

THE PRECURSOR



Vol. XII, 17th Year MONTREAL, November-December, 1939 No. 6

Works of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

IN CANADA

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Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Procure for the Missions. Workroom for making Church Vestments, embroidery, lace and painting, for the support of the Mother House and Novitiate. School for the formation of Chinese catechists. Sewing-circles for ladies and girls. Diffusion of a Missionary Review: THE PRECURSOR. Free Missionary Library.

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(Continued on page 3 of the cover.)

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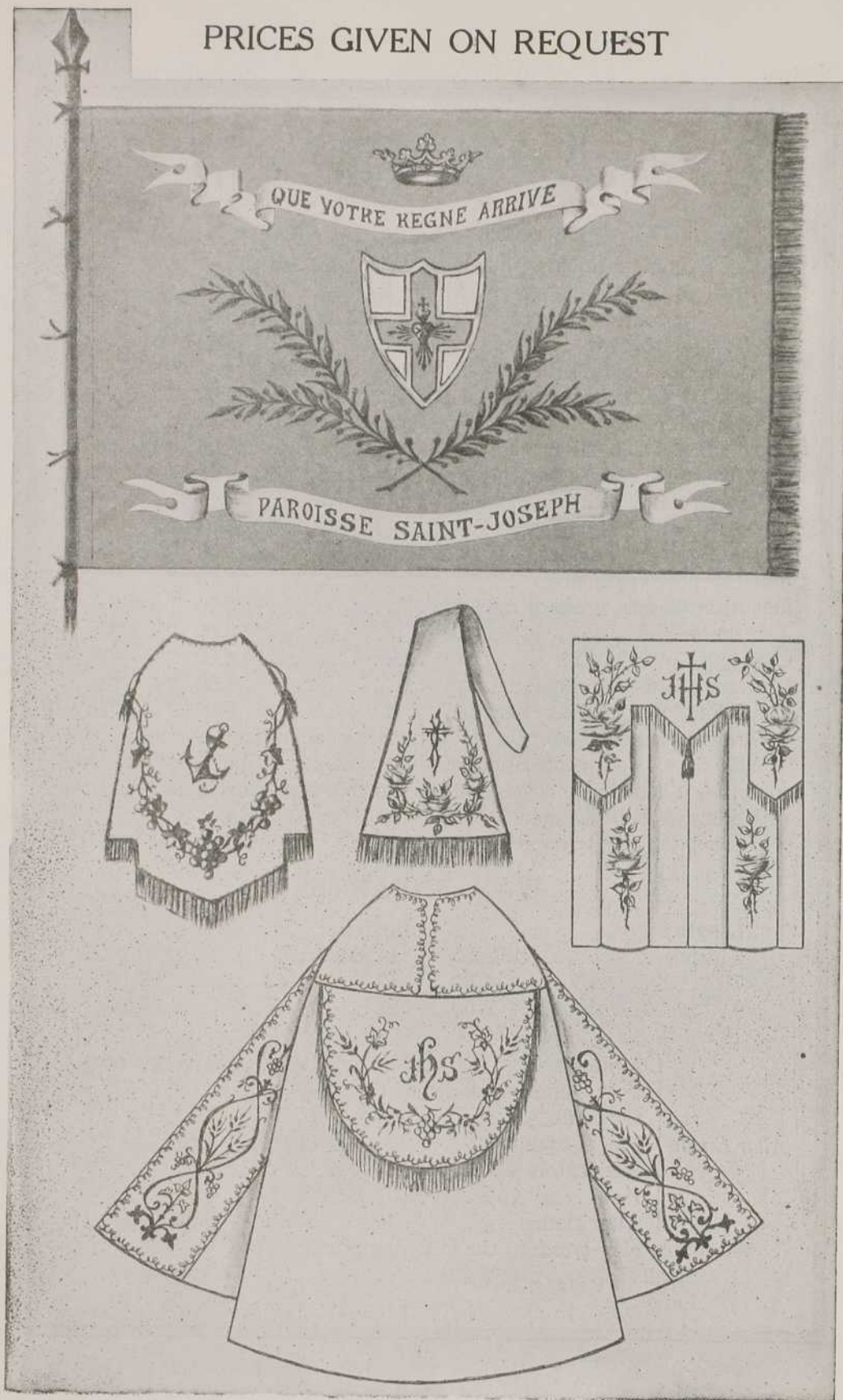
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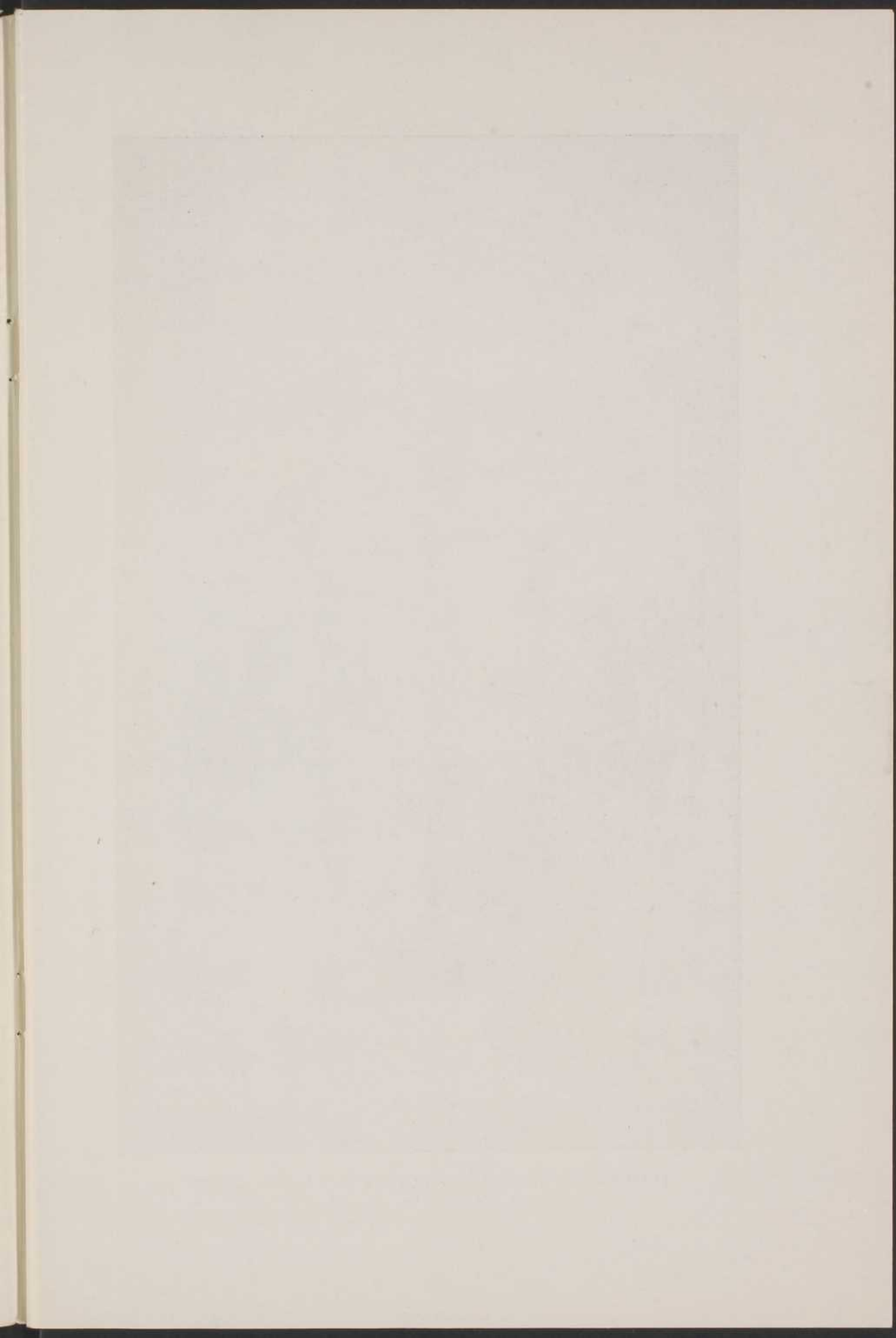
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PRICES GIVEN ON REQUEST







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THE PRECURSOR

Published by the
Missionary Sisters
of the Immaculate Conception

with the approbation of the Archbishop of Montreal

Vol. XII, 17th Year

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CONTENTS

Blessing of His Holiness Pope Pius XII.....	304
Our Wishes.....	305
A Christmas Prayer.....	Charles A. McMahon. 306
The Crib.....	Stephen M. Donovan. 308
To Insure the Reign of Peace.....	Br. A. M. R., O. P. 311
His Memory Will Endure.....	315
His Excellency Most Reverend I. Antoniutti, at the Departure of Priests of the Foreign Mission Society.....	318
Immaculate Conception.....	Father Faber. 320
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin.....	Father Perdreau. 322
Address of His Holiness Pope Pius XII.....	324
Thirty-sixth Departure of Missionaries.....	325
The Altar Society of St. Johns, Quebec.....	E. Brouillet, S. J. 327
A Modern Martyr.....	Very Rev. J. A. Walsh, M. Ap. 329
A Spiritual Friendship.....	Paul Destombes, Miss. Ap. 331
The Sweetness of the Cross.....	333
A Few Roses Scattered.....	335
Echoes from Our Missions.....	336
Novitiate Chronicles.....	352
The Children's Page.....	357
Thanksgivings — Petitions — Necrology.....	361

ILLUSTRATIONS

Chinese Children Praying for Our Benefactors.....	
His Holiness Pope Pius XII.....	304
A Christmas Prayer.....	306
His Excellency Most Reverend G. Gauthier, Archbishop of Montreal.....	314
The Immaculate Virgin Mary.....	320
Star of the Sea.....	325
Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception Who Left for the Distant Missions.....	326
A Corner of the Exposition of Liturgical Vestments at the Retreat House Dedicated to St. Bernadette, St. Johns, Quebec.....	328
The Patron of Missionaries.....	333
Happiness of the Apostolate.....	337
Little Ones Baptized on the Feast of Pentecost, Canton, China.....	337
Pupils of Tak Sun School, Hong Kong, Baptized during the Year.....	339
Dwelling for Refugees on Sheklung Island, China.....	341
The Star of the Sea, Boat Belonging to the Lazaretto, Sheklung.....	342
At the Mission of Szepeing kai, Manchukuo.....	345
Mortuary Bed of a Child in Manchukuo.....	346
Pupils of the Kindergarten, Koriyama, Japan.....	350
Winter Sports.....	358
The Charming Infant Jesus Lying upon the Cold Straw.....	359



Très Saint Père,

Mère Marie-de-la-Providence,

Sup. Gén. des Sœurs Missionnaires de l'Immaculée Conception,
humblement prosternée aux pieds de Votre Sainteté
sollicite la Bénédiction Apostolique
pour les Bienfaiteurs de sa Communauté
ainsi que pour les Abonnés au Précurseur
revue missionnaire de l'Institut.

Eximio in Domino

Pius PP. XII

*Translation of the Apostolic Blessing which the Holy Father
has so graciously deigned to favour with his august autograph:*

Most Holy Father,
Mother Marie de la Providence, Superior General of the Mis-
sionaries of the Immaculate Conception, humbly prostrate at
the feet of Your Holiness, implores the Apostolic Blessing for
the Benefactors of her Community and the Subscribers to
the "Precursor", the missionary review of the Institute.

