pass. A few steps farther on, the same procedure began again and was repeated during the whole journey. At three different places, an officer gave them an escort to facilitate their passage, and it was in the midst of soldiers armed with bayonets that they reached the Convent at three o'clock in the morning.

The reason of all the inquisitions was that a plot to take Canton had been discovered during the day, and the police and soldiers were on the watch. It seems that three hundred Formosans (Chinese insulars formerly conquered by Japan and now her allegiants) had entered Canton among the mass of refugees and were even dispersed throughout the army with identical uniforms and armament. The officers of the regiments, noticing that these new faces did not belong to them, have arrested three, so it is said. After interrogatories, more than two hundred have been discovered and about a hundred shot. These three hundred irregular soldiers had

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

2. Marie Albertine LAGANIERE, of Grondines.

3. Jeannette DELISLE, of Worcester, Mass.

the mission to ignite rockets, to set fires and discharge musketry as soon as the Japanese planes, warned by the fires, would have dropped their projectiles on the city. The munitions, so we are told, were hidden in the mountains.

We shudder at the thought of what would have become of Canton, if the plan had succeeded!

Monday, February 7

At recreation time, this evening, Sister Superior received the following letter from Sister Marie de la Miséricorde, relating her return-trip to Shek Lung!

"At last, here I am at the Lazaretto," she writes. "The Sisters were very anxious, for a violent bombardment commenced just at the time when the boat generally leaves Canton — half past three.

What a terrible trip!... Towards seven o'clock, an ill-intentioned individual spread the news that our boat was on fire. The guardians soon calmed the passengers, but not before they had all been very much alarmed... At nine o'clock, as we were passing Lam Kong, a well-known haunt of thieves, a sudden discharge of musketry filled the crew with terror. It was not the bandits, but a platoon giving the signal: NOT TO ADVANCE ANY FARTHER ON THE RIVER. Our boat anchored and was allowed to leave only at six o'clock the next morning. We had just begun to proceed hopefully, when we perceived the Japanese aeroplanes over our heads!... Another dilemma!... Once rid of this annoying company, we were finally gliding quietly along when, at an hour's distance from the Lazaretto, our boat got stuck in a sand-bank and was unable to move. Another boat passing by came to our help and had the same fate. Finally, a tug detached from a merchant vessel endeavoured to pull us out and succeeded on towing us as far as Shek Lung. I was glad to be able to disembark. I was — it is the time to say it — dead tired. Our dear Sisters thought that I was in the city and unable to leave it, as the Japanese planes had bombarded in the neighbourhood of the Lazaretto and on the railroad where they are always aiming at the bridge..."

The painful situation in which we have been for almost six months has affected us; but, at the same time, Heaven's visible protection is a source of great encouragement to us in our present trials and a firm assurance for the future. Despite the sombre appearance of the horizon, we cherish the hope that God will not fail to give us the means necessary to carry on to the end our mission of consoling and caring for the unfortunate.

* * *

Letter from Sister Marie de la Miséricorde, Missionary of the Immaculate Conception, Hospitaller at the Lazaretto of Shek Lung.

Shek Lung, November 26, 1937.

VERY DEAR MOTHER,

I am writing to you during a typhoon which is keeping away the aeroplanes. Since September 3rd, I am sheltered at Shek Lung with about eighty children from our house of Our Lady of Providence and a few from the Foundling-Home in Canton.



THE NEWLY-BAPTIZED AND FIRST COMMUNICANTS OF THE YEAR 1937, AT THE CHINESE SCHOOL TAK SUN (OF THE FAITH), HONG KONG, CHINA, DIRECTED BY THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. THIS SCHOOL HAS AN ATTENDANCE OF MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY CHILDREN, MOSTLY PAGANS, WHO, WE HOPE, WILL SOONER OR LATER EMBRACE THE CATHOLIC FAITH. IN THE CENTRE: MISS LEUNG, CATECHIST OF THE SCHOOL. TO HER RIGHT: SISTER MARIE DE ST. GEORGES (CORINNE CREVIER, OF MONTREAL). TO HER LEFT: SISTER ST. ETIENNE (AURORE PLOUFFE, OF MONTREAL).

Like the Holy Family, we are in Egypt awaiting "the death of the enemy"; we are living in the greatest of poverty. The furniture of the house consists of a few boards placed on trestles, which serve, during the night, as beds for the older ones and, in the day time, as study desks and even refectory tables. We purchased for each of them a little ten-cent stool, a bowl and chop-sticks. The smaller ones have not even boards for the night, as we have not the means of procuring any for them. They sleep on the platform of their hall, upon straw covered with mats, without pillows, of course.

Although the leper women are very careful not to approach the children, we must be on the watch just the same. The mothers look affectionately at the poor little ones who, perhaps, remind them of those they have had to leave.

How long is the war going to last? So are we wondering anxiously, though, however, confident in Divine Providence. We thought ourselves safe in the country of the Island, but since the 14th of October, we are on the alert.

The fifteenth, Feast of Saint Teresa, was the most terrible day. Twenty-five Japanese planes made a deafening noise and bombarded not far from here. In our hiding-places, we were thinking that the Saint was quite right when she said to Our Lord: "It is not surprising, O Lord, that Thou hast such a few friends, if Thou treatest them all like that!"

Fortunately, our little ones are very obedient; even in the midst of their games, as soon as we say: "The aeroplanes are coming," they become silent and walk on the tips of their toes. The bigger ones, eight and nine

years old, take the little ones by the hand and lead them to their hiding-place. This facilitates our escape. What a pity to see the patients whose flesh is falling to pieces and who are on the point of expiring, wrapped in their grey coverings, seeking shelter under the house.

Since the 16th, the black veil and grey apron replace the white costume of the Sister-Infirmarians of the Lazaretto, so that they may not be remarked by these "birds of prey". We are told that the Japanese have chosen white as the colour by which the traitors are to indicate the coveted spots.

Our situation, dear Mother, is not all sunshine; but we are not discouraged, for we are convinced that our Heavenly Queen's maternal protection will not fail us. May this loving Patroness grant us the necessary strength to remain at our posts until the end, so as to help and console the poor creatures confided to our care!

Your affectionate and grateful daughter,

Sister MARIE DE LA MISERICORDE, M.I.C.

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* *

A Letter from Sister Marie de la Protection(1), Superior of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Suchow, China, to her Sisters at the Mother House.

*Kingantsi, China,
January 27, 1938.*

VERY DEAR SISTERS,

The news of the war is not reassuring. Actually, the enemy is advancing in four columns towards Suchow, where, so it seems, a great battle will take place. I wrote to Tsungming and have not yet received any answer; but indirect news assures us that our Sisters are still safe there.

We are still at Kingantsi, and it is difficult to say when it will be possible for us to return to our post.

1. Cécile ROBERGE, of Quebec.



A POOR LEPER-WOMAN.

I do not think that I have told you of the events which preceded our departure from Suchow. On the 19th of September, towards 6.30 A. M., the alarm warned us of the danger; several aeroplanes were hovering over the city, taking photographs from the heights. The sky was serene and the sun, shining in all its brilliancy. Our protecting flag, made of four white sheets with a red Latin cross in the centre, was spread over the harbour so as to be discerned by the Japanese aviators at a great distance. The enemy aims especially at the stations, railroads, trains, bridges and caserns; but a mistake is always possible when the bombs are dropped from a height of thousands of feet. Towards 2 P.M., that same day, twenty-two of the enemy's planes appeared over Suchow. The Chinese machine-guns tried to hurl some down. Never had we heard such an uproar and, however, the sound was already deadened when it reached us in the cellar, where we were hidden. We remained, the seven of us, close to one another; as for myself, I felt safe only when I saw my companions near me. It is in such imminent danger that we realize how much we are attached to life.

The next day, another alarm! The helper of the Dispensary and a woman-servant came down to the cellar with us. The latter, although a pagan, told us that she was less afraid when she heard us praying; and, trembling with fear, she pressed in her hands the medal of the Blessed Virgin that we had given her. Towards nine o'clock, during the calm which followed the attack, people began to circulate in the streets and we set ourselves to preparing dinner; but a quarter of an hour had not gone by when another alarm was given. The mission-bell, which is usually a messenger of joy, seemingly affected by the distress of the poor Chinese people, had become lugubrious and was even more so during the night. This second bombardment was still more violent than the first one. Quickly we extinguished the fire, for, from on high, the enemy could have mistaken our house for a train and thrown a projectile upon it. A bomb fell on a straw hut, situated at about six hundred feet from our convent, and killed about a dozen persons. The explosion produced a cloud of dust which penetrated even into our cellar.

Reverend Father Pesant, S. J., came to give us news of the attack. The material damage was slight enough, but poor innocent creatures were killed.

It was then that His Excellency Bishop Côté suggested that we leave for the country of Kingantsi, which is seventy *li* from Suchow and under the jurisdiction of Wutwan. This place is advantageous at present on account of its remoteness from railroads; and we can procure there almost everything that we need for our living.

On the evening of the 21st, His Excellency Bishop Yu-Pin, Vicar Apostolic of Nanking, who was passing through Suchow, informed us that the Japanese were bombarding the Capital without any truce; even the train upon which he had travelled had been the enemy's objective.

The next day, Sister Saint Alice⁽¹⁾ and Sister Saint Amédée⁽²⁾ began

1. Jeanne BASTIEN, of Montreal.

2. Emilienne VEZINA, of Quebec

the exodus; they were soon followed by Sister Imelda de l'Eucharistie⁽¹⁾ and Sister Sainte Angélique⁽²⁾. The preparations were soon made, for they were permitted to take only what was absolutely necessary. Reverend Father Pesant, S. J., conveyed them in an automobile to Wutwan, where they were kindly and hospitably entertained by the Presentendines of this post, while awaiting to go to Kingantsi. Sister Saint Victor⁽³⁾, Sister Marie Xavier⁽⁴⁾ and myself were already there, making the indispensable preparations for their arrival. Finally, on September 28th, they came to join us; the family was then complete. We are greatly indebted to His Excellency Bishop Côté, who was our Providence and guide during these evil days. This true Pastor is unceasingly giving tokens of his solicitude and devotedness to our humble Community.

We have already described to you our temporary dwelling; we are sending you the photograph of it. Besides, a wide passage and a tiny kitchen, the house comprises three rooms, the middle one serving as a living-room and the other two as dormitories. The garden is very big; the air is pure; and a perfect calm reigns there. The chapel of the Mission is on the same grounds as our house; poverty is its principal ornament.

We burn dried sorghum stalks which constitute the ordinary fuel of the country. One person must be continually occupied to keep the fire burning. These sorghum stalks, more or less dry, emit a pungent smoke, which makes the tears flow abundantly... You would smile if you could see us behind the pot, blowing and fanning them — they seem to mock at our efforts and refuse to take fire. In these Chinese pots, food can only be steamed or boiled; but we must take things as they come!...

