

# THE PRECURSOR



Vol. XI., 16th Year MONTREAL, November-December, 1938 No. 12

# Works of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

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(Continued on page 3 of the cover.)

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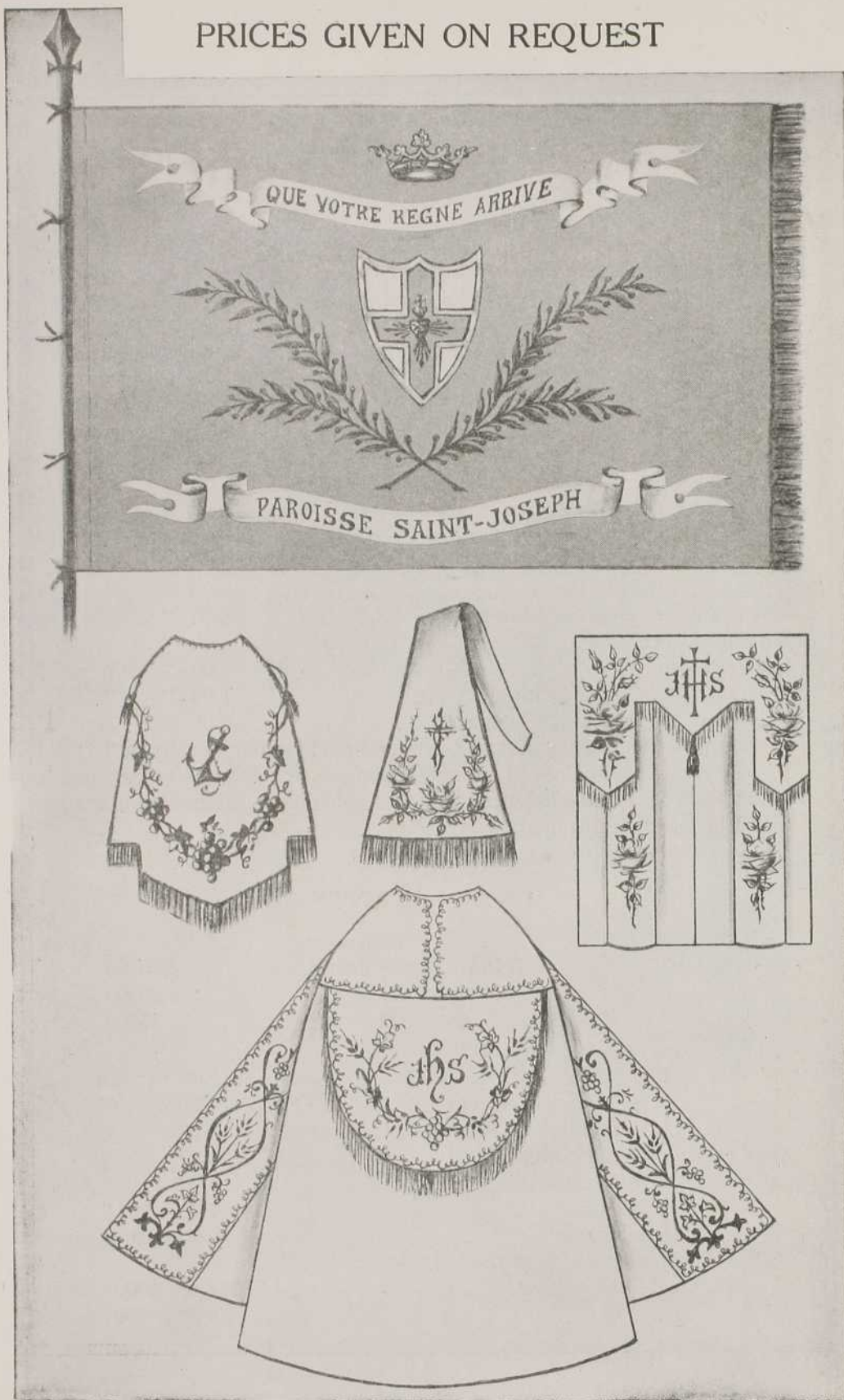
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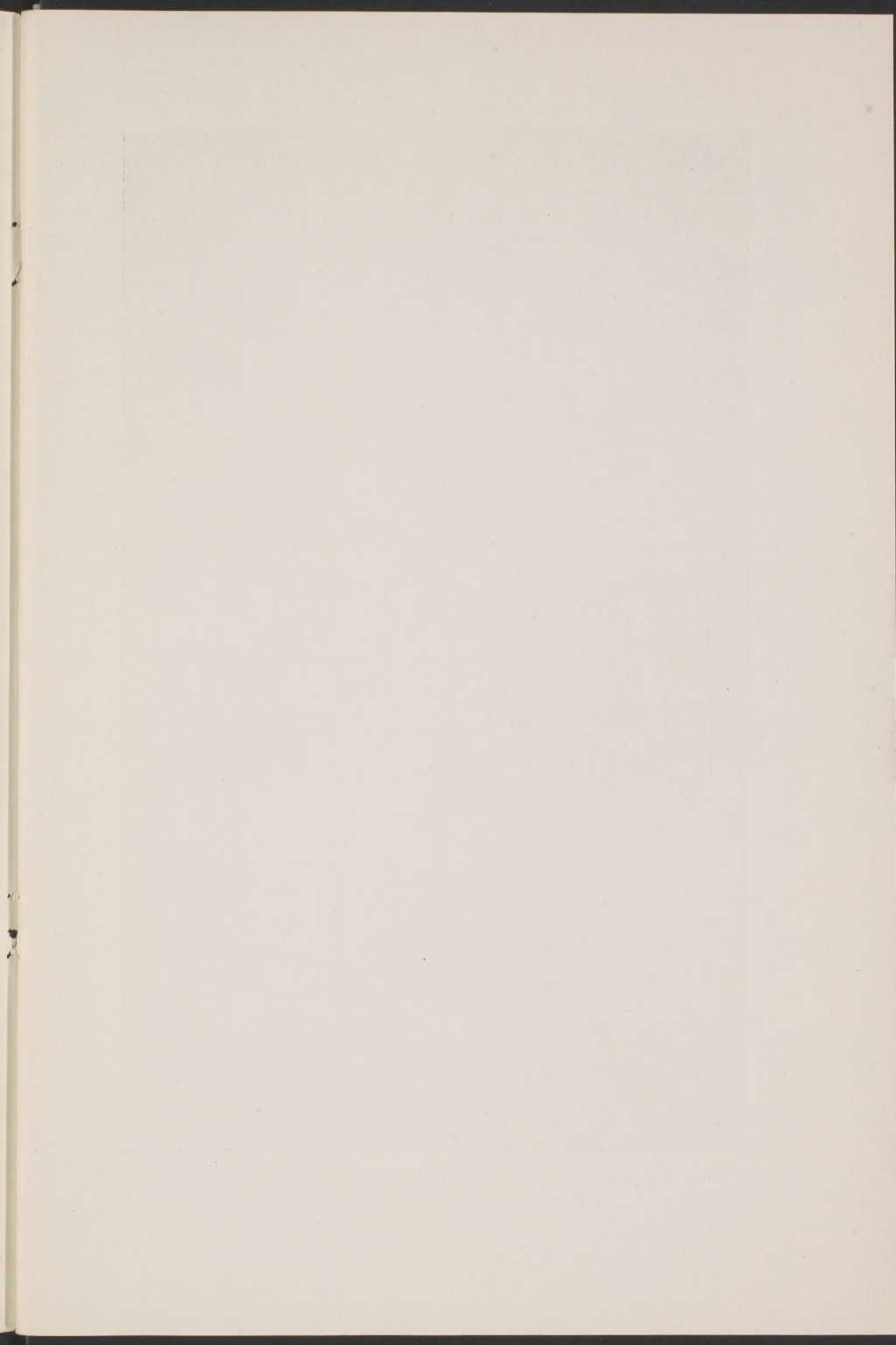
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# THE PRECURSOR

Published by the  
**Missionary Sisters**

of the Immaculate Conception

*with the approbation of the Archbishop of Montreal*

Vol. XI, 16th Year

Montreal, November-December, 1938

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## For the Dead

*Help, Lord, the souls which Thou hast made,  
The souls to Thee so dear,  
In prison for the debt unpaid  
Of sins committed here.*

*Those holy souls, they suffer on,  
Resign'd in heart and will,  
Until Thy high behest is done,  
And justice has its fill.*

*For daily falls, for pardon'd crime,  
They joy to undergo  
The shadow of Thy Cross sublime,  
The remnant of Thy woe.*

*Oh! by their patience of delay,  
Their hope amid their pain,  
Their sacred zeal to burn away  
Disfigurement and stain.*

*Oh! by their fire and love, not less  
In keenness than the flame ;  
Oh! by their very helplessness,  
Oh! by Thy own great Name ;*

*Good Jesu, help! sweet Jesu, aid  
The souls to Thee so dear,  
In prison for the debt unpaid  
Of sins committed here.*

— J. H. Cardinal Newman.

## For Our Dear Departed Ones

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THE Church of Christ is composed of three different parts: the Triumphant in Heaven, the Militant on earth, and the Patient or suffering in Purgatory. Our charity embraces all the members of Christ. Our love for Him engages and binds us to His whole Body, and teaches us to share both the miseries and afflictions, and the comforts and blessings of all that are comprised in it. The Communion of saints which we profess in our Creed, implies a communication of certain good works and offices, and a mutual intercourse among all the members of Christ. This we maintain with the saints in Heaven by thanking and praising God for their triumphs and crowns, imploring their intercession, and receiving the succors of their charitable solicitude and prayers for us: likewise with the Souls in Purgatory, by soliciting the Divine Mercy in their favor. Nor does it seem to be doubted but they, as they are in a state of grace and charity, pray also for us.

That to pray for the faithful departed is a pious and wholesome charity and devotion, is proved clearly from the Old Testament, and from the doctrine and practice of the Jewish synagogue. The baptisms or legal purifications which the Jews sometimes used for the dead, demonstrate their belief that the dead receive spiritual succors from the devotion of the living. In the second book of the Machabees it is related, that Judas the Machabee sent twelve thousand drachms of silver to the temple for sacrifices to be offered for the dead, *thinking well and religiously concerning the resurrection.* — *It is therefore a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins.* This book is ranked among the canonical scriptures by the Apostolical Canons, Tertullian, St. Cyprian, St. Hilary, St. Ambrose, St. Austin, the third Council of Carthage, etc. Some ancients call it apocryphal, meaning that it was not in the Hebrew canon compiled by Esdras, it being written after his time: and Origen and St. Jerom, who give it that epithet, sometimes quoted it as of Divine Authority. The Catholic Church admits the deuterocanonical books of those which were compiled after the time of Esdras, as written equally by divine inspiration.

In all ancient liturgies express mention is made of prayer and sacrifice for the dead. In the Apostolical Constitutions is extant a very ancient fragment of a liturgy, from which Grabe, Hicks, and Deacon borrow many things for their new models of primitive liturgies, and which Whiston pretended to rank among the canonical scriptures. In it occurs a prayer for the dead: "Let us pray for those who are departed in peace." There is no liturgy used by any sect of Oriental Christians, though some have been separated from the communion of the Church ever since the fifth or sixth centuries, in which prayer for the dead does not occur. The most ancient Fathers frequently speak of the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Altar for the faithful departed. Tertullian, the oldest among the Latin Christian writers, mentioning certain apostolical traditions, says: "We make yearly offerings for the dead and for the feasts of the martyrs." St. Cyprian mentions the usual custom of celebrating sacrifice for every deceased Chris-

tian. St. Chrysostom reckons it amongst the dreadful obligations of a priest, "that he is the intercessor to God for the sins both of the living and the dead." In another place he says: "It is not in vain that in the Divine Mysteries we remember the dead, appearing in their behalf, praying the Lamb Who has taken away the sins of the world, that comfort may thence be derived upon them. He who stands at the altar, cries not out in vain: Let us pray for them who have slept in Christ. Let us not fail to succor the departed: for the common expiation of the world is offered."

To omit others, St. Austin expounds those words of the thirty-seventh psalm, *Rebuke me not in thy fury*, of hell; and those which follow: *Neither chastise me in thy wrath*, of Purgatory, as follows: "That you purify me in this life, and render me such that I may not stand in need of that purging fire." In his *Enchiridion*, he says: "Nor is it to be denied that the souls of the departed are relieved by the piety of their living friends, when the Sacrifice of the Mediator is offered for them or alms are given in the Church. But these things are profitable to those who, while they lived, deserved that they might avail them. — There is a life so good as not to require them; and there is another so wicked that after death it can receive no benefit from them. When, therefore, the sacrifices of the altar or alms are offered for all Christians, for the very good they are thanksgivings; they are propitiations for those who are not very bad. For the very wicked, they are some kind of comfort to the living." This Father teaches that a funeral pomp and monument are comforts of the living, but no succor of the dead; but that prayer, sacrifices, and alms, relieve the departed. St. Austin and St. Epiphanius relate, that when Aetius, an impious Arian priest, denied suffrages for the dead, this heresy was condemned by the universal Church. How earnestly St. Monica on her death-bed begged the sacrifices and prayers of the Church after her departure, and how warmly St. Austin recommended the souls of his parents to the prayers of others is related in their lives.

The like earnest desire we discover in all ancient Christians and saints. St. Ephrem, in his testament, entreats his friends to offer for him, after his departure, alms, prayers, and Masses, especially on the thirtieth day. St. Paulinus, upon his brother's death, wrote to his friends earnestly recommending him to their prayers, that by them his poor soul amidst the scorching flames might receive the dew of refreshment and comfort. St. Ambrose writing to one Faustinus, who grieved immoderately for the death of his sister, says: "I do not think your sister ought to excite your tears, but your prayers: nor that her soul is to be dishonoured by weeping, but rather recommended to God by sacrifices."

St. Odilo, abbot of Cluni, in 998, instituted the commemoration of all the faithful departed in all the monasteries of his congregation, on the 1st of November; which was soon adopted by the whole western Church.

It is certainly a *holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead*. Holy and pious because most acceptable to God, to Whom no sacrifices are more honorable and pleasing than those of charity and mercy, especially spiritual, and when offered to persons most dear to Him. The suffering Souls in Purgatory are the chosen heirs of Heaven, the eternal possession of which

kingdom is secured to them, and their names are now written there amongst its glorious princes. God most tenderly loves them, declares them His spouses, enriches them with the precious gifts and ornaments of His grace, and desires to shower down upon them the torrents of His delights, and disclose to them the light of His glory. Only His justice opposes and obliges Him to detain them in this distant banishment, and in this place of torments till their debts are discharged to the last farthing. Such is His hatred for the least sin; and such is the opposition which the stain of sin bears to His infinite justice and sanctity. Yet His tender mercy recommends them to the charitable succors which we as their fellow-members in Christ have in our power to afford them, and He invites us to appease His anger by interposing our prayers in order to avert them from the weight of His justice. If a compassionate charity towards all that are in any distress, even towards the most flagitious, and those who only labor under temporal miseries and necessities, be a most essential ingredient of a Christian spirit; and that in which the very soul of religion and piety towards God consists: if the least alms given to the poor be highly rewarded by Him, will He not exceedingly recompense our charity to His friends and most beloved children, in their extreme necessity? All works of mercy draw down His most abundant graces, and will be richly repaid by Him, Who at the last day will adjudge the immortal crowns of His glory to this virtue.

—REVEREND A. BUTLER.

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## The Heroic Act in Behalf of the Souls in Purgatory

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### I. — IN WHAT DOES IT CONSIST?

The Heroic Act of Charity, so pleasing to God, so beneficial to the deceased and so profitable to ourselves, consists in a voluntary offering to the Divine Majesty, made in favour of the Souls in Purgatory, of all one's satisfactory works in life, and of all the suffrages that may be applied to one after death.

Several devoted servants of Mary have adopted the laudible practice of placing these satisfactory works and suffrages in the hands of Our Blessed Lady, that this loving Mother may distribute them in behalf of those souls whom she desires to deliver more speedily from Purgatory.

It should be noted that, though the Heroic Act is sometimes spoken of as a vow, this is not to be understood as if it bound under penalty of sin. Moreover, the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences decided, in 1907, that one who has made it is free to revoke it at any time.

### II. — PRIVILEGES.

Holy Mother Church, full of compassion for her suffering children, encourages the faithful to make this Act. To those who do so, special privileges have been granted by the Sovereign Pontiff Benedict XIII, in a Decree, August 23, 1728. These privileges have been confirmed by Pope

Pius VI, December 12, 1788; and His Holiness Pope Pius IX, in a Decree of the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences, September 30, 1852, has determined them as follows:

I. — *Priests* who have made this Act enjoy the personal right of a privileged altar *every day* in the year; and they are not hindered, thereby, from applying the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass according to the intentions of those who give a Mass stipend, as it is expressly declared in the pontifical concession.

II. — The Faithful who have made it, gain:

A Plenary Indulgence for the Souls (a) every time they receive Holy Communion and (b) on every Monday on which they hear Mass for the Souls. For these, a visit and prayers for the Pope's intentions are required.

III. — *All the Indulgences* already granted, or to be granted, and gained by the Faithful who have made the Heroic Act, are *applicable to the Souls in Purgatory*, although it be not expressly stated in the formula or decree of the mentioned Indulgences.

IV. — The infirm, aged, country-people, travellers, prisoners, etc., who cannot hear Mass on *Monday*, may offer the *Sunday Mass* for this intention, but not the Mass of another day of the week. Bishops may authorize Confessors to substitute other good works when children have not made their First Communion, or other persons cannot receive this Sacrament. (Pius IX. Decree of November 20, 1854.)

### III. — REMARKS

I. — This Heroic Act does not hinder any person from praying for himself or his friends' and relatives, or practising the ordinary devotions.