*Our Father, Who art in Heaven,
grant an abundance of light and consolation
to our beloved Pontiff, Pius XII,*

*so deeply afflicted by the political and religious troubles
which are invading the world and threatening to destroy it
by the blindness of so many who, despising Thy Holy Name,
Thy Holy Law and Thy Divine Kingdom, are abandoning
themselves to their passions and hastening to their eternal
perdition.*

*O Heavenly Father, it is the hour of tribulation for all
those who love Thee and fear Thee. Deign to raise ^{up} holy
souls, who may radiate the light of Thy love in greater re-
splendency upon the world, who may expiate for the guilty,
draw Thy boundless mercy upon them, and restore order
and peace to humanity.*

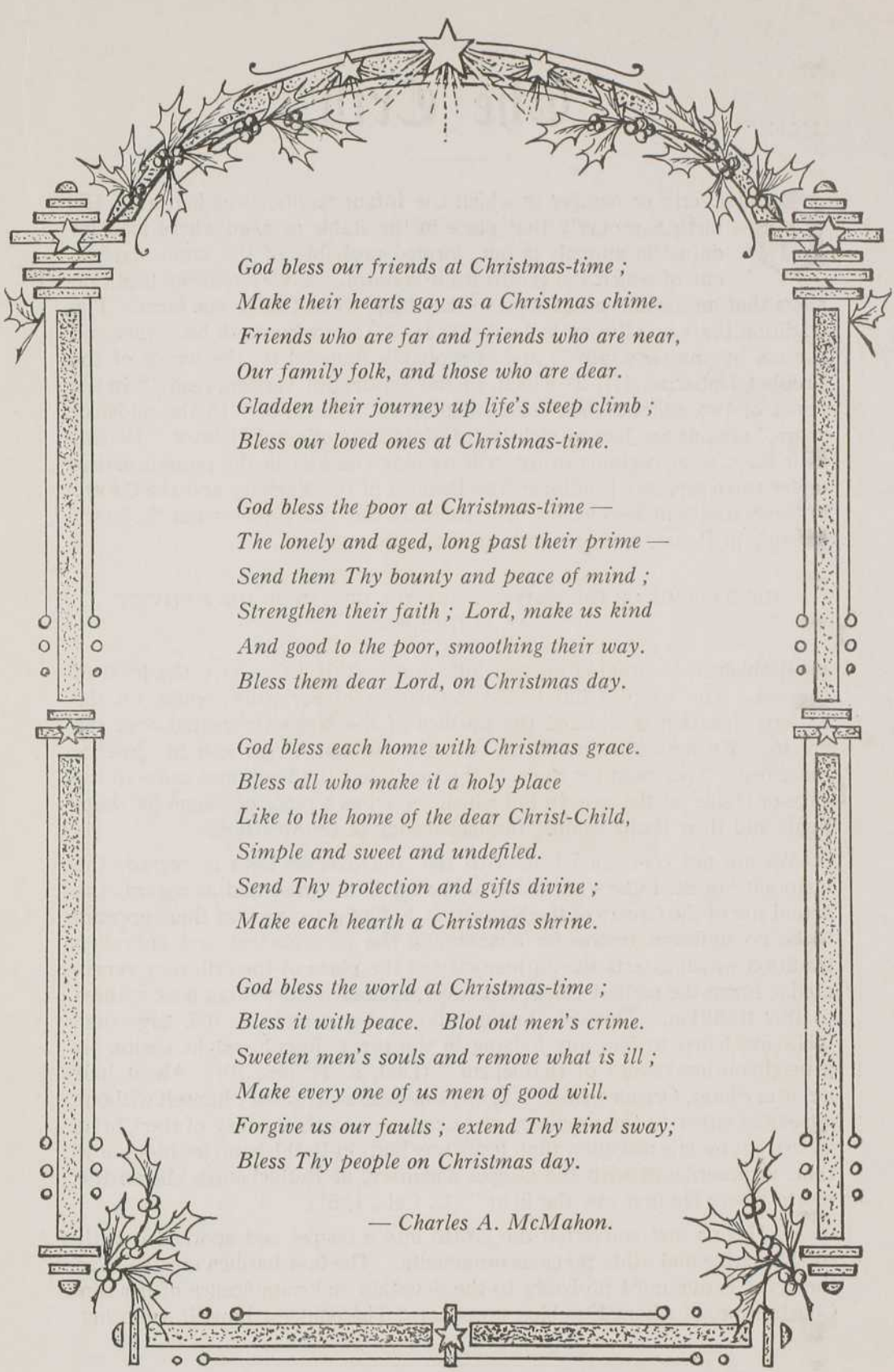
*Almighty and most loving Father, shower Thy Heavenly
favours upon our venerable Pastors and all those to whom
we owe respect and submission.*

*Bestow special graces upon our Benefactors and Friends
and all the Subscribers to our review THE PRECURSOR.
Render most fruitful the Blessing that we have solicited for
them from the Sovereign Pontiff, Pius XII, Thy Vicar
here below.*



A Christmas Prayer

*God bless the children at Christmas-time —
Dear boys and girls in every clime;
Fill each small heart with Christmas joys:
Fill every stocking with Christmas toys,
Christ-Child of Mary, with them abide:
Bless the children at Christmas-tide.*



*God bless our friends at Christmas-time ;
Make their hearts gay as a Christmas chime.
Friends who are far and friends who are near,
Our family folk, and those who are dear.
Gladden their journey up life's steep climb ;
Bless our loved ones at Christmas-time.*

*God bless the poor at Christmas-time —
The lonely and aged, long past their prime —
Send them Thy bounty and peace of mind ;
Strengthen their faith ; Lord, make us kind
And good to the poor, smoothing their way.
Bless them dear Lord, on Christmas day.*

*God bless each home with Christmas grace.
Bless all who make it a holy place
Like to the home of the dear Christ-Child,
Simple and sweet and undefiled.
Send Thy protection and gifts divine ;
Make each hearth a Christmas shrine.*

*God bless the world at Christmas-time ;
Bless it with peace. Blot out men's crime.
Sweeten men's souls and remove what is ill ;
Make every one of us men of good will.
Forgive us our faults ; extend Thy kind sway ;
Bless Thy people on Christmas day.*

— Charles A. McMahon.

The Crib

THE crib or manger in which the Infant Saviour was laid after His birth is properly that place in the stable or *khan* where food for domestic animals is put, formed probably of the same material out of which the grotto itself is hewn. A very ancient tradition avers that an ass and an ox were in the stable when Christ was born. The tradition bears an allusion to Isaias (I, 3): "The ox knoweth his owner and the ass his master's crib"; and is probably founded on the words of the Prophet Habacuc (III, 2) which, in the Septuagint version, read: "In the midst of two animals thou shalt be known", instead of "In the midst of years" etc., as St. Jerome rightly translated the original Hebrew. Be this as it may, what pertains to the crib we may consider in the present article under three separate headings: The Basilica of the Nativity and the Grotto of the Nativity at Bethlehem; The Relics of the Crib preserved at St. Mary Major's in Rome; and Devotion to the Crib.

THE BASILICA OF THE NATIVITY AND THE GROTTA OF THE NATIVITY AT BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem is situated on two hills and is 2361 feet above the level of the sea. The western hill is the Bethlehem of Scripture; whilst on the eastern elevation is situated the Basilica of the Nativity erected over the grotto. We may imagine, then, that the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, there being "no room for them in the inn", left the town and came to the cave or stable on the eastern hill which served as a place of refuge for shepherds and their flocks against the inclemency of the weather.

We are not concerned here with the controversies both as regards the historicity of St. Luke's narrative of the birth of Christ and as regards the actual site of the Grotto of the Nativity. Suffice it to say that there appears to be no sufficient reason for abandoning the very ancient and unbroken tradition which attests the authenticity of the place of the crib now venerated. From the earliest times, moreover, ecclesiastical writers bear witness to this tradition. Thus St. Justin, who died a martyr in 165, says that "Having failed to find any lodging in the town, Joseph sought shelter in a neighbouring cavern of Bethlehem" (Dial. c. Tryph., 70). About half a century later, Origen writes: "If any one desires to satisfy himself without appealing either to the prophecy of Micheas, or to the history of the Christ as written by His disciples, that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, let him know that, in accordance with the Gospel narrative, at Bethlehem is shown the grotto where He first saw the light" (C. Cels. I, 51).

St. Helena first converted the grotto into a chapel and adorned it with costly marble and other precious ornaments. The first basilica erected over the crypt is due most probably to the devotion and munificence of her son Constantine, of whom Eusebius says that "The emperor himself, eclipsing

even the magnificence of his mother's design, adorned the same place in a truly regal style" (Vita Const., III, 43).

Both the grotto itself and the basilica have undergone numerous restorations and modifications made necessary in the course of centuries by the ravages of war and invasion; but, at the present time, little remains of the splendid mosaics and paintings described in detail by Quaresimus and other writers.

The Crypt of the Nativity is reached from the upper church by a double flight of stairs leading from the north side of the choir of the basilica to the grotto below, and converging at the place where, according to tradition, the Infant Saviour was born. The exact spot is marked by a star cut out of stone, surrounding which are the words: *Hic de Virgine Maria Jesus Christus natus est*. A short distance to the southwest is the manger itself where Christ was laid and where, as tradition asserts, He was adored by the Magi.

In 1873, the grotto was plundered by the Greeks and everything of value, including two paintings by Murillo and Maello respectively, was carried off. No restitution of the stolen treasures has since been made.

THE RELICS OF THE CRIB PRESERVED AT ST. MARY MAJOR'S IN ROME

The relics of the crib that are preserved at St. Mary Major's in Rome were probably brought there from the Holy Land during the pontificate of Pope Theodore (640-649), who was himself a native of Palestine, and who was well aware of the dangers of plunder and pillage to which they were exposed at the hands of the Mussulmans and other marauders. We find, at all events, that the basilica erected by Liberius on the Esquiline first received the name of Sancta Maria ad Præsepe under Pope Theodore.

During the pontificate of Hadrian I, the first altar was erected in the basilica, and, in the course of succeeding centuries, the place where the relics are preserved came to be visited by the devout faithful from all parts of the Christian world.

At the present time, the remains of the crib preserved at St. Mary Major's consist of five pieces of board which, as a result of the investigation conducted by Father Lais, sub-director of the Vatican Observatory, during the restoration of 1893, were found to be taken from a sycamore tree of which there are several varieties in the Holy Land. Two of the pieces, which, like the other three, must have been originally much longer than they are at present, stood upright in the form of an X, upon which three other pieces rested, supported by a sixth piece, which, however, is missing, placed across the base of the upper angle of the X. We may conclude from this that these pieces of wood were properly speaking mere supports for the manger itself, which was probably made from the soft limestone of which the cave was formed.

The rich reliquary, adorned with bas-reliefs and statuettes, which at present contains the relics of the crib, was presented by the Duchess of

Villa Hermosa in 1830. Pius IV (1559-65) restored the high altar upon which the relics are solemnly exposed for the veneration of the faithful yearly on the eve of Christmas.

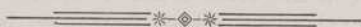
DEVOTION TO THE CRIB

Devotion to the crib is no doubt of very ancient origin; but it remained for St. Francis of Assisi to popularize it and to give it the tangible form in which it is known at the present time. When St. Francis visited Rome in 1223, he made known to Pope Honorius III the plans he had conceived of making a scenic representation of the place of the Nativity. The pope listened gladly to the details of the project and gave it his sanction. Leaving Rome, St. Francis arrived at Greccio on Christmas Eve, when, through the aid of his friend, Giovanni Velita, he constructed a crib and grouped around it figures of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, the ass, the ox, and the shepherds who came to adore the new-born Saviour. He acted as deacon at the midnight Mass. The legend relates that, having sung the words of the Gospel "and they laid Him in a manger", he knelt down to meditate briefly on the sublime mystery of the Incarnation, and there appeared in his arms a child surrounded by a brilliant light. A painting by Giotto representing St. Francis celebrating Christmas at Greccio is preserved in the Basilica of St. Francis at Assisi.

Devotion to the crib has since spread throughout the Christian world. Yearly, from the eve of Christmas until the day of the octave of the Epiphany, a crib representing the birthplace of Christ is shown in all Catholic churches, in order to remind the faithful of the mystery of the Incarnation and to recall, according to tradition and the Gospel narrative, the historical events connected with the birth of the Redeemer.

The old Franciscan church of Ara Cœli possesses, perhaps, one of the largest and most beautiful cribs in the world. In this crib, the famous *Santo Bambino di Ara Cœli* is exposed from the eve of Christmas to the Epiphany. The *Santo Bambino* is a figure carved out of wood representing the new-born Saviour. It is said to have come from the Holy Land, and, in the course of time, it has been bedecked with numerous jewels of great value. It is carried in procession yearly, on the Feast of the Epiphany, by the Minister General of the Friars Minor, who solemnly blesses the city with it from the top of the high flight of stairs that lead to the main entrance of Ara Cœli.

Stephen M. DONOVAN.



The first appearance of the Son of God made man was in the *Crib*; His last appearance, on the *Cross*. The Crib means *poverty*; the Cross, *suffering*. Poverty and suffering are the two poles on which revolve the life of Jesus Christ on earth. Should we be astonished that they should also mark the life of His every true follower?

— G. D.

To Insure the Reign of Peace

PEACE is one of the most precious gifts that Heaven can bestow on mankind. True peace, indeed, can come only from God, the Author of every perfect gift, and is granted only to men of good will and pure of heart, for Holy Scripture says that there is no peace for the wicked. To enjoy this inestimable gift, we must, therefore, endeavour to merit it by leading truly virtuous lives. If mankind is oppressed by so many evils, at present, and threatened with still greater chastisements, is it not because a great number of persons have left the paths of virtue to walk in those of vice? The avoidance of evil in every form and the return to the practice of virtue, together with prayer, is the means of procuring for nations, as well as for individuals, that peace of which all are so greatly in need. Such a complete conversion was the scope of the message which the Prophet Jonas was charged by Heaven to deliver to Ninive, the great guilty city. "Yet forty days, and Ninive shall be destroyed," God's messenger was to announce. This terrible threat filled the inhabitants of Ninive with fear. They did penance and were spared. Let us recall this passage of Holy Scripture which shows that the sins of men are the cause of the great evils which afflict humanity, since God threatened a great city with total ruin if it did not become converted and do penance for its iniquities.