Reverend Father Lecomte, S. J., sent a Presentendine Sister to help us. The first days we were here, we went with her to visit the Christians of the neighbourhood in order to tell them that Mass would be said in the Mission-Chapel every morning for some time; for, after our arrival, His Excellency had kindly appointed a resident priest at Kingantsi. On our return, passing near a poor hut, we stopped to greet the Christians living therein. The father told us that his wife was not baptized, but that it was not his fault; she did not want to go to study the Christian Doctrine. The woman replied that she had not time to do so; that she had to grind the grain, prepare the meals, take care of the children... As the conversation was about to go on forever and turn into a dispute, I cut it short in telling the mother that I would like to see her children.

"My baby is sick," she said.

"Show me it quick; I can treat it."

She brought a poor little two-year-old child, covered with sores. Its days and even its hours were numbered. I baptized it immediately. It was then eleven o'clock in the morning; and, at four in the afternoon, little Joseph Michael was in Heaven. That was our first Baptism in

1. Simone BOISCLAIR, of Almaville.
2. Cecile MATHIEU, of St. Evariste, Co. Beauce.
3. Germaine TANGUAY, of Nashua, N. H.
4. Berthe PARADIS, of Tingwick.

Kingantsi. It was soon known among the Chinese of the neighbourhood that we treated the sick; and it was not long before the little dispensary which we opened was well patronized.

From time to time, we are visited by the Japanese planes going to or coming from Suchow and the surrounding cities. Their passage fills the



DWELLING OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AT KINGANTSI, DURING THE WAR. IN THE FOREGROUND, MR. TCHAW, THEIR AGED PORTER, TWISTING CORD, AND HIS GOOD OLD WOMAN, WHO EARNS TWENTY MEXICAN CENTS IN THREE DAYS AT SPINNING.

people with terror. As soon as the noise of the motors is heard, the farmers leave their beasts and instruments and flee to their huts.

In the month of November, having been obliged to go out into the village, we were struck by the pitiful condition of the inhabitants. Summoned to go to Suchow to help in the defense works, each one sadly prepared what was necessary for his subsistence: bedding, pots, flour, vegetables, etc. Otherwise, they would have had to give fifty cents a day during the whole period of their service. That very much surpassed the means of these poor country-people, who usually have not five dollars in the house. One furnished the animals, another the cart; a third one, a table, etc., etc. Hundreds of them were taking the road to the city. "When will he return? Who will give us the necessary food during his absence?" Such were the questions that tormented the anxious mothers who remained at home with the children and grand parents. Poor Chinese people! They had already so much to suffer that it is heart-rending to see their sufferings augmented.

On December 24th, Reverend Father A. Demers, S. J., baptized ten catechumens, seven of whom were adults and three, children. Among the newly-baptized, five who had been married to Christians were fulfilling the promise that they had made at the moment of their marriage, to be instructed in the Catholic Religion. They also made their First Communion.

Midnight Mass was celebrated for the first time at Kingantsi. It was an extraordinary event for the Christians there. Some of them found that the hour was not very convenient and ingenuously told the Missionary so. Nevertheless, at eleven o'clock, many men were waiting at the gate. As it would have been unseemly for the women to travel in the country during the night, they slept in the school. The poor chapel was quite transformed: flowers adorned the altar; banderoles of different colours intercrossed, while a pink one bore in Chinese characters the translation of *Gloria in excelsis Deo*; and the whole was softly illuminated by pink lanterns. The good Christians, especially the children, gazed with wide-open eyes. They had so many things to see that they noticed the Infant Jesus in His crib only in the middle of the Mass. They immediately began to nudge one another and point at the new discovery, the most wonderful one.

On Christmas morning, carts drawn by oxen and mules arrived from all directions; the little chapel was over-crowded. We sang during the High Mass, which was celebrated at nine o'clock. It was followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The time had come to reward the school-children. In the afternoon, while they were reciting the beads at the chapel, quickly we added the finishing touches to the Christmas-tree. The distribution of presents was full of animation; each one received either a pair of stockings, a woolen scarf, a crucifix, a share of candy, etc. — so many useful and pleasing gifts



THRESHING SORGHUM AT KINGANTSI. THE STRAW-HUT TO THE LEFT IS THE MISSIONARY PRIEST'S RESIDENCE.

which we owe to the generosity of our Canadian benefactors. How happy these would have been, had they witnessed the expression of joy on the little yellow faces. "Never," declared Mrs. Siu, our catechist, "never have these children seen such beautiful things; they are *si seu* (tickled to death)."

Since the distribution of gifts, the number of pupils has been tripled. The average attendance is thirty daily. Those of Kingantsi take their meals at their homes; those from *Siao kan keou*, three *li* from here, and from *Siao sin tchoang*, one *li* and a half, go home every evening, but take their meals here. The children already baptized are preparing for their First Communion or Confirmation, and those not baptized, for Baptism.

The class-furniture cannot be more simple. There are no benches nor tables; they have only bundles of sorghum stalks to sit on. The teacher is seated in the middle of the circle, listening to the different groups repeating the *Pater*, the *Ave* and the Commandments of God. At meal-time, each pupil, provided with a bowl and chop-sticks, goes and helps herself in the common dish placed on a little stool in the middle of the assembly. These poor children are contented with little; the least thing pleases them very much. Sister Saint Alice had promised them a Rosary as soon as they would know how to use it. There was extraordinary emulation among them to learn the mysteries of the Rosary and the manner of reciting the beads. After an examination, all the successful ones received red, green, or blue beads. Only Wang Tai, an eleven-year-old girl, had tears in her eyes. She and her family are still pagans, and it is not the first time that she has had a similar grief. At Christmas, when three of her companions were baptized, she had cried bitterly. "I know all my prayers and Catechism and cannot be baptized, did she repeat, sobbing. We made her understand that her parents being pagans, the Missionary Priest could not baptize her against their will, but that she might win her cause by converting them. This was like a flash of light to her. In the evening, the little one who is quite intelligent, taught her mother the prayers which she had learnt and tried to persuade her to embrace the Christian Faith. Recently, the child conducted her mother to the Mission and, ever since, this mamma attends the Catechism lesson every evening. Her eldest brother is supposed to go to Wutwan, where there is a catechists' school for men.

A sixty-one-year-old catechumen who had been able to learn only how to make the Sign of the Cross, became discouraged. The Sister at the Catechumenate sent her to the Chapel. The poor old woman made a deep prostration and said aloud the following prayer: "I am not able to learn anything, help me O my God, I believe in Thee. I would like to be baptized." On leaving, noticing a little lamp burning in front of the Blessed Sacrament, she gave two cents for its upkeep. A little later, she gave two red candles for the crib, so that God would remember that she had asked for the grace of Baptism and would grant her request. Is it not touching to find such faith in a pagan. She reminds us of the Canaanæan in the Gospel.

A Christian from a distant village, who had fallen ill two years ago, had promised that, if he recovered, he would offer a one-year-old lamb as a holocaust to God. He had heard that, in olden times, such sacrifices were offered. He had been especially struck by the example of Abraham immolating a ram instead of Isaac, his son. After being restored to health,

he forgot about his promise; but this year, as he was again affected with the same disease, he thought that it must have been in punishment for his unfaithfulness. Shortly afterwards, he confided his resolution to the



MRS. SIU, CATECHIST, WHO WHILE DOING THE WASHING, FINDS THE MEANS OF TEACHING THE PRAYERS TO SOME LITTLE CATECHUMENS. THE SECOND FROM THE RIGHT IS THE YOUNG WANG TAI.

Missionary who was visiting his village. On learning that such sacrifices were no longer to be offered under the New Law, and that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the offering of Jesus Himself to His Heavenly Father, replaced all the figurative sacrifices of old, he accepted the Missionary's proposition to give the promised lamb to the Catholic Mission. Consequently, a beautiful white lamb was brought to us. The Christians who know its story call it: "God's lamb."

I have given you a brief sketch of our activities in the dear Mission of Kingantsi. We are happy here, for we have the opportunity of rendering some people happy.

I am hastening to forward this letter to you while the post is still in operation. The Japanese are going nearer and nearer to Suchow, and it is said that they will soon make a violent attack there.

Lovingly Yours,

SISTER MARIE DE LA PROTECTION.

Report of the Dispensaries of Suchow and Kingantsi for the year 1937.

Baptisms of dying adults	34	Baptisms of children	104
Patients	7,098	Treatments	9,554
Teeth extracted	31	Homes visited	299
Injectons	930	Vaccinations	12
		Dressings	2,468
		Consultations	2,126

MANCHUKUO

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters in Fakou

Sunday, October 17, 1937

We are making a pilgrimage to the Catholic cemetery. The walk is full of charms. In this country there are no fences; a low ridge indicates the boundary line of properties. While going along the narrow paths which traverse the fields, we perceive a great number of women and children with baskets on their left arms and spades in their right hands, searching in the earth for the few vegetables overlooked by the diggers; others pull up the sorghum roots or gather dead leaves to be used as fuel... These are poor people making their winter provisions.

Half way, we pass a field where yams are being dug. This kind of vegetable, heretofore unknown to us, is a climbing vine whose roots form a food similar to that of the potato. It requires careful culture and is sold at a very high price; it is served only in banquets.

Before reaching the Catholic cemetery, we cross a pagan one. There, near a grave, we remark two men who, we are told, are the husband and son of the woman who was buried there. They set on the ground different kinds of food, which they offer to the deceased woman, while burning paper money. The ceremony completed, they take up the food offered and return

to the city. Then arrive two women in mourning. They come to weep and lament, according to the custom, the seventh day after the death.

Arrived at the Catholic cemetery, we recite a few prayers; then, we linger a while to contemplate the city which extends at our feet. How many indications of Satan's reign: big pagodas in the South, in the West, and in the centre; besides the countless little ones that we distinguish at all the street corners... How-



REVEREND FATHER H. GAUVIN, P. M. E.
VISITING A PAGAN COUNTRY, PAUSES NEAR A MOUND WHERE
PAPER-MONEY HAS BEEN PLACED. ACCORDING TO THE CUSTOM,
THIS MONEY WILL BE BURNT ON THE SEVENTH DAY AFTER THE
DEATH OF THE PERSON WHO IS BURIED THERE.

ever, the devil is not the only master in this country; the true God has also adorers, who are daily becoming more and more numerous. The cross which we perceive on the horizon and which surmounts the steeple of our church, recalls it to us and fills our hearts with hope.