Only the *satisfactory* part of our works is offered for the Souls in Purgatory. Our merit cannot be transferred to others; and our power of praying is altogether distinct from the satisfactions.

II. — Besides, renowned theologians declare that it is very commendable to offer the Indulgences and satisfactory works for the Souls in Purgatory, because it is an act of perfect charity to deprive one's self of what is necessary to assist our neighbour, especially when he is in serious and pressing need. Such is, indeed, the condition of the dear Souls that are henceforth incapable of meriting and relieving themselves.



## Progress of Catholicity in China

The *Annuaire* of the Catholic Missions in China has given an exact report of the condition of Catholicity there, in March, 1937. Despite hostilities, and the irregularity of communications, the Superiors of all the Missions, except six, have been able to answer the questions asked by the Chinese Bureau at Zi-ka-wei; two answers have arrived too late.

The following is a general view of the present condition.

The number of persons baptized during the year is 576,348, including 89,267 adults. The Catholic population, which was 2,934,175 has, according

to all expectations, exceeded three million, thus reaching the record figure of 3,018,338.

Religious vitality cannot be measured by figures, but the frequent reception of the Sacraments is a good index of its existence. 1,461,717 of the faithful have made their annual confession and 1,371,998, their Easter Communion. The devotional confessions and Communions amount to 10,110,574 and 28,273,337; and, out of 23,436 marriages registered, only 5,336 are mixed marriages.

There has been a magnificent growth and expansion of the missionary personnel: 4,675 foreign and Chinese Priests, 1,381 Brothers, 5,993 Nuns, 7,413 men-catechists and 5,182 women-catechists. The progress made by the Chinese personnel of the Missions is consoling. The Chinese Priests number 1,898, a figure exceeding that of last year by 76. They constitute 40% of the clergy. The number of Chinese Catholic Nuns, increased by 143 has reached the total of 3,769, that is 63% of the Sisters working in China. The 762 Chinese Brothers, 73 more than the preceding year, constitute 55% of the total number of Brothers.

The subdivisions of the ecclesiastical areas, which manifest the intensification of the missionary work, continues. During the year, the Propaganda created one new Vicariate and five new Prefectures and raised two Prefectures to the rank of Vicariate.

Including Central Mongolia and Manchuria, there are 135 ecclesiastical areas, 23 or one sixth of which are confided to the native clergy.

The future clergy, the seminarists, continue to show great promise. The major seminaries have 959 students, whence can be expected 100 ordinations yearly. The minor seminaries have 5,975 pupils.

The Holy Childhood has ransomed 59,343 babies, during the year. The missions also care for 20,842 children given out to nurse or at the Foundling-Home, and some 10,329 children adopted by Christian families. 416 Orphanages shelter 3,567 boys and 25,274 girls.

There are, in China, 271 Hospitals and Homes for the aged, which have sheltered 100,779 patients and 6,440 old people. 11,040,629 consultations have been given in 1,032 Dispensaries.

The educational establishments have also increased. There are actually in China 15,789 schools, including 11,163 prayer-schools; and the sum total of pupils is 432,903. In the School's properly so called, if we subtract the prayer-schools, there are 132,718 boys and 64,962 girls: of these, 102,418 are Catholics and 95,262, non-Catholics.

However satisfactory these results may be, the Church is not, by the fact, authorized to rest from her task. In this vast country, there is but one Catholic for every 154 inhabitants. Despite the ever-increasing number of priests, there is still but one for every 100,000 persons, and the heart-rending events which afflict China give reason to fear that the statistics for the year 1938 will not be so consoling. Nevertheless, it is not improbable that, with time, these troubles will prove fruitful and the great missionary charity, which has stooped with fraternal love over suffering China, will reap an abundant harvest.



**His Excellency  
Most Reverend Ildebrando Antoniutti,**

THE SIXTH APOSTOLIC DELEGATE TO CANADA,  
RECENTLY ARRIVED IN OUR COUNTRY.

*To the worthy representative of His Holiness Pope  
Pius XI, THE PRECURSOR is pleased to offer its most  
respectful homage and its sincere wishes for peace and  
happiness among the Canadian people.*

## The Pope's Message

**O**N September 29, Pope Pius XI spoke over the radio, urging the world to have "recourse to the unarmed but invincible power of prayer" to avert "the imminent danger of war."

Following is the text of the Sovereign Pontiff's message:

"While millions of men live in dread because of the imminent danger of war and because of the threat of unexampled slaughter and ruin, we gather into our paternal heart the trepidation of our children and we invite the bishops, clergy, the religious and the faithful to unite themselves with us in the most undaunted and insistent prayer for the preservation in justice and in charity of the peace.

"To this unarmed but invincible power of prayer let people have recourse once yet again so that God in Whose hands rest the destinies of the world, may sustain, in those who govern, confidence in the pacific ways of faithful negotiations and of lasting agreement, and that He may inspire, in all, sentiments and action corresponding to the reiterated words of peace which will be suited to foster peace and to establish it on the secure basis of law and of the Gospel teaching.

"Grateful beyond words for the prayers which have been and are being poured out for us by the faithful of the whole Catholic world, with all our heart, we offer for the salvation and for the peace of the world this life, which in virtue of those prayers the Lord has spared and even renewed.

"Let the Lord of life and death, if He wills, take from us the inestimable gift of an already long life, or if He so wills, let Him prolong still further the laborious days of this afflicted and worried toiler.

"Our offer is all the more assured of gracious acceptance because it is the morrow of the liturgical commemoration of the meek and heroic martyr, Saint Wenceslaus, and because it is the eve of the feast of the Holy Rosary and of the celebrated supplication of the month of the Holy Rosary, when all over the Catholic world will be multiplied, as we also earnestly recommend, the fervor and frequency of the devotion which has already on many occasions brought about the great and beneficent intervention of the Blessed Virgin in the destinies of afflicted humanity.

"It is with the full confidence that these recollections inspire, that we give to all the great Catholic family and to all the human family our paternal benediction."

Let us respectfully receive this paternal blessing of the Vicar of Christ; and, let us be more and more attached to Holy Mother Church in whom abide peace and salvation.

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What shall we give to our little King, which we have not received from Him and from His divine liberality? I will give Him, then, our heart. Ah, Saviour of our souls, make it all of gold in charity, all of myrrh in mortification, and all of frankincense in prayer; and then receive it into the arms of Thy holy protection, and let Thine heart say to it: I am thy salvation for ever and ever.

*St. Francis de Sales.*

## Echoes of the National Eucharistic Congress

---

Letter from Cardinal Pacelli to His Eminence Cardinal Villeneuve

*It is with great joy that the Cardinal Archbishop of Quebec communicates to the entire Episcopate, to the Clergy of the various Dioceses, to the numerous Committees, and to all the Canadian laity, the sentiments which the august and beloved Pontiff Pius XI wishes to express to them.*

*The whole Canadian Church will thrill with pride on reading these admirable pages, in which the Vicar of Christ expresses his consolation and hopes concerning a nation that has ever gloried in its Religion. May the Holy Father's words and blessing be for it a pledge of perseverance.*

SEGRETERIA DI STATO  
DI SUA SANTITÀ  
No 171028

*Dal Vaticano, August 24, 1938.*

YOUR EMINENCE,

The emotion which thrilled your apostolic soul during the imposing manifestations which characterized the first Eucharistic Congress of Canada, has deeply touched the paternal heart of His Holiness, who, thanks to his Legate's Report and letter, and thanks also to the magnificent albums, has been able to follow such a spectacle of Christian faith and piety.

It is true that such could well be expected from a nation that has ever gloried in its Religion, and whose fidelity to its Catholic traditions and attachment to the Vicar of Christ are one of its greatest titles of honour in its history; but that which this faith and piety have realized on the occasion of this Congress, surpasses all expectations and reveals choicest graces in the Canadian Catholic soul. The unanimous fervour which prevailed throughout this celebration does not leave any doubt as to the abundance of its fruits and the stability of its success. The wishes that have been expressed are quite in unison with this fervour; and the deep religious sentiment of this nation is a pledge of their realization. Your Eminence was quite right in asserting that there will now be a change in your country — not conversions, properly so called, so much as an efflorescence of evangelical virtues, more general enthusiasm for the practice of moral duties, more constant devotedness in the management of works. Heavenly blessings will continue to descend upon these Christian families and cities, transformed, as it has been said, into living sanctuaries, especially by fervent devotion to the Blessed Eucharist and the Sacred Heart.

The Holy Father is pleased to offer to God with his paternal prayer, all these manifestations and resolutions. He is confident that they will draw down upon Canada a redoubled effusion of Divine favours, as they will signalize one of the most beautiful pages of this noble country's religious history.

Thanking, in union with you, Our All-merciful Father for the good accomplished on this occasion, the august Pontiff also wishes to express to Your Eminence his gratitude for the very great consolation that the Eucharistic Congress has given him. And in bidding you communicate these sentiments to the entire Episcopate, to the Clergy of the various Dioceses, to the numerous Committees and all those who have in any way contributed to the success of these sessions, as well as to all the Canadian laity, the Apostolic Benediction.

Kindly accept, Eminence, with my personal congratulations, the expression of the profound veneration with which, in humbly kissing your hand, I once again declare myself

Your Eminence's most devoted servant in J. C.,

E. CARD. PACELLI.

His Eminence  
Rodrigue Cardinal Villeneuve,  
Archbishop of Quebec.

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### **An Interesting Exposition Held by the "Altar Society" of St. Johns, Quebec.**

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Founded at the end of August, 1937, by His Excellency Bishop Forget, the "Altar Society" of St. Johns, Quebec, terminated its first year of existence, on Sunday, by an interesting exposition of liturgical objects at the House of Closed Retreats, dedicated to St. Bernadette and directed by the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, St. Johns, Quebec.

Founded for the purpose of collecting liturgical objects, the Society is supported by gifts received and articles made by the charitable workers, ladies and girls, who devote a few hours to the sewing-circle.

These liturgical objects are allotted, each year, as follows: one share to the Bishop of St. Johns, for the parishes in need; another to the missions of Canada, and a third to the Foreign Missions.

Persons visiting the exposition were gladly welcomed by the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, who showed them, besides the beautiful gifts received by the Society, during the year, other articles very well made.

All these articles, including surplices, albs and stoles, tabernacle, ostensorium and ciborium veils, altar-cloths, felt altar-covers and banners, as well as children's clothing, comforters and quilts, are evident proofs of the generosity of the workers, who have devoted to the Society, a total of over two thousand hours of their leisure time.

On Sunday evening, after a reunion of the Committee, whose President is Mrs. J. F. St. Cyr, His Excellency Bishop Forget gave Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.



**His Excellency**  
**Most Reverend J. L. A. Lapierre**

VICAR APOSTOLIC OF SZEPINGKAI,  
MANCHUKUO.

*His Excellency arrived on November 8, 1937, at the Foreign Mission Seminary of Pont Viau, and left for Rome in the beginning of last October for his visit ad limina; thence he will proceed to his distant vicariate.*

# Discourse of His Excellency Bishop

J. L. A. Lapierre

*Vicar Apostolic of Szechingkai*

ON September 27, 1938, the touching ceremony for the departure of twelve priests of the Foreign Mission Society, of Pont Viau, for the Missions of Davao, in the Philippine Islands, and of Manchukuo, was held at Très St. Nom de Jésus Parish, Montreal.

His Excellency Bishop Lapierre, who presided at the ceremony, gave a substantial sermon, of which the following is a summary.

"The Catholic Church has received an apostolic mission from Christ: '*Ite et docete omnes gentes*', was the command given to her by her Founder. She cannot falter in her task, nor can she err in the path which has been traced out for her. She is indefectible, for she is the Spouse of the Holy Ghost. What institution has ever had, as she has, such guarantees of solidity and success? Despite all the efforts that she has been making for twenty centuries, we can say that the preaching of the Gospel is yet only beginning; nevertheless, it is the duty of the Mystical Spouse of Christ to accomplish her mission perfectly.

"This assertion is especially founded on the condition of the Orient. Asia is inhabited by populous nations that are proud of their civilization, which is several thousand years old. They consider themselves to be the principal people on earth and have remained for a long time opposed to Christianization. Out of a population of one billion one hundred inhabitants, there are but seven or eight million Catholics. Japan, with its population of seventy-five million inhabitants, that form a nation remarkable for its discipline, order and activity, counts only one hundred and ten million Catholics, after seventy-five years of evangelization!...

"China and Manchuria include a quarter of the total population of the globe; that is, five hundred thousand inhabitants, of whom three million only are Catholics.

"In Indo-China, only one million two hundred thousand, out of a population of forty million, are Catholics.

"India, after five centuries of evangelization, counts scarcely three million Catholics, out of a population of three hundred and fifty million.

"And how many other small nations of the Orient have, until now, refused admission to the Missionaries!

"The vast continent of Asia, alone, includes half of the total population of the world; that is, one billion one hundred million inhabitants. Only eight million of these are converted to the Catholic Religion. How can such tardiness in the extension of the Church among these nations be explained?

"They have been for such a long time under the yoke of Satan, who has taken advantage of their paganism to foster a sordid pride in them. The

least humiliation makes the Japanese and Chinese flare up and even kill themselves. How, therefore, can they accept a new religion from foreigners? Moreover, formidable infernal fortresses have been erected, throughout the centuries, against the conquering armies of Christ. These are the superstitions, upon which is based the individual, the family and the social life.

"In spite of these obstacles, which will eventually be overthrown by God, China, particularly and more than all the other countries of Asia, of which she is the largest portion, affords the greatest religious hopes. In 1900, there were but a hundred million Catholics and a few hundred priests in this immense territory. At present, there are three million Catholics, two thousand priests and six thousand aspirants to the priesthood in the seminaries. Twenty-three, out of thirty-five dioceses, are attended to by the native clergy. The religious life is highly esteemed in the countries already evangelized.

"The Chinese actually have the finest aptitudes for the monastic and



REVEREND FATHER GEOFFROY (OF ST. FELIX DE VALOIS, QUE.), SUPERIOR OF THE MISSION OF DAVAO; REVEREND FATHERS M. MICHAUD (OF NOTRE DAME DU SACRE CŒUR, QUE.); L. LABELLE (OF PONT VIAU, QUE.); J. DUPUIS (OF PONT VIAU, QUE.); Y. GUÉRIN (OF PONT VIAU, QUE.); P. E. LAHAYE (OF MONTLAURIER, QUE.) AND L. POIRIER (OF PONT VIAU, QUE.).

religious life. They are capable of sacrifices, devotedness and prayer. The Chinese woman is very pious; her life is imbued with her religious ideas. Besides, the tribulations which afflict China at present, should excite our pity. Never, in its history, has this country suffered as much as to-day. While millions are dying on the battle-fields, millions are perishing with misery and hunger. If God permits such a trial, it is for the purpose of preparing this nation for the accomplishment of His merciful designs upon it. And we already foresee the day when the Christian Religion will vivify



REVEREND FATHERS R. MICHAUD ( OF RIVIERE DU LOUP, QUE.); G. LAMBERT (OF ST. ELIZABETH, QUE.) AND G. OUMET (OF STE. SCHOLASTIQUE, QUE.) NEW RECRUITS FOR THE VICARIATE OF SZEPINGKAI; REVEREND FATHERS E. HOULE (OF PRINCEVILLE, QUE.) AND G. PROVOST (OF ST. EUSTACHE, QUE.), FOR THE PREFECTURE OF LINTONG.

it with the grace of God and His Sacraments. Thanks to their great qualities, the Chinese remain cheerful, even in the midst of the ruins accumulated by the war; and, already, they seem ready to respond to the Sovereign Pontiff's pressing appeal.

"The Church of China, therefore, needs to be assisted, especially during these gloomy, trying hours. We must hasten to her help. She is full of hope for the future. What other country attracts so much sympathy as does China?... Moreover, His Holiness Pope Pius XI wishes, so it seems, to take it by storm.

"The battalion of ten thousand missionaries now combating for the faith in China must be reinforced and encouraged. This nation, as well as all the other pagan nations, will be converted. Did not Christ Himself declare that His Church would become a great tree whose branches would spread over the earth; that His Doctrine would enrapture the entire world. All will be disciples of Christ *ut fiet unum ovile et unus pastor*.

"Canada has her share to do in this conquest of nations to the faith, and a share still greater than that of all the other nations less privileged than she is. We belong to a race of saints and apostles. Despite all obstacles, we have conserved our faith pure and unaltered; but, at the cost of what sacrifices and struggles! To-day, our faith is renowned throughout the whole world. Oh! how good it is in foreign lands to hear how religious the Canadians are! With this lively faith, our ancestors have also transmitted to us its benefits. What country enjoys as much freedom as ours does? He who has never lived in oppressed countries has no idea of the crimes occasioned by molested liberty. Uninterrupted peace reigns here. Canadians lead peaceful and comfortable lives. Who among you is in need, who suffers, without being relieved? Our beggars are better off than the majority of the pagans in China, those of the middle class, I mean. Such are, let us not forget it, the effects of Christian charity. As is manifested by God's countless benefits towards us, it is incumbent upon us to be missionaries.

"Already, in proportion to its population, Canada is first in rank among the countries that send missionaries to pagan lands, each year. In the work of conversion, the apostle should take for model the great Missionary, Our Lord Jesus Christ. The redemption is a work of love, of charity. The apostle must condescend to human misery and say to the afflicted: *Venite ad me omnes qui laboratis et onerati estis. Et ego reficiam vos*.

"The practice of such charity requires the co-operation of all Catholics. You must not forsake those who leave you for the triumph of Christ's cause; but, you must stretch out your hand across the ocean to give them the help of your prayers and alms. It is your duty; and a pleasant and noble one, indeed, to devote one's life to the holiest of causes, the salvation of souls. An excellent and sublime vocation it is to be a saviour of souls. To him who possesses it is promised the life of glory; for, he who saves his brother's soul, saves his own for eternity."