"...The word of the Lord came to Jonas the second time, saying: 'Arise, and go to Ninive, the great city, and preach in it the preaching that I bid thee.' And Jonas arose, and went to Ninive... and he cried, and said: 'Yet forty days, and Ninive shall be destroyed'. And the men of Ninive believed in God; and they proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least. And the word came to the king of Ninive; and he rose up out of his throne, and cast away his robe from him, and was clothed with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published in Ninive, from the mouth of the king, and of his princes, saying: 'Let neither men nor beasts, oxen, nor sheep, taste any thing; let them not feed, nor drink water; and let men and beasts be covered with sackcloth, and cry to the Lord with all their strength, and let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the iniquity that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn, and forgive, and will turn away from his fierce anger, and we shall not perish?' And God saw their works, that they were turned from their evil way; and God had mercy with regard to the evil which he had said that He would do to them, and He did it not." (*Jonas*, III, 1-10.)

Will God not do for a nation, for the whole of humanity, what He deigned to do for a single city, if He sees therein signs of sincere conversion by the detestation of evil and the pursuit of virtue; if, especially, He discovers therein sentiments of regret and sorrow for having offended Him by disregarding His holy law and his sacred rights to our love? Behold the economical crisis, beyond all precedent, that has been existing for nearly ten

years in all the countries of the world. All human means heretofore employed to get the better of it have been almost ineffective. Besides, very dangerous evils, especially that of a war, almost universal, do not cease to threaten humanity, already so grievously afflicted; and it is still impossible to dissipate these threats by an equitable agreement between the nations, concerning their mutual claims. If such is the situation at present, to what must it be attributed, if not to the fact that the real means of appeasing the just wrath of God have not yet been employed, if not individually, at least by the great majority of men? Now, what are these means? It is, as we have already said, the sincere conversion of souls to God by obedience to His law; it is the performance of sincere penance for so many sins committed by individuals and nations; it is, finally, the practice of Christian virtues, and fervent and incessant prayer to which nothing is refused. These are the means that the Church does not cease to preach to us by the voice of her august Head, by that of the first pastors of souls, the bishops, and finally, by that of the priests, whose duty it is to lead the faithful in the path of truth and salvation.

What a frightful sight is that of so many persons who, despite the misfortunes which oppress the whole world at present, refuse to reflect and reform. The great lessons that God is giving them in the repeated strokes of His justice scarcely touch them. They continue to disregard His rights and precepts, and devote themselves to the mad pursuit of pleasure, the excessive research of earthly goods and the accomplishment of every evil. Is that not a real challenge to God, as if there was nothing to fear from Him, or His threats were to remain ineffective? These people seem to say with the prevaricators mentioned in Holy Scripture, "We have sinned, and what evil has befallen us?" God is patient, for He is thoroughly aware of the extreme weakness and misery of His poor creatures, inclined to evil from birth. For a time, quite long, sometimes, He warns, exhorts, threatens, by the voice of His ministers, or by events, even. But, if men persist in turning a deaf ear to His Voice, in plunging deeper and deeper into vice, the time comes, at last, when He gives vent to His anger: most terrible chastisements burst upon humanity, and their dreadful effects last for whole years, sometimes. Let us recall the almost total destruction of the human race by the Deluge; the ruin of Sodom and Gomorrah by fire from heaven; that of the licentious cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii, by an eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in A. D. 79; and, finally, nearer to us, that of St. Peter, Martinico, by a similar cataclysm, following blasphemies, uttered by sectarians of that city, against God and His Divine Son.

But the most terrible scourge employed by God to chastise guilty humanity, is war. The horrors of all kinds caused by this dreadful calamity are in every mind; for, during a period of less than twenty-five years, three of the most bloody wars have ravaged certain countries and, besides the material destruction caused by them, have mown down millions of human lives. And yet, even this terrible chastisement has not been sufficient to bring the erring back to the path of duty. In fact, the first of these wars was scarcely over, when a great number of men, failing to understand the

severe lesson, continued to give themselves up to the most disordinate pursuit of pleasure and material riches. It was then that God sent another scourge to revolted and hardened humanity — the epidemic called "the influenza", which carried off more victims than had the war itself.

But so many lives lost and the ruins accumulated were not the only evils caused by this most bloody of all wars; it has produced, besides, certain disastrous effects in the economical, political and social order. In the economical order, it was the crisis due to the lack of equilibrium between production and consumption, which resulted in the universal disoccupation. In the political order, a great upheaval took place in many countries, with the result of having, or of being exposed to have, sooner or later, some, their traditional form of government radically transformed, others, their frontiers obliterated, and themselves swallowed up by their more powerful neighbours. In consequence of these sudden transformations, the world in general is in a continual state of apprehension and insecurity, which forces most of the countries to employ all their resources in augmenting their means of defence and preparing for war at the cost of enormous sacrifices. Finally, in the social order, also, a great transformation was effected, to the greatest disadvantage of civilization, but lately so much boasted and, apparently, so firmly established. This transformation is manifested by disregard of what is of true value, such as sound philosophy based upon right reasoning and respect for religious sentiment and principles, above all, needless to say, in the Christian order, to give the preference to worthless ideologies. This social transformation is manifested, moreover, by an almost general laxity of discipline, the safeguard of order and peace, which is denoted by a state of mind avid of instability and agitation. Finally, it is manifested, also, by an ever-increasing neglect of good manners, which humanity in general has been long in acquiring, and which have been, heretofore, the charm of social life, especially among the select.

Considering the numerous signs of disintegration remarked, at present, in society, certain observers seem to be quite right in asserting that humanity, to a great extent, is in the midst of decay and that the civilization of which it was, but recently, so proud, has seen its best days. The progressive and already partially victorious encroachment of the fatal doctrines and practices of paganism and the return to barbarism in a period more or less distant, would be certainly to be feared for poor distracted humanity, if there was not to be found in the world a divine institution, the Catholic Church, to enlighten it with the torch of divine truth and guide it in the paths of the only real civilization, which consists in the establishment of the Kingdom of God in souls by loving submission to the divine laws and the practice of all good.

Br. A. M. R., O. P.



To help to extend God's Kingdom on earth is the surest way of assuring for ourselves the possession of this Kingdom in heaven.

— G. Daly, C. SS. R.



His Excellency Most Reverend George Gauthier

*Archbishop Administrator of the Diocese of Montreal
for many years,*

*has, by the death of His Excellency Most Reverend Paul Bruchesi,
become his worthy Successor.*

*To their Venerable Pastor, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate
Conception offer their respectful homage and the fervent prayers by which
they implore God to grant him continual assistance in his heavy task.*



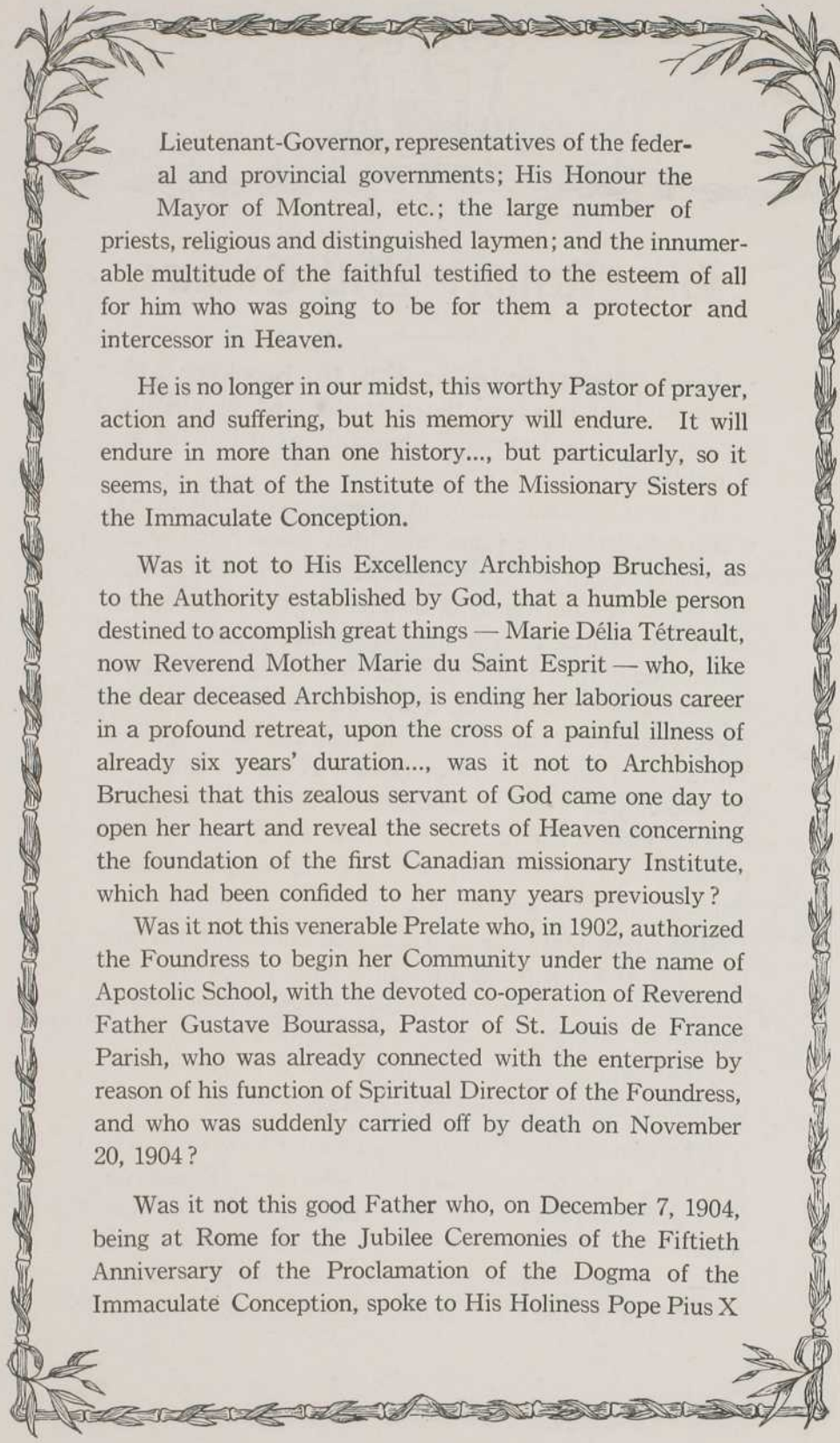
His Memory Will Endure

On Wednesday, September 20th, His Excellency Most Reverend Paul Bruchesi, the venerable and well-beloved Archbishop of the Diocese of Montreal, expired at the age of eighty-four.

His dear diocesans came in crowds around his mortal remains to look once again upon that countenance which they had not seen for so many years..., for, while His servant was still in the full vigour of his activity, the Lord, by one of His mysterious designs whose profound wisdom will be understood only in Heaven, had gently drawn aside into an insuperable solitude, by the trial of a crucifying illness, this great type of Pastor and Father, this man singularly endowed with every quality of mind and heart, as was the lamented deceased. Can it not be thought that the Divine Sculptor of Souls wished, likewise, to carve more at His ease, for the embellishment of Paradise, this gem whose natural lustre shone so brilliantly before men.

The crowd that came to render final homage to the late lamented Archbishop was a touching proof that, during the many years of cruel separation, the memory of their worthy Pastor was faithfully conserved in the hearts of his diocesans; and the multitude that assisted at his funeral, on the morning of September 25th, was like an exaltation.