On our return, we stop to see what we ostentatiously call "our hospital"... Poverty is the sole ornament of the only room which it comprises. There



A SMALL CHINESE PAGODA ON THE
ROADSIDE. IN THE CENTRE, AN URN IN
WHICH INCENSE IS BURNED IN HONOUR
OF BUDDHA.

are actually three patients there, two lame men and a hydropic. The latter has not long to live; but he will have the happiness of dying a child of the Church. The catechist is preparing him for Baptism.

Wednesday, October 31

At the close of this month, we owe a special debt of gratitude to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary for the beautiful ears of corn that she has enabled us to glean for the Heavenly granaries.

On October 4th, we were called in haste to the bedside of a five-year-old child. When we arrived there its father tried to hinder our entering. "It is useless," said he, "nothing can save him." Invoking Mary, we insisted. "That makes no difference," we said, "let us see the patient." He yielded to our entreaties. The child was baptized and died after a few minutes.

Some days later, we received a ten-day-old baby that was on the point of being smothered at birth, when a compassionate neighbour saved it from death. The child lived only two days after its Baptism.

On October 20th, we providentially met a dying child who was awaiting but the Regenerating Waters to take its flight to Heaven.

Finally, yesterday, Saturday, the old hydropic of the Mission hospital also became a child of God.

Monday, November 1

Two weeks ago, an unknown old lady came to the Dispensary, saying: "Wa sin tchou (I believe in God). Where is the Catholic Mission?" We conducted her to the catechumenate, where she was interrogated...

"How old are you?"

"Eighty-three years old."

"Who sent you to the Catholic Mission?"

"No one; I have come alone; I believe in God; I am old; I want to go to Heaven."

"Have you any relatives?"

"I have sons; one is living in the city."

"Go for him, we wish to know if he is willing that you should come here."

Astonished at seeing that we demanded so many formalities, she went to her son's for the night and returned with him the next morning. All was arranged according to her desire and she became a catechumen. Her bad memory, however, refuses to retain any prayer. For two weeks, the virgin catechist has been endeavouring to teach her how to make the Sign

of the Cross. "I can learn nothing," said she, "but that does not matter; I believe; it is sufficient." The Lord was going to decide in her favour. She is sick to-day; she cannot eat and her temperature is very high. On account of her great age, we fear a sudden death, and she is, therefore, baptized without delay.



SISTER MARIE JOSEPHINE (ELIANE GRAVEL, OF ST. PROSPER, CHAMPLAIN CO.), MISSIONARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, IN A MANCHU CART, ON HER RETURN FROM A VISIT TO A WEALTHY FAMILY OF FAKOU. THE DRIVER SITS IN FRONT AND THE TRAVELLERS INSIDE.

Friday, December 31

Our old servant *Lao Wen* has been called to his reward. He felt his death-stroke the day after Christmas, while fulfilling his humble duties. Returning in haste to the catechumenate, he said to those around him: "I am going to Heaven... I shall not recover." He received the last Sacraments with great faith, and peacefully expired. It is very consoling to see with what confidence most of our neophytes, even those who have not been very fervent, await the moment of death. The expressions that they use in speaking of their last end are very significant: "*Koei t'ien tchou*" (I am returning to God), "*Koei t'ien kouo*" (I am returning to my home in Heaven).

Report of the Dispensary of Fakou for the Year 1937:

Baptisms.....	79	Patients.....	27,046	
Treatments.....	39,654	Dressings.....	4,619	Homes visited.....437
Teeth extracted..	462	Injections.....	418	Vaccinations.....229

The apostolic spirit is the condition of our progress and the measure of our Catholicity.

Cardinal Manning.

JAPAN

Extracts from letters of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception at Wakamatsu, Japan, to their Sisters of the Mother House.

Wakamatsu, December 28, 1937.

VERY DEAR SISTERS,

A great number of Japanese will leave in a few months for the army. Everywhere, people are speaking only of war, of soldiers, of wounded. The latter are already returning quite numerous to the casern. The ladies of the city make it their duty to go, each in turn, and devote their leisure moments to the care of these patients.

Among the soldiers sent to the front, there are even priests who are obliged to carry arms like ordinary soldiers. One of them communicated his impressions to the Catholic newspaper, expressing his surprise at seeing so many Catholic missions in China. "Humble villages have their churches," said he, with admiration.

A Christian having been called to the front, the young men of the Mission presented a very odd souvenir flag to him. It was the national flag (the rising sun), bearing large characters in the centre. In the place of rays,



REVEREND FATHER VALEUSIN, PREACHER OF RETREATS FOR MISSIONARIES, VISITING WAKAMATSU. REVEREND FATHERS SAWADE PASTOR, AND KAINUMA, CURATE. SISTER STE. ANGELE DE MERICI (MARIE JEANNE L'HEUREUX, OF LORETTEVILLE); SISTER DE L'ENFANT JESUS (FLORENTINE DANSEREAU, OF VERCHERES); SISTER STE. JUSTINE (CLEONA ROBITAILLE, OF GLENADA, ST. MAURICE CO.); SISTER ST. FRANCOIS DE SALES (GEORGINE LATOUR, OF MONTREAL); AND THE PUPILS OF THE KINDERGARTEN OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN THEIR NATIONAL COSTUME.

each Christian wrote his name with a fine brush. Invited to do likewise, we also inscribed ours. The idea of these signatures is to assure the soldier of our constant remembrance.

Among the consoling events which rejoice us from time to time, we must mention the visit of His Excellency Bishop Lemieux, O. P., to Wakamatsu.



PUPILS OF THE KINDERGARTEN OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARADING IN THE CITY AT THE REQUEST OF THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES TO CELEBRATE THE 70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF SOME BRAVE YOUNG MEN OF WAKAMATSU. SISTER STE. ANGELE DE MERICI (MARIE JEANNE L'HEUREUX, OF LORETTEVILLE) AND SISTER DE L'ENFANT JESUS (FLORENTINE DANSE-REAU, OF VERCHERES) ACCOMPANY THEM.

THE YOUNG TREE WITH THE BIG LEAVES SEEN IN THE BACKGROUND FURNISHES A SPECIAL WOOD WHICH IS USED FOR MAKING *GETTA*, JAPANESE FOOTGEAR.



SISTER STE. ANGELE DE MERICI (MARIE JEANNE L'HEUREUX, OF LORETTEVILLE) AND THE JAPANESE TEACHER OF THE KINDERGARTEN OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AT WAKAMATSU, JAPAN, GIVING A DRAWING LESSON FROM NATURE.

ALTHOUGH THE POSITION OF THE CHILDREN DOES NOT SEEM VERY ADVANTAGEOUS, IT IS, NEVERTHELESS, ACCORDING TO ORIENTAL CUSTOMS.

Fifteen Christians were confirmed by him, and six little children made their First Holy Communion. His Excellency is very much interested in our works and, with paternal kindness, he deigned to inform us of the means which he has successfully employed in the organization of his Kindergarten. Our venerable Pastor's presence is always a source of joy, consolation, and encouragement for us.

On the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, a High Mass was celebrated at the Mission and a great number of Christians assisted at it. The Japanese have a great devotion to the Patron of Missionaries. "It is the Saint who came to Japan," they say. They are proud of him and they have a right



JAPANESE WOMEN CARRYING THE RICE HARVEST ON THEIR BACKS. THE FARMERS WHO POSSESS A HORSE ARE CONSIDERED RICH.

to be so. The sojourn of the great apostle in this country and the remarkable incidents of his life are known even to the pagans. In the History of Japan, he is spoken of as a hero.

The beautiful Feast of the Immaculate Conception was celebrated with the greatest fervour and rejoicing. Besides the other joys of this day, we received the news of Reverend Father Doi's nomination as Archbishop of Tokyo. We hastened to address our respectful homage and humble congratulations to the newly-elected. It was His Excellency, then Pastor of Wakamatsu, who received our first two Sisters in this Mission and who watched over the beginning of our works with paternal solicitude. In February, 1934, Reverend Father Doi was called to fulfil the delicate office of private secretary of His Excellency Archbishop Marella, Apostolic Delegate. It was not without deep regret that the Christians witnessed the departure of their venerable Pastor, who had devoted himself unreservedly to their spiritual welfare during three years. The date of the Ceremony of his Consecration is not decided yet; but it will, without doubt, be a feast for the whole Church of Japan.

Let us now speak of our cherubims, the little boys and girls of the Kindergarten. Some of the little tots, scarcely four years old, were tempted, in

the beginning of the winter, to remain at home for the cold weather. "And what about Christmas?" remarked the older ones, "you do not want to celebrate Christmas at the Kindergarten, receive stockings and gifts?...". The arguments of the older ones soon dispelled the tiny tots' apprehensions and restored their courage. The children's festival did, in fact, take place the day after Christmas. There were eighty little ones; besides, we had invited the parents, because Santa Claus' coming is always preceded by a little entertainment in which all the pupils take part; and it is a great pleasure for the mothers to witness their children's feats. A Japanese hymn to the Infant Jesus and a French one were on the program, as well as several selections of violin played by the pupils of the private courses. Finally, Santa Claus appeared and solemnly gave to each one the long-desired stocking. The little tots were beside themselves with joy and surprise; and Santa, before withdrawing, promised to return next year, if all were very good. The children rejoiced, but how anxious they were on noticing that he had forgotten his sled on the stage!... In the meantime, the sweet Infant Jesus must be left in the background, but we hope to succeed, little by little, in gathering around His crib both our pupils and their parents.

Christmas in a pagan country has a somewhat sad character. Are not most of the people who surround us ignorant of the benefit which Heaven offers to earth? We feel more deeply the necessity of compensating by greater love for the indifference and ignorance of the poor pagans.

At Midnight Mass, the Christians filled the Mission church. The Office began by a beautiful sermon on the great mysteries of Christmas. During



HIS EXCELLENCY BISHOP LEMIEUX, O. P., AND THE CHRISTIANS OF KORIYAMA, JAPAN, ON A FEAST DAY.

IN THE CENTRE OF THE GROUP FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: SISTER AGNES D'ASSISE (LUCIENNE RENAUD, OF MONTREAL); SISTER STE. HEDWIGE (BLANCHE ROSS, OF FALL RIVER, MASS.); SISTER STE. ROSE DE VITERBE (ANNETTE TOURIGNY, OF THREE RIVERS), MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

the Mass, Japanese and Latin hymns were sung alternately. The young Christians and catechumens stayed at the Convent for the rest of the night. At eight o'clock, Reverend Father Kainuma came and said two Masses in our chapel. The young ladies assisted with us.

In the forenoon, a good number of letters gave us the pleasure of spending sweet moments with you, dear Sisters, and with our loving parents.