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#### PROTONOTARY APOSTOLIC

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On the 20th of last August, Most Reverend Edgar Larochelle, Superior General of the Foreign Mission Society of the Province of Quebec, was made Protonotary Apostolic *ad instar participantium* by Our Holy Father, Pope Pius XI.

## Departure Ceremony

ON Sunday, September 4, 1938, His Excellency Bishop J. L. A. Lapierre, Vicar Apostolic of Szeping kai, who has been in Canada for some time, presided at a Mission Departure Ceremony, which was held in the chapel of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Côte des Neiges.

His Excellency was assisted by Reverend Louis Bouhier, P. S. S., Pastor of Notre Dame Parish, and by Reverend Father Charles Pilon, Pastor of St. Cunegundes'. A few other priests, also, kindly manifested their interest in the Community, by honouring it with their presence. These were: Reverend Father Reid, Pastor of St. Augustine's Parish; Reverend Father Duplessis, Chaplain of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Outremont; Reverend Fathers Placide de Grandpré, Superior, of Three Rivers; Lucien Thibodeau, S. J., of Jean de Brébeuf College; Leo Lomme, of the Foreign Mission Seminary, Pont Viau; P. A. L'Archevêque, curate at Ste. Cunegundes' Parish.

After the processional entry of the clergy, and the singing of the *Veni Creator*, Reverend Father Thibodeau, S. J., in an apostolic allocution spoke of Canada's missionary vocation. Then, addressing the departing Sisters, he added:

"Dear Sisters, you are leaving to evangelize the Japanese. You are the privileged ones who have been appointed to represent our nation; so it is up to you to be faithful in responding to its missionary vocation, and to draw heavenly blessings upon our country, which has so much need of them.

"After all, our providential missionary vocation is our greatest title of glory. Let us leave aside all human appreciation and consider it only in the light of faith. Is there a role more glorious than that of being chosen to accomplish a work which will be the glorious monument of our apostolate



SISTER MADELEINE DU SAUVEUR (ALICE LABELLE, OF MONTREAL) AND SISTER MARIE ALIDA (ROSE AIMEE DEMERS, OF QUEBEC), WHO LEFT ON THE 5TH OF SEPTEMBER 1938, FOR THE MISSION OF KORIYAMA, JAPAN.

during all eternity? According to God's plans, we must all, by our mere desires, our alms-deeds, our sacrifices and our prayers, collaborate with the missionaries, with you, God's privileged ones, who are leaving to-morrow, and who are to work directly for the salvation of souls.

"Let us stop to consider the joys which assuage the legitimate grief inherent in separations. First of all, there is the joy of knowing that you are the privileged friends of God; then, that of your entire donation, of your total abandonment to His Holy Will — a supernatural joy which recalls that of St. Paul who, enraptured with heavenly consolations, exclaimed: 'I exceedingly abound with joy in all our tribulation'.

After the allocution, the three departing Sisters: Sister Madeleine du Sauveur (Alice Labelle, of Montreal), Sister Marie Alida (Rose Aimée Demers, of Quebec), both leaving for Koriyama, Japan, and Sister St. Barnabé (Irène Gélinas, of St. Barnabé, Que.), for the Oriental Hospital of Vancouver, recited aloud, an Act of Consecration to the Blessed Virgin. Each one held in her hand a lighted candle which she will take with her as a precious souvenir, and which will be lit anew, and placed at her bedside at the hour of death, when her Divine Spouse will call her to her eternal reward.

The Act of Consecration was followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, given by His Excellency Bishop Lapierre; then, a final hymn "Star of the Sea" was sung.

Tears dimmed the eyes of the numerous relatives and friends who had come to assist at the humble Farewell Ceremony.

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## The Lord's Prayer and the Social Question

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**T**HE Gospel is the word of God — a word of light which shows the way, a word of life which sustains the will when it is weak, a word of consolation which is a balm for all our sorrows.

The Lord's Prayer is, so to say, a summary of the Gospel. Its source is the very Heart of God. All those who know Jesus, lovingly repeat it; and it has become the great prayer whose murmur will die away only with the disappearance of the last Christian.

If all men knew the Lord's Prayer, if all were penetrated with the truths that it contains, if all constantly practised these salutary truths, there would be no more social difficulties; because the rich would no longer be attached to worldly goods and they would conscientiously accomplish their duty as instruments of Divine Providence towards the suffering members of Jesus Christ. On the other hand, the poor, ever mindful of these words of Jesus: "There will always be poor among you," would accept their condition as coming from God Himself; and the privation of earthly goods would be an occasion for them to acquire an abundance of supernatural riches which will last forever.

The *Pater* is composed of a kind of preface, seven petitions and a conclusion.

## I. — THE PREFACE

*Our Father, Who art in Heaven.*

*Our Father.* How sweet is the name father and how capable of exciting our confidence! God is a Father, infinitely good, Who has created us of nothing, Who has given us all that we have: our soul and its faculties, our body and its members. He is an affectionate Father, Who watches over us with so much care that not one hair of our head will fall without His permission. In the midst of the trials of this life, when all is desolate around us, when all human help is lacking, how good it is to think that we have a Father, Whose solicitude and benevolence will never fail us!

*Our Father.* It is Our Lord's Will that we say *Our Father*, and not *My Father*, to remind us that we are all brethren and children of the same Father. Rich and poor, employers and employees, masters and servants, priests and laity, we are all children of the same Father. If this fundamental truth impressed every mind, filled every heart and directed every will, the face of the earth would be changed. Concord and union, justice and charity, would flourish in the world. We would no longer see inhuman employers taking advantage of the helplessness of the lowly and giving famine wages to their employees. We would no longer see workmen, with hearts full of hatred, cursing their employers, spitefully botching their work, and longing for the day when they may divide the booty of their mortal enemies.

All men are brothers, no matter what their nationality may be. Would one say so on seeing the terrible slaughters which cause so much human blood to flow? Many conferences have been held for the purpose of bringing about disarmament; but they have all been sinister farces, doomed to failure, because of their lack of truth and charity. Every nation is crushed with the burden of armament, and the slightest incident may give rise to a war which will throw the *Great War* into the shade.

*Who art in Heaven.* Our Father fills the immense universe; but He dwells, in a special manner, in heaven, in the midst of His angels and saints, whose happiness He is. Our Father is in Heaven. Is it not natural for children to go and dwell with their Father? We have been created for Heaven and we shall go there some day, if we merit it. According to St. Paul, the Apostle, we have not here a lasting city; but we seek one that is to come.

The Communists and others who no longer have the Faith are, therefore, foolish to seek paradise on earth. That is what the agents of Moscow promised, and still promise, to their followers, who are simple enough to believe them. Despite all the precautions that the Soviets take against strangers who visit their country, the truth is beginning to be known. It glares blindingly, revealing the brutality and horrors of infernal Russia.

*Our Father Who art in Heaven.* It is useless to seek perfect happiness here below. Such is to be found in heaven and will be enjoyed by those only who bear the trials of this life in union with Jesus.

(*To be continued.*)



## The Birthday of the King

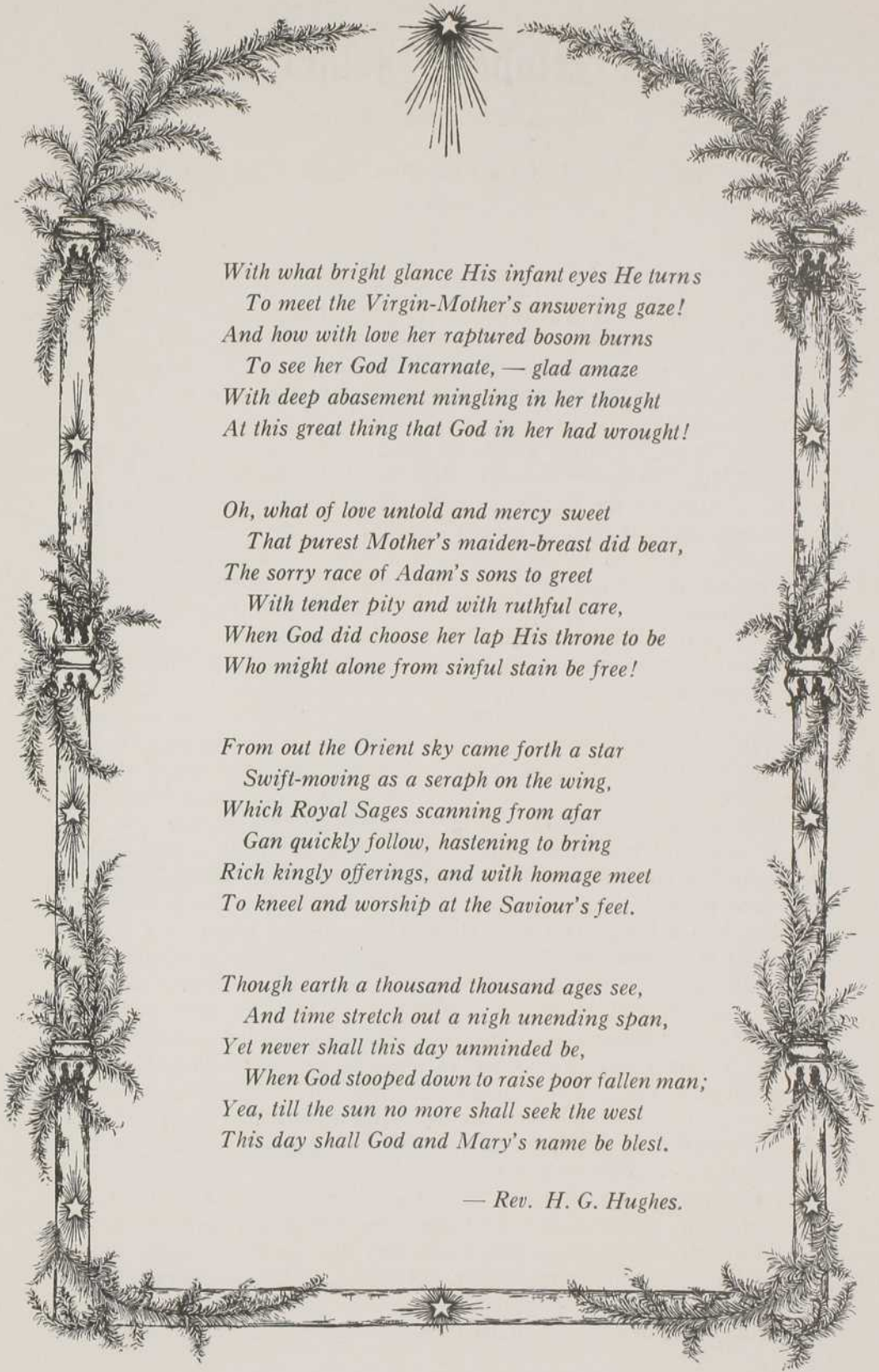


*Hail blessed Birthday of the Eternal King,  
To all the listening centuries foretold!  
Of thee when earth was young did prophets sing,  
And saints desired thee while the Ages rolled;  
Until the time appointed brought thee near,  
And hope's faint shadowing grew to vision clear.*

*At thy bright dawning choirs supernal sang,  
And earth shone splendid with unwonted light,  
The while with God's high praise the heavens rang,  
And simple shepherds marvelled at the sight,  
Who, when the gleaming vision passed away,  
Betook them where their Infant Saviour lay.*

*Then on their sight a holier vision broke,  
More bright than angels in the frosty air.  
Of God and man in bonds of love it spoke ;  
For God made Man to man revealed was there,  
Whom Mary's arms encircled, and His rest  
The world's Creator took on Mary's breast.*





*With what bright glance His infant eyes He turns  
To meet the Virgin-Mother's answering gaze!  
And how with love her raptured bosom burns  
To see her God Incarnate, — glad amaze  
With deep abasement mingling in her thought  
At this great thing that God in her had wrought!*

*Oh, what of love untold and mercy sweet  
That purest Mother's maiden-breast did bear,  
The sorry race of Adam's sons to greet  
With tender pity and with ruthful care,  
When God did choose her lap His throne to be  
Who might alone from sinful stain be free!*

*From out the Orient sky came forth a star  
Swift-moving as a seraph on the wing,  
Which Royal Sages scanning from afar  
Can quickly follow, hastening to bring  
Rich kingly offerings, and with homage meet  
To kneel and worship at the Saviour's feet.*

*Though earth a thousand thousand ages see,  
And time stretch out a nigh unending span,  
Yet never shall this day unminded be,  
When God stooped down to raise poor fallen man;  
Yea, till the sun no more shall seek the west  
This day shall God and Mary's name be blest.*

— Rev. H. G. Hughes.

# A Modern Martyr

*Blessed Theophane Vénard*

Revised and annotated by the Very Rev. James A. WALSH, M. Ap.

(Continued.)

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"Dearest papa," he writes, "when you wrote me that my darling mother was very weak and suffering, I flattered myself that our prayers and tears would win from God the preservation of her life. But just now the headmaster has told me of the terrible misfortune which has befallen us. O my God, help me to say, 'Thy Will be done!' The hour fixed by Him has come, and she has had to leave us, and is gone to be our protector in Heaven with the two little angels to whom she gave birth. Once more, may His Holy Name be blessed! It is thus He tries His creatures here below. Putting on the buckler of faith, we will have recourse to religion, which alone can comfort us in such sorrows. But it is very, very bitter. I have cried till I can cry no longer, and I have prayed with all my heart for her dear soul. May she at this moment be in the enjoyment of the Beatific Vision with His elect! May the Saviour whom she ever loved and whom she strove to serve, receive her into His kingdom."

But our Lord reserved to Theophane a special consolation. Many years after the event, and at the moment when he was about to leave his family forever, he broke silence on the subject, and said, "I think I may assure you positively that our good mother is in Heaven. I tell you this for your comfort; but I have never spoken of it before, and I must beg of you not to repeat it to any one. At the time of her death, one night when I was watching in prayer, an angel took me by the hand and led me, as it were, into a great and wonderful Light, in the midst of which, surrounded by other glorified bodies, I distinctly saw her whom we so fondly loved, and for whom we had wept so bitterly." From the time of this great sorrow the links which bound brother and sister were drawn closer, and a correspondence began between Theophane and his sister, Mélanie, which ceased only with death. Their letters remain as models of tenderness and holy inspirations, while they are most attractive in point of style and taste. Speaking on this subject, the Bishop of Poitiers says, "It is in this outpouring of heart to heart that we see his extreme delicacy of feeling, his loving thoughtfulness, his graceful imagination, and the good judgment which balanced all his other qualities. We have read these letters again and again, with ever-increasing pleasure, and we trust we shall be forgiven if we have watered some of them with our tears."

In the course of the winter of 1864, Theophane writes, "I must send you a few lines, my dearest sister, for there is not a day, nor scarcely an hour, when I do not think of you, who are so very dear to me. I know you too are thinking of me, and I suppose you will be saying, 'Oh, my poor old brother will be so cold this winter; and here am I enjoying a good big fire!' Be comforted; though I have suffered from the cold, as you know I always do,

yet I have had some fun out of it too, for we have had famous skating. And now the weather is milder, and I am thawing, and pouring out some of my thoughts to my second self."

Soon after, his brother Henry joined Theophane at the College; and it was impossible not to be touched at the care which the elder took of the younger, so as to spare him the usual schoolboy troubles. In 1845, the Sodality of the Children of Mary was established in the College, and Theophane announced this event with joy to his sister. He was made sacristan of his chapel, an honor which he greatly coveted, as it not only gave him the care of the altar, but enabled him to steal away oftener for prayer. "Yesterday," he wrote to Mélanie, "I went to say my rosary in the chapel; and I don't know why, but I was very sad, and I began to cry like a child. Yet all the time I had a wonderful interior consolation, and everything appeared to me in a supernatural light... Very often, when I am at work, my thoughts fly back to you. I seem to see you going lightly about the house, singing softly as is your wont, and doing things for our father and the children and everybody. I follow you in thought everywhere. Although we are so far apart, our thoughts, our wishes, our aspirations seem to be one. Oh, what a blessed thing it is, this communion of souls, to be able to pray for each other, and to pray for our loved ones together! A sort of peace and calm comes over me with this thought. Do you know, the other day, on the Feast of our Patron Saint, as I was kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament at Benediction, the Blessed Virgin seemed to smile amidst her flowers and tapers, and I thought of you, who, I know were then at the Sodality Vespers. I prayed so hard for you, and I felt that you were doing the same for me and that our prayers were one. And then I was so happy, so relieved. But I should like to be with you again in body as well as in spirit. Oh, when shall we cease to be separated? When shall we be able to live together as we did as children and share all our troubles and all our joys?"

It seemed as if a vision of the future were before him — that future which was to be so great a struggle to flesh and blood. But we must not anticipate.

At College. Doué and Montmorillon.

On New Year's Eve, 1847, Théophane wrote to his father from Doué:—

"Here we are in the midst of piercing frost and cold; but, if the winter numbs our limbs, at least it does not freeze our hearts. Whatever happens — whether my chilblains disappear or not — I can't let New Year's Day pass without scribbling a few lines to repeat once more to you my hearty prayers and wishes for your happiness. People declare that New Year's Day is the day for telling lies. Let those say so who tell them. As for me I always welcome the return of the anniversary as an occasion for renewing the expressions of my old childhood's love. In one word, dearest papa, I wish you many, many happy New Years."

*(To be continued.)*

# A Few Roses Scattered

By the Little Sister of Missionaries...



"When I shall be in Heaven, Jesus, Thou wilt fill my hands with roses and I will shower them upon earth."

St. Teresa of the Child Jesus.