The notabilities of the Ecclesiastical Hierarchy of the Country: His Eminence Cardinal Villeneuve, Primate of the Church of Canada, and His Excellency Most Reverend Ildebrando Antoniutti, Apostolic Delegate to Canada; thirty-one Archbishops and Bishops of Canada and the United States; the Civil Authorities: His Excellency the



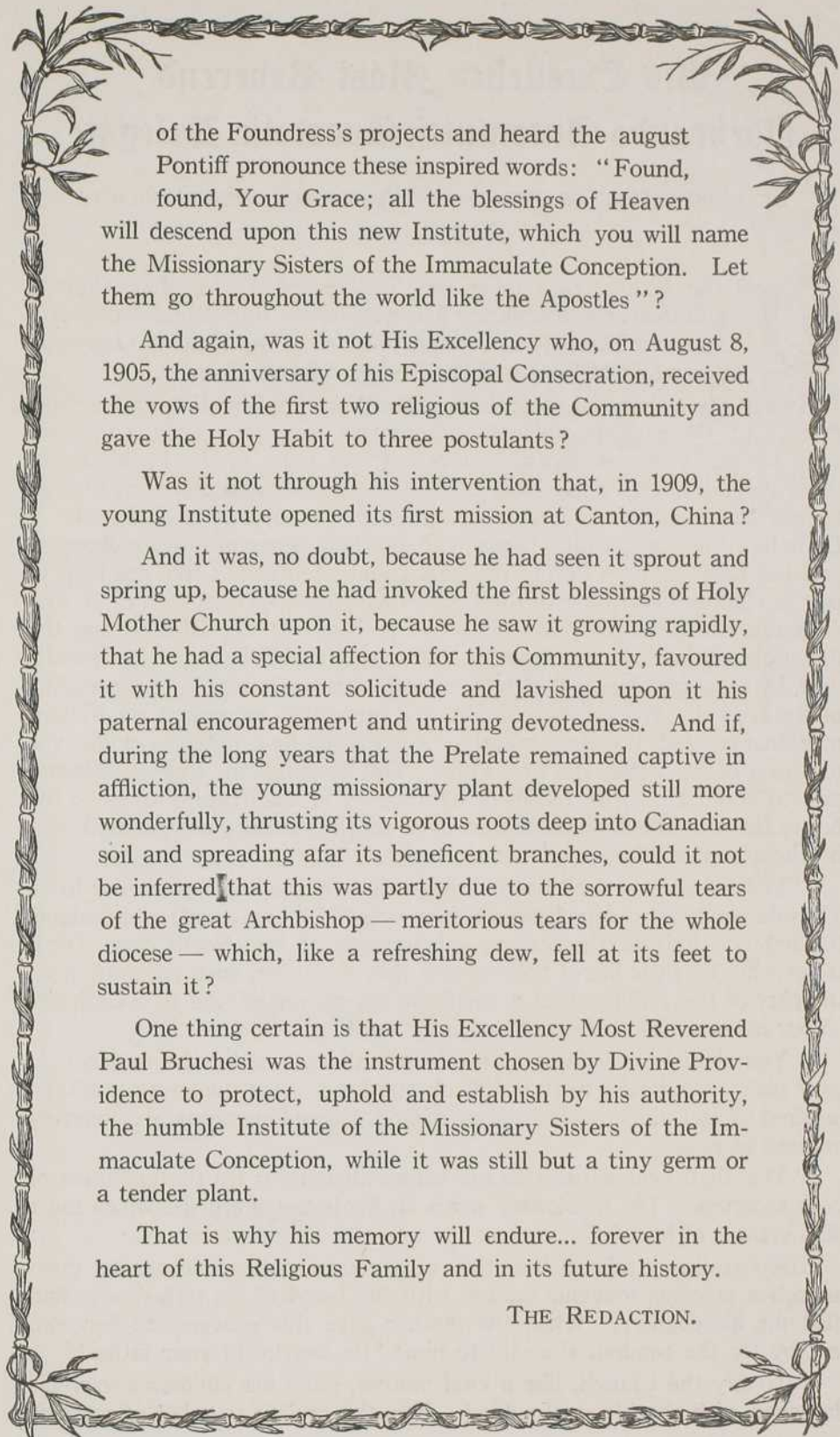
Lieutenant-Governor, representatives of the federal and provincial governments; His Honour the Mayor of Montreal, etc.; the large number of priests, religious and distinguished laymen; and the innumerable multitude of the faithful testified to the esteem of all for him who was going to be for them a protector and intercessor in Heaven.

He is no longer in our midst, this worthy Pastor of prayer, action and suffering, but his memory will endure. It will endure in more than one history..., but particularly, so it seems, in that of the Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

Was it not to His Excellency Archbishop Bruchesi, as to the Authority established by God, that a humble person destined to accomplish great things — Marie Délia Tétreault, now Reverend Mother Marie du Saint Esprit — who, like the dear deceased Archbishop, is ending her laborious career in a profound retreat, upon the cross of a painful illness of already six years' duration..., was it not to Archbishop Bruchesi that this zealous servant of God came one day to open her heart and reveal the secrets of Heaven concerning the foundation of the first Canadian missionary Institute, which had been confided to her many years previously?

Was it not this venerable Prelate who, in 1902, authorized the Foundress to begin her Community under the name of Apostolic School, with the devoted co-operation of Reverend Father Gustave Bourassa, Pastor of St. Louis de France Parish, who was already connected with the enterprise by reason of his function of Spiritual Director of the Foundress, and who was suddenly carried off by death on November 20, 1904?

Was it not this good Father who, on December 7, 1904, being at Rome for the Jubilee Ceremonies of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception, spoke to His Holiness Pope Pius X



of the Foundress's projects and heard the august Pontiff pronounce these inspired words: "Found, found, Your Grace; all the blessings of Heaven will descend upon this new Institute, which you will name the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. Let them go throughout the world like the Apostles"?

And again, was it not His Excellency who, on August 8, 1905, the anniversary of his Episcopal Consecration, received the vows of the first two religious of the Community and gave the Holy Habit to three postulants?

Was it not through his intervention that, in 1909, the young Institute opened its first mission at Canton, China?

And it was, no doubt, because he had seen it sprout and spring up, because he had invoked the first blessings of Holy Mother Church upon it, because he saw it growing rapidly, that he had a special affection for this Community, favoured it with his constant solicitude and lavished upon it his paternal encouragement and untiring devotedness. And if, during the long years that the Prelate remained captive in affliction, the young missionary plant developed still more wonderfully, thrusting its vigorous roots deep into Canadian soil and spreading afar its beneficent branches, could it not be inferred that this was partly due to the sorrowful tears of the great Archbishop — meritorious tears for the whole diocese — which, like a refreshing dew, fell at its feet to sustain it?

One thing certain is that His Excellency Most Reverend Paul Bruchesi was the instrument chosen by Divine Providence to protect, uphold and establish by his authority, the humble Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, while it was still but a tiny germ or a tender plant.

That is why his memory will endure... forever in the heart of this Religious Family and in its future history.

THE REDACTION.

His Excellency Most Reverend Ildebrando Antoniutti, Apostolic Delegate

AT A DEPARTURE OF PRIESTS OF THE FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY

ON the 12th of September last, in Tres St. Redempteur Church, Montreal, His Excellency Most Reverend Ildebrando Antoniutti, Apostolic Delegate to Canada, presided at the fifteenth Departure Ceremony of Priests of the Foreign Mission Society.

In an interesting and soul-stirring allocution, His Excellency expressed, first of all, the emotion which he felt on this occasion. Then, he added: "I have accepted the invitation received, not only as the Pope's representative, but also as a missionary. We are assisting at a ceremony characterized by supernatural grandeur. It is, so to say, the glorification of Catholic Apostolate, which began with the first departure of the Apostles and has been kept up during the past twenty centuries. We are here to pay a tribute of gratitude to the Foreign Mission Society, which came into existence and developed, according to the desire of the Bishops and the directions of the Sovereign Pontiff. We are here, also, to thank the parents who, by their sacrifices, willingly co-operate with their sons in the spreading of the Gospel. We are here, finally and especially, to remind the valiant missionaries that the first apostles began their first missions under the direction of St. Peter, the first Pope. This evening, the Pope's Delegate says to you: 'Go forth, teach all nations. You shall bear witness to me before them by the holiness of your lives, by the radiancy of your zeal, and by the greatness of your sacrifices.'

"First of all, you shall bear witness to me by the holiness of your lives. The missionary must detach himself from everything: his country, his tongue, his habits. Imitate the valiant missionaries of the North-West Territories who, by their life of holiness and prayer, excited such admiration on the part of the Indians, that a chief not yet converted said to a Catholic: 'Your missionaries pray much and pray well!'

"You shall bear witness to me before all nations by the radiancy of your zeal. Missionary work is difficult and long. It is the multiple efforts, inspired by zeal which, with the grace of God, succeed in gradually converting millions of pagans.

"You shall bear witness to me before all nations by the greatness of your sacrifices. The missionary wears on his breast a crucifix which must be a symbol of his life."

His Excellency related the story of a young soldier who carried upon himself a precious souvenir tainted with the blood of his father, who had died for his country. When the mother gave this souvenir to her son, leaving for the combat, she said to him: 'Be worthy of your father!'

"To-day the Church, like a kind mother, gives her children a souvenir drenched with the blood of a God. It is the crucifix, symbol of sacrifice

and love. In giving it to them, she says: 'Be worthy of Jesus your Brother. Wear this crucifix, you shall find in it strength to suffer, strength to conquer, strength to triumph'."

Terminating, His Excellency briefly recalled to those who remained their respective duties. To the parents of the missionaries he said: "Be proud, for you have given a missionary to the Church. You will share the missionary's reward. God will bless your family because you have not only preserved religious patriotism, but you have also contributed to spread it. Be proud, because you have become illustrious in the Church. Parents and friends, remember the pagans. It is your duty to pray for them every day. It is your duty also to make sacrifices daily, that the Word of God may be known and carried to the remotest parts of the earth.

"And you, missionaries, who will soon be leaving, before you go, implore the grace to live and die for the noble cause of the Missions. Do not hesitate to request the grace of martyrdom. Be generous towards Our Lord. He will be your happiness and your reward. Amen."

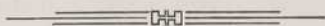
The Delegate then blessed the crucifixes and distributed them to the departants. After reciting aloud the Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart and to the Blessed Virgin, the missionaries destined for the Orient, ascended the steps leading to the altar for the touching ceremony of the kissing of the feet. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed as well as the veneration of the missionaries' crucifixes by the faithful.

The outgoing missionaries accompanying Monsignor Emilien Masse, second Prefect Apostolic of Lintong, and Reverend Father Francis Lefebvre, former Pastor of Szepingkai, who are returning to the missions, are:

For Manchukuo: Reverend Fathers Eloi Montembault (Three Rivers), Maurice Léveillé (St. François du Lac, Nicolet), Paul Emile Lachapelle (Montreal), Fernand Guilbault (Notre Dame de Lourdes, Joliette).

For the Philippine Islands: Reverend Fathers Robert Lemay (Montreal), Roland Hébert (Montreal), André Pigeon (Quebec).

May the Queen of the Missions, St. Francis Xavier and St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, Patron and Patroness of missionaries render fruitful the labours of these new workers of the Gospel!



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.



Immaculate Conception

*The day, the happy day is dawning,
The glorious feast of Mary's chiefest praise,
That brightens like a second morning,
The clouded evening of these latter days.*

*High up, the realms of angels ringeth
With hymns of triumph to its mortal Queen,
While earth its song of welcome singeth
In every shady grove and valley green.*

*Hail, Queen, whose life is just beginning,
Thrice welcome, Mother of a fallen race!
The sinless comes to save the sinning,
Thyself the chosen aqueduct of grace!*

*Immaculate! O dear exemption!
A spotless soul for God, entire and free,
Redeemed with such a choice redemption,
Angel nor saint can share the praise with thee.*

*O Virgin brighter than the brightest,
'Mid all the beauteous throngs that shine above ;
O Maiden whiter than the whitest
Of lily flowers in Eden's sacred grove!*

*Chief miracle of God's compassion,
Choice mirror of His burning holiness,
Whose heart His mercy deigned to fashion
Far more than Eve's sad ruin to redress.*

*Earth's cities! let your bells be reeling,
And all your temple-gates wide open fling,
With banners flying, cannon pealing,
The blessed Queen of our Redemption sing.*

*See! Mary comes! O jubilation!
She comes with love to cheer a guilty race ;
O triumph, triumph, all creation!
O Christians! triumph in redeeming grace.*

— Father Faber.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin

THE first grace received by the Blessed Virgin is that of her Immaculate Conception. This is a signal grace which places Mary supereminently in a world apart. This grace is unique; it makes Mary the friend of God, His all fair, His sister, His spouse (Cant. IV, 7, 8, 9). This grace is inamissible; it follows Mary from the beginning of her existence, without ever leaving her. Mary can always call herself the Immaculate Conception. All that she thinks, all that she says, all that she does is pure, innocent, primitive; all is impregnated with the perfume of her original justice.

This magnificent achievement of the original sanctification of Mary requires but an instantaneous act of God. He wills that Mary be immaculate, and the Blessed Virgin issues from His thought all fair and stainless. She inaugurates the era of Christ. She is that new creature of whom Saint Paul speaks; that creature made to the image of the Son of God, filled with His virtue; that creature who has the honour of being called the daughter of God, because she is so in reality.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the only one who was immaculate in her conception. We were all born in iniquity; sin is the first of our heritages. But, if we were not originally pure, we have been purified by Baptism. Baptism has cleansed us from original sin, has made us children of God and of the Church, and has restored us to the state of grace. It has poured into our souls the infused virtues and the gifts of the Holy Ghost. It has perfected and sanctified our nature, and has raised us to a state to which we could not pretend. It has discovered to us the world of God and has established us therein. With Baptism, divine life, the life of Jesus Christ, flows in our souls. United to Him, covered with His merits, we have found the secret to please God, by offering Him works animated by the spirit of His Son.

The Blessed Virgin desires that her children venerate her Immaculate Conception. She reserves special graces for all those who take this mystery for the subject of their meditations and prayers.

The first grace that she obtains for them is a great love of good. Sin has caused great damage to us and we shall ever feel its effects. Our instincts are no longer in their original rectitude; we are no longer inclined to good naturally and spontaneously. If sin, however, has impaired our nature, it has not entirely perverted it. We still retain part of our primitive goodness, sentiments of uprightness and justice, attraction for what is honest, true, chaste. All that is to be found in us, mingled with other instincts, which, alas! incline us towards evil. What does the grace of Baptism do? It takes possession of the love of good which still subsists in us; it strengthens it, increases it and makes it capable of overcoming concupiscence. By the influence of grace, good becomes easier for us; it seems more pleasant to us; we feel more free, more courageous, and better able to practise it. The love of good in us triumphs over the love of evil.