We have two boarders, at present — two fine carps which have been given to us by generous persons and which are amusing themselves in a tub of water, while awaiting to be introduced into the frying-pan. The flesh of this fish has a peculiar taste and the Japanese have an interesting way of preparing it. It is cut into slices just as it is, with scales and all, and fried in a preparation of rice-wine and sugar. It is a dish for great feasts and has an exquisite taste. It is served with rice boiled in water without any seasoning.

Another dish very much relished by the Japanese is made of chrysanthemums. When these magnificent flowers have charmed the eyes for about a month (they remain fresh for a long time), the petals are scalded and carefully sponged; then, they are boiled in a preparation of rice-wine, sugar and a pugnacious sauce, called "*Shayu*". They are served with rice.

An edifice of European style was erected recently in Wakamatsu. It is the city-hall. From one day to another, a number of beautiful cedars, measuring from thirteen to twenty feet, and full-grown fir-trees appeared as by enchantment to beautify the site. To people in Canada it may seem daring to transplant trees of such a height!... but, in Japan, it is quite natural. Provided that the season be favourable, there is no danger of their drying. They are trimmed in the form desired, supported by bamboo poles and the roots, carefully protected by straw mats, will become vigorous again in the spring, as if nothing had happened to them. When a tenant changes residence, he has full right to move the trees which he has planted himself on the rented property, just as he does his furniture.

Begging your fervent prayers for the success of our works, we remain,

YOUR LOVING SISTERS OF WAKAMATSU.

*
* * *

VANCOUVER

*Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters, Hospitaliers
at St. Joseph's Oriental Hospital.*

Mr. Umetsu, a Japanese patient, died at about five o'clock in the evening of October 7th, after edifying, for more than a year, by his great charity, the other patients in his ward. With his consent, one of the Sisters baptized him on condition, in case the Baptism that he had received in the United Church had not been valid. The resignation of Mrs. Umetsu, who was present during his last moments, was admirable. She is a fervent Protestant,

or rather, a Catholic of desire, because, far from criticizing Catholicism, she sincerely admires it and is seeking the truth.

During her visits to her husband, she did not fail to notice the cheerful devotedness of the Sister-Infirmarians. Speaking to her brother-in-law about it, one day, she made this remark to him: "Never have I seen such charity; the care given to the patients in this hospital astonishes me. Truly, this religion is a living religion and I must understand it thoroughly."

The following day, meeting one of our Sisters who speaks Japanese, she satisfied her legitimate curiosity by asking: "Why are there so many religions called religion of Christ? What does the word Catholic mean?... " During the conversation, she related several incidents of her life.

Born of a very poor family, she was obliged to immigrate to Canada when she was nineteen years old. On the eve of her departure, her mother, a genuine Japanese and a fervent Buddhist, called her and said: "My daughter, you are going to leave for an unknown land; I counsel you to obey the laws of your new country, observe its customs and adopt its God, Who is the *Christo Sama*. Remember the teachings that were given to you at home and, especially, never let a day go by without adoring the God of Canada. I am only a poor, ignorant woman; but I always noticed that those who are not religious never do anything worth while in life. Though I am unable to give you a dowry, I wish, at least, to bequeath to you this need that I feel for the *Kami Sama*. It seems to me that it will make you happy."

On her arrival in Canada, the young lady was married to a Japanese who, though a pagan, was exemplary in his conduct. He was twenty-six years old. During the first few years of their married life, all went well. Wholly engaged in the care of her house and the education of her children, the mother contented herself with praying, morning and evening, the *Christo Sama* Whom the Canadians adore. However, a misfortune befell this family which seemed so united. The husband, influenced by evil companions, took to drinking, and squandered his health, his money and all his time. The young woman then remembered her mother's counsels: "In days of misfortune, turn your heart to the *Kami Sama* for help and consolation." Living far in the country, she seldom saw a church; and when, one day, a minister of the United Church, on his rounds in the country, offered her a Bible and invited her to his church, she thought that she had found the true Religion.

Many a time, after her work, she walked a great distance to that temple. "There," she said, "I squatted down in a corner and was beside myself with joy, on thinking that a poor woman like myself could adore the *Christo Sama*. I was so eager to hear about Him, that I counted the days which separated me from the minister's monthly visit in the country."

Thenceforward, she taught her children the morning and night prayers, which she faithfully recited with them. She also read to them passages from the Bible, commenting on them in her own way. To win her husband to her religion, she often showed him his children in prayer, and said: "Is it not your duty, as head of the family, to guide us? Come and listen to the

minister who speaks to us of Christ. " Her desires were to be realized only after a long struggle of fifteen years. In speaking of her grief during that time, she remarked: " Had I not had faith in Christ and hope in Heaven, how unhappy I should have been; but, I had read in the Bible: ' Ask and it shall be given you, ' and every day I knelt down to ask the strength to be patient and to bring him back to the path of duty. In my deep gratitude, I bid all those whom I meet: ' Ask and it shall be given you ' and, relating to them my own experience, I add: ' See how my requests have been granted; yours will be so likewise' . "

Seven years ago, she, her husband, and her eight children, were baptized by the Protestant minister. Until her husband entered our hospital, she had never heard of any other religion of Christ than that of the Church in which she had been baptized. What she saw here, the care given to the sick, the solicitude of the Japanese mission for the Japanese orphans, and the books that we lent her, have been a revelation to her. She told her husband the other day: " Even if you should die, I will never marry again. I will bring up the children so well that, when we shall meet again in heaven, you may be able to say: " How courageous you have been, and how big, good and holy our children have become! "

On October 31st, she paid us another visit. " I came to the city on business," said she, " but I could not return home without coming to see the Sister-Infirmarians who took such good care of my husband." She wished to relate to us, at the same time, a fact which had greatly rejoiced and consoled her. The night on which her husband died, she had left her children to look after the house. The youngest ones were playing in front of the door when, all of a sudden, they saw a light over their dwelling. Frightened, and thinking that the chimney was on fire, they called the older ones, who were inside. The latter found nothing abnormal, but, with the little ones, admired this extraordinary light. As they were wondering what it could signify, a messenger brought them the news that their father has just died. " It is the soul of our father that has appeared to us," said they to one another. They related the wonderful incident to their mother, on her return. She pretended, at first, not to believe it; but, seeing that they were convinced of the reality of what they had seen, she gave them the following explanation: " The light that you saw was, I think, not your father's soul, but a sign by which God wished to reveal to us that your father is now with Him. His body is in the earth, but his soul is in the light." This good lady then added: " I consider this incident as a real grace from Heaven."

On the evening of October 30th, an unusual entertainment was announced at the Hospital. Through the halls brilliantly decorated, all the patients — the most valiant, walking; the others, in invalid's chairs or on stretchers — made a nice parade, headed by a little Parisian lady, very elegantly dressed in the costume of the nobles of ancient times, and her graceful companion, carrying a basket of sweets which she distributed to the patients. Accompanied by the band, they advanced, exciting the hilarity of all by their quaint costumes. The evening was brought to a close by the National

Hymn "O Canada", and they all went back to bed, somewhat tired, but cheered by this little entertainment which had made them forget, for the time being, their intense sufferings.

On November 2nd, we had the privilege of having nine Masses in our humble chapel. His Excellency Bishop Lapierre and Reverend Father Turcotte, P. M. E., en route from Manchukuo to Pont Viau, and Reverend Father McIntyre, celebrated, each in turn, their three Masses. The same day, His Excellency Archbishop Duke accompanied His Excellency Most Reverend A. O. Comtois, Bishop of Three Rivers, who did not wish to leave the West without visiting the Canadian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. Besides other edifying counsels which he gave us, His Excellency said: "Let us be among those who always see the bright side of things and who thus make life pleasant for others as well as for themselves.

On the 16th, we received at the Home an "Apa" (Chinese grandmother), a nice little old lady of eighty-one. Though we had some difficulty finding



THE OLD MEN OF ST. JOSEPH'S ORIENTAL HOME, VANCOUVER,
WHERE THE MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ARE EXERCISING
AN APOSTOLATE WHICH IS VERY CONSOLING TO THEM.

a place for her, Celina was satisfied with the little room prepared for her. As she seemed quite sprightly, Sister St. Wilfrid ⁽¹⁾ showed her how to make her bed. "Vely good, undestand," replied she. But, half an hour later, Sister noticed her turning her quilts in Chinese fashion. At such an age, it is hard to change one's habits. Decided to remain with us, she had to have her belongings... And, behold, she began making a fuss over a little old man, of her own height exactly, although she had been told that it was forbidden. Perhaps, she had not understood — often people at eight-one

1. Florence DAUPHINAIS, of Fletcher, Ont.

do not hear very well. They planned to go to the city together; the old woman would indicate the way and the old man would be enchanted to carry the parcels. They were already good friends... Unfortunately, Sister Superior⁽¹⁾ frustrated their project, and the two *big children*, threatened to be sent away, could no longer make plans.

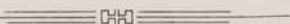
The feast of St. Francis Xavier was a lovely day for us and for the good Chinese of the Home. Four of them had the happiness of receiving Baptism: two, in their beds; and the other two, in invalids' chairs. Reverend Father Francis Xavier Sharkey, Director of the Chinese Mission, baptized them, with all the solemnity and profound respect which he usually displays in fulfilling the duties of his sacred ministry. The suffering countenances of these new children of God were beaming with joy and, when the devoted Missionary, in his brief address, told them that they were privileged ones among their compatriots, the Lord's chosen ones, they all gave signs of approval which revealed how happy they were.

REPORT OF ST. JOSEPH'S ORIENTAL HOSPITAL OF VANCOUVER 1937

Baptisms.....	36	First Communions.....	8
Communion.....	179	Extreme Unctions.....	11
Masses heard.....	222	Different treatments.....	16,006
Dressings.....	3,708	Injections.....	12,571
Electric treatments.....	1,608	Pneumothorax.....	748
X-Rays.....	270	Fluoroscopies.....	921
Laboratory examinations.....	2,323	Medicaments.....	98,673,817

REPORT OF THE CHINESE DISPENSARY, VANCOUVER 1937

Registered patients.....	204	Children.....	68	Adults.....	136
Former patients.....	514	Medicaments.....	610	X-Rays.....	30
Blood tests.....	5	Dressings.....	40	Toxoid injections.....	21
Physical examinations.....	231	Vaccinations for small-pox.....	10		
Total number of patients.....		718			



Whenever I meet with the will of God, I feel that I meet with God; whenever I respect and love the will of God, I feel that I respect and love God; whenever I unite with the will of God, I feel that I unite with God; so that practically and religiously, although I am aware that difference can be made philosophically, God and the will of God are to me the same. He who is in perfect harmony with the will of God, is as much in harmony with God Himself as it is possible for any being to be. The very name of God fills me with joy.

Madame Guyon.

1. Sister AGNES OF JESUS (Margaret Sherry, of Montreal).

Extracts FROM THE Novitiate Chronicles

Dedicated to our dear Parents



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

St. Bernard.