Enclosed please find offering for St. Teresa's Burse as a promise I made for a favour received. A Friend of the Missions. — Heartfelt thanks to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus who has granted me the grace I was asking. Mrs. L. C., **Montreal**. — Sincere thanks to the Patron of Missionaries for having protected me. Mrs. O. B., **Verdun**. — Homage of gratitude towards "The Little Flower of Carmel" for a great favour received through her intercession. Miss E. B., **Brownsburg**. — Thanksgiving to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a favour which has been granted to me through her intercession. I implore her protection for my sick husband and for one of my sons who is travelling. Mrs. H. L. — Thanksgiving to the dear "Scatterer of Roses" for a grace that she has obtained for me. I beg her to obtain for me my complete recovery, for I have gone through a serious operation and I cannot get over it. Mrs. H. C. — After several Novenas to the Blessed Trinity in honour of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, I was cured of epilepsy. Kindly publish my lively gratitude towards this Heavenly Protectress. A. F. — I heartily thank St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for having cured my eyes and I hope to be relieved from my rheumatism through her intercession. J. N. — Lively gratitude towards St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a favour received through her intercession. C. V., **Cambridge, Mass.** — Sincere thanks to the loving Patron of Missionaries for a favour she has obtained for me. I ask her to continue protecting me. Mrs. A. T., **Richelieu**.

## WHAT IS A BURSE?

A Burse is a sum of money, the interest of which forms a perpetual income for the support of a Missionary. Burses are founded in honour of a Saint whose name they bear. The religious whose support is thus assured becomes the Missionary of the donor and takes his place near the poor infidels. The Founders of the Burse participate in all the spiritual advantages of the Community. The sum of \$1,000.00 given in one or several payments, by one or many persons, form a complete Burse.

We beg Almighty God to bless all those who, by their alms, help to complete the Little Flower Burse. May He reward them in heaven for having assisted His Missionaries.

## OFFERINGS FOR THE LITTLE FLOWER BURSE.

We shall receive with gratitude, any offerings, (in thanksgiving for favours obtained or with requests for new ones) for the complete formation of the Burse in honour 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	January-February 1938.....	\$64.10
November-December ".....	7.00	March-April ".....	16.00
Year 1936.....	417.47	May-June ".....	12.50
Year 1937.....	\$295.01	July-August ".....	3.30
September-October 1938.....	\$7.00		



## Echoes from our Missions CHINA

*Letter from a Missionary Sister of the Immaculate Conception of Canton  
to her Superior General*

*Canton, June 15, 1938.*

VENERABLE AND DEAR MOTHER,

Still impressed by the terrible explosion of bombs, I am going to relate to you the fright we had this morning.

At 6.30 A.M., the sirens screamed and mourned... Five minutes had not elapsed when a second alarm warned us of the imminence of the danger, and we immediately heard the rumbling of many motors. We hastily went down to the ground-floor, where we grouped the personnel of the house.



CANTON CITY DURING A BOMBARDMENT, VIEWED FROM SHAMEEN.

Scarcely had we assembled there, when the cannons began to roar furiously and deafening detonations filled the air... "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, watch over us!" we repeated with all our hearts. In a second, huge clouds of dust and smoke rose into the air, and our convent was violently shaken, as by an earthquake. Mechanically, as it were, we all sprang from our seats and fell on our knees or crouched on the floor. Instinctively, we looked

at one another to see if all were there, while broken panes fell from the windows to the tables, from the tables to the chairs, and from the chairs to the floor, accompanying the surrounding echoes which, from hill to hill, seemed to double and decuple the infernal roar.

Finally all was over!... We no longer heard the droning of the planes. For an instant, a profound silence reigned. The bombs seemed to have fallen so near that we wondered if none of our dependencies had been de-



SISTER MARIE CELINA (GRACIA BLANCHETTE, OF DRUMMONDVILLE) AND SISTER MARIE DE L'ANNONCIATION (ANNONCIADE STRASBOURG, OF CHENEVILLE) IN THE MIDST OF THE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY A BOMB.

stroyed. We left our hiding-places; so did the neighbours; and all anxiously scrutinized the neighbourhood. Our first care was to inquire about our dear Sister S. Viateur<sup>(1)</sup> who was at the Foundling-Home, a hundred feet away from the Orphanage, when the enemy arrived. She had not dared to go out to come and rejoin us. Safe and sound, she joined with us all in thanking God for having once again protected us. We then visited the rooms of the Foundling-Home, Orphanage and dependencies to see what damage had been done; and on the way, we gathered up fragments of bombs and cannon-balls that had fallen on our roof or in the yard. We noticed that more than thirty windows were broken, cupboards were opened by the force of the vibrations, doors and windows were twisted off their hinges, branches of trees were cut as with an ax, and, besides, our earthen dwelling was quite dislocated. Heaps of yellow earth and pieces of tombstones were scattered here and there in the gardens. A fragment of the latter fell in one of the cradles of the Foundling-Home, quite near the head of a baby that was sleeping, heedless of the danger.

We had not finished our inspection when some irregulars, Christians of the neighbourhood, came to request our help for those who had been wounded by the bombs. Taking the most necessary medicine and a bundle of bandages, we went to the place of the accident, which was scarcely three arpents from here. We saw holes that were, at least, fifteen or twenty feet deep,

1. Aurore LAPOINTE, of Montreal.

by forty or fifty feet wide! It is believed that the projectiles weighed five hundred pounds. A bomb fell in a cemetery, shattering the tombstones and scattering their fragments everywhere, opening the coffins and hurling the bones in all directions. Some twenty houses destroyed presented a most heart-rending spectacle! The dead had been separated from the wounded; among the latter were two soldiers. A young girl had her leg broken by the crumbling of a staircase under which she had sought shelter. Three men who had hidden in the tall shrubs on the edge of a brook, were entirely covered with enormous masses of earth. As the plants held up the earth, the men were able to breathe until someone arrived and disinterred them. All the victims are in a very pitiable condition. It is very difficult to cleanse their wounds, as they are filled with sand. The Red Cross, however, soon arrived; doctors and nurses were very devoted. It is touching to see the charity of the Chinese for one another and their wonderful organization for the relief of the war-victims. When we had finished our work, we withdrew, offering our help in case of future need. The soldiers accepted our offer with repeated *ta tiê* (thanks).

On our return to the convent, we heartily thanked Our Heavenly Father, Who takes such good care of us. How often the destructive planes fly overhead dropping bombs north, east, south and west of our houses; however, until now we have been spared!...

Since May 27th, Canton has been subjected to dreadful bombardments.



SISTER MARIE DE LOYOLA (ORPHISE BOULAY, OF COATICOOK) AND SISTER MARIE DE L'ESPERANCE (AUREA VANNARD, OF MONTREAL) ON THE EDGE OF A PRECIPICE MADE BY A BOMB, NEAR OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE FOUNDLING-HOME.

Every day, two or three squadrons of twenty, thirty, forty and even fifty planes come and throw hundreds of projectiles, now over one section, then over another. The Chinese are leaving the city in every direction, some for Hong Kong, others for the country. Out of 1,200,000 inhabitants, but 300,000 remain.

Everything is very expensive, except the vegetables that are rotting in the fields. We have had very much trouble to procure rice at six pounds for one dollar and wood at seventy-five pounds for one dollar. We have made a few provisions, because all the merchants say that they are liquidating their stock and will then flee to the country. If the bombings continue, rice will become more and more scarce. While taking precautions, we do not fear, assured, as we are, that what the Blessed Virgin keeps is well kept. We have placed all our confidence in her.

I told you that, at each alert, we

go down to the ground-floor, because our dugout is no longer a protection for us. Last month's heavy rain made it cave in, and it would even be dangerous to enter it. Our house is shaken like a house of cards by the mere detonations of the cannons. The glass dances in the window frames, making a terrible noise. The situation is still worse during the night.

The number of babies brought to the Foundling-Home is considerably diminishing, with the result that, unfortunately, the number of baptisms is diminishing also. It is the inevitable consequence of the flight of three-quarters of the population to less dangerous places. And who would dare come from the country, exposing himself to probable death, to bring to the Foundling-Home a sick or dying child? Most of those that we receive are victims of the war. Thus, a mother brought us her little five-month-old girl; and, weeping bitterly, she

related to us her troubles: "Sister, it is my only child and it is a great sacrifice for me to be separated from her, but what can I do? I have not a cent left... nothing... Eight months ago, at the moment of an alarm, my husband and I took each a different direction in search of shelter; our intention was that, if one died, at least, the other would survive. Our house was destroyed by a bomb, and my poor husband no longer reappeared. A sister-in-law, who had the charity to take me in, has had her house, also, reduced to ashes by an incendiary bomb. Now, I am with a cousin, who is very poor and will not be able to keep me very much longer. I must find work, and, consequently, am obliged to sacrifice my little one." Sobbing, the poor woman embraced, for the last time, her baby, whose big sad eyes seemed to understand the sorrow of the separation.

One morning, a dying child was baptized at the entrance and given the names Anna Pierrette in remembrance of the deceased parents of the Sister who baptized her. Dear Parents, you are not forgotten, to be sure, by the children whom you have given to God in the Religious life, whom you have sacrificed for the Foreign Missions. After many years, your two names, dear Father and Mother, are still pronounced by your daughter, at the moment when, in a sublime act of religion, she opens heaven to a soul.

The other day, a police officer knocked at our door, telling us that a blind child was lying at a few steps from our entrance. We found a poor little creature whose head was covered with sores and who was in a repul-



THE NUMBER OF STARVING CHILDREN IS INCREASING IN CANTON, CHINA, SO GRIEVOUSLY AFFLICTED BY THE WAR. MAY DIVINE PROVIDENCE FILL THE RICE BOWLS WHICH ARE THREATENED TO BE LEFT EMPTY.

sively filthy condition. Some Chinese biscuits had been left near her on a paper. Two Sisters set to work immediately, to clean the unfortunate victim, who was then transported to Our Lady of Providence Orphanage, where she took the place of one of the one hundred and twenty little ones who had left the mountain for Shek Lung at the beginning of the war.

A little six-month-old Fernanda was brought to us on the eleventh of this month. Her father thus enumerated his trials: "During the last alarm, my wife, aware of the approach of the planes, hid herself, like my aged mother, with the baby, under the bed. As I was going out to say a word to a neighbour, a bomb fell on a house behind ours and caused our poor dwelling to cave in. A fragment of the projectile, passing through our



TWELVE POOR OLD WOMEN SHELTERED AT THE CONVENT OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AT CANTON, DURING THE WAR. THE YOUNGEST IS 60 YEARS OF AGE, AND THE ELDEST, 95.

TO THE LEFT, SISTER MARIE DE LOYOLA (ORPHISE BOULAY, OF COATICOOK). TO THE RIGHT, SISTER MARIE DE L'ESPERANCE (AUREA VANNARD, OF MONTREAL.)

little one's foot, struck my wife on the side, killing her on the spot. I had the child treated at the Municipal Hospital, but I am too poor to pay for a foster-mother for her. Please take care of her; and, when I shall have a little money, I shall compensate you. At first, the baby's wound emitted a fetid odour; but, after a few days, the flesh resumed its normal appearance. However, as half an inch of the bone of the leg was still visible, we took the child to the Hospital for an operation. We profited by this occasion to visit the wards of the Hospital, which are filled with the unfortunate victims of the war. A father of four children had his two legs cut off; his wife had died under the ruins of their dwelling. A coolie, who also has a family, had both his arms amputated. It would be too long to enumerate all the misfortunes that we saw during this short visit; and, nevertheless, we had there but a slight idea of the number and frightful condition of the wounded that overcrowd the hospitals of the city!

May all our generous Canadians be kind enough to remember these poor

unfortunates in their prayers and sacrifices and beg Our Heavenly Father to give them the grace of Eternal Happiness.

My letter is already long, and yet, how much more would I have to relate to you. Hoping to write to you soon again and begging you to bless me, I remain

Your humble and grateful child,

Sister MARIE CELINA, M. I. C. (1)

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## MANCHUKUO

*Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters in Taonan.*

### A MISSIONARY DAY

It was nearly nine o'clock when, valise in hand, we made our usual visit to Our dear Lord, begging Him to bless us and to give special efficacy to our remedies and, also, to our poor words. Then, after bidding our Sisters "Good-day" and requesting them to pray for us, we set out, in the burning sun, in pursuit of pagan souls.

As we passed through the garden, we took a glance at the tomato plants on the right and the potatoes on the left, the sprouts of lettuce, radishes, carrots, beets and cabbages, a few strawberry plants and various flowers. We also remarked, in a corner on the left, our artesian well which was dug last April and which is a real blessing for the house and garden. The hired man, a short, bearded Chinese, gesticulatory and very enthusiastic, was already at work. He works slowly, but perfectly. As he is from the south of China, his language differs from that of the Manchus, and we have some difficulty in understanding him. He prides himself on being very skilled in horticulture.

"Shall we have a good crop?" we asked.

"The way I have sown the seed," replied he, accompanying his words with gestures, "the carrots will certainly be a foot long and the cabbage, the cabbage..." His gesture demonstrated enormous proportions.

We took the road to the "House of God", one *li* from the Catholic Mission. That is neither a church nor a chapel, not even the poorest that you could imagine, but a wretched mud hut, having only one opening, which is covered with a big straw mat, swaying in the wind. In this gloomy and repulsively dirty hovel, some thirty men, who are sick or enfeebled by age, are spending the last days of their miserable existence. Most of them have ruined their lives with the morphine or opium habit.

At our arrival, a mumbling of voices was heard. Stretched out here and there, some of them raised their heads. They knew us, for we go to their *palace* every week to put a little ointment on the sores of their wretched bodies and give a little consolation to their souls, more wretched still. We

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1. Gracia BLANCHETTE, of Drummondville.



THE CONVENT OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN TAONAN. IN FRONT, THE VEGETABLE GARDEN, WITH TOMATO PLANTS ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE, AND POTATOES ON THE LEFT.

chose a little corner, the least filthy that we could find, wherein to place our valise and set up a temporary dispensary. Stopping, first of all, at the man who had arrived last and who was apparently dying, we were informed that he had just been released from prison, where he had spent six months expiating his crimes. Rather than leave him to die in his prison-cell, they had brought him to this wretched hovel where he might expire without provoking any inquisition. He had not seen water for a long time; his deathly complexion was almost concealed by the thick coat of soot and dust which covered him and which set out the whiteness of his long teeth. He was extremely thin and, evidently, had not long to live; so, there was no time to lose. Kneeling beside him, we revealed to him, little by little, the principal truths of the Faith, by way of conversation.

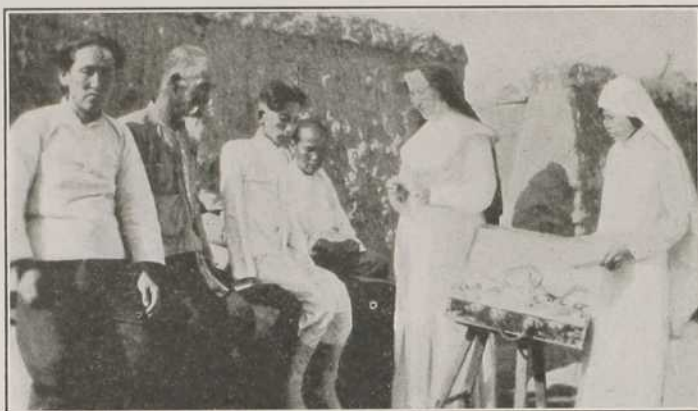
"Poor fellow, you are suffering very much?"

"I am sore all over; I can no longer stand on my legs."

"God, the only true God, has sent us to you, to deliver you from your infirmities. This great Master of Heaven and earth loves you; He wishes to take you for His child and make you happy forever. Do you believe in Him? Are you sorry for having offended Him? Do you wish to have your soul purified of all its stains, by Baptism? Do you wish to become a Christian? etc., etc."

Repeated nods attested that he believed, or was, at least, willing to believe, such astonishing truths. While the Regenerating Waters flowed upon his brow, he repeated in dying accents: "Master of Heaven, I am sorry for my past faults; I am sorry; I am sorry; I wish to be a Christian." And this new thief of Paradise, but lately an outcast of humanity, was already on the threshold of eternity, in all his Baptismal purity. Putting a medal of the Blessed Virgin on his neck, we confided his last moments to Our Immaculate Mother.

A few steps away, was another poor wretch, who had gone out of his mind on account of having swallowed a strong Chinese drug. It was not possible to remove him to an asylum, for there is no such institution here for that kind of trouble. As he has already had some knowledge of our Religion, we shall not lose sight of him, so as to be able to baptize him at the moment of death. His companions seemed to be kindly disposed towards him, at least while we were there.



SISTER ST. DENIS, M. I. C. (ANNE MARIE DUBE, OF ST. DENIS DE KAMOURASKA), TREATING A POOR TUBERCULOUS PATIENT, WHILE VISITING THE SICK IN THE COUNTRY AROUND TAONAN.

After visiting them, one after another, distributing consolation and remedies, we left the hovel, a thousand times happier than are worldlings after their brilliant festivals. Our white habits were soiled, it is true; but what did that matter, since we had just purified an immortal soul with the Waters of Baptism?

At the dispensary door, a peasant was awaiting Sister Infirmarian. His wife was ill. We got into the wagon and set out for the country. According as we proceeded through the flower-decked fields, the air became more vivifying. We remarked but few trees along the route, scarcely ten in a distance of thirty *li*, about ten miles. Herds of goats, cattle and horses were grazing, under the watchful eyes of their shepherds, youths or old men, who left them free to sleep peacefully or to browse along the roadside. Finally, we came to the village; all the houses were of earth and very poor. Scarcely had we time to enter the sick woman's dwelling, when all the women and children of the neighbourhood gathered there. The contents of our urgency valise were soon almost completely exhausted.