Reflect and notice how God produces the love of good in your souls. When you hear a secret voice saying to you: "My child, that is right, that is what you should do; that is true, that is what you should say; that is pure, that is what you should think," it is God Who is speaking to you; He is sowing in your soul good desires, good thoughts, which are as germs of virtue. When, docile to the voice of God, you say: "I will do that because it is right, I will say that because it is true, I will think that because it is pure," when you take the resolution to be good and virtuous, it is you who speak to God, you who answer Him, your conscience is thrilled by His touch. Now, if you wish God to continue instructing you, if you wish Him to tell you something still more beautiful, you have but to cultivate the good that He has sown in your soul. Have a still greater love for what is just, honest, modest, chaste; what can bear God's look. Walk in simplicity, sincerity, and truth. Open your soul towards Heaven, so that God may enter therein. Make straight your paths, so that God may walk on them. Purify your heart, so that God may rest in it. Devotion to Mary Immaculate will be infinitely precious to you. One does not look at a magnificent landscape without being influenced by it. The sight of all these beings in the place where God has created them; the peace, harmony and silence of these charming spots, is restful to the soul and elevates it to God. So it is with the sight of the Immaculate Virgin. Looking at her calms and purifies you; remaining at her feet makes you more virtuous; praying to her rejoices and comforts you. It is like a limpid source whence you derive love of order, of all that is true, good and beautiful, of all that is worthy of you and of God.

Mary Immaculate not only develops love of good in her children; she also inspires them with a detestation of sin.

If, in our present state of reparation, we can keep ourselves in the state of grace, it is only at the cost of frequent sacrifices. Sin has left evil roots in us, which grow again and which must be cut continually. Our efforts depend on our detestation of sin: those who detest it are those who combat with greater energy. Who will give us detestation of sin? Before all others, Jesus Christ. Until death, we should ask Him to inspire us with such an aversion for evil that we may never commit it. Prayer to the Blessed Virgin is all-powerful for that. She was the first to vanquish sin by her Immaculate Conception; her foot has crushed the head of the infernal serpent. By virtue of this victory, Jesus has given her the privilege of inspiring her children with hatred of sin. To be a child of Mary, to love Mary as a mother, it is to be the declared enemy of sin. This enmity is a family characteristic; it dates from the earthly paradise; God Himself established it. "I will put enmities between thee and the woman," did He say to the serpent, "and thy seed and her seed" (Gen. III, 15). True children of Mary detest sin more than the others; they are stronger against it; they see it coming from a greater distance; they more easily discern the danger of it; they even flee from it and take shelter in their Mother's arms, saying: "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee!"

Rev. Father PERDREAU.

Extract from Pius XII's Address, on the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Death of Pope Pius X

*Words pronounced during an audience which the Sovereign Pontiff
accorded to a pilgrimage from Venice at Castel Gandolfo
on the anniversary of the death of Pope Pius X*

"The intimate agony caused by the outbreak of the war broke the heart of the admirable Pontiff whose holy and dear memory We have recalled with you today, broke it almost as if he had foreseen and felt in advance all the horrors and ruin of the world conflict.

"His successor, Benedict XV of happy memory, sighed, spoke and prayed for peace — called for the moderation in soul which is forgetfulness of struggle in the concord of nations.

"For peace, Our immediate predecessor, Pius XI, whose venerable figure is living before the eyes of Our spirit at this moment, together with that of Pius X, offered his life to God, nearly a year ago, in a paternal act that moved the whole world.

"In the present hour, which renews the acute anxiety and trepidation of Our heart, We, Ourselves, since the first day of Our Pontificate, have attempted and done everything in Our power to remove the danger of war and to cooperate in the attainment of a firm peace founded on justice, which would safeguard the liberty and honour of peoples.

"We have even, within the limits of what is possible and as much as Our Apostolic ministry permitted, laid aside other tasks and other preoccupations which weighed on Our soul. We have imposed on Ourselves a prudent reserve, in order not to render in any way more difficult or impossible for Us, the work for peace — conscious of all that We owe to the sons of the Catholic Church and to the whole of humanity.

"We do not desire, nor have We the heart, even now to give up hope that a sense of moderation and objectivity will prevail in avoiding a conflict which, according to all previsions, would even surpass the past in material destruction and spiritual ruin.

"Above all, human hope is placed in Divine Goodness and Our eyes lift themselves to the All Powerful, to the Father of Mercies, to the God of All Comfort, Who has rendered nations liable to be cured. From Him, in Whose hands are the hearts, as well as the minds, of the heads of States, We (united in this memorable day with you, Venerable Brothers and beloved sons, with all the Catholics of the world, and having also in Our prayers so many souls of good will who, though living outside the Church, also aspire to peace) desire to implore Him that, in His infinite goodness and mercy toward the human race, He put an end to war where it is now raging and benevolently preserve all from the scourge of new and more inhuman conflicts.

"Let God show, and let there shine over this world — anxious and troubled as a sea in a storm — a rainbow of calm, of peace, and of fruitful concord among peoples and nations.

"Let us not cease to pray, but with redoubled fervor let us raise to God the ardent supplication: 'Give us peace, O Lord, in our days.'"



Thirty-sixth Departure of Missionaries



The thirty-sixth departure of Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception for the Foreign Missions took place on Sunday, October 8th, under the auspices of Our Lady of the Rosary and the glorious Archangel St. Michael, whose solemnity it was.

The ceremony, which was held at three o'clock in the afternoon, in the chapel of the Mother House, Cote des Neiges, Montreal, was honoured by the presence of His Excellency, Most Reverend Joseph H. Prud'homme, Bishop of Salde, Monsignor E. Larochelle, Superior of the Foreign Mission Society of Pont Viau, several priests and religious, and a sympathetic assembly of relatives and friends.

Reverend Father Lorenzo Richer, S. J., pronounced the allocution for the occasion, taking for text these appropriate words: "The Lord hath given His angels charge over thee to keep thee in all thy ways; in their hands, they shall bear thee up, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone."

He invited the departants to place all their confidence in Him Who feeds the birds of the air and clothes the lilies of the field, now, especially, in these difficult times, when there are so many obstacles to hinder the progress of the Apostles of the Gospel.

He spoke words of consolation and encouragement to the relatives of the Missionaries, and exhorted them to sustain, by their affection, their prayers and their alms, those who, at the cost of such great sacrifices, were going to relieve the greatest misery that exists here below, the misery of souls that do not know God.

After the allocution, the departants recited all together the act of consecration to their Immaculate Patron; then, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given and the Itinerary Prayers were chanted. A pious hymn to Our Lady, Star of the Sea, brought the imposing ceremony to a close.

In the evening, a good number of relatives and friends went to Bonaventure Station to bid a last farewell to their beloved ones. At twenty minutes past eight, as the train began to move and the waving hands expressed a last good-bye, tears could be seen in the eyes of those who remained, but

none were visible in the tender looks of those who were leaving... Hearts attached to God, are they not strongholds?...

Following are the names of the new evangelical workers who went to join their Sisters already at work in the missions:

for Canton, China: Sister de la Nativité de Jésus (Cécile Paquette, St. Elzéar, Laval Co.);

for St. Joseph's Lazaretto, Shek Lung: Sister Agnès de Jésus (Margaret Sherry, Montreal);

for Manchukuo: Sister Ste. Emérentienne (Marie Berthe Fleurent, St. Germain de Grantham) and Sister St. Charles de Milan (Jeanne Bouchard, St. Eloi, Témiscouata Co.);

for Koriyama, Japan: Sister St. Côme (Thérèse Laliberté, Lotbinière).



MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION WHO LEFT FOR THE DISTANT MISSIONS, OCTOBER 8, 1939.

ABOVE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: SISTER DE LA NATIVITE DE JESUS (CECILE PAQUETTE, ST. ELZEAR, LAVAL CO.), SISTER AGNES DE JESUS (MARGARET SHERRY, MONTREAL).

BELOW, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: SISTER STE. EMERENTienne (MARIE BERTHE FLEURENT, ST. GERMAIN DE GRANTHAM), SISTER ST. CHARLES DE MILAN (JEANNE BOUCHARD, ST. ELOI, TEMISCOUATA CO.) AND SISTER ST. COME (THERESE LALIBERTE, LOTBINIERE).

Two other religious, Sister St. Isidore (Jeannette Bouchard, St. Hilarion, Charlevoix Co.) and Sister Marguerite de Jésus (Emilia Martin, St. François d'Assise, Bonaventure Co.), accompanied the group as far as Vancouver, where they will exercise an active apostolate among the Orientals of that city.

The dear missionaries had the pleasure of travelling with their beloved Superior General, Reverend Mother Marie de la Providence, who went to make her official visit to the Convent at Vancouver.

May our prayers be with our travellers, so that they may safely reach their respective posts and that God may bless their apostolic labours.

The Altar Society of St. Johns, Quebec

IT is known that this Society has for its aim the collection of liturgical articles: sacred vessels, sacerdotal vestments, liturgical linens and decorations for poor sanctuaries of the diocese and the missions.

It also organizes sewing-circles for making such vestments, linens and decorations.

The Society has made great progress since it was so firmly founded by His Excellency Most Reverend Anastase Forget, August 26, 1937. During the first year, three circles made six hundred and thirty-two articles of various kinds. Then, seven new circles having joined the first three, one thousand, one hundred and ninety-five articles have been distributed to poor parishes of the diocese and the foreign missions. The most optimistic hopes entertained in the beginning have been exceeded.

Still greater progress must be made, however. The diocese includes more than forty parishes. The ten circles, already so full of zeal and activity, desire the assistance of thirty new circles, at least, within a few years. Why not forty? Why not fifteen this very year?

It is certain that all the ladies and girls of the diocese cannot devote Wednesday and Saturday afternoons to the liturgical sewing-circle. Many mothers, and those who are obliged to work constantly away from home, evidently cannot leave their duties.

In every part of the diocese, a good number of ladies and girls could, by ingeniously organizing their leisure time and their visits, dispose of several hours on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. What hundreds of ladies and girls are already doing with spiritual satisfaction and great joy for the service of Our Eucharistic Lord, hundreds and thousands of others could do, also. One only needs to be willing and join in the valiant Catholic Action of the diocese.

To figure in the liturgical sewing-circle, three things suffice: sew livelyly, laugh and chat nicely, love Jesus and His tabernacles immensely. An afternoon at the circle is a real tonic for the interior life; there, so it seems, the soul is fortified by numerous spiritual Communions, which prolong the invigorating effect of the morning Sacramental Communion.

The breviary for November 11th relates a charming anecdote.

Martin, a young Roman soldier of the army of Constans, still a mere catechumen, performed an act of charity which decided his future heroic sanctity. This fifteen-year-old soldier met on a street of the city of Amiens a poor man, almost naked, who begged him for alms in the Name of Jesus Christ. Martin had nothing but his arms and the clothes upon his back. However, audacious, charitable and ingenious as he was, he did not hesitate long; but, drawing his sword, he cut his cloak into two pieces, and gave one to the beggar. The story does not say that, at the afternoon review, the furious colonel punished the soldier with the short cloak; but it says, on the contrary, that, during his sleep, the following night, Martin, the fifteen-year-old soldier catechumen, saw Jesus Christ dressed in that half of the garment which he had given away, congratulating Himself upon having such a



A CORNER OF THE EXPOSITION OF LITURGICAL VESTMENTS MADE BY THE LADIES OF THE ALTAR SOCIETY SEWING-CIRCLES, ST. JOHNS, QUEBEC, AT THE RETREAT HOUSE DEDICATED TO ST. BERNADETTE AND DIRECTED BY THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

charitable catechumen. It is not remarked that Jesus was anxious to know if His half-cloak was of the very latest fashion then prevailing in the chic circles of Amiens; He rejoiced, rather, in the fashionable charity. He walked to and fro before the dazzled eyes of young Martin, to whom He seemed to pay no attention, talking to Himself, repeating over and over with satisfaction: "Martin, yet a catechumen, has clothed Me with this garment!"

After giving such great pleasure to Jesus, poorly-clad, Martin did not remain long a simple soldier catechumen; but, going ahead without stopping, he was soon baptized, became an acolyte of St. Hilary of Poitiers, a priest, bishop of Tours and a great saint in Heaven.

When Our Eucharistic Lord is chatting with His angels, without our being aware of Their Heavenly conversation, does He not ask them these questions: "Do you know who clad Me in this ciborium cover? Who hemmed My tabernacle veil? Who embroidered this corporal? Who made My satin monstrance veil? You do not know?... See the lady with the white hat modestly inclined, the one who makes the monstrance veils. See the girl with the white veil, absorbed in adoration, the one who makes the tabernacle veils. See the religious wearing the costume in which My Mother appeared at Lourdes, the one who makes the ciborium veils. It is they who have clad Me, they and their good friends of the Altar Society..."