Saturday, January 29, 1938

Thanks to the generosity of a devoted benefactor, Our Lady of the Missions, titular of our Novitiate, will, henceforth, occupy a place of honour in our chapel. Her statue — the first of its kind that we have seen — has been placed in the niche of the main altar, where the Virgin of Lourdes had been for some time.

With her gaze fixed on the firmament, Our Heavenly Queen protectingly holds in her hands the globe which is surmounted by a cross, and raises it towards heaven. It is the whole world that she is offering to God, while praying for her children of all countries and races.

O Holy Mother, it is with thee and by thee that thine humble missionaries wish to save souls; and, during thine enthronement in our chapel this evening, we heartily repeat the words of a cherished hymn:

O loving Jesus, save the world

By Thy Eucharist, Thy Mother and Thy Cross...

Then, instinctively, the words of our beautiful motto come to our lips: "May the Immaculate Virgin be known from pole to pole!" Is not the program of our apostolate to prepare Our Saviour's triumph by the establishment of His Mother's reign?

Monday, January 31

This last day of January is the beginning of the Chinese New Year and is, therefore, an occasion of joyous demonstrations... We have a longer recreation in honour of it.

Which of us will be the first to go and celebrate this feast in China?

These hours of traditional rejoicing will most likely be very gloomy this year; there, where the war is waging. We do not forget it and we offer fervent prayers for the relief of our Missionaries, their protégés and the whole of this afflicted nation.

Thursday, February 10

On the evening of February 2nd, our personnel was almost doubled by the arrival of a new group of postulants and of about a hundred professed Sisters, who had come from our different houses for the retreat which was to be preached by Reverend Father Gauthier, S. J. These days of grace are already passed!...

After the last instruction, this afternoon, the Retreat Master blessed the statue of Our Lady of the Missions and brought the holy Exercises to a close by giving us the Apostolic Benediction.

Friday, February 11

It is the day of the mystical oblations. Transformed by the flames of Divine Love enkindled in our hearts during the retreat, we have experienced inutterable joys.

Our Lady of the Missions, crowned with brilliant stars, received the resolutions and vows of her children who, kneeling at her feet, renewed their donations or solemnly consecrated themselves to her service.

This morning, twenty novices took their first vows, in presence of Reverend Father Guay, brother of one of them.

At 1.00 P.M., parents and friends began to arrive for the Clothing Ceremony and Final Profession. The chapel was quite filled at half-past two, when His Excellency Bishop Lapierre, Vicar Apostolic of Szepingkai entered, assisted by Reverend Father Chaumont and Father Graton, Pastor of Ahuntsic, and escorted by the following members of the clergy, who took their places in the sanctuary: Reverend Fathers Dérome, P. P., St. Christophe; J. Geoffroy, Foreign Mission Seminary; Edouard J. Lavoie, P. P., St. Flavien, Lotbinière Co.; Joachim Primeau, S. J.; Bernard Bisson, S. J.; Elphège Reid, S. J.; Georges Robitaille, S. J.; F. T. Ennis, S. J.; R. Michaud, P. M. E., Chaplain of the Novitiate of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception; H. J. Beaudry; C. E. Guilbeault; Donald Ducharme; J. G. Guay; André Labonté; M. Pigeon, C. S. V.; Reverend Brothers Philémon, S. S. S.; Domingue, S. C.; and Bruno, S. S. S.

Reverend Father Gauthier, S. J., after thanking His Excellency for the honour which he had kindly bestowed on the Community in accepting to preside at the ceremony, delivered an inspiring allocution on the prerogatives of the religious life and the infinite graces attached to it. In concluding, he requested the venerable President of the ceremony to sanction his words by a special blessing. His Excellency complied with his desire and invoked heavenly favours upon the assistance.

When the new novices had donned the white habit which they had just received, the worthy Prelate proclaimed the names which had been chosen for them. Miss Patricia Blanchet, of Southbridge, Mass., (Sister Sainte Patricia); Idaline Beaulieu, of St. Urbain, Chateauguay Co., (Sister Marie Blanche); Juliette Savignac, of St. Elizabeth, Joliette Co., (Sister Véronique du Calvaire); Rachelle Blanchette, of St. Liboire, Bagot Co., (Sister Marie Rachel); Germaine Pilote, of St. Joseph d'Alma, Lake St. John, (Sister Joseph d'Arimathie); Carmelle Bergeron, of Quebec, (Sister Imelda du Saint Sacrament); Simonne Riou, of Trois Pistoles, (Sister Jean Marie Vianney); Judith Carbonneau, of St. Hyacinthe, (Sister Marie Hermance); Jeanne Roy, of Pincourt, (Sister Anna Marie); Cécile Nicole, of Montmagny, (Sister Marie Lucien); Marie Ange Tremblay, of Montreal, (Sister Marie Ange); Madeleine Landry, of Joliette, (Sister Geneviève de France); Claire Gauvin, of Jonquières, (Sister Saint Ludger); Jeanne Lavoie, of St. Georges, Beauce

Co., (Sister St. Jean Damascène); Cécile Lévesque, of Ste. Florence de Matapédia, (Sister St. Amable); Antoinette Trudel, of St. Augustin, Portneuf Co., (Sister Marie Antonia); Blanche Guilbault, of Sorel, (Sister Blanche de Castille); Marguerite Beauchamp, of Mascouche, L'Assomption Co., (Sister Louis Marie); Laurette Laurent, of Quebec, (Sister Gabriel de l'Incarnation); Lucille Montreuil, of Notre Dame de Lourdes, Megantic Co., (Sister Marie Lorenzo); Marie Ange Meunier, of Yamachiche, St. Maurice Co., (Sister Louise du Carmel); Andréa L'Ecuyer, of Montreal, (Sister Ste. Céline); Gabrielle Daoust, of Montreal, (Sister St. Rodrigue); Marthe Létourneau, of Chicoutimi, (Sister Antoine Marie); Jeannette Hétu, of Montreal, (Sister Jean de Rouen); Thérèse Laurendeau, of St. Boniface, Manitoba, (Sister Marie Albert); Marguerite Allard, of St. Elizabeth, Joliette Co., (Sister Marie Euclide); Catherine Drolet, of Three Rivers, (Sister Catherine de Jésus); Thérèse Côté, of Beauport, (Sister Thérèse de la Croix); Marie Bourbeau, of St. Clément Montbillard, Témiscamingue, (Sister Hélène de Jésus); Elmire Roseberry, of St. Pierre de Broughton, Beauce Co., (Sister St. Odile).

A group of professed Sisters then advanced to the foot of the altar. Twelve times in the profound silence was heard the blessed formula which bound forever to God and to our Institute the happy Sisters whose names follow; Sister Sainte Germaine Cousin (Marie Anna Legris, of Montreal); Sister Gilberte de Jésus (Lucienne Brais, of Ahuntsic, Montreal); Sister Saint Emilien (Emilienne Marchand, of Tétreaultville, Montreal); Sister Saint Jean du Cénacle (Géraldine Vaillancourt, of Quebec); Sister Saint Hilaire (Marguerite Mulaire, of St. Pierre Jolys, Manitoba); Sister St. Pierre d'Alcantara (Madona Laliberté, of Leamington, Ont.); Sister Marie de Bethléem (Marie Louise Guimond of St. François Xavier des Hauteurs, Rimouski); Sister Marie Alberta (Olivette Tellier of Montreal); Sister St. Jean Baptiste du Sauveur (Marie Jeanne Nantais, of Montreal); Sister Rose de Marie (Lucille Comeau, of Maddington Falls); Sister Marie Théodore (Lucienne Gadoury, of St. Elizabeth, Joliette); Sister Sainte Colombe (Gabrielle Brousseau, of Quebec).

During Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament which closed the ceremony, we expressed our heartfelt gratitude by a fervent *Quid Retribuam Domino!*... and *Te Deum Laudamus*... What a pleasure it is to repeat unceasingly our hymns of thanksgiving. The accomplishment of such a sweet duty doubles our felicity.

In the foreign missions, two of our Sisters also received the ring of fidelity: In Rome, Sister Marie Reine (Marie Reine Trudeau, of Ste. Julie de Verchères) and in Szepinghai, Manchukuo, Sister St. Edmond (Irma de Ladurantaye, of Cap St. Ignace, Montmagny Co.).

Monday, February 14

To-day, Reverend Father Chaumont, in his weekly instruction, treated a practical subject which is, perhaps, more than usual, of actual importance, considering the recent entry of new postulants. The point in question was an undesirable guest who takes pleasure in knocking at Novitiate doors to rob the souls of the happiness which they have come to seek therein. In

order to dissimulate his perfidious intentions, he very often disguises himself and conceals his tactics under the veil of Will of God, filial piety, or other just motives. It is important not to let one's self be deceived, to resist the enemy energetically and to avoid the snares of this tempter who is called Lonesomeness. Our devoted lecturer indicated to us the means of doing so and showed us that these attacks of the devil, however violent they may be, are permitted by Our Heavenly Father to test our fidelity, and will turn to our advantage if we combat them courageously in testimony of our sovereign love for Him.

Sunday, March 6

New offices were assigned to us yesterday, and we wish to acquit ourselves of them as perfectly as possible.

To-day being the first Sunday in Lent and the day of our monthly retreat, we renew our ardent desires and good resolutions to tend to perfection.

How fortunate we are to find continually in our holy vocation such spiritual stimulants, which will certainly lead us to holiness, our great ideal, if we profit by them.

Saturday, March 12

From Pont Viau, we have been following with lively interest the construction and furnishing of our new Mother House. We have spent to-day especially in spirit at Côte des Neiges, for Our venerable Mother Foundress has left the beloved abode of Outremont, rendered dear to her by so many years of joys and sufferings, to go to the new dwelling which, we hope will be cheered by her presence for many years to come.

We have been praying fervently, these past few days, that this little trip may not tire her too much, so that we may soon be favoured with her visit.

May the charms of spring soon embellish our Novitiate grounds, so that the gayety of our domaine may be in harmony with the joy which will thrill our hearts on that happy day!



"How sweet is the way of love!" Sister Teresa of the Child Jesus exclaims. "How shall I show my love since love is proved by deeds? Well, the little child strews flowers... she will embalm the Divine Throne with their fragrance, will sing with silvery voice the canticle of love. Yes, my Beloved, it is thus that my life's brief day shall be spent before Thee. No little sacrifice will I let escape me, not a look, not a word, I will avail myself of the very least actions and do them for love. I wish to suffer for love's sake and for love's sake even to rejoice."