Returning by another road, we passed through a group of straw huts. A woman, who was drawing water from a well, dug on the roadside for the benefit of men and beasts, saw us and cried out: "The doctors from the Catholic Mission are here." Immediately, our wagon was surrounded by some thirty persons. The men questioned the driver, according to the custom of the country: "Where are you from? What did you go to do? How does it happen that the said Tchao has had the doctors come from the

Catholic Mission?" The women showed us their babies and told us all about them. Really, we did not know to whom we should listen first. Alighting from the wagon, we opened our valise and distributed the rest of our medicine, to everybody's satisfaction. Our greatest happiness was to baptise a rickety child.

Before entering the Convent, we stopped for a few minutes to distribute to our good old women of the Home a small sum of money which had been given to us for them, by a Chinese woman, in return for the care that we had given to her sick child. Each one received twenty-five cents, which she held tightly in her hand. By way of thanking us they all made a great many bows and promised to pray for the conversion of the pagans, according to our suggestion. One of them, a new arrival, could not utter a word, so astonished was she to receive such a big amount all at once. Another exclaimed: "You are very good, Sister, to give me so much money!" And each of them began to think of the present she would be able to purchase for herself, of the different things that she would be able to buy with her treasure.

We then visited the school and the boarding-school. It was while attending this school that Miss Lee Sieou, baptized on June 4, had learnt about the Catholic Religion and had resolved to embrace it.

According to the custom of this country, the summer vacation lasts about twenty days only. The classes are resumed slowly. During the



SISTER THERESE D'AVILA (THERESE SAUVE, OF MONTREAL), MISSIONARY SISTER OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, AND THE TEACHERS OF THE GIRLS' SCHOOL IN TAONAN, MANCHUKUO.

first week, the pupils arrive, a few every day. The Celestials are noted for doing things slowly. Several begin to study at a relatively advanced age. Often, a girl has never been away from home, before being engaged to be married. Then, as she belongs, by the engagement ceremony, to her future husband, his family pays the expenses of her studies, which are of short

duration. This accounts for the fact that, in one same class, there is such a variety of ages. These older pupils are usually docile and studious, but they have a poor memory.

After that Apostolic trip, it was good to return to our dear convent, which seemed like a blessed oasis to us. We rejoined our beloved Sisters,



THE PUPILS OF THE BOARDING-SCHOOL IN TAONAN, TAKING THEIR SUPPER IN THE OPEN AIR, ON THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION.

who were diligently watering the garden, while the last rays of the setting sun were gilding our dear Mission of Taonan.

Report of the Western Dispensary from January to July, 1938, inclusive:

Baptisms.....266			
Patients.....20,990	Dressings.....8,886	Homes visited.....816	
Treatments.....19,057	Teeth extracted....113	Vaccinations.....358	

Report of the Eastern Dispensary from January to July, 1938, inclusive:

Baptisms.....94			
Patients.....9,079	Dressings.....2,380	Homes visited.....180	
Treatments.....14,318	Teeth extracted....45	Vaccinations.....127	

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*Extracts from a letter of a Missionary Sister of the Immaculate Conception to her Sisters at the Mother House.*

*Fakou, July, 1938.*

VERY DEAR SISTERS,

The girls' section in the Sacred Heart Boarding-School is being organized little by little; the number of pupils who have answered the call surpasses all our expectations and, also, the convent walls!... If you wish to have an idea of our boarding-school, do not picture it to be like those of our native country; it is a Chinese house which was previously occupied by the cate-

chumens. The only room serves as class-room, recreation-hall and dormitory. Bright-coloured curtains in which green predominates give it a tidy appearance. The teacher's table and chair are in the middle of the hall and so are the pupils' benches, which are disposed in a different way according as it is study-hour or bed-time. Twenty-three pupils take their rest on the *kang* (Chinese brick beds), which occupy a space five feet wide on two sides of the apartment. The rest of the girls are sheltered, for the night, at the catechuminate. Besides these thirty-three boarders, we have also day-scholars.

When reciting St. Joseph's litanies, we are often tempted to add the following invocation: "St. Joseph, carpenter of Nazareth, enlarge our house!"

Many of the children are preparing for their First Communion; and among our pupils there are also little fiancées, twelve years old and over, who are preparing for Baptism, in view of their marriage with Christians. Twice a week, I explain the liturgy of the Mass. In order to captivate the pupils' attention and make them participate more actively in the Holy Sacrifice, all answer the prayers with the altar-boy, at church. The voices, alas! are often discordant; however, the attention with which they follow the liturgical ceremonies and prayers compensates for this inconvenience. Sister Marie Alice<sup>(1)</sup> teaches singing: one lesson a day, except on Saturday, is not too much. We have had to teach them everything since their arrival, for all is so new to them.

On Sunday, we improvise little concerts. The pupils go, each in turn, to the middle of the hall, to execute a piece from their repertory. But, generally, when they are about to begin, they cannot utter a word. Their embarrassment is then more amusing than the concert itself would have been.

One Sunday, the little girls found it very strange that we did not give them permission to amuse themselves on the swings after Mass. We told them to enter the hall, instead. They were quite uneasy about the fact and began to look at one another inquiringly. The mystery was revealed to them after a few minutes, and there was an explosion of joy, as the word *promenade* was pronounced. Several of the pupils, accustomed to the open air and freedom of country-life, had not gone out of the yard since their arrival. Some externs joined the boarders, thus increasing to thirty-eight the number of our excursionists. The term of the promenade was at twenty minutes from the Mission. We stopped at the rectory, where our Reverend Pastor had prepared a little lunch for the children. They are very fond of sweets owing to the fact that they seldom have any. On their return, they proposed to have a similar party every Sunday!... We would have liked you to see the splendid orchard of apricots that we passed on our way. They looked like large roseate bouquets set in verdure. What a gorgeous sight!

On the first of every month we make an inspection of the babies that are supported by the Holy Childhood. There are twenty-two of them, at present. The foster-mothers bring them with them when they come for

1. Marie-Alice LADOUCEUR, of Ste. Genevieve, Que.

their salary. At the same time, we distribute clothes to them, giving them even shares, for the least inequality would cause interminable disputes. Nothing is more amusing than to hear the conversation of these women; each one finds that her adopted child has made the greatest improvement, is the loveliest, the cutest, etc., etc. When the little ones are two years old, they are conducted to the Orphanage of Pamientcheng.

Recently, we had two masons here to make a stove for us. I imagine hearing you exclaim: "Two masons to make a stove?..." Do not forget that we are in Manchuria. Our stove is not an iron one, but one made with



A POOR CHINESE DWELLING IN MANCHUKUO.

bricks joined together and covered with cement. Its oven and tank are in sheet-iron. It is a heavy and unsightly piece of furniture in a kitchen, I admit; nevertheless, it is as practical as our Canadian stoves, and sometimes heats to redness.

In the beginning of June, Reverend Father Gilbert baptized twenty-five neophytes. Such ceremonies are always a cause of great happiness for the missionaries and fill their hearts with gratitude.

At the Dispensary and in our visits to the sick, we experience great joy which makes us appreciate still more our beautiful vocation.

Your humble sister,

SISTER MARIE DU PERPETUEL SECOURS (1)

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## JAPAN

*Extracts from the Diary of our Sisters in Koriyama.*

**Sunday, January 15, 1938**

In a dark lane, not far from our dwelling, is a very poor cottage where a young woman took refuge with her three children, after the departure of her husband for the war. The oldest of the boys attends our Kinder-

1. Florine MORIN. of Montreal.

garten. Informed of the mother's distress, we went to visit her and found her lying on a miserable pallet, shivering with the cold. The hearth was fireless; the walls, creviced; and the heap of black rags which were the only covering that the poor woman had, cast a heavy shadow on the scene and gave it a still gloomier appearance. Not one ounce of food enters that hovel. The woman's brother, who is also her tutor, yielding to his wife's desire, ordered her to go to his house, with her three children, at meal hours, so as to receive their leavings. "If it were not for my children," said she, "I would let myself die; but, as I promised my husband to take great care of them, I am ready to suffer anything and everything for their sake!" Giving some bread to this poor mother, we encouraged her to bear her trials patiently; and we endeavoured to instil religious sentiments into her heart. How they are to be pitied, those who have not the consolations of our Holy Religion to alleviate their suffering!...

### Wednesday, January 19

We assisted at the triumphal arrival of the mortal remains of a soldier who had died on the battle-field. We were told that each family had to be represented under penalty of fine. In the numerous assembly we noticed the ladies of the *Fujin no Kai* Association. They wore white aprons, and banderoles on which the name of their Association was indicated by black characters. These persons act as nurses towards the soldiers related to them.

When the train stopped, a soldier came off, carrying very preciously the *Hai bakko* (box of ashes); for the dead body had been cremated. Another one bore a photograph of the deceased. Then came the dead soldier's wife, followed by ten bonzes, evidently of high rank, if we may judge by their accoutrements. Some of them wore sumptuous gowns, one half of which was yellow and the other, green, both sides being draped in front; their sleeves were wide and flowing. Others were clad with white silk kimonos. The first dignitary wore a kind of tam and a black satin kimono; on his forehead, he had a wide black band from which hung a long veil reaching down to his waist. All the other bonzes had black mitres.

The road was lined with two long rows of spectators. Each held a national flag, and made a profound bow as the cortège went by.

When it reached the soldier's dwelling, which is inhabited by some twelve persons, the tiny coffin was deposited at the foot of the domestic altar; and the bonzes began their ceremonies: prayers, prostrations, offering of incense, before the ancestral tablet. The crowd followed their example and rushed into the house as soon as they had gone. We were moved with compassion for these poor pagans, who weep over their dead without having, like we, the hope of eternal resurrection.

### Sunday, January 23

During this month, the Buddhists are on their collecting rounds called *Kangio* (*kan* cold, and *gio* work). They never stop at our convent, but we see them go by with their veils or large hats on their heads. They mumble

prayers on entering into the dwellings and it is said that each syllable of their formulas is enriched with thousands of Indulgences. It is in return for these prayers that they ask for alms. The poor are supposed to benefit by them; however, it is said that a good part goes to the bonzes and employees of the temple.

A young girl, eager to know the true God came to make arrangements to take English lessons. Her father, who is a fanatic Lutheran cannot bear hearing anyone talk about the Catholic Religion; but, as his daughter is to go to America, later on, he permits her to learn English. She is glad to take advantage of her study hours to be instructed in the truths of the Faith. "Our religion," said she, "teaches that, ever since Our Lord has ransomed us, we may commit sins freely, provided that we believe that all



BUDDHISTIC MENDICANTS.

are expiated in advance. I have doubts concerning this doctrine, and I wish to be informed of your religion which seems to be more noble and loyal." We hope that the Holy Ghost will enlighten her and guide her into the true path.

### **Friday, February 11**

God, in His infinite goodness, does not fail to multiply a hundredfold even here below, our most legitimate joys. This morning, we began to commemorate the Apparition of Our Immaculate Patron to Bernadette, by assisting at two Masses. One of them, during which Sister Ste. Rosé de Viterbe (1) had the great happiness of renewing her vows, was celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Lemieux, whose paternal kindness and simplicity always touch us.

1. Annette TOURIGNY, of Three Rivers, Que.

At the very first words of the *Introit*, we turned towards Our Immaculate Mother and sang the joyful hymn: "Smile always on our souls, Your smile, sweet Mother, is happiness, hope, and Heaven!" From her throne engarlanded with verdure and blue flowers, our loving Queen seemed to hearken to our prayers and smile down protectingly upon us.

On the point of receiving Holy Communion, in union with our dear Sister, we renewed, in our hearts, our holy engagements with our Heavenly Spouse; and we promised, once again, to be ever faithful and devoted to Him. After the Mass, His Excellency, accompanied by our Reverend Pastor, took breakfast here. He said a kind word to each of us and then accorded us a pleasant holiday.

According to the meridional line, Japan is one day ahead of Canada; so when the shadows of night began to envelop the country, concealing in the past this beautiful day, we assisted in spirit at its dawning at the Novitiate, in Pont Viau, where a ceremony of Divine Betrothals and Mystical Espousals was to be held for several of our younger Sisters.

To-day's feast is called in Japanese: "*Hina Matsuri*" (the dolls' feast). It originated in a Chinese custom called *Joki*, which signifies Serpent's Day. According to tradition, three daughters were born to a man named Kakogo, in China, on the 3rd of March, towards the end of Hang's dynasty; and they died that same day. This date was looked upon as a day of misfortune for the whole country and, particularly, for the women. Therefore, every year on that anniversary, the latter withdrew to the river-side in order to purify themselves of the evil spirit's influence, in chanting prayers. Besides, each one made a paper doll with which she rubbed herself; then, passing it to a soothsayer, he practised exorcism upon it and threw it into the river.

On March 3rd, in Japan, was also celebrated the feast called *Kyokusui no En*. On this occasion, a reception was given by the emperor himself; the guests took their places along a winding stream in the courtyard of the imperial palace, and they composed poems while drinking and singing. A branch of peach blossoms was awarded to all those who succeeded in doing so. As this feast coincided with the above-mentioned Chinese feast, the two were combined under the name *Hina Matsuri* for an indefinite period of time. It is also called "The feast of the peach blossoms", because, on that day, the decorations are made with these flowers, according to Japanese art. An authentic act states that, in the reign of Emperor Gotsuchimikado (1466-1500, A.D.), the third day of March was chosen for the dolls' feast. On the first of the five degrees of a little domestic altar dedicated to the dolls, the emperor and empress are represented; on the second, the court-ladies; on the third, the musicians of the imperial court. The last two degrees are adorned with miniature furniture and the whole, on account of its ethereal colours, presents a very pleasing sight. The dolls are supposed to be made of paper; but, nowadays, baked-clay dolls or puppets are used, and these are clad in pretty multicoloured kimonos.

On *Hina Matsuri* each little girl or young lady gives a party, at home, before the dolls' altar. Peach blossoms and rice cakes, arranged in the form of a diamond, are deposited there. It is believed that the affection that a



THE DOLLS' ALTAR, BEFORE WHICH THE JAPANESE GIRLS MAKE PROSTRATIONS, ON HINA MATSURI FESTIVAL.

girl manifests for the dolls' feast is characteristic of her virtues and of her love of duty.

#### Monday, April 4

Fifty-eight little Japs have arrived, to-day. Great is our joy to see our classes peopled once again. We heartily set to work and will endeavour to give a Christian education to these pagan children, confident that Our Immaculate Mother will bless our efforts and grant them the grace to become members of our Holy Religion, some day.

#### Monday, April 25

Thanks to the benevolence of Reverend Father Laporte, O. P., we undertook, last Saturday, a pilgrimage to Taira Mission, for the purpose of visiting the Christians and of doing good. We left Koriyama at half past twelve. A genial morning dew had purified the atmosphere and besprinkled the rice fields and the gardens on

the mountain-slopes with sparkling diamonds.

At a quarter past three, we entered the gates of Taira, which seemed to smile at us under its various-tinted thatched roofs. A warm welcome was extended to us, at the station, by Reverend Father Laporte and several Christians, among whom were Mrs. Igarashi and her daughter, formerly of Koriyama. After a halt at the dwelling of the latter, we went to the presbytery — a graceful and practical Japanese cottage, situated on the bank of the sleeping river, whose fresh and limpid waters reflect the enormous *sakuras*, that blend their roseate tint with the green of the tall cedars.

As the following day was the last of the Octave of Easter, several ladies and girls assembled, after our arrival, for a singing exercise, in order to prepare for the Mass. Then, we diligently adorned the modest chapel, giving it a festal appearance.

Ideal weather favoured the coming of the Christians to assist at the Holy Sacrifice. The morning was calm; Mother Nature, most beautiful. We could sense the atmosphere of piety and perfect happiness that pervaded the place. After the Mass and a sermon for the occasion, Catechism was

recited, and prayers were said for the repose of the soul of Mr. J. Lemieux, Bishop Lemieux's father, whose untimely death was greatly mourned by all.

Then tea and *koashi* (muffins) were served to the assistants, who relished them with real satisfaction. At a signal, everybody took the road to the



REVEREND FATHER LAPORTE, O. P., SISTER STE. HEDWIGE (BLANCHE ROSS, OF FALL RIVER, MASS.), SISTER AGNES D'ASSISE (LUCIENNE RENAUD, OF MONTREAL), SISTER STE. ROSE DE VITERBE (ANNETTE TOURIGNY, OF THREE RIVERS, QUE.) AND THEIR CHARITABLE GUIDES, ON AN APOSTOLIC EXCURSION TO TAIRA, JAPAN. THESE MAGNIFICENT ROCKS ARE CONTINUALLY CHISELLED BY THE WAVES OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

mountain which dominates the city. Thence the view extends over the surrounding country-places, letting us perceive their white routes and the brooks, like gleaming threads of silver, disappearing under the numberless *sakuras*. For the missionary, this tableau lacks only one charm: the spire of a steeple pointing heavenwards.

At two o'clock, we left for Hisano hama, a thirty minutes' trip from Taira. The first part of the journey was made by train and the rest by autobus. We drove along the mountains which prevented us from seeing the sea which was near-by and whose murmur could be distinctly heard. Once in a while, however, we caught glimpses of it among the brown trunks of the tall pines, which are numerous in the valleys. We stopped, all of a sudden, in one of those mansions that one Architect only can build: the firmament, with its bright vault and sapphire wall overhung and encircled the scene, while the whole valley was curtained in by the cheerful green-clad mountains, studded with camellias, which appeared in the distance like great balls of fire. On all sides, could be seen the sparkling brooklets flowing between the ridges. Nothing broke the stillness of the scene, but the warbling of the birds and the murmuring, rippling sound of the streams

running through the valley. At a short distance, behind the mountain, an enormous rock, gently sloped, and chiselled by the waves, advances in the sea, describing its majestic silhouette on the horizon. We climbed to the very summit, whence we watched the tide coming in. Its voice enraptured us and seemed to re-echo sweet messages from our native country. A Buddhistic temple is to be found at the extremity of this rock. Would to God that it were a grotto of the Immaculate Virgin!... It is an ideal spot!... Returning on our steps, we walked along the shore in a large bed of pebbles, at the foot of a lime-stone cliff.