These Eucharistic conversations completely escape our notice, because we are too blind and deaf in regard to all that is divine. We shall no longer be so when we enter into the glory of Heaven. We shall see Jesus then, by a trick of His divine power, combining, transposing, unifying, embellishing

infinitely, the humble liturgical ornaments of His tabernacles, in an immense, splendid, royal Heavenly mantle. When He will Himself comment upon the prize-list of all those who will have contributed to His glorious celestial mantle, — if it is possible to regret anything in Heaven, — the ladies and girls of the diocese of St. Johns who will never have given their co-operation to any Altar Society circle, will exclaim then with regret:

“I was not at all wise! If I had only known that all this work was to end in such an eternal splendour!...”

Elphège BROUILLET, S. J.

A Modern Martyr

Blessed Theophane Vénard

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

(Continued)

“See, my dearest sister, how He has led us until now. We had a good and darling mother, and she was taken from us just as we were entering upon life. How we have cried for her! But God took pity on her children. He has given you strength and wisdom to take her place in the family. Then another sacrifice was asked of us. You, my good little sister, had long given yourself to God. You wanted to do so altogether, but Providence contented itself with your will and your submission, and did not exact the consummation of the sacrifice. But God was watching over your poor brother. He was conducting him as by the hand in a path traced out by Himself. Oh, miracle of grace! Oh, the depth and the riches of the goodness and mercy of God! He who needs not human instruments to accomplish His great designs, chooses the vilest, the most miserable of His creatures to do His work. I, wretched little I, receive the mission and the inspiration of the Apostolate... Dearest sister, say with me that our God is good — infinitely good. Let all the earth echo the words and repeat them in a transport of gratitude and joy. See how our Lord loves us. See how He showers His gifts upon us. One more sacrifice is asked of us; but does not our Lord prove those He loves so as to make them more worthy of Himself? Must we not all pass through the crucible? A cross is given to us. Let us embrace it generously, and thank Him. Our tears must flow. Well, let us offer them up to Him who has called them forth. This earth is after all but a valley of tears; and the Divine Master has said, ‘Blessed are those that mourn, for they shall be comforted.’ And then, even if we do part here for a little time, it is only our bodies that are separated. Our souls are united more closely than ever in thoughts which know no space or distance. We shall meet one another in heaven. Yes, all of us shall be together then. Let us trust in God, and make the sacrifice generously. And then you have Henry; and God will watch over poor little Eusebius. Let us pray and trust and

hope, and remain united to each other in the hearts of Jesus and Mary... And now I must add a line to my dear father. You don't know how proud I am to be his son! I long to feel myself in his arms, pressed to his heart. ...My father, with your great courage, firm faith, burning love — all for God — even your Theophane! Dearest father, these souls that I am going to strive to win for our Lord, I offer them all to you, next to God. They will be your crown and your glory in the Home of the Elect.

"I am going away, but I leave you an angel of consolation — a loving guardian angel — in Mélanie. When the time of your pilgrimage is over, Mélanie will close your eyes, will pray by your bedside, and will speak to you of your poor little missionary; and you will bless her and him too. But why do I speak of death? Oh, please God, you will live many, many years yet to be the joy and the providence of your children! The little missionary will get letters from you from time to time, and news of all the family, and that will be a great joy to him. I hope also to spend a *good long fortnight* with my dear ones at home and enjoy them thoroughly before I start."

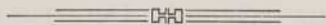
The "little missionary" accordingly went home on Saturday, the 15th of February. He arranged to walk from Parthenay, so as to meet his brother Henry and have a talk with him before they saw their father. The only idea of something extraordinary about to happen was from a little note which Theophane had written to both his brothers in these words: "I implore you to say the 'Memorare' for me every day till we meet, that I may obtain a great grace. You will soon know why." But the poor children were far from guessing the truth.

Henry, being then eighteen, at once understood the gravity and importance of the step which his brother was about to take. As for poor little Eusebius, his uncertainty came to an end the next day when Theophane called to carry him off for a fortnight from his studies. He had set his heart on having the whole family together on this occasion, so as to enjoy for the last time the happiness which such a home circle alone can give.

It is easy to understand how trying these last few days were to them all; but to Theophane they were the hardest. He had to be tender, affectionate, and loving to every one, and yet firm and determined in his resolution to leave them. At times he could scarcely contain himself, and he had to do incessant violence to his own heart to maintain any kind of decent calm. But he acquitted himself marvellously.

We cannot attempt to describe his first meeting with his father. They embraced each other closely in silence, without tears or sighs. Only after a time the words, "My dearest boy!" "My good father!" burst from the lips of each. These few words said all to those who could feel and understand what was passing in two such loving hearts.

(To be continued.)



Gratitude for the Faith we have received should call every true Catholic to seek to share this priceless treasure with all men.

— Cardinal Hinsley.

A Spiritual Friendship

St. Teresa of Lisieux and Blessed Theophane Vénard

(Continued.)

In the face of sufferings and death. — Teresa and Theophane faced sufferings in the same way. Not only did they accept them with joy, but they desired them as a means of purification. "I would not wish to suffer less," declared Teresa on August 25, 1897, in a moment of unspeakable trouble and anguish. "The longer it lasts the better it will be," replied Theophane to the executioner who was soliciting money for accomplishing his task promptly, February 2, 1861. "I desire to be ground by the teeth of wild beasts into a bread worthy of God," said Teresa. "The grain of wheat must be ground, the bunch of grapes must be trodden in the wine-press. May I become only pure bread and wine, fit for the Master's use!" wrote Theophane.

They had also the same thirst for Eternity, which made them complain of the slowness of death. "I know that I am going to die soon," murmured Teresa, on May 21, 1897, "but death does not come." And Theophane, on February 1, 1861, wrote: "The days of my pilgrimage lengthen strangely. I hail every morning as the dawn of Eternity, but evening comes, and I am still here."

They were glad to see "their exile" drawing to a close, not because they feared to struggle and to live, but because they were eager to reach "their home in Heaven." When the Chaplain of the Carmel asked her if she was resigned to die, the invalid answered: "Father, I need rather to be resigned to live — I feel nothing but joy at the thought of death." And the captive in his prison wrote: "Happy death, which conducts me to the portals of eternal life!... My exile is over. I touch the soil of my real country."

They wished those around them to share their joy. "You do not rejoice, then, to see me dying?" said Teresa, astonished, to her sorrowing sister and Mother. "Do not weep over my grave, but rejoice, rather," wrote Theophane to his confrère and Father, Bishop Jeantet.

They imbibed their joy from the same source: hope. "The Christian motto is Hope! Hope on! hope ever!" Theophane had written when leaving for the Missions. "Even if God should kill me, I would still trust in Him," said Teresa.

This hope filled them both with confidence for the life to come. "I do not fear for what will come after death," remarked Teresa. "Soon to my Heaven I go — there, with angelic lays, to scatter flowers!" With the same confidence, Theophane declared: "I am going to Heaven; so I venture while still in the arena and in the midst of the fight, to intone the hymn of triumph, as if I were sure of the victory."

Their affection for their Heavenly Father. — If Teresa and Theophane adopted the same attitude of joy and confidence in the realization of their vocation, the reason for so doing must be sought, less in their physical and moral constitution than in the love which animated them — a filial love for

God, in regard to Whom they wished to be, neither hirelings nor, even, devoted servants, but little children.

God was for them "the Father Who is in Heaven" and Whose mercy had attracted them. Teresa often said to Our Lord: "*Trahe me*: draw me", and to her sisters: "The more the fire of love consumes my heart, so much the more shall I say: 'Draw me'". Towards the end of her life, she acknowledged having her request granted: "*Assumpsit me et posuit me*: the Lord has brought me and set me here where I am." Theophane, giving a summary of his life in a farewell letter, wrote: "*Altraxit me, miserans mei*: the Lord, in His mercy, has attracted me."

"The hand of God is everywhere," he wrote again. "Our Father Who is in Heaven knows our wants, and feels for our weariness; and He sends His ministers to supply our need. The earth is man's house; there is only one family, whose Father is God, Who reigns in Heaven. Let our hearts be as big as the world; *let us imitate Our Father*, the great God Who knows no space or distance. In how many ways are we brothers, of what a numerous family are we members! Our fraternity extends to all, from what is infinitely small to what is infinitely great. Is not Our Father the Creator and Father of everything? Everything created is related to us. It is true what St. Francis of Assisi said when he called the sheep his sister, the wolf his brother, and so on."

In Teresa's opinion, too, the world was a great household, all the members of which — all creatures —, according to the Father's orders, fraternally communicated in her afflictions and joys.

The day on which the Bishop of Bayeux refused the dispensation necessary for her entry to Carmel, "the flood-gates of Heaven seemed open once more". The Sovereign Pontiff gave her an evasive answer, "On that day, the sun dared not shine, and the beautiful blue sky of Italy, hidden by dark clouds, mingled its tears with mine." On the other hand, on her Clothing Day, "nothing was wanting, not even snow." But, especially, "the beautiful nature ravished and transported her soul to Heaven", where she was united to her Father. "I am meditating on the 'Our Father'. It is so sweet to call God, 'Our Father!'"

Such a conception of the world transformed Teresa's and Theophane's life into a continual act of love. Although the earth was for the missionary "an exile", "the exile where we love in separation and, consequently, in suffering", it was already "Heaven in miniature", because there was love there.

To the Carmelite, who wished to live in suffering here below, exile or home-land did not matter much: "Behold my Heaven, behold my destiny, to live by love... Love is my vocation."

The way of spiritual childhood. — This love for their Heavenly Father which conserved them in the natural innocence and candour of childhood, directed them both in the same way of sanctity: the way of Spiritual Childhood.

Before giving her sisters, as a parting gift, the passages which she had copied from Theophane's last letters home, Teresa declared: "Theophane Vénard is a little saint. His soul and mine have many points of resemblance."

(To be continued.)

The Sweetness of the Cross



Like the almond with its hard, rough shell, so the Cross, under its austere and undesirable appearance, contains a kernel of unsuspected, inestimable sweetness.

The saints who endeavoured to discover the hidden manna of the Cross, became insatiable. "Either suffer or die!" exclaimed Teresa of Avila. "Still more, O Lord, still more!" repeated St. Francis Xavier, at the sight of the sufferings that he was to have to endure in India. Teresa of the Child Jesus preciousy gathered up all the fragments of the Cross that staked off her days, and offered them to Jesus as so many sweet-scented flowers.

The Author of the *Imitation of Jesus Christ*, so thoroughly versed in the knowledge of the Cross, tells us:

"In the Cross is infusion of heavenly sweetness.

"There is no other way to life and true internal peace, but the way

of the holy Cross and of daily mortification.

"Yet this man, thus many ways afflicted, is not without some alloy of comfort for his ease, because he is sensible of the great profit which he reaps by bearing the Cross.

"For whilst he willingly resigns himself to it, all the burden of tribulation is converted into an assured hope of comfort from God.

"And he sometimes gains such strength through affection to tribulation and adversity, by reason of loving to be conformable to the Cross of Christ as not to be willing to be without suffering and affliction; because such a one believes himself by so much the more acceptable to God, as he shall be able to bear more and greater things for Him.

"To bear the Cross, to love the Cross, to chastise the body, and bring it under subjection, to fly honours, to be willing to suffer reproaches, to despise one's self, and wish to be despised, to bear all adversities and losses, and to desire no prosperity in this world, is not according to man's natural inclination.

"If thou lookest to thyself, thou canst do nothing of this of thyself.

"But if thou confidest in the Lord, strength will be given thee from heaven, and the world and the flesh shall be made subject to thee.

"Neither shalt thou fear thine enemy, the devil, if thou art armed with faith, and signed with the Cross of Christ.

"Set thyself then like a good and faithful servant of Christ, to bear manfully the Cross of thy Lord, crucified for the love of thee.

"When thou shalt arrive thus far, that tribulation becomes sweet and savoury to thee for the love of Christ; then think that it is well with thee, for thou hast found a paradise upon earth.

"As long as suffering seems grievous to thee, and thou seekest to fly from it, so long will it be ill with thee, and the tribulation from which thou fliest will everywhere follow thee."

You who are groaning, perhaps, under the weight of heavy burdens and overwhelming afflictions, do not be uneasy, do not worry, like the pagans who do not know God; but raise your eyes towards your Heavenly Father, Who sees you, loves you and allows trials to afflict you for the greater good of your soul. Ask Him for strength and courage, open your heart to Him, and suffer patiently, humbly, cheerfully, for love of Him, without ever complaining or murmuring. Then, you will see the way to Christian perfection stretching out before you. Soon, if you persevere in this way, after purifying yourself in the holy Tribunal of Penance, soon, I assure you, you will learn to enjoy the *heavenly sweetness infused in the Cross*.