In Loving Memory of Sister St. Laurent

On Wednesday of Passion week, April 6, 1938, towards three o'clock in the morning, our beloved Sister St. Laurent piously expired. After seeing our dear companion so confident, so serene, even on the threshold of Eternity, we had the intuition that her cell was but one step to heaven. "I feel confident that I shall not go to Purgatory," had she said, "not because I have merited that grace, but because I have requested it of God, to Whom I try to refuse nothing."

During her long illness, the Angel of Death had, many a time, tried to ravish her; she had had, therefore, the privilege of receiving Extreme Unction six times. She received this purifying Sacrament once more, four days before she died. Reverend Father S. Noiseux, Pastor of Nominigue, who had so charitably ministered to her soul, was at her bedside during her last moments. As he raised his hand to give her a final absolution, our dear patient began the Sign of the Cross, but her faltering hand fell lifeless, and she closed her eyes forever. A sweet calm prevailed around her death-bed, inspiring the same reverence that is felt on approaching an altar. An altar, indeed, was this bed of suffering upon which a little victim had just been immolated.

To die at twenty-nine years of age, when one is longing to go and labour for the salvation of souls and when one's heart is full of apostolic desires, is a sacrifice of which our lamented companion was in a position to measure the whole extent. Nevertheless, she satisfied her longing by substituting cheerful suffering for labour; and is it not such obscure sacrifices as this, that St. Teresa of the Child Jesus has said to be as meritorious as those of the Confessors of the Faith? Our dear Sister Saint Laurent, née Marie Anne St. Laurent, was born at Val Brillant, in St. Pierre du Lac Parish, on the 8th of July, 1908. She belonged to one of those families in which true Christian traditions hold the first place. She was the ninth child of the household which was to be blessed with twelve. Besides the family which God had given them, the generous parents adopted two little children to whom their sick mother could not have given the necessary care. Sister, in recalling memories of her childhood, loved to quote the words said by her charitable mother, concerning this fact. "If you had no longer any mamma, what would you like someone to do for you?" would she ask, while her tear-filled eyes revealed her tender compassion for her dear protégés. It was in this school of abnegation that Marie Anne began to strip herself of the egoism that the careful attentions required by her delicate health had contributed to develop in her.

Later on, when she heard a Missionary Sister giving the physical and moral description of pagan children, she conceived the desire to go and work to improve their unhappy lot. In the meantime, she became a promoter of the Association of the Holy Childhood and contributed her pennies and sacrifices to the salvation of pagan children.

On August 8, 1928, she entered our Postulate at Pont Viau and, on February 11, 1931, pronounced the Religious Vows under the authority of our Venerable Mother Foundress. Appointed to the Mother House at Outremont, she spent only three years and eight months there. Consumption of the lungs, which was to carry her off, then began to manifest itself by its characteristic symptoms. On October 25, 1934, she was taken to our convent of Nominigüe, quite hopeful of recovering. Slowly, but mercilessly, the phthisis completed its work.

During the long months which preceded her death, her soul appeared in all its candid beauty. She had the habit of recognizing the Will of God in all the incidents of her life, even the most insignificant in appearance; consequently, she remained calm in her sufferings, accepting them from the hand of a Father Who cannot be mistaken as to what is most advantageous to His children's eternal welfare. Two days before her death, she said: "I am not worrying; I have put myself in the arms of God; and I am so well there that I do not dare change my place."

But the virtue which characterized our dear Sister was her perpetual cheerfulness. We often heard her singing in her infirmary-cell; she also liked very much to make her companions sing. One morning, as one of the Sisters who was busy clearing not far from her room, was not singing, as was her wont, Sister St. Laurent called her and said: "Sister, you are not singing this morning?"

"I thought you were resting; but what do you wish me to sing?"

"J'irai la voir un jour!"

The Sister immediately began, and the little patient, despite her feeble voice, alternated with her. The hymn finished, her sweet smile revealed how much it had rejoiced her.

Her constant cheerfulness was more a virtue than a natural disposition. As her life was drawing to a close, she confided to her superior the efforts that she had had to make to smile on certain days of greater suffering. "I have endeavoured to be always joyful, in gratitude towards God, first of all, Who has given me such good parents and has favoured me with the beautiful religious vocation, and also towards my Community, which has done so much for me! It seems to me that to appear sad would be ungrateful, and I know that my cheerful confidence consoles my Superiors and Sisters." From daily Communion, which was brought to her by the devoted Pastor of Nominigüe, she derived the moral energy to bear the cross of her illness joyfully and religiously, without letting anyone suspect how heavy it was at times.

When, already, she was almost unable to talk, she confided this last message to her Superior: "When I am in heaven, I shall pray for our venerable Mother, my Community, my family and my Sisters in the mission fields; and God will not be able to refuse me, for I will supplicate Him in the name of gratitude. Jesus Himself will certainly acquit my debts."

A true daughter of the Immaculate Virgin, her love for this Heavenly Mother was that of a child; she had requested the grace to die peacefully

and it was granted unto her. She kept the use of her faculties to the very last and she followed with touching piety the prayers that were being said at her side.

How beautiful, consoling and reassuring it is to die when a Sister!... How magnificent must be the reward given by the loving Master Who is so faithful to His promises!...

Our Sister's Funeral Service was sung at Nomingue Church, on Friday, April 8th, by Reverend Father S. Noiseux, P. P. The Sisters of the Holy Cross with their pupils, and friends of the Community, assisted at the Requiem Mass, after having deposited offerings of prayers and Masses on the coffin of our deceased Sister.

The mortal remains of our dear lamented one are resting in the Community cemetery close to our convent.

This humble life illumined by faith and this calm entry into the Eternal Harbour are the realization of the charming sentence that our beloved Mother Foundress has had inscribed on the walls of our convents: "In the barque of Divine Love, there should be only joyful rowers."



Let us with Jesus and Mary face our life's course with its joy and its sorrow. It would be ungrateful to God and cowardly to rejoice in the one but repine at the other. Providence mercifully casts a veil over what may befall us, but, conformed to God's will and trusting in His love, let us, while courageously doing our part, accept as from God's hands whatever awaits us in life and in the circumstances of our death, confident always that God loves us, wishes us well, and can turn to our happiness whatever befalls us amiss.



Votive Lights in Honour of the Blessed Virgin

In the chapel of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

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

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



The Children's Page

DEAR CHILDREN,

No doubt, you have heard that a great event will take place in the City of Quebec from the 22nd to the 26th of June; yes, a great event: A National Eucharistic Congress! That means that, during these days, there will be great demonstrations of love for Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament; and all the faithful of Canada are invited to take part in them.

You, dear Children, upon whom Jesus showers such precious favours in Holy Communion, you should be overjoyed at the approach of these celebrations in honour of the Guest of our tabernacles, and you should pray fervently for their success. Perhaps, you do not know how much Jesus loves you!... He is the Friend of pure hearts, and His delights are to be with children. He loves their innocent souls and caresses them with ineffable tenderness. It is why you sometimes feel so much attracted to Him when approaching the Holy Table, and you are so happy when you possess Him. Following His loving impulsion, like good little children, you will throw yourselves into His Arms, so that your little hearts may beat closer to His great Heart. You will even caress His radiant Face, and He, like a good Father, seeing His divine beauty reflected in your souls, will lovingly stoop to kiss your candid brows... Oh! how fortunate you are, dear children, to be called by Jesus to enjoy such sweet intimacy!



*The Friend of pure hearts
caresses children
with ineffable tenderness.*

Continue to partake of His Heavenly Banquet and, every day, He will renew His tender caresses, and soon, you will even hear His Voice... He will speak to you like one speaks to his friends; He will confide to you His desires, His griefs and His plans. He will speak to you of souls to be saved, for He is the Saviour of the world; He will speak to you of prayers and sacrifices, because He is the Divine Victim...

You often hear that things are going badly in the world. It is quite true. Why? Because sin abounds there and the devil has a good chance to carry on his evil work. Dictators, learned men, and so-called wise men seek, outside of God and His Saving Law, a solution to the problem of re-establishing

order and peace upon earth; but they will never succeed without the re-establishment of God's Kingdom. Who will save the world?... It may be you, dear Children, and it certainly will be you, if you are fervent little communicants. The evil men of to-day who seem great and powerful, are struck down by the almighty Hand of the Eternal, like the oaks of the forest are overthrown by the blast of the hurricane. To-morrow they will be no more; death will have swept them from the face of the earth. You will replace them. You will be to-morrow's generation and you will re-establish, with the Reign of Jesus, justice and peace in the universe. But, in order to accomplish such great things, you must remain pure and good amidst the whirlwind of earthly corruption, and for that, you must receive Holy Communion every day, yes, every day...

It may happen that some of your companions, or even grown-up persons, seeing you going to Holy Communion every day, will try to dissuade you from doing so. They will tell you that it is not necessary, that it is too tiresome, etc... They will make fun of you and laugh at you; but do not listen to them. Bear all that for Him Who loves you so dearly and keep the treasure of your innocence, keep your happiness. Continue to receive Jesus daily; love Him with all your heart; pray very much for yourself, for your parents and relatives and for the whole world. Pray, especially, for all those who do not love Him, so that they may learn to do so. Do you know what sanctified Guy de Fontgalland, Jacques Bernard, and others — children whom we should like to see canonized on account of the great edification which they gave during their short existence and the merits which they thus accumulated? It was frequent Communion — privilege which had been granted to the little children of the whole world by the glorious Pope Pius X, who has been called the Pope of frequent Communion and who has invited them to receive this Sacrament in early childhood.

Have you ever heard the following beautiful fact which has been related of this great Pope?

The Roman towers were striking twelve. Midnight! Within the holy enceinte of the Vatican reigned the most profound silence, interrupted only by the monotonous and measured tread of the Swiss Guard making his rounds.

Pius X had just retired to his private apartments and was preparing to take his rest when — was it a fancy or a reality — it seemed to him, that he was transported to St. Peter's. The immense Basilica was plunged in darkness and silence. The gold and marble which glitter in the sun-beams during the day were then invisible in the obscurity.

Yonder, the flickering flame of a solitary light was casting a soft glow upon all around it. It was the sanctuary lamp keeping watch before Jesus, the Divine Prisoner of the Tabernacle.

The Sovereign Pontiff advanced and, as he approached the sanctuary, he heard what seemed to be the soft murmur of voices sobbing and praying, and the rustling of wings.

Something, indeed, was moving there, around the Tabernacle. The Holy Father continued to advance until he was directly in front of the altar; and then, he saw Jesus weeping in His Prison of Love. His tears, more

brilliant than the dew-drops sparkling in the sunshine, slowly and silently trickled down His Cheeks.

The Holy Father was deeply grieved. "I wonder," said he, "why my King and Lord is weeping. Many persons have assisted at Mass this morning; many have received Him into their hearts. Why, then, is He weeping?"