When we had travelled about a mile, we came to a small village where a good number of fishermen were casting their nets. The beach was covered with fishes of all kinds. We noticed one especially that had a very strange form, it was an *Anko* (devil's fish,) so we were told. We visited a pagan Kindergarten there; then, in a last halt, we called to see the family of Mr. Watnabe, a fervent Christian who had been our guide since morning. Finally, towards evening, Mrs. Igarashi, who accompanied us, put a wagon at our disposal and we returned to Taira. To close this memorable day, we visited an excellent pagan family, where Father Laporte gave a lecture on Religion. These good folks seemed to be favourably inclined towards Catholicity. We cherish the hope that they will soon become children of Holy Mother Church, and that their example will be followed by several others.

Before leaving Taira, we visited the Sanatorium for tuberculous people at Onohama. We were deeply moved on witnessing the material and spiritual indigence of the poor patients who are there. All suffer without



PUPILS OF THE KINDERGARTEN OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN KORIYAMA, JAPAN, AMUSING THEMSELVES ON AN ENCHANTING SPOT.

hope, for they are all pagans!... Oh! how these would need the consolations of the Faith to alleviate their suffering!... "The harvest is great, and the labourers, few!" With our whole hearts, we asked the Divine Master to send labourers in His Vineyard, and we begged Him to bless our work among the pagans of Taira so that it might be fruitful in graces of conversion and salvation.

### Wednesday, June 14

Our dear Sister Agnès d'Assise<sup>(1)</sup> is directress of our Kindergarten. It is not an easy task to maintain peace among these tiny tots and to render supple their imposing characters. Jun and Kobo, the two youngest pupils, are Doctor Kanamori's children. Their mother, who cannot succeed in making them obey, confided them to a maid who yields to all their desires and forgives their vengeance. Jun's character is well depicted by his skilfulness at kicking, whenever he meets with the slightest contradictions. To-day, after having attacked several little companions, he gave full vent to his anger, in his dealings with his teachers, and even with Sister Directress. She seized the opportunity to give him a good lesson. Then we had to have him say "*gomen*" (I beg your pardon) — an expression that he had never pronounced before. After taking him through different rooms, we left him at the foot of the statue of the Blessed Virgin until he decided to obey and apologize. Two hours later, Jun asked pardon, not only of his teachers, but, also, of all his companions; and his face was beaming with joy. He then promised to be always obedient and never to miss school. Doubtlessly, this lesson will be a salutary one.

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## VANCOUVER

*Extracts from letters of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate  
Conception of Vancouver, to their Sisters of the Mother House.*

*St. Joseph's Oriental Hospital,  
Vancouver, July, 1938*

DEAR SISTERS,

We are going to speak to you of our big children, the aged Chinese and Japanese to whom we give hospitality.

Joseph Kong, Chinese patient of Our Lady of Lourdes' Ward, is really very edifying. Sister St. Marc<sup>(1)</sup> gave him a Rosary and, ever since, he recites it, without any human respect, holding his beads in one hand and his prayer-book in the other, for he is obliged to follow, word by word, in his book. Such a short time ago, he knew nothing about God and the Blessed Virgin. Now, he does not cease praying, and even aloud, quite indifferent as to what his neighbours may think.

1. Lucienne RENAUD, of Montreal.

1. Alida TALBOT, of Cacouna, Que.

Grandma Chow, whom you already know, is always quite well. So as not to displease her, we must be careful not to bring her any visitors. "Me, old woman, you see, not much like visitors," she says.

One day, the Sister in charge of the Home wished to do a little cleaning in her room; but, in a tone which excluded every possible reply, Celina said to her: "You go away, me clean my room alone." After a little while, when the Sister Infirmarian discreetly opened the door, she found the room in perfect order, Mrs. Chow's scanty belongings neatly arranged in a box, and the old woman herself, very satisfied-looking, quietly smoking her pipe.

At 82 years of age, is one too old to go shopping? Certainly not, thinks Grandma Chow; and, so, one day, she took a notion to leave the Hospital grounds. Overtaken while crossing the street, she was brought back to the Home; but, upon her entreaties to be permitted to go again, one of the Sisters told her to get ready and she would accompany her out into the city.

Our octogenarian, who has passed the age of vanity, did not need much time to prepare for her trip. In a couple of seconds, she appeared in her old-fashioned boots and wearing a kind of tuque with the crown missing. Along with that, imagine a physiognomy not common, sharp piercing eyes, a turned-up nose and an important-looking expression; and you will have an idea of good Mrs. Chow.

She set out with Sister, at an eighty-two-year-old rate, stopping at every store, examining every window. Finally came the time to buy something. Grandma enquired the price of grapes. "Nineteen cents a pound," replied the merchant. "Give me ten cents' worth." continued our little old woman, running to hide behind the counter, in order to take out her small coin with greater conveniency. After making the purchase, our shoppers returned home; but what was Grandma's surprise to see arriving at the Hospital, shortly afterwards, a tiny package, instead of the wonders that she was expecting. Just the same, she is determined to go shopping again.

Mrs. Nakano, a tuberculous Japanese patient, was baptized recently. Since her arrival at the Hospital, two years ago, this simple, upright soul felt attracted to our holy Religion, which she studied with great interest. She had a very great desire to receive Baptism; but her husband was opposed to her doing so. He insisted that she was not sufficiently instructed. The poor woman waited patiently, begging God for the conversion of her family.

When her husband came to see her, feeling weaker all of a sudden, she said to him: "Go back and take your supper; you will return later. Sister will stay with me." Scarcely had he gone out, when she called Sister St. Marc and said anxiously to her: "Quick, baptize me; I feel very weak... if I were to die without Baptism... What must I do? Am I ready?"

"You must," replied the Sister Infirmarian, "believe in God and love Him with your whole heart; then, be sorry for your sins and ask pardon for them."

"But, I do believe, yes, I do believe!" exclaimed the patient, with an expression of extraordinary joy. She clasped her hands, and the Saving Waters flowed upon her brow.

Her face was so illuminated with happiness, that her husband, arriving an instant later, perceived that something mysterious had just taken place. "What is the matter with you?" he asked. "What has happened?" Incapable of keeping her secret, she told him all; and, marvel of grace, he seemed quite satisfied. "You look so happy that now I am glad that you are baptized," he added. Towards five o'clock, the happy child of God went to sing the eternal Alleluia in Heaven. Mr. Nakano, more and more influenced by grace, wished to give her Catholic burial with a funeral service at the church. We are quite confident that he, too, will be converted to our holy Faith.

From time to time, the Japanese Buddhistic minister comes to visit the patients belonging to his sect. In the same ward, there are two Catholic Japanese, a very fervent Chinese convert and some other patients who are studying our holy Religion. The minister, after several profound bows, shakes hands with each patient, and then begins his prayers and exhortations. At various intervals, waving a handkerchief, he chases the evil spirits that are supposed to be in the ward, and goes from bed to bed, reciting long prayers and making genuflections and profound bows. One day, after his departure, our good Chinese, quite beside himself, called the Sister Infirmarian. "Sister," said he, "the minister came. I shook hands with him, as I could not refuse to do so; but, when he wanted to pray near me, I showed him my crucifix and said to him: 'I am a Catholic!'"

Mr. Morita, another Japanese of the same ward, who, though still a pagan, is animated with Christian sentiments, said, also, after the minister's departure: "I do not like all those gestures and bows." He feels all the void that the pagan religion leaves in the soul; and, unconsciously, he thirsts for the peace and love of God. Kindly join with us in begging the Blessed Virgin to fill his soul with the light of the Holy Ghost and lead him soon into the path of salvation.

God is pleased to make apostles of some who, till lately, were pagans. Mr. Moritaka, converted recently, makes it his duty to teach those around him what he knows of the Christian Religion. We lent him a book entitled "Catholicism and the Bible". He avails himself of it to read and explain various passages to the patients. Strange to say, his companions listen attentively to him, although most of them are pagans or Protestants. The seed thus sown will, no doubt, sprout some day or other.

Nasako, a little Japanese girl, eight or ten years old, knows her catechism by heart, and it is not very easy to embarrass her. Very intelligent and quick, she makes astonishing repartees. A young lady from Montreal, visiting our Hospital, amused herself chatting near Nasako's bed. The little one was cleverly knitting a pair of stockings.

"It is very nice," said the visitor, "you knit every day and Sunday, too?"

"Of course, not," replied Nasako, "I do not knit on Sunday."

"Why?"

The child opened her illustrated catechism and showed her interlocutor the picture representing the death of a bad Christian. "You see," she

said, "if I knitted on Sunday, the big devil would carry me off with him into hell." Then, our young theologian did her best to explain that it was necessary to sanctify the Lord's Day. Despite her great desire, this poor child is not yet a Christian. Her parents are formally opposed to her baptism.

Have we already spoken to you of Francis Xavier, a good old Chinese who is always busy putting things in order, somewhere or other, in the ward where he is? "It is in vain that I work and rub," says he to the Sisters, "it is never clean;" and, thereupon, he shows a towel or some other object which has not been carefully placed by the patient who has used it.

Having heard that the Infirmarian of the Home was going away, he was very uneasy. "Why are you going away," he said, "now that you are accustomed here? Try, at least, to give all the necessary indications to the one who is going to replace you; otherwise, it is I who shall be obliged to initiate him." And poor Francis heaved a sigh which clearly expressed his distress!

This old man is greatly devoted to St. Joseph. Every week, he goes and begs flowers in Chinatown to offer to his heavenly Protector. No doubt, this good Saint is quite pleased with such a token of love and veneration.

On the 11th of last July, Joseph Shikaze, our valiant Japanese, was called to his eternal reward. Scarcely had he arrived in the country, six years ago, when he had a pulmonary hemorrhage, which brought him almost to death's door and won for him the grace of Baptism *in articulo mortis*. After spending several months at the General Hospital, where he acquired some notions of Christianity, he was transferred to our Hospital, where he became a perfect Christian, receiving even the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Very ardent and desirous of perfection, after his conversion, he longed for the happiness of becoming a priest and an apostle. His cherished hopes for the future were to recover his health, in order to be able to be ordained, hold in his hands the little white Host, that he loved so dearly, and make Jesus known to his brothers, emigrated to Vancouver, as also to his mother, still in his native land.

God, however, wished him to be, not His priest, but His victim. The disease continued its work of destruction and gently liberated this simple, pure soul, enriched by so much patient suffering. This young man's death was truly beautiful and enviable. "O my God," said he, "I love Thee with my whole heart and I offer Thee the sacrifice of my life. Bless all the Sisters who have been so good to me; bless the patients of this hospital, my parents, my friends and all those whom I love." He asked Sister Superior's pardon for the complaints that had escaped him and also begged his Infirmarian to ask all the patients to pardon him. He received Holy Viaticum a few minutes before setting out upon the great journey; and, fortified by the all-powerful grace of God, he valiantly repelled the final assaults of the infernal enemy. Begging the Blessed Virgin to come and take him, he expired at three o'clock, holding his crucifix in one hand and a lighted

candle in the other. His funeral service was sung at the Japanese Mission Chapel.

Leaving you, dear Sisters, we solicit, once more, the help of your fervent prayers, that the Divine Master and His sweet Virgin-Mother may be pleased to bless our feeble efforts and develop the seeds of truth that we are trying to sow in the souls of our Oriental protégés.

YOUR LOVING SISTERS OF VANCOUVER.

## Extracts FROM THE Novitiate Chronicles

*Dedicated to our dear Parents*

### Thursday, July 7

If, by chance, one of us had not been informed of what was being prepared this morning, it would not have been long before she guessed that there was something extraordinary in prospect.

At breakfast, Sister Superior told us all to assemble in the refectory for nine o'clock. This brought a smile to every countenance and made all eyes sparkle with delight.

The cleaning was quickly done, and we were all there at the appointed hour. We had just finished breakfast and, nevertheless, we were again filling our dishes, and copiously, too... you see, we were going on a picnic, and we know that the open air and games are very capable of exciting our appetites. Besides, we had to take enough provisions for dinner and supper, as we were to return only at dusk.

But, first of all, we had to leave... We needed neither an autobus nor a special train; a few minutes' walk through the grove brought us to a pleasant grassy glade along the river. Nothing better could be desired. It was to be the Novitiate and also the Postulate for the day, since the postulants were with us, too.

As soon as we had chosen the spot, we placed in evidence the picture of Our Heavenly Mother to whom we dedicated our joyful holiday.

Then began the games, which were exciting and noisy at times. For a rest and a change, we chatted, had music, and amused ourselves watching Prince, our dog, plunging into the water to fetch the branches that we threw for him. Despite our energetical protestations, he persisted in splashing us while shaking his wet fur.

At noon, after reciting the Angelus, we took our dinner in silence, just as we always do in the refectory. The accents of the Sister who was reading, mingled with the warbling of the birds, nourished our minds and hearts, while we relished the good things that our Superiors and some of our parents had provided for the occasion.

The afternoon was spent in various amusements and, if we interrupted our games at four o'clock, it was certainly not for lack of enthusiasm, but for meditation and prayer.

Reciting our beads, we went to the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes at the Point, where we sang a hymn to Our Blessed Mother, as a prelude to our meditation on the benefits of God. Never before, perhaps, had little novices made a more fervent and unctious meditation. Without any effort on our part, luminous considerations and applications came spontaneously to our minds. We understood how fitting it is to sing, as we had just done, the praises of Our Heavenly Mother, in acknowledgment of the countless treasures which her maternal bounty has never ceased to shower upon us; and, how ungrateful we would be, if we did not return most heartfelt thanks to Heaven, for to-day's joys. We, therefore, offered each *Ave* of the third part of our Rosary in fervent thanksgiving, as we wended our way back to the spot where we had spent the afternoon.

Then, seated on the verdant carpet around our dear Mistress, we were delighted to hear her speak of the Devotion to the Blessed Virgin, which is a pledge of progress in virtue and of final perseverance. Oh! were not these the sweetest moments of the day?...

We then listened with great interest to the brief biography of Father Philippe Chouinard, of the Foreign Mission Seminary, who died last winter, and upon whose grave we had just recited a fervent prayer. The life of this young deacon is rich in beautiful examples of zeal, resignation, and devotion to the Blessed Virgin.

It was already a quarter past six and we had not yet thought of taking our supper! We were all so happy around our dear Mistress! Fortunately, our bell had also feigned not to notice the hour and did not disturb our pleasure. For a picnic bell, not only was that pardonable, did we think, but it was even quite praise-worthy; and we resolved to take that intelligent bell along with us again, the next time that we go on a pleasure trip.

Towards eight o'clock, we gathered up our belongings; and, before returning to the Novitiate, we intoned a fervent *Magnificat*, which we chanted again in honour of the Virgin of our grove, as we passed before her shrine.

### Monday, July 11

Monsignor Larochelle, Prefect Apostolic of Lintong, celebrated Mass in our chapel this morning.

Our Lady, Queen of the Missions, whose statue dominates the altar, must have looked with complacency upon the zealous apostle whom she has chosen to be the father of her poor children over seas. As we ardently begged her to shower her choicest blessings upon the Prefecture of Lintong and its Pastor, did she not seem to say to us: "Ask, ask without fear, for the valiant missionaries who are making known my Divine Child; I shall always grant your prayers"?

This afternoon, Monsignor Larochelle, accompanied by Reverend Father Roberge, came as he had promised us two weeks ago, to give us a lantern

lecture. We were very glad, and we took great interest in these scenes which brought before our eyes the Oriental customs, the extreme poverty of the people, their faith and respect for the representatives of Christ, and the apostolic zeal and devotedness of the latter.

After giving us his blessing, Monsignor went to the chapel to assist at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, given by Reverend Father Roberge. Many thanks to our distinguished visitors who, besides paying us this kind visit, accorded us welcome holidays!

### **Sunday, July 24**

During a little entertainment, our older Sisters, for whom Profession Day is at hand, bid good-bye to the dear Novitiate which they will soon be leaving.

Imbued with simplicity and adapted to a well-known melody, their accents filled our hearts with emotion. Could it have been otherwise when the bonds which unite us are so strong? Besides, how many unexpressed thoughts were concealed in these few stanzas! They were an evocation of intimate remembrances, an effusion of gratitude and affection, an inquiring glance on the future awaiting them...

We assured our dear Sisters that separation and distance would not break the links which unite us; and we begged them to remember us in their prayers, on the day of their Profession, that we might enjoy the same happiness, some day!

### **Wednesday, July 27**

"Come ye apart into a desert place, and rest a little," said Our Lord to His apostles, when they returned from the first mission which had been confided to them. Was it not the same invitation which prompted the hundred and forty Sisters to come, from all our houses of the Province of Quebec, for their Annual Retreat?

During eight days, our Novitiate will be like a pious Cenacle, where the Holy Ghost will speak to our souls in the instructions of Reverend Father Cardin, O. M. I.

All day long our convent walls have re-echoed the joyous greetings welcoming our Sisters back to this beloved abode, which is apparently quite rejoiced to receive them once more. It even seems to enjoy this privilege with certain avidity, as if it apprehended having to cede it to the new Mother House, in the future.

We hope that, during this retreat, the flames of Divine Love in our souls will be as ardent as have been the rays of the sun, during the past few days; but there must not be a question of avoiding their powerful influence, for fear of insolation, and seeking the dangerous shade of a mediocre and easy life. On the contrary, we must expose ourselves to the beneficial heat of these flames and joyfully submit ourselves to its vivifying effects.