Christian Friends, who have learnt by experience that trials bring us nearer to God, disengage us from the earth and make us work for Heaven, who have tasted the hidden manna of the Cross, give a thought to so many of our brothers who rebel and murmur under its pressure. Try, on every occasion, to teach them how to make a wise use of their afflictions, how to make of them a source of merit for themselves. Think of the great number of these, our brothers, a billion!... who are sitting in the darkness of paganism and are plunged in deep moral misery. Endeavour to bring them to the knowledge of God and His holy Law, and inspire them with hope in the life to come. Teach them to appreciate the Holy Cross of our Redemption and its ineffable sweetness.

For that purpose, help, by your prayers, sacrifices and alms, the Missionaries who, in your name, go, with the Cross in hand, to announce the Gospel of life and peace to these unfortunate peoples.

Let no day pass without doing some little thing to help them!



"He who saves a soul predestinates his own," said St. Augustine. These words of the great Doctor are but an echo of what is written in St. James' Epistle: "*My brethren, if any one of you err from the truth, and one convert him: He must know that he who causeth a sinner to be converted from the error of his way, shall save his soul from death and shall cover a multitude of sins.*" (Jas. v., 19-20).

“Holy Cross Burse”

for the support of a Missionary Sister

A burse is a sum of money the interest of which forms a perpetual income for the support of a missionary. The religious whose upkeep is assured by the foundation of a burse becomes for life the missionary of the donor and his representative among the poor infidels. Founders of burses participate in all the spiritual advantages of the Community. The sum of \$1,000.00, given in one or several payments by one or several persons, forms a complete burse.

Offerings received for “Holy Cross Burse”

July-August, 1939.....\$81.25
September-October 1939..... 67.85

All offerings for this Burse will be received with most sincere gratitude.

Address: Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception,
2900 St. Catherine Road, Cote des Neiges, Montreal.

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.

St. Teresa of the Child Jesus has listened to my prayers and alleviated my sufferings. Kindly help me to thank her. Mrs. R. S., **Levis**. — I am pleased to acquit myself of my promise in thanksgiving to St. Teresa of Lisieux. Mrs. W. B., **Montreal**. — My most heartfelt thanks to the loving Patroness of missionaries for a favour obtained through her intercession. A Subscriber, **Granby**. — Lively gratitude for benefits received through the intercession of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. Mrs. J. O. B., **Chicopee Falls, Mass.** — Thanksgiving to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for the success of a very serious operation. Mrs. D. P., **Montreal**. — Thanksgiving to St. Teresa for a favour obtained after promising to publish. Anonymous, **West Warwick, R. I.** — Sincere thanks to the Patroness of missionaries for a favour received through her intercession. I solicit her protection. M. A. B., **Kenogami**. — Heartfelt thanks to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a cure obtained through her intercession. Miss R. D. P. — Lively gratitude towards the “Little Flower of Carmel” for grace received. M. A. A., **Montreal**.

I feel that my mission is now to begin, my mission to make others love the good God as I love Him... To give to souls my little way. I WILL SPEND MY HEAVEN IN DOING GOOD UPON EARTH. This is not impossible, since the Angels in the full enjoyment of the Beatific Vision keep watch over us. No, I shall never rest till the end of the world! But when the Angels shall have said: “Time is no more!” then I shall rest — shall be able to rejoice, because the number of the elect will be complete.

— St. Teresa of the Child Jesus.



CHINA

*Letter from a Missionary Sister of the Immaculate Conception in Canton,
to her Sisters at the Mother House.*

Canton, June 1, 1939.

DEAR SISTERS,

We should have liked to send you news sooner, but most of our time has been spent trying to provide our protégés with rice.

Although Canton has been governed by the Japanese for the past eight months, there seems to be much difficulty in bringing things back to their normal state. The river remains closed to navigation, and commerce is being reorganized slowly. Our orphans still occupy the classrooms. They would be more comfortable at the Foundling-Home of Our Lady of Providence — there is so little hygiene here, in the city; but it would not be easy to forward them food.

God does not cease watching over us in these calamitous times, and He sometimes gives us very striking marks of His protection. Recently, the Red Cross Committee sent us forty sacks of wheat — a gift from the American people for the poor in China. We greatly appreciated it, as we consume more than a hundred pounds of rice daily, and it is very high.

As it had been impossible for us to celebrate the European New Year, we made up for it on the Chinese New Year. For the first time, the little ones put on their pretty dresses made out of the garments which had been given to us by the ladies of Shameen. They were bubbling over with joy when we despoiled a pyramid containing a hundred and fifty cones and packages destined for them. A few benefactors had been invited for the occasion, and all marvelled at the number of children of the same age. Mr. Allen, Anglican Minister of Shameen, and his wife, who were present, inquired if we would admit a few orphans from their refugee camps. As we gave an affirmative answer, they sent us, a few days later, an eleven-year-old girl with her young brother, who had been found in the street.

On May 22nd, we had the great pleasure of seeing our dear Sisters Marie de Loyola (1), St. Raphael (2) and Thérèse de l'Enfant-Jésus (3), who stayed



SISTER THERESE DE L'ENFANT JESUS (YVONNE GERIN, COATICOOK), RECENTLY ARRIVED IN THE MISSIONS, HAS THE HAPPINESS OF BAPTIZING SEVERAL LITTLE DYING CHILDREN, AT CANTON, CHINA.

with us for ten days. They brought us most consoling news of our dear Community and beloved parents. Sister Thérèse de l'Enfant Jésus inau-



THE NEWLY-BAPTIZED AND THE FIRST-COMMUNICANTS OF THE FEAST OF PENTECOST, AT CANTON, CHINA.

IN THE CENTRE: SISTER MARIE IMMACULEE (ALICE VANCHESTEIN, ST. MICHEL DE NAPIERVILLE); TO THE LEFT: SISTER ST. EXPEDIT (MARIE ANNE ROMPRE, STE. THECLE); TO THE RIGHT: SISTER JOSEPH DE LA SAINTE FAMILLE (JEANNETTE DELISLE, WORCESTER, MASS.).

1. Orphise BOULAY, Coaticook, P. Q.
2. Malvina BIRON, Coteau Landing, P. Q.
3. Yvonne GERIN, Coaticook, P. Q.

gured her apostolate by several Baptisms. As soon as she arrived, a little one came to request its passport for Heaven and, during her stay here, she had the privilege of pouring the Saving Waters upon the brows of more than twenty dying babies.

On the Feast of Pentecost, twenty-two children received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Cathedral. Eight of these had been baptized the previous day.

Shortly afterwards, God came and culled one of the fairest flowers of our Orphanage — little nine-year-old Emma. This child was very edifying during her short illness; she showed very much gratitude for the least care received. To her companions who were praying at her bedside, she said: "That's right, pray a little for me, and I shall pray very much for you when I am in Heaven. Oh! I shall be with Gertrude, Aimée, etc." (orphans who died during the year). She asked for a crucifix, which she kissed four times, saying: "You have suffered very much while on earth, Jesus; but now, You are happy in Heaven. Call me to You." She died on the last of May, in the evening.

The following day, our dear departed one sent three little sisters to replace her — three children whose parents had been killed during the bombardments.

What misery still reigns in Canton City! Pray for us, dear Sisters, that a lasting peace may permit us to resume the manifold works which solicit our zeal. So many beautiful sheaves seem ready to be harvested!

I send my best regards to all and beg you to kindly remember me when kneeling at the feet of Our Blessed Lord and of His Immaculate Mother.

Your humble Cantonese Sister,

Sister JOSEPH DE LA SAINTE FAMILLE, M. I. C. (1)

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HONG KONG

Missionary Activities at the School of Tak Sun.

Far from the Japanese bombs, under the British flag, in a Chinese section of the peaceful city of Kowloon, near Hong Kong, about four hundred pupils, almost all belonging to pagan families, attend our Primary School of Tak Sun. Regular courses in Christian Doctrine are given to the children, permitting them to become acquainted with the principal truths of our Holy Religion. Several times during the school year, we have had the consolation of seeing some of our pupils and even a few members of their families give up the worship of idols and solicit the grace of Baptism with repeated entreaties.

Eleven times during 1938-39 Our Blessed Lady has been pleased to make use of her humble missionaries to offer choice sheaves to the Lord of

1 Jeannette DELISLE, Worcester, Mass.

the Harvest. The first time, it was the mother of one of our pupils who came and begged us to instruct her in the Catholic Religion with which she had already been acquainted in youth, but which, for family reasons, she had never been able to embrace. Her daughter, who is one of our pupils, and her youngest son, soon followed her example. The three were admitted to Baptism and made their First Communion at the end of June, 1938.

A young girl of sixteen, who had been deeply moved on witnessing this beautiful ceremony, also requested the favour of being instructed, with the



SISTER MARIE DE LOYOLA (ORPHISE BOULAY, COATICOOK), SISTER ST. JEAN DU CALVAIRE (DORIS HAGUE, MONTREAL), AND THE PUPILS OF THE ENGLISH COURSE OF TAK SUN SCHOOL, HONG KONG, WHO WERE BAPTIZED DURING THE YEAR.

intention of being baptized. Now, Doris, that was her name, had been with us for two months only, so her religious instruction was quite limited. Wishing to test her earnestness and be sure of her good dispositions, Sister Directress remarked to her that she would have to come to Austin Road for a Catechism lesson, every day of the vacation. Despite the torrid heat of the summer months in Hong Kong, our fervent neophyte did not miss once; and it was full of confidence that she presented herself for the September examinations. However, a trial was awaiting her there... Was it timidity or a ruse of the devil; at any rate, she was unable to answer a question and... her Baptism was delayed. Without losing courage, the young girl set herself anew to study and, this time, her efforts being crowned with success, she had the happiness of being baptized on the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy and was called Mary Helen.

In the following month of October, Divine Grace led two other of our pupils and their mother into the True Fold. Being perfectly instructed, they were baptized and made their First Communion on the beautiful

Feast of Christmas. On Holy Saturday, we had the happiness of registering three new conquests of grace among our children. Finally, on June 27th, Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Carolina Chow was baptized in our humble chapel. Reverend Father Angelis presided at the ceremony and kindly addressed a few words of exhortation to the privileged child who had been so mercifully brought from the darkness of paganism to the brilliant light of the Gospel. A repast recalling the agapes of the primitive Christians was then served in the parlour. Carolina and her companions, among whom were several Christians, partook of it.

The next day, a Banquet infinitely sweeter united the guests of the eve. The fortunate child received the Bread of the Angels for the first time. Whilst, plunged in deep recollection, Carolina delighted in the presence of her God, her young companions, who surrounded her, sang in her name, hymns of gratitude and love. After a frugal breakfast, the young ladies went on a pilgrimage to the Carmelite Convent where, for a long time, the Sisters had been praying for Carolina's conversion.

To the joy ever new of conducting to the Port of Salvation souls snatched from paganism, is added the consolation of seeing them persevere in the practice of our Holy Faith, despite the thousand obstacles they meet with. And, full of gratitude towards Our Immaculate Queen, who is pleased to associate us in her sublime vocation of Co-Redemptrix, we joyfully repeat her hymn of predilection: *Magnificat anima mea Dominum*.

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*Extracts from letters of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
at the Lazaretto of Shek Lung, to their Superior General.*

St. Joseph's Lazaretto, June 24, 1939.

VERY REVEREND AND BELOVED MOTHER,

On the beautiful Feast of Pentecost, Mr. Woung, an officer of the guards of the Island, received the Sacrament of Baptism. He had been desiring it for a long time; but, like almost all the pagans, he had two wives and could not decide to leave one. Finally, grace triumphed: he sent one away and his pious desires were realized.

We had the happiness of baptizing two dying children. Since the beginning of the bombardments, one hundred and seventy-five of these innocent little creatures have become angels of God through our humble medium and are now singing His praises in Heaven.

Despite the great misery which is reigning everywhere, on the Patronal Feast of our venerable Mother Foundress, and in her honour, we have been able to give six ounces of pork to each of the patients. It was a real banquet for them.

They are praying with more fervour than ever. During these days of famine, all have their two meals of rice daily, and each of them feels that it is because he prays that he does not lack the necessities of life.

The Chinese bandits are becoming more and more threatening. Every day we hear tell of some of their crimes.

One of our refugees having been held a prisoner during fifteen days, returned to us on the fifth of last June, greatly emaciated. After stealing the swine he was going to sell, the bandits had taken him captive and his family was obliged to give a hundred dollars for his ransom.

The poor man had fallen a victim to calumny. A neighbour who held a grudge against him had gone and told the robbers that he was earning from two to three hundred dollars a month, making little moulds of bean-



ONE OF THE NUMEROUS STRAW CABINS
CONSTRUCTED BY THE UNFORTUNATE REFUGEES ON THE LEPER ISLAND.

cheese. In order to oblige him to say how much money he had, the wretches completely deprived him of food during the first eight days, forcing him to lie on bamboos and crushing his legs.

He said to us when he returned: "I believe in your Religion; and were I to stay here, I'd be baptized; but, elsewhere, it is hard to follow the rules of the Christians." We are confident that Our Immaculate Mother will soon give him the courage that is necessary to break the bonds which retain him captive under the yoke of Satan.