The angels surrounding the tabernacle endeavoured to console Jesus by reminding Him of the good accomplished by so many holy souls; of the ardent love of so many young persons devoted to His service; of the fervent prayers of those who, during the day, had come to console Him; of the love with which they had received Him in Holy Communion... Jesus remembered all and rendered homage to His Heavenly Father for it; but the tears continued to fall abundantly.



THE POPE OF FREQUENT COMMUNION.

Then a little angel, more radiant than the others, came forth from the adoring group and, approaching Jesus, said in a sweet voice: "Dear Lord, Thou knowest that we love Thee and we are deeply grieved to see that Thou art so sad. Wilt Thou not tell us the cause of Thine affliction? If we knew it, we might, perhaps, be able to console Thee."

"I am suffering here," answered Jesus, with a sigh. "I am a willing prisoner and I love my prison; but it is too dreary. Find me a more pleasant tabernacle than this one."

The angel made a profound bow and, whispering something to his companions, winged his flight towards a splendid garden where magnificent lilies were growing. He culled one, the fairest, the most resplendent; and, quite happy, brought it to his Master. Jesus thanked him tenderly: "Your lily is very pretty," said He. Then, gazing sadly at the little angel, He added: "But I desire something more beautiful still."

The angel began to reflect: "Tell me, dear Master, dost Thou wish me to ascend to heaven and bring down the most loving of Thy Seraphims? He would certainly know how to console Thee and, too happy to be chosen by Thee to be Thy consoler, how joyfully and respectfully would he follow me!"

Jesus, with a sweet caressing look, but intensely sad, detained the angel, who was about to withdraw. "No," said He, "I do not doubt the love and devotedness of my seraphims; but the Holy Eucharist has not been instituted for the angels. Wait awhile, little messenger, and seek something still more pleasing to me."

The angel searched, and turned over in his mind all that might rejoice Jesus. Finally, believing that he had found the object of his quest, he exultingly inquired: "Dost Thou wish me to go and bring Thy Mother,

the Immaculate Virgin? She, certainly, will be able to dry Thy tears." A flash of intense joy crossed His countenance; but nodding His adorable Head, He replied: "No, really, nothing is purer than My Mother's heart; yet, it is not for her alone that I have instituted my Sacrament of Love."

The angel sadly drooped his head. Unable to make his loving Saviour smile, he was about to cry, when from the belfries came the harmonious sounds of the Angelus. "O Divine King," said he, "the bells are announcing another day. Soon the doors of the Temple will be opened and Thy ministers will come to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice. Thou wilt descend into their hearts. Is that not what Thou desirest?"

Jesus answered: "I have a great love for my priests; they truly are good and faithful servants. I am very much pleased to descend into their hands and hearts; but I am not present in the Sacred Host only for them and, at the Eucharistic Banquet where I am given as food to souls, how many guests are still missing!" Then gazing in the distance, He added: "I desire little souls, whose innocent love obtains from My Heart, graces of conversion for so many others souls whodo not love Me because they do not know Me."

The angel understood and immediately took his flight. He soon returned carrying in his arms the soul of an innocent little girl. Jesus took her and, pressing her to His Heart, smiled happily and ceased weeping.

The vision disappeared. A few months later, the Catholic world joyfully greeted the decree on "COMMUNION for CHILDREN."

Have you understood, dear Children? What Jesus desires is not the sacred vessels in which the priest respectfully places Him, but your innocent hearts. He desires them, not only to make you His own before the devil or the corrupted world has deflowered you, but, also, to utilize you and your fervent communions for the salvation of many other souls. Would you refuse Jesus this great consolation?

And now, I have something else to tell you. Not about the glad spring-time which, since its return, fills nature with its pleasant sights and sounds, but about the Queen of May.

Do not forget, dear Children, that, above the green mountains, the charming woods, the rippling waters, the fragrant flowers, the warbling birds,



*The Queen of heaven and earth
receives our prayers and sacrifices
as so many lilies and roses*

and the light zephirs, there is a King Who reigns over all these marvels and maintains them in order. It is He Who has created them, the Almighty God, Whom we call our Father. There is also a Queen who accompanies this King wherever He goes, exulting in His works. It is the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom we call our Mother.

May, one of the spring months, has been particularly consecrated to her and, during it, all her children on earth should pay her the homage of their praise and love with renewed fervour and piety.

Dear Children, join in this pious concert in honour of the Queen of the universe. Do not let a single day of the month of May go by without offering her some prayers and even a few little sacrifices. It is not necessary to seek long and special prayers; an *Ave* is so pleasing to Mary's heart. It is not necessary to make great mortifications. Those that occur every day suffice; for instance, obey your parents, help your brothers and sisters, be diligent in your studies and at work, deprive yourselves of sweets, etc. The all-loving Virgin will accept your prayers and sacrifices, as so many lilies and roses; and she will have them borne by the angels to the Throne of the Eternal, Who will transform them into merits to embellish your place in Heaven.

Your Great Friend,

THE PRECURSOR.

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.

Kindly accept offering in thanksgiving for favours received. Please continue praying for cure of rheumatism for mother and also make a novena for my special intentions. Miss L. A., **Amherstburg, Ont.** — I am pleased to say that through the intercession of Our Heavenly Mother, a great favour has been granted to me. Please pray for the continuance of our good health and for a special grace for my mother. Miss K. M. R., **Hemmingford, Que.** — Enclosed find offering which I promised to send you if my daughter recovered from an illness. She has recovered. Please thank the good Lord and Our Immaculate Mother. Mrs. L. B. D., **Kénogami, P. Q.** — Enclosed please find offering in thanksgiving for favour received. I would ask a continuation of prayers for further favours. Mrs. J. McD., **Greenfield, Ont.** — Please find enclosed the ransom price of four dying babes in thanksgiving for work obtained. Please pray for two other favours. Mrs. J. A. L., **Brunswick, Me.** — I am sending an offering in thanksgiving for a favour received. Mrs. C. McK., **Waugrean, Conn.** — Enclosed is my offering for a favour received. Please pray for a special intention. Miss E. T., **Everett, Mass.** — I wish to publish my heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin for a favour obtained through her intercession. With great confidence, I beg for other favours. A Subscriber, Mrs. H. D. Cummings, **Benedicta, Me.** — Kindly accept my offering in thanksgiving for a favour received and please continue praying for me. Miss Y. T., **Portland, Me.** — Enclosed find offering in thanksgiving for favours received through the intercession of the

Immaculate Virgin. Kindly pray for my dear son who was killed in an accident. Mrs. E. E. Rousseau, **Sutton, Que.** — Sincere thanks to the Blessed Virgin for the grace she has granted me. Please pray that we may obtain other favours. Mrs. A. B., **Southbridge, Mass.** — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a special favour obtained. Mrs. P. M. F., **Haileybury, Ont.** — Please find enclosed offering in thanksgiving for a favour received through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin and St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. Kindly make a novena so that we may obtain other favours. Mrs. LeB., **Verdun.** — Grateful thanks for a favour obtained after having made the promise to publish. Mrs. V. D., **New York City.** — The Blessed Virgin has granted me the favour which I was asking; I wish to thank her with my whole heart. C. S. — Thanksgiving for a favour obtained. Anonymous. — Kindly publish my profound gratitude to the Immaculate Virgin for a favour which she has granted me. Mrs. J. L. Robitaille, **Ferme Neuve.** — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for favour obtained. Anonymous, **Montreal.** — Thanksgiving for a cure obtained. Miss A. M., **Montreal.** — I wish to thank Our Heavenly Mother for her protection. I. Duranceau. — My most heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin who has granted me a great favour. Mrs. J. A. D., **Montreal.** — Thanksgiving for favour obtained. Mr. A. H. — Sincere thanks for a favour which has been granted me. Mrs. E. Plante, **Albertville.** — Our Heavenly Mother has obtained me some relief; I wish to thank her from the bottom of my heart and I beg of her to grant me a complete recovery. Mrs. L. L., **Grand Falls, N. B.** — I thank the Blessed Virgin who has granted me a position. M. D. B., **St. Jean de Matha.** — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin. We have obtained peace in the family. A Subscriber, **Lasarre.** — Lively gratitude for the conversion of a person dear to us. Mrs. H. E. L. — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for two successful operations. Miss M. J. S., **Montreal.** — Most heartfelt thanks for favour obtained through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. A. Montminy, **Richmond.** — Lively gratitude for grace obtained. Mrs. J. Fortin, **Kénogami.** — Heartfelt thanks for favour obtained. Mrs. O. L., **Willimantic, Conn.** — Having obtained several favours through the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin, I am acquitting myself of the promise which I had made and thank my Heavenly Mother from the bottom of my heart. Mrs. A. G. B., **Stottsville.** — Homage of gratitude towards the Blessed Virgin. O. B., **Montreal.** — Lively gratitude for cure obtained. Mrs. G. St. P., **Val Melanson, N. B.** — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for grace obtained through her intercession. Mrs. H. D., **Notre Dame de Grace.** — Grateful thanks for favour received. Mrs. A. B., **St. Agapit.** — With my whole heart I thank the Blessed Virgin for a favour received. Mrs. H. B., **St. Felix de Valois.** — I am acquitting myself of a promise made to the Blessed Virgin to thank her for the grace she has obtained for me. A Subscriber to THE PRECURSOR. — Homage of gratitude for the great favours which have been bestowed upon me. Mrs. A. P., **Chicopee Falls, Mass.** — Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Protection for a grace obtained through her intercession. Mrs. L. B., **Brunswick, Me.** — Lively gratitude for favour obtained. Mrs. A. H. R., **Central Falls, R. I.** — Thanksgiving for a special favour received through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. I beg of her other graces. Mrs. E. P., **Woonsocket, R. I.** — Thanksgiving for grace obtained. Mrs. L. L., **Lavaltrie.** — Kindly help me to thank the Blessed Virgin for the graces she has obtained for me and beg her to continue assisting me and my loved ones. Mrs. L. A. P., **St. Hyacinthe.** — Thanksgiving for favour obtained. Miss C. D., **Montreal.** — I am acquitting myself of a debt of gratitude towards the Blessed Virgin for a cure obtained. A. Pinette, **Lewiston, Me.** — Sincere thanks to the Immaculate Virgin for a favour obtained through her intercession. A. D., **St. Jean.** — Profound gratitude towards the Blessed Virgin for her special protection in our undertakings. Mrs. E. D., **Montreal.** — Grateful thanks for favour received. Mrs. G. G., **Lefavre.** — I have obtained the grace I was asking and beg you to help me to thank the Blessed Virgin. M. A. L., **St. Urbain.** — Thanksgiving for favour received and petitions for other favours. J. C., **Taunton, Mass.** — Lively gratitude for favour received. Mrs. A. G., **Montreal.** — Thanksgiving for benefit received. A. G. — I am acquitting myself of my promise in honour of the Blessed Virgin who has hearkened to my prayers. A Subscriber, **St. Valérien.** — I have obtained the favour I was requesting through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. I wish to thank her with my whole heart. Miss J. C., **Montreal.** — Lively gratitude for cure obtained. Y. C., **Montreal.** — Grateful thanks for favour received. Miss A. D., **Montreal.** — I am acquitting myself of a promise I had made and beg the Blessed Virgin's assistance. A little working-girl. — A friend of mine died a short time ago and left four children. I felt very upset and at night I woke up and was very nervous. I asked Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal to help me to sleep and I promised her I would let you know if I obtained this favour. It was not long before I was calm and could sleep again. Our Lady is my best friend; I know she forsakes no one she is a good Mother to all. Miss M. H. **Johnstone.**