### **Sunday, July 31**

Our dear Sister Assistant General, who had come to the Novitiate to-day, hastily returned to our beloved Mother's bedside, this evening,

because she was very anxious about our dear invalid, whose condition is greatly affected by the intense heat.

Oh! poor, dear Mother, how painful it is for her children to know that she suffers so much, and how willingly would they give their health and strength to obtain her recovery!

### Friday, August 5

February 11th and August 5th shine like brilliant stars in the serene sky of our life. These days bring to us the purest joys of religious life; the joy of generous oblations and of Divine Betrothals.

Fifteen of our companions of the Novitiate had the ineffable happiness of pronouncing their vows to-day. They are now Spouses of Jesus and apostles of His Immaculate Mother. May their whole life be spent in glorifying God and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Reverend Father Demeules, brother of one of them, presided at the private Profession Ceremony.

This afternoon, it was His Excellency Most Reverend A. Desmarais, Auxiliary Bishop of St. Hyacinth, who honoured us by coming to give the Holy Habit to eighteen postulants. The names of these new novices follow:

Miss Annette Bonin, of St. Hyacinth (Sister Jean de l'Immaculée); Miss Corinne Morency, of Quebec (Sister Fabiola de Rome); Miss Cécile Savard, of St. Laurent (Sister St. Laurent); Miss Antoinette Lebel, of Trois Pistoles (Sister Ste. Alexina); Miss Yvette Trepanier, of Montreal (Sister St. Léonce); Miss Madeleine Fontaine, of Montreal (Sister Madeleine de Provence); Miss Bernedette Dumas, of St. Anselme (Sister Bernadette de France); Miss Mariette Fournier, of Ste Marie de Blanford (Sister Marie Alcide); Miss Diana Robichaud, of St. Hyacinth (Sister St. Hyacinth); Miss Yvette Perron, of Three Rivers (Sister Marie André); Miss Marie Paule Charest, of St. Pascal de Kamouraska (Sister Françoise Thérèse); Miss Philomène Paré, of St. Valérien (Sister Ste. Virginie); Miss Lucille Fontaine, of Upton (Sister Léon Marie); Miss Rachel Poulin, of Sherbrooke (Sister Aimée de l'Enfant Jésus); Miss Lucille Sanschagrin, of Berthierville (Sister Pierre Damien); Miss Thérèse Fortin, of Bordeaux (Sister St. Armand); Miss Marie Thérèse Prud'homme, of Montreal (Sister Alphonse de Naples); Miss Angela Désilets, of Viauville (Sister St. Jean Bosco).

His Excellency then gave the ring of fidelity to nine professed Sisters: Sister Ste. Léopoldine (Benoîte Labelle, of Ahuntsic); Sister Ste. Albine (Thérèse Lemay, of St. Hyacinth); Sister Marie Anne (Jeanne Béland, of Louiseville); Sister Marguerite des Anges (Marguerite Maltais, of Chicoutimi); Sister St. Jean du Rédempteur (Marcelle St. Arnaud, of Ahuntsic); Sister St. Pierre Chrysologue (Rita Bilodeau, of St. Pierre Baptiste); Sister St. Alphonse du Rédempteur (Antoinette Couvrette, of Ste. Dorothee); Sister St. Elzéar (Cécile Martel, of Joliette); Sister St. Bernard (Marie Paule Sauvé, of Montreal).

Were present in the sanctuary: Monsignor Larochelle, Superior General of the Foreign Mission Seminary, Pont Viau, Que.; Reverend Father J. A.

Graton, P. P., of St. Nicolas d'Ahuntsic; Reverend Father A. Théoret, C. S. C., of St. Laurent; Reverend Father E. A. Martel, of St. Hyacinth; Reverend Father Henri Martin, O. P., Pastor of St. Dominic's Parish; Reverend Father Eug. Lagacé, Pastor of Bedford; Reverend Father A. M. Bégin, O. P.; Reverend Father Jean de Montigny, C. S. C., of St. Laurent; Reverend Father Victor Desmarais, O. F. M.; Reverend Father Joachim Primeau, S. J.; Reverend Father J. U. Maltais, S. S. S.; Reverend Father H. Demeules, E. C. S. S.; Reverend Father Marcel Ouimet, E. C. S. S., professor; Reverend Brothers Roger Fortin, S. J.; Jules Fortin, S. J.; Charles-le-Bon, C. S. G.; Ferréol, C. S. G.; Venance, C. S. G.; A. Dumas, C. S. V.

Reverend Father G. Sauvé, O. M. I., in his allocution called his hearers' attention to the spirit in which each member of our Institute devotes herself to the foreign-mission work — spirit of gratitude which makes of her whole life a perpetual act of thanksgiving.

Father eloquently pointed out, also, the consolations which are the happy lot of the missionaries toiling in pagan lands. Their life abounds in sacrifices and self-denials; but these all disappear or, rather, become transformed by the heavenly unction of God's grace.

After Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, when His Excellency Bishop Desmarais and the members of the clergy escorting him left the chapel in processional order, the numerous parents and friends who had assisted at the ceremony, filled the parlours. Great animation reigned therein until five o'clock; then, the visitors took their leave to return the following day for a long, intimate chat.

The breezy evening of a very hot day is full of attraction; so we all assembled beneath the vaulted blue, where big Sisters, with their black veils, and little Sisters, with their white ones, greatly enjoyed themselves in the intimacy of a pleasant, fraternal reunion. How profound and sincere is the mutual affection uniting one another! How sweet are the joys that the Divine Master bestows on those who have given themselves unreservedly to Him!

The new novices and professed Sisters were the object of our special attention; and the first places around our dear Sister Assistant and our good Mistress were reserved for them. In the name of our beloved Mother, Sister Assistant gave the newly professed Sisters a copy of our Constitutions, the prayer-book of our Institute and a night-cross — precious objects which will be for them an ever-flowing source of graces and consolation. Then, all the elect of the day received pretty souvenir-pictures.

Towards the end of the recreation, when the bell was about to ring for prayer and rest, we sang an evening hymn to Our Immaculate Mother, expressing the sentiments of gratitude and love which filled our hearts.

### **Monday, August 8**

Thirty-three years have gone by since the day when our venerable Mother Foundress was united to God by the religious vows. For the fifth time, it is in her sick-room that she has celebrated this blessed anniversary.

In heaven, only, shall we understand the true value of these long years of suffering and apparent inaction.

Numerous and fervent prayers ascend to the throne of the Immaculate Virgin, that the one who has always been so filially devoted to her may be left to her loving children, and be favoured with an abundance of heavenly blessings.

### **Wednesday, August 10**

The Blessed Sacrament was exposed in our chapel, this morning, for the Forty Hours' Devotion.

Loving and delicate care was displayed in the adornment of the Eucharistic throne. The ostensorium stands out against a white and gold silk veil which is decorated with symbolical paintings: vines with abundant and rich grapes, sheaves of wheat encircling the figure of a pelican nourishing its young with its own blood. This is a symbol of Our Eucharistic Lord, Who does even more, for He gives Himself entirely to our souls, every day. Oh! may we find in Him all the graces of which He is the Living Fountain!

### **Saturday, August 13**

His Excellency Bishop Lapierre surprised and honoured us, by coming to celebrate Mass in our chapel this morning. His presence made us dream of foreign mission-fields; for, most probably, quite a number of us will be going, some day, to work for the salvation of the poor pagan Manchus in the Vicariate confided to his care.

In union with him, we offered the Sacrifice of the Mass for the thrice-holy cause: the spreading of God's Kingdom among pagan nations.

### **Sunday, August 14**

To distract and rejoice them, we invited our newly-arrived Sisters, who are with us since last Monday only, to a modest entertainment which took place in the Novitiate hall.

We could, already, very reverentially call them "black birds", since they have donned the black costume of the postulants. In giving them, yesterday, their veils and blue belts — first signs of their consecration to Mary, Sister Superior exhorted them to keep ever bright and ardent, despite the little difficulties inherent in every change of life, the flame of the noble ideal which, from the midst of the world, has guided them towards the religious life.



### ***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 at the Mother House, 2900 St. Catherine Road, Côte des Neiges, Montreal, in thanksgiving or to obtain some favor from this tender Mother.

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



# *The Children's Page*

MY DEAR CHILDREN,

While chatting the other day, I heard three words which made a very vivid impression on my mind and deeply touched me. Catching them in their flight — for, so it is said, words fly like dry leaves in the wind — I treasured them up, like the bee stores up the sweet nectar of the flowers from which to produce its honey, or the squirrel hoards up nuts for its winter food.

More than once already, I had heard these three words, which are, perhaps, as old as the world, and which have been repeated throughout the centuries like the proverbs and adages; but, never before, had I heard them pronounced with such deep conviction. Now, I have repositied them in my treasury of good thoughts, for the purpose of putting them into practice and of repeating them to those whom I love, especially to my friends, the Children. These words are

“ LOVE DEMANDS LOVE ”

At your age, they seem abstract and require being commented upon. That is what we are going to do, together.

First of all, what is love?... It is a feeling inspired by a person or a thing, causing one to appreciate and crave the presence or possession of the object. It is this sentiment that you express, when you say: “ I love my Parents.” Love is the most noble of all sentiments, when its object is noble. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance to direct its tendencies towards what is good, and divert them from what is evil.

“ Love demands love.” That means: He who loves is loved. God Himself, Who has created us, has given us a commandment of love. He has said: “ Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God, with thy whole heart, with thy whole soul, with all thy strength, and thy neighbour as thyself for the love of God.” This is the greatest of all the Commandments; it contains the whole law, our entire perfection and happiness. The heart that does not love God above all things, can not be happy on earth, because nothing here below can satisfy it: neither human affections, nor riches, nor honours, nor pleasures. These things, which are transitory, always leave it vis-a-vis a sheer void. It is not surprising: created to love the Infinite, the heart will remain insatiable in its desires, as long as it does not love, above all things, the Infinite, which is God.

“ Love demands love ”... “ If anyone love Me,” said Jesus, of old, to His Apostles, “ My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and will

make Our abode with him." Whoever we may be, we can be cherished by God; and the more we love God, the more will He love us and shower His blessings in abundance upon us, for the characteristic of love is to give, to please, to devote one's self. Have you not, yourselves, dear Children, experienced that? You feel the need of making little sacrifices for Jesus, of giving pleasure to your good Parents and your little friends, of devoting yourselves for them... Why? Because you love them.

"Love demands love". He who loves his neighbour; that is, who does him good, who renders him services for the love of God, will be loved by his neighbour. But, it must be for the love of God, that is, to please God; because He wishes us to love one another on earth and to help one another like children of one and the same family. We can love our neighbour for our own sake, like selfish people, who give only to receive; but such love is factitious and remains unrequited. Selfish people are not loved.

That is, upon the whole, what is meant by these precious words: "Love demands love." I should like you, also, dear Children, to inscribe them in your note-book of chosen thoughts and put them into practice; for they will be a source of happiness for you. If, on the contrary, you do not love, you will hate, and

#### "HATRED DEMANDS HATRED"

It is indubitable that those who do not love, such as selfish people, who think only of themselves, are not loved, and those who hate are hated. Oh! how wretched they are, with no joy in their souls, no peace in their hearts!

Ah! dear Children, never let yourselves be dominated by this wicked sentiment. If, sometimes, you feel it rising in the depths of your soul, overcome it quickly by forgiving those who have offended you and doing them as much good as you think they have done you harm.

Do you know what often causes discord and gives rise to hatred? It is the tongue, with its false reports and calumnies. And yet, that is another fact:

#### "CALUMNY DEMANDS CALUMNY"

That means that whoever calumniates



*The young girl executed the order, wondering what could be the motive of such a strange penance.*

will be treated as he treats others: he will be calumniated; and, if there is anything difficult to repair, it is calumny.

A girl, by the name of Susan, had the ugly habit of calumniating her neighbour. Several times already, her teacher, who wished to make an accomplished person of her, had spoken to her of the matter; but Susan, though very intelligent, did not believe herself guilty, nor did she correct herself.

One day, as she had defamed one of her companions before others, her good teacher wished to give her a salutary lesson. "Go to the hen-house," she said to her, "and get one of the chickens that have just been killed there." Susan obeyed, though somewhat reluctantly. "Now," she added, "go around the garden, holding the chicken in one hand, and with the other, pluck off its feathers and throw them, one by one, to the wind." Susan, greatly humiliated, hesitated...

"Go quickly," insisted her teacher, in a voice mild, but firm. "Your wicked deed must not be left unpunished."

The young girl executed the order, wondering what could be the motive of such a strange penance. Quite ashamed, she was just going to take the featherless chicken back to where she had found it, when her teacher, coming up unexpectedly, told her to return to the garden with the chicken, gather up all the feathers that she had scattered and bring them all to her.

"But, that is impossible," exclaimed Susan, "the wind has already blown part of them away; some have even fallen into the river!" And, unable to stand it any longer, she burst into tears.

"Yes, dear Child," replied the teacher, "it is just as difficult to gather up all those feathers as it is to take back, and keep from spreading, the calumnious words that you pronounced a little while ago before your companions."

This was a flash of light for the guilty girl. She understood the meaning of her humiliating penance, reflected seriously on her past conduct and was never again to be found in fault. The lesson had been salutary to her.

Remember well this little incident, dear Children, so that, if you are ever tempted to calumniate your neighbour, the thought of it will hinder you from doing so.

#### THE DISTANT DAWN

I cannot bring this little chat to an end without saying a few words about the beautiful day which is already dawning in the distance, the great festival which is returning to us with the wintry season:

#### THE SWEET SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS

On the immortal anniversary of that holy night, long ago, when the Child God appeared upon earth and the Angels, coming down from Heaven, sang harmonious hymns over the wretched stable which sheltered Him... on the immortal anniversary of that holy night, the Divine Child comes



*When Jesus comes, you will open wide  
to Him the door of your little palace.*

again among us. He descends upon the altar, into the little white host, and into the hearts that are willing to receive Him. Escorted by His Angels, He comes with the meekness of a lamb, the riches of a king and the love and power of a God. Happy are they who prepare themselves to receive Him worthily! He will shower abundant blessings upon them!

I would like you all, dear Children, to be among these happy ones, this year; and, for that reason, I invite you to commence immediately to prepare yourselves, by purifying your hearts by a good confession; by adorning it anew with the gold of your virtues, the pearls of your ardent desires and the flowers of your sacrifices; by perfuming it with the fragrance of your prayers; and, above all, by preparing therein a very cosy crib, made entirely of acts of love. And when Jesus comes, you will open wide to Him the door of your little palace. Then how magnificently will this Royal

Child reward you for all that you will have done for Him!

May all of you, then, dear Children, rival one another in your zeal to prepare your hearts for that beautiful day, which is already dawning in the distance... for that great festival, which is returning to us with the wintry season: the sweet solemnity of Christmas!

*Your Great Friend,*

THE PRECURSOR.

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### **King Melchior's Little Granddaughter**

*(continued.)*

Alone with the dying girl, during the night, Myrrha prayed fervently for her. Recalling Our Saviour's own words: "All that you ask of My Father in My Name, will be granted to you," and audaciously confident in this Divine promise, she begged that Romula might have the grace to know the God before Whom she was about to appear.

Towards midnight, the condition of the young Roman became still worse... the pallor of death crept over her beautiful countenance...

Myrrha redoubled her prayers!...

Suddenly Romula made a slight movement; and, painfully drawing a breath, she gasped:

"Myrrha, you have vanquished. Speak to me of your God... I wish to love Him Who has made you so good!"

Repressing the emotion which overwhelmed her, the Christian gently bent over the death-bed and, in luminous words, inspired by the Holy Ghost, she spoke of Jesus... of His birth in the stable, of His death on the cross... of the great mysteries which the Apostles had summarized in their Creed, which was a symbol of their faith in the God Who reserves an eternity of love and happiness for those who believe!... When she had ceased speaking, Romula, who had listened in profound silence, made a supreme effort:

"Baptize me," murmured she!...

And when the purifying Waters had flowed upon her brow, she put her feeble arm around her slave's neck.

"Will you forgive me and kiss me," said she, "since I am your sister?"

Contrary to all expectations, Romula recovered. The soul that had fluttered for an instant at the edge of the grave, was reserved, in God's designs, for nobler combats.

A tender affection united her, thenceforth, to Myrrha, who thanked the Lord unceasingly.

As soon as she had recovered her health, Romula wished to be presented to Paul. The great Apostle paternally received the happy convert, who had been overthrown and vanquished by Christ, as he himself had formerly been, on the road to Damascus.

"My child," he said to her, "let us give thanks to God, Who has delivered you from the power of darkness and has translated you in the kingdom of His light! Walk therefore as a child of the light... Now, the fruit of the light is in all goodness, and justice, and truth!"

He then confided the neophyte to Myrrha, who was to instruct her in the truths of religion and guide her in her new life.

The two children listened joyfully and respectfully to the Apostle's advice:

"Be filled with the Holy Spirit," he said to them, "speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns, and spiritual canticles, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord!... Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice!... Let your modesty be known to all men... Be nothing solicitous, and the peace of God, which surpasseth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Romula, animated with holy fervour, perfectly followed the teachings of him whom she, thenceforth, called the Father of her soul.

Predisposed by a powerful grace, she entirely subdued the natural arrogance of her character. Turning against herself the harshness that she had formerly reserved for others, the patrician humbly prostrated herself at the feet of her slave, now her mistress, to accuse herself, with unsparing

sincerity, of her slightest faults, and beg, with tears and entreaties, the permission to expiate them by severe penances.

Myrrha, already experienced in the spiritual life, gently moderated the ardour of the young neophyte, taught her the science of the saints and that humble resignation to God's Holy Will, that childlike confidence in His merciful love, which are the surest means of touching His Heart.