Two days later, towards six o'clock in the evening, the bandits seized a man who was returning home from work. After tying his hands behind his back and forbidding him to speak, they obliged him to follow them. Doubtless, a heavy ransom has been exacted for his release; but, if no one has been able to pay that sum, what has befallen the poor man?...

We were told, a short time ago, that the only child of a rather wealthy family, a five-year-old boy, was kidnapped; and that two thousand dollars were exacted from the parents for its ransom. Having obtained the sum requested, the bandits roasted the child, and putting its corpse in a tub, returned it to the parents. It would be impossible to describe the distress of this afflicted family!...

On the 18th, it was our turn to fear. Two hundred of these pillagers were near the Island. What was to be done?... We placed our trust in Divine Providence and towards six o'clock, we were informed that they had taken another direction. *Magnificat*, did we many a time repeat!

Yes, how often, at the sight of so many misfortunes from which we are protected, do the feelings of our hearts find expression in this beautiful hymn of gratitude!

How often have not poor parents come to offer us their children, telling us, amid sobs, that they prefer giving them to us rather than see them die



SISTER MARIE BERNADETTE (ALMA LEGER, GREEN VALLEY, ONT.) AND
SISTER ST. EXPEDIT (MARIE ANNE ROMPRE, STE. THECLE) ON THE *STAR OF
THE SEA*, THE FAITHFUL BOAT OF THE LAZARETTO, SHEK LUNG.

of hunger. "Sister," do they say, "we have nothing at all to give them. Take them. We are heart-broken to have to part with them; but we know that here, they will be well treated." And we who have more than eight hundred mouths to feed!... Not one day has gone by, however, without our having appeased their hunger. Is it not a miracle of Divine Providence?...

On the 17th, we received a young lady, twenty-four years old, who was seriously ill. Married at the age of sixteen to the captain of a ship, she was, shortly after her wedding, deprived of her husband who was condemned to ten years' imprisonment for having let the ship he was conducting perish.

As she found no means of earning a living, she hired herself in houses of prostitution. Having fallen ill, and her parents unwilling to receive her, she sought refuge in the sampan of an old lady who had pity on her. The latter, seeing that she was about to die, asked us to receive her. Doubtless, our Heavenly Mother wished to make of this sinner another St. Magdalen, for as soon as we spoke to her about God and His infinite mercy towards sinners, she seemed to have much sorrow for her sins, and, despite her great sufferings, she put her whole heart and soul to the study of our Holy Religion.

Yesterday, she asked us to "wash her soul", for, said she, "it won't be long before I go to God; I am very tired." After the Regenerating

Waters had flowed upon her brow, she said to us: "I am very glad; I offer all my sufferings in expiation for my sins." She was really edifying, suffering with most admirable patience and unceasingly thanking us for having made her a child of God.

This morning, after a short agony, she commended her soul into the hands of her Creator.

Oh! how sublime and beautiful our missionary vocation appears to us when we have the happiness of bringing to Our Heavenly Father, souls that Satan was but lately holding in his clutches; and how desirable the sacrifices and privations of our life appear to be!

While sending you the expression of our most filial gratitude, beloved Mother, we recommend ourselves to your fervent prayers and to those of all our Sisters.

YOUR HUMBLE DAUGHTERS OF THE LAZARETTO OF SHEK LUNG.

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MANCHUKUO

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters in Szepingkai

Friday, March 10, 1939

Mrs. Tchao, Chinese teacher, had just arrived to give a lesson to Sister Ste. Denise⁽¹⁾. An insignificant incident, in appearance, teacher and pupil were seated at a table upon which was a little box, somewhat soiled by usage. Mrs. Tchao unconsciously took it up in her hands and examined it. Seeing this, Sister remarked: "If I had some nice paper, I would give this little box a new appearance altogether!..."

"Paper," replied Mrs. Tchao, "I can get some for you. I pass in front of a store every day, when going to see my sick uncle."

"Your uncle is sick?" Sister inquired.

"Yes, very sick," repeated Mrs. Tchao. "He is dying."

"If the Sister who visits the homes called to see him," suggested Sister, "she could perhaps do him good."

"It is useless," replied Mrs. Tchao, "he does not want to see the Doctors of the Mission, because he believes in no religion."

Sister Marie Esther⁽²⁾ entered the room at that moment and was informed of the subject of the conversation. "Come, conduct me to your uncle's," she said resolutely to Mrs. Tchao. The latter, like a good Chinese, could not refuse; but the blush on her cheeks revealed how embarrassed she was. Still a pagan, she could not understand what motive prompted us; however, not to *lose face*, she acceded to our request.

We left for the house of the dying man. He was at the inn since a while, so it was quite easy for us to approach him and speak to him about his soul, life everlasting, and the happiness of those who die after having been made children of the Catholic Church.

1. Odile MALBOEUF, Sudbury, Ont.

2. Alice BUTEAU, St. Evariste, Frontenac Co., P. Q.

Through the powerful effects of Divine Grace, the dying man was easily convinced; he believed and expressed the desire to be baptized. The Regenerating Waters were poured upon his brow without delay, and half an hour had not elapsed when his soul, just purified, took its flight to Heaven.

As soon as Mrs. Tchao arrived home, she timidly related to her father what had happened, expecting to be severely blamed for it. But to her great surprise, she received the following answer: "Well, it is a good thing that he died in some religion, for he believed in nothing."

Precious little box! It has been instrumental in the reaping of a golden ear for the immortal granaries.

Wednesday, March 22

The Chinese calendar indicates that it is the 2nd of the second month. It is a great day! The pagans feast the dragon. They must abstain from work and don their best garments in order to obey the precept commanding to rejoice and feast on this occasion. Head of pork is used in the preparation of the principal course.

If anybody worked on this day, he would pierce the dragon's eyes and draw its vengeance upon himself. One of the pagans' amusements consists in representing the idol as a long serpentine creature of great girth and whose length sometimes attains twenty or even thirty feet. Steel hoops placed inside the monster's body give it a certain suppleness and much gracefulness to all its movements. At every step they take, the bearers who are supporting it on long sticks turn its repulsive head to the right and to the left showing to all, its eyes of ferocious aspect and its gaping jaws which seem to be seeking someone to devour. This divinity is carried through the streets to the sound of drums and trumpets. A crowd of folks escort it and, at a given signal, they perform a dance around it. This ceremony is nothing less than ridiculous.

Tuesday, April 11

After a few months' vacation, the classes at the Native Novitiate resumed their regular course. Two of our Sisters, Sister Marie Esther⁽¹⁾ and Sister Ste. Denise⁽²⁾ as well as a native Professed Sister give their share of lessons daily, except on Saturdays and Sundays. The program includes Catechism, Sacred History, Anatomy, Mathematics, etc...

The number of aspirants to the religious life is still very small; therefore it is necessary to pray the Lord of the Harvest to choose for Himself other workers, zealous apostles who will do much good among their compatriots.

When on Sundays and Feast Days the black-robed virgins of the Congregation of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary come out of their convent, many are the expressions of praise and admiration to be heard at the church door. "Look at my daughter," says a mother. "It is she who is smiling. How

1. Alice BUTEAU, St. Evariste, Frontenac Co., P.Q.

2. Odile MALBOEUF, Sudbury, Ont.



MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, SZEPIINGKAI

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, LOWEST ROW: SISTER STE. JEANNE DE CHANTAL (JEANNE CARON, MONTREAL), SISTER DU ST. COEUR DE MARIE (AGNES LAVALLEE, WINNIPEG), SISTER ST. GERARD (ANNA ROBERGE, GRANBY); 2nd row: SISTER MARIE CELINE (REGINA BELIVEAU, ST. PAUL DE CHESTER), SISTER MARIE ESTHER (ALICE BUTEAU, ST. EVARISTE, FRONTENAC CO.); 3rd row: SISTER PIERRE JULIEN (JEANNETTE TREMBLAY, ST. FULGENCE, CHICOUTIMI CO.); 4th row: SISTER ST. ULRIC (LEA GENDRON, ST. ULRIC, MATANE CO.), SISTER STE. DENISE (ODILE MALBOEUF, SUDBURY, ONT.), SISTER EUSTELLE DE L'EUCHARISTIE (EUSTELLE SAMSON, LAUZON), SISTER STE. JEANNE DE VALOIS (AGATHE DION, THREE RIVERS).

NATIVE SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY OF SZEPIINGKAI, AND A YOUNG CHRISTIAN JAPANESE LADY ON A VISIT.

happy she looks! In the convent everybody agrees. She has a good home, I am not uneasy about her... etc." Like our own Canadian mothers, the Manchu mother makes a great sacrifice in giving up her child, but what happiness is hers! This explains why there is always joy in the hearts of the mothers who have given their children to God.

Wednesday, April 26

Since Monday, in between study hours, the Boarding-School is transformed into a workroom where the busy workers are not lacking. The little ones only, continue their games without the least concern. The rest of the pupils are making their uniforms. Those who are less skilful request the assistance of their experienced companions and all help one another very amiably like little sisters. As soon as one has finished her work, she hastens to the aid of her companions. Sister Marie Céline⁽¹⁾ avails herself of the opportunity to reveal to these young souls the advantages of self-forgetfulness and devotedness towards one's neighbour. The lesson seems to have been well understood and the children have made up their minds never to

1. Regina BELIVEAU, St. Paul de Chester, P. Q.

be selfish and to overcome the natural inclination which makes one think only of his personal needs.

Monday, May 8

Smallpox is prevalent at this time of the year; so, very numerous are the Chinese mammas coming to the Dispensary to have their children inoculated with the virus. If you enter the waiting-room, you will see them standing up against the wall with their babies in their arms. At nine o'clock precisely, the "Doctor of the Mission" Sister Eustelle de l'Eucharistie⁽¹⁾ appears for the vaccinations. The needle is a dreaded instrument for the fifteen or twenty babies present, and you should hear the deafening concert they make!... But do not scold them for we shall cull beautiful lilies for Heaven in their midst!...

Saturday, May 20

A patient of the Dispensary related to-day that on returning home, a few days ago, he noticed a coffin which had just been deposited in the street. He spoke about the fact to his brother, a former catechist of the Dispensary, who said to him: "Let us go immediately to visit the family of the person who is supposed to be dead. Perhaps he has not expired yet..." This was not improbable because, according to a Chinese custom, the coffin of the person who is dying is bought ahead of time, so as to give him the assurance that his body will not be devoured by the dogs after his death.



A DEAD CHILD ON ITS MORTUARY BED.

ACCORDING TO THE CUSTOM IN MANCHUKUO, NO PERSON MUST BE LEFT TO DIE ON THE K'ANG. THE DYING BABY WAS LAID ON SOME STRAW ON THE GROUND.

1. Eustelle SAMSOM, Lauzon, P. Q.

The two Christians therefore went to the mortuary house. The coffin was closed, but there seemed to be something suspicious in the affair; and, indeed, after several questions, they finished by learning that the patient was still alive when he was put into the coffin. The people of the house said they had made use of this stratagem to put an end to a sickness which had already lasted so long. After blaming them for having had recourse to this cruel expedient, the brave Christians decided to have the coffin opened and what did they perceive?... Horror!... A living man struggling despairingly to recover his liberty. The fresh air revived his strength; he articulated a few words and, his liberators, complying with his desire, took him out of his dreadful prison to speak to him about the Catholic Religion. Instructed in the principal truths of our Holy Faith, the poor man was baptized and made the sacrifice of his life, hoping to share in the eternal happiness of Heaven. It was not long before this grace was granted to him; only a few hours of peaceful expectation and he was called to enjoy the Beatific Vision in the Abode of the Blessed.

The valiant apostles are still overwhelmed with the happiness of having accomplished a great act of religion and humanity.

Monday, May 22

Sister Marie Esther⁽¹⁾ hearing that a child was about to undertake its last journey, asked to be conducted to its bedside.

In order to be faithful to an ancestral superstition demanding that nobody die on the *k'ang* (heated brick bed) the mother had been obliged to place the little sick girl on some straw on the ground.

It was there that the Divine Child Jesus came to get the dear little one to bring her to His beautiful Home, for, on her brow, the Missionary had poured the Regenerating Waters which had made her a child of Heaven!

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JAPAN

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters in Koriyama

Monday, February 6, 1939

We are celebrating the Feast of the Holy Martyrs of Japan, to-day. During Mass, we sang, with our helpers, the glories of these twenty-six heroes of Christ, who were crucified at Nagasaki on February 5th, 1597. It was they who opened the way to the innumerable army of martyrs that the Church of Japan has given to Heaven.

Among them, was Saint Louis Ibaraki, but ten years old; St. Antonio, aged thirteen, and Saint Thomas Kosaki, who was scarcely fourteen. Arrested in Kyoto, the former capital of Japan, they had their right ear cut off; then, in the beginning of January, they were conducted, on foot, from Kyoto to Nagasaki.

1. Alice BUTEAU, St. Evariste, Frontenac