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

Petitions

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

Would you kindly pray that I may obtain the two favours I am asking. If they are granted within a certain time, I promise to send an offering for the upkeep of a crib. Miss I. K., **New Liskeard, Ont.** — Please say special prayers for me, that I may find a position. Miss V. E. B., **Holyoke, Mass.** — Will you kindly pray, so that my eight-month-old baby may be well soon. Mrs. M. A. C. — Please make a novena for me. I have something wrong with my gums and it is causing me much anxiety. Please ask Our Blessed Mother to cure me soon. I should also like you to pray for my brother that he may recover his health. A friend, **Lucknow.** — I should like you to pray to the Blessed Virgin that I may obtain a favour which I have been asking for a long time, and that my father who has been ill for three years may recover. If I obtain these favours, I will renew my subscription and send an offering for the ransom of dying Chinese babies. Mrs. J. J. McN., **Farnumsville, Mass.** — Kindly pray that I may be cured of my skin disease. Mrs. C. C., **Waterville, Me.** — Please pray that I may obtain a special favour within a short time. Miss L. M. C., **Boston, Mass.** — Please pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary that I may obtain the four graces I am asking. I wish moreover, that my father may recover his health so that he may be able to walk and work again. Mrs. F. McM., **Montreal.** — Will you please make a novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary for a very special intention. I promise to send a donation if my request is granted. Miss M. M. B., **Jamaica Plain, Mass.** — Please pray to the Blessed Virgin that I may obtain a great favour. I promise to send an offering and renew my subscription to THE PRECURSOR if I obtain it. A Subscriber. — Enclosed, you will find offering for a novena of lights to be burnt at Our Lady's Shrine, for a special favour that I wish to obtain. May I ask you to pray in union with me. Miss O. D. O. — Please make a novena to Our Blessed Mother so that my husband may become well and strong. I should also like you to pray for another special favour. Mrs. A. D. H., **Montreal.** — I should like you to pray for the repose of the souls of my deceased parents and also for myself. I am in need of prayers. Miss B. P., **Los Angeles, California.** — Enclosed, kindly find my renewal subscription and offering. I should like you to pray to the Blessed Virgin that I may obtain a favour. Mrs. L. W., **Madison, Me.** — Please pray for a very special intention. I do hope and trust that it will be pleasing to Our Blessed Lord to grant me my request. Miss M. P., **Verdun.** — Enclosed find offering for a Votive Candle in honour of the Blessed Virgin. I wish to obtain a special favour. M. J. B., **Pineville, N. B.** — Will you please make a novena to the Blessed Virgin that I may find a position and regain my health. Miss R. V., **Waterville, Me.** — Kindly pray that my throat may be cured. Mrs. W. W., **East Bathurst, N. B.** — Please pray for my daughter Margaret, I fear she will have to undergo an operation. Please pray for me also that I may keep my strength and be able to do my daily work. Mrs. E. S., **Valleyfield.** — Enclosed find offering to help to relieve the suffering lepers of Shek Lung. Please remember me and mine in your prayers. Mrs. E. S., **Montreal.** — Please pray to the Blessed Virgin that my dear sister who has four children may recover her health. Miss E. O., **Houlton, Me.** — Enclosed find offering. Please pray that our three children may be successful in their examinations and that we may obtain other favours. Mrs. W. B., **Windsor, Ont.** — I earnestly ask your prayers for the cure of my brother whose arm is paralysed. He is not able to do any work. If he is benefited, I promise to send an offering. Mrs. W. M., **Harvey Sta., N. B.** — Would you please make a novena for our intentions and burn a candle before the Blessed Virgin's shrine. A Subscriber to THE PRECURSOR, Mr. and Mrs. E. P., **Cobalt, Ont.** — Would you kindly pray that my sister may regain her health. Mrs. A. L., **Willbury, Mass.** — Will you please pray that things may go better and that the people may pay the bills which they owe us. Mrs. L. P., **Leominster, Mass.** — Kindly pray that I may obtain two requests through the intercession of Our Immaculate Mother. Mrs. E. H., **Caribou, Me.** — Enclosed find offering for ransom of dying babes and please pray for my intentions. I should like you to pray also for a friend of mine who has broken her hip. Miss M. H. D., **Albany, N. Y.** — Please make a novena for my husband who is to undergo a serious operation. It is the second within three months, I hope it will be successful and that God will restore him to health. Mrs. A. R. G., **Baugon, Me.** — Will you please make a novena for me, that I may recover from an attack of tuberculosis and that I may be able to rejoin my family. Mrs. E. C., **Presque Isle, Me.** — I am enclosing an offering, the ransom price of two Chinese babies. I would like you to pray for me that I may receive a special request. Miss C. LeP., **Maidstone, Ont.** — Will you kindly make a Novena for my husband, that he may find a position. Mrs. N. A., **New Bedford, Mass.** — Kindly pray for our intentions. Mrs. J. A. K., **Dover Foxcroft, Me.** — I am enclosing herewith a donation on behalf of my sister and myself and would ask you to kindly make a novena to St. Joseph so that our mother who is seriously ill may recover. If our request is granted, we will send a further donation. Mother is a subscriber to THE PRECURSOR. Miss A. K., **Montreal.** — Will you please make a novena to

St. Joseph that I may obtain my request. Mrs. W. A. L., **Troy, N. Y.** — Please make a novena to the Sacred Heart, to Our Blessed Mother, and to good St. Joseph for my intentions. Mrs. J. F. D., **Wallaceburg, Ont.** — Will you please make a novena to St. Joseph for all my intentions. Mrs. M. M. C., **Gads Hills, Ont.** — Please remember my intentions in your prayers to the Blessed Virgin, St. Teresa and St. Anthony; especially one intention. A Subscriber, **Alexandria.** — Kindly make a novena for a good friend of mine that her son may find work. Please remember all our intentions in your prayers to the Immaculate Mother and the "Little Flower". Mrs. G. H. R., **Arnprior, Ont.** — Will you please make a novena to Jesus, Mary, St. Ann and St. Teresa for my daughter who had a nervous break down. I should also like you to make a novena to the Blessed Virgin and St. Teresa for my son, that he may secure an office position. Mrs. E. L. B., **Leominster, Mass.**



NECROLOGY

Reverend Father Ferland, P. P., **St. Fabien**; Reverend Father Honorius Bois, **Ste. Anne de la Pocatière**; Reverend Father Ducharme, **Ste. Anne de Bellevue**; Reverend Father Philip Chouinard, Deacon, P. M. E., **Pont Viau**, brother of our Sister Marie Philippe. Mrs. Pierre Rainville, **Beauport**, mother of our Sister St. Lazare; Mr. and Mrs. Rémi Bénéteau, **Rivière Canard, Ont.**, father and mother of our Sisters St. Rémi and Marie de Liesse; Mrs. Saluste Daigle, **St. Aubert**, sister of our Sister de l'Ange Gardien; Doctor Zenon Malo, **Montreal**; Doctor Ulderic Jodoin, **Ste. Julie de Verchères**, uncles of our Sister Thérèse de St. Joseph; Mr. Saul Dion, **Levis**, uncle of our Sister Marie des Cinq Plaies; Mr. John Beaulac, **Verdun**; Mrs. Patrick F. Kane, **Holyoke, Mass.**; Mr. Leo Rousseau, **Los Angeles, California**; Mr. Edward O'Connor, **Montreal**; Mr. Merton Tourville, **St. Johnsbury, Vt.**; Mr. Raymond Kennedy, **St. Henry**; Mr. Hugh Neville, **Verdun**; Mr. Denis O'Sullivan, **Point St. Charles**; Mr. Jean Baptiste Alary, **Luskville**; Miss Margaret Lacroix, **Rosemont**; Miss Marie Immaculée Dallaire, **Montreal**; Mr. J. A. Maucotel, N. P., **Montreal**; Miss Alice Lemoine, **Montreal**; Mr. Oscar Mongeon, **Montreal**; Mr. J. Quinio, **Montreal**; Miss Germaine Léger, **Montreal**; Mrs. A. Poupert, **Montreal**; Mrs. Ernest Fortier, **Montreal**; Mr. Dorcenau Lépine, **Montreal**; Mr. J. E. Bourdon, **Montreal**; Mrs. Victor Brosseau, **Montreal**; Mr. Albert Beauparlant, **Montreal**; Mr. Emeril Pépin, **Montreal**; Mr. Jean Pierre Huot, **Montreal**; Mr. A. Filiatrault, **Montreal**; Mrs. Charles Poitevin, **Montreal**; Mrs. A. Nault, **Montreal**; Mrs. Isidore Charbonneau, **Montreal**; Mr. Viateur Ducharme, **Montreal**; Mr. Alexis Pilon, **Montreal**; Mrs. James Maher, **Montreal**; Mr. I. Hamel, **Montreal**; Mr. Alexandre Véronneau, **Montreal**; Mr. O. Desjardins, **Rosemont**; Miss Florina Bougie, **Maisonneuve**; Mrs. Louis St. Jean, **Bordeaux**; Mr. Lazare Brissette, **Bordeaux**; Mr. Patrick John Melvin, **Bordeaux**; Mrs. Marc Savoie, **Earlton, Ont.**; Doctor Philip Sirois, **Lauzon**; Mrs. Aimé Morency, **Thetford Mines, P. Q.**; Mrs. Cléophas Colin, **Montmagny**; Mr. John Frank O'Dea, **Montreal**; Mr. John Cronin, **Auburn, Me.**; Mr. William-Gordon Rodgers, **Point St. Charles**; Mr. William Shinnars, **Montreal**; Mr. John Noonan, **Point St. Charles**.

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of the

Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

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

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

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

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

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

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

Privileges Granted to Benefactors

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

Besides, Benefactors are entitled to the following spiritual advantages:

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

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

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

4. — For the same intentions, the members of the Community make, every day, the Guard of Honour to Mary, which consists in the continual recitation of the Rosary before the altar of the Blessed Virgin. The 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.