These two souls, united by the sweetest bonds, seemed to make but one in loving and praising the Beloved Who had chosen them, and all the virtues flourished in them, exhaling a perfume purer than that of the lily...

(To be continued.)

## 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.

Enclosed please find offering, in thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for favours received. Mrs C. E. Rousseau, **Sutton, Que.**—Some months ago, I asked for prayers in order to obtain a position and, two weeks ago, I started to work. I am enclosing an offering in thanksgiving and I am asking you to continue praying that I may have steady work. J. A. L. McD., **Tilbury, Ont.**—Enclosed find postal note for your works in thanksgiving for favours received. A Friend, **North Bay.**—Enclosed find offering for the ransom of a dying Chinese baby in thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mary for protection which I feel she has granted me at a very important time. This was some time ago, I hope the Blessed Virgin will forgive my delay. Would you kindly make a Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal asking her to obtain for me two very important favours. One is spiritual and the other is to be restored to health. Miss G. W., **Montreal.**—Some time ago I subscribed for your Magazine requesting that you pray for my daughter's recovery and her return home from a Tubercular Sanatorium, and that my son and I return to our employment. My daughter is home now and my son and I have returned to work. Most heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin. F. D. LaF., **Port Huron, Mich.**—Enclosed, please find the sum which I promised, in thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a favour received. Would you please pray for my intentions. M. McK., **Montreal.**—I am sending an offering to buy clothes for a Chinese baby. I had promised this if I obtained a favour and I have obtained it. Please continue praying for my intentions. Miss Y. T., **Portland, Me.**—Please find enclosed offering for the ransom of dying Chinese babies. One of my requests has been granted. Thanks to the Sacred Heart and Blessed Virgin. I again ask you prayers for a spiritual favour. Mrs. M. C. R., **Timmins, Ont.**—I come to thank the Blessed Virgin and St. Teresa for a favour obtained. I beg for special prayers that things may change, for they have been pretty bad for the last four years. Please pray for my daughter's health also. Mrs. LeB., **Verdun.**—Lively gratitude for the recovery of my health and other temporal favours. Mrs T. C., **Longueuil.**—Sincere thanks for a cure obtained. Mrs. H. M., **Three Rivers.**—Heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin for a favour obtained. A lady of **Yamachiche.**—Kindly thank Our Heavenly Mother who has hearkened to my prayers and granted me work after I had promised to publish my thanksgiving. Mrs. E. Degrand, **Northbridge, Mass.**—Thanksgiving for favour received. Mrs. J. M., **Ste. Agathe des Monts.**—Heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin for a grace obtained. Mrs. E. D., **Ste. Théodosie.**—Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a favour obtained through her intercession. Mrs. H. B., **Montreal.**—Our Heavenly Mother has answered our prayers and obtained for me the position requested. Kindly thank her with me for this

great benefit. M. L., **Montcerf**. — The Blessed Virgin has brought my daughter back to me. Anonymous. — Thanksgiving for the cure of my little boy. Mrs. D. B., **Gardner, Mass.** — Homage of gratitude to Our Immaculate Mother for her protection. G. P., **St. Laurent**. — Thanksgiving for favour obtained. Miss C. G. — We are pleased to inform you that we have obtained the grace for which we had asked prayers. Kindly thank the Blessed Virgin with us and beg her to grant us complete success in the affair. Mrs. R. A. — Thanksgiving to Our Lady of the Missions for favour received. We beg her to continue assisting us. Mrs. A. S. — Lively gratitude for cure obtained. A. M., **Ferme Neuve**. — I am acquitting myself of a promise in thanksgiving to the Immaculate Virgin for a favour received. H. R. H. — Heartfelt thanks for favour received. C. P. — Thanksgiving for favours which have been granted to me through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. A. C. — I am pleased to tell you that my brother's conduct has greatly improved. I heartily thank Our Heavenly Mother and hope she will continue assisting him. F. M. D. — Thanksgiving for a great favour obtained. May Our Immaculate Mother grant us the other favours we are asking. Mrs. A. T. — Grateful thanks for benefit received. Mrs. E. T. — Thanksgiving for the cure of an ear-ache. Mrs. L. B., **Fort Kent, Me.** — I thank the Blessed Virgin for a grace she has obtained for me and beg her to protect my family. Mrs. D. P., **Chicopee Falls**. — Homage of gratitude towards Our Lady of the Missions for a grace received. F. V., **Woonsocket, R. I.** — I am pleased to acquit myself of my promise for I have found a position. Thanks to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. T. R., **Montreal**. — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin and requests for spiritual and temporal favours. Mrs. A. S. — I am coming to acquit myself of a debt of gratitude towards Our Heavenly Mother for a favour obtained. Mrs. J. D., **St. Sylvester**. — I thank the Blessed Virgin for having protected us, and request her maternal assistance for my family. M. B. J. M. — Thanksgiving to Mary and requests for favours for my sons and daughters. Mrs. O. L., **Earlton, Ont.** — Thanksgiving for the finding of money lost. A. L. — I am acquitting myself of a promise made in honour of the Blessed Virgin and ask for two other favours. Mrs. C. N., **Highgate Center**. — Kindly help me to thank the Blessed Virgin for the favour she has obtained for me. Mrs. R. M., **Ste. Dorothée**. — My most heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin for her maternal protection. May she continue assisting us. Mrs. M. L., **Montreal**. — Sincere thanks for favour obtained. W. S. G. — Thanksgiving for favour obtained. A. C. W., **Gardner, Mass.** — I wish to thank the Blessed Virgin for the cure of one of my fingers. Anonymous, **Tracadie, N. B.** — Lively gratitude for favour obtained. Miss A. D'Aragnon. — My health has improved. I wish to thank the Blessed Virgin and ask for my complete recovery. Mrs. O. R., **St. Abdon**. — A thousand thanks to the Immaculate Conception for a favour received. My husband also wishes to express his gratitude towards this good Mother for the improvement in his health which he has obtained through her intercession. Mrs. J. G., **Biddeford, Me.** — I am pleased to tell you that all my requests have been granted. A thousand thanks to the Blessed Virgin to whom I confide my family. Mrs. E. G., **Montreal**. — I wish to thank the Blessed Virgin for her special assistance. M. M., **Montreal**. — Heartfelt gratitude for a favour obtained after promising to publish my thanksgiving. Miss A. C., **Bienville**. — My son has found work. Heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin. Please pray that I may recover my health. Mrs. M. T., **Petite Rivière St. François**. — Grateful thanks to the Sacred Heart, St. Teresa, St. Anne and St. Anthony for a favour received, asking for another also. A Friend, **Alexandria, Ont.**

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 have a Novena offered for the following intentions: that my brother may be completely cured of mental trouble from which he is now suffering, and that he may be able to hold his position; that I may obtain a permanent position; that my other two brothers may obtain some form of employment. If my requests should be granted, I shall certainly become a subscriber to THE PRECURSOR. A Child of Mary, **Montreal**. — Please pray for my daughter, who is very ill with nerve trouble. Mrs. J. B., **Portland, Me.** — Enclosed you will find offering for a Novena to the Blessed Virgin. It is for my daughter who is seriously ill. If she should get well, I promise I will help you in every way I can. Mrs. J. N., **Sanford, Me.** — Please say a prayer that my son may find employment. He is idle since

January. Mr. J. J. M., **Cochrane, Ont.** — I am requesting the help of your prayers. Miss E. G., **St. John, N. B.** — Enclosed you will find offering for a Novena. Please pray to the Blessed Virgin that my husband may stop drinking. I should also like you to pray that I may obtain the other graces that I am asking. Mrs. M. R., **Timmins, Ont.** — I would like to have a novena started as soon as possible for a very important favour. Mrs. A. L., **Millbury, Mass.** — Will you please make a novena for my husband that he may get work. If he gets as good a position as he had before, I will pay every year for the monthly support of a Missionary Sister. Mrs. W. Y. B., **Haverhill, Mass.** — I would be very well pleased if you kindly united with me in making a Novena to our Blessed Lady in order to have a certain baby adopted soon. If my request is granted, I promise to make a donation. Miss S. C., **St. John, N. B.** — Will you please pray for me that I may regain my health, so that I may go in the convent again, if it is God's Holy Will; also pray for the conversion of my brother. A Subscriber, **Verdun.** — Please accept my offering for the ransom of dying Chinese babies in honour of Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception; and may I ask you to say a special prayer for my very special intention. M. B. T., **Schenectady, N. Y.** — A few years ago, I sent an offering and asked a favour which was granted to me. Enclosed find offering for the ransom of a baby likely to live. This time will you kindly pray for my health. I have been sick now for three years; they think I will have to undergo an operation, so please pray for me. Mrs. A. N. T., **Bennington, Vt.** — Please find enclosed an offering for a Novena of lamps in honour of the Most Immaculate Mother for the conversion of someone who is going wrong. Mrs. M. N. S. — Enclosed please find offering for a special Novena that my husband may return safely from an important business trip. Mrs. M. J. C., **Outremont.** — Please make a Novena for my son who is sick in the hospital with an abscess, that he may not be obliged to go through another operation which the doctors fear. If I obtain my favour, I shall send a donation. Mrs. C. B. W., **Rumford, Me.** — Please pray for me. Mrs. C. C. T., **Nantucket, Mass.** — Enclosed please find my renewal subscription. Please pray that I may recover my health. Mrs. J. St. P., **Limestone, Me.** — Please pray that I may get on well at my work and that God may give me health. Miss M. H., **Johnstone.** — Kindly remember me in your prayers, for I need the Blessed Virgin's help to forget my troubles. Miss L. B., **Ste. Justine de Newton.** — Please pray for a very special favour. Mrs. D. L., **Westmount.** — I am enclosing a small offering for your missionary work. I beg you to pray for a very special favour. I am also making different promises which I will fulfil if my prayers are heard. I. A., **Sagamore, Mass.** — Would you please pray for the following intentions: that I may win the prize that I am working for; that my little daughter's and my own health may be better; that my son-in-law be promoted so that they may afford a downstairs rent; for a friend's cure of arthritis; that my son-in-law may obtain a position this fall so that my daughter may stop working, and several other favours. Mrs. W. H. B., **Oldtown, Me.** — Would you kindly make a Novena for me, in honour of Our Lady. I have a lot of trouble and feel very down-hearted and I am sure that, with prayers, I shall obtain some of the favours that I am asking. Miss M. F., **Montreal.** — Enclosed find offering and please say a prayer in honour of the Sacred Heart, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Souls in Purgatory, so that many favours may be granted me. Mrs. J. N., **Emmett, Mich.** — Please include in your novenas to the Blessed Virgin, Queen of the Holy Rosary, St. Ann and St. Joseph my special intentions. If granted I will send a donation. A Subscriber. — Would you kindly make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin and St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for two special favours. If I obtain my requests, I shall send you a substantial donation. Miss M. C., **Montreal.** — Will you kindly pray that my husband may find a position. A friend, **Longueuil.** — Please remember my children in your prayers. — I would like you to pray for very important spiritual favours. Anonymous. — Would you kindly say a prayer for my husband who is paralysed, and ask the Blessed Virgin that I may also recover my health without having to undergo an operation. Mrs. J. B. T., **Montreal.** — I recommend my husband and children to the Blessed Virgin. Anonymous, **Contrecoeur.** — A cure is requested. Mr. L. B., **Lotbinière.** — Will you please pray for a conversion. I promise to publish my thanksgiving if my request is granted. A Subscriber. — A cure is requested. Mrs. C. E. L., **Montreal.** — Kindly ask the Blessed Virgin to grant health and work to my family. Mrs. L. P., **Salem, Mass.** — Would you kindly pray for my mother that she may recover her health, for she suffers very much. Mrs. Poitras, **Quebec.** — Please pray for my son who wishes to give up his studies. A Mother. — Kindly pray to the Blessed Virgin that my daughter may return home. She has been led astray by a bad companion. A subscriber to THE PRECURSOR. — Will you please pray for my son who is without work and who gets discouraged. Anonymous — Please pray for the success of an operation. Mrs. W. M., **Brunswick, Me.** — Kindly make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin for a very important and pressing need. — Would you kindly pray for my son who is sick; and for my other boy, that he may get a position. An afflicted Mother. — Please say a prayer to Our Lady of Perpetual Help for a special intention. Anonymous, **Cochrane, Ont.** — Please beg the Blessed Virgin to cure my eyes that I may be able to bring up my family. Mrs. P. D., **Cap de la Madeleine.** — A cure is requested. Mrs. J. A., **Salem, Mass.** — I recommend my little child to the Blessed Virgin. D. L., **Newton Falls.** — I am asking for the help of your prayers for the recovery of two sick persons and that I may receive a sum of money which is due to me. A Subscriber, **Montreal.** — Please pray that I may obtain a position, and that I may recover my health. — Will you kindly pray that a friend of mine may find

work. Miss C., **Montreal**. — Would you kindly pray for my son that he may recover his health and find a position. A former Subscriber. — I would like you to pray that I may recover my hearing. A. Délisle. — Kindly remember us in your prayers that my husband and myself may find work. Mrs. E. D., **Northbridge**. — A mother having eighteen children requests the help of the Immaculate Virgin so that she may have the money necessary to keep her property. Anonymous. — I am without work and beg for Our Lady's assistance. W. P., **Hochelaga**. — Please pray for the success of very important affairs. Mrs. H. R. A., **Chapeau**. — Will you please say a prayer for my son. Mrs. O., **Montreal**. — Would you please make a Novena to Our Blessed Mother for my intentions. If I obtain my request, I shall send you an offering for the ransom of dying babies. Miss I. D. K., **Orono, Me.** — Will you please pray for my intentions. — Please pray that I may get well again. Mrs. A. D., **Tilbury, Ont.** — Will you kindly pray that I may find some work. Please pray also for a Catholic girl who is changing her religion to be married and for a friend of mine, that he may get a permanent position. A girl from **Montreal**. — Please pray for a special intention. R. J. C., **Windsor, Ont.** — Would you kindly pray for my husband that he may obtain help in his work and have better wages; and also for good health for all his family. Mrs. S. McC., **Lewiston, Me.**



## NECROLOGY

Reverend Father J. Martin, P. P., **McGregor, Ont.**; Mr. Paul Bournival, **Three Rivers**, brother of our Sister Ste. Febronie; Mrs. Aurèle Roy, **Thetford Mines**, grandmother of our Sister St. Claude; Mr. Théodule Dubé, **St. Honoré de Shenly**, grandfather of our Sisters Marie Esther and Marie Bénigna; Mrs. Eloi Perreault, **St. Paul, Joliette Co.**, sister-in-law of our Sister St. Jacques le Mineur; Mr. Fernand Cyr, **Squatteck**, brother of our Sister St. Paul de la Croix; Miss Genevieve Carrier, **Stoke Centre**, sister of our Sister St. Guillaume; Mrs. K. Cochrane, **Montreal**; Mrs. Mary Kelly, **Montreal**; Mr. John H. Golden, Jr., **South Berwick, Me.**; Mr. Bruneau, **Fitchburg, Mass.**; Mr. Therrance V. Powers, **Danvers, Mass.**; Mrs. Marg. Horrigan, **Emmett, Mich.**; Miss May Palmer, **Detroit, Mich.**; Mr. Sylvester Kinney, **Emmett, Mich.**; Mr. Joseph Kunicztky, **St. Clair, Mich.**; Mr. Michael Radimacker, **St. Clair, Mich.**; Miss Alice Flynn, **Salem, Mass.**; Mr. Amédée J. Bondy, **Amherstburg, Ont.**; Mrs. Sarah Knight, **New Liskeard, Ont.**; Mrs. Louis Duhamel, **Southbridge, Mass.**; Mr. James Carmel Moodie, **Great Falls, Montana**; Mrs. Philip L. Smith, **Marine City, Mich.**; Mrs. Rose Hanhon, **Marine City, Mich.**; Mr. Fred. Jos. Turner, **Pembroke, Ont.**; Mr. Thos. Pierce, **Pembroke, Ont.**; Mr. Thos. Kehoe, **Pembroke, Ont.**; Mr. Norman McDonald, **Toronto, Ont.**; Mr. Richard Plaus, **Pembroke, Ont.**; Mr. James Jones, **Pembroke, Ont.**; Mrs. Eugene Blanchard, **Lowell, Mass.**; Mrs. Emma Copely, **Lowell, Mass.**; Mrs. D. Primeau, **Lowell, Mass.**; Mrs. Alexina Harrison, **Salem, Mass.**; Mrs. Charles Melanson, **Salem, Mass.**; Mr. Joseph Harrison, **Salem, Mass.**; Mr. Michael Cushing, **Fort Coulonge, Que.**; Mrs. John Retty, **Fort Coulonge, Que.**; Mr. Thomas Hanrahan, **Campbell's Bay, Que.**; Mr. Emmett Shea, **Calumet Island, Que.**; Mr. Jos. Liberty, **Fort Coulonge, Que.**; Mr. Patrick McCann, **Quyon, Que.**; Mrs. J. Redmond, **Montreal**; Mrs. Teresa O'Neil, **Montreal**; Mrs. Mary Long, **Montreal**; Mr. Alphonse Gorman, **Notre Dame de Grâce**; Mr. Ernest T. Jousse, **Williamstown, Mich.**; Mrs. Malvina Langelier, **Marlboro, Mass.**; Mrs. Adeline Granger, **Marlboro, Mass.**; Mr. Alexander Muir, **Marlboro, Mass.**; Mrs. Joseph Pichette, **Marlboro, Mass.**; Mr. John Curlinane, **Marlboro, Mass.**; Mrs. Louise Lesage.

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

## Please Help the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

*By procuring work for them.*

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

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

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

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# Benefactors of the Society

of the

## Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Privileges Granted to Benefactors

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

Besides, Benefactors are entitled to the following spiritual advantages:

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

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

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

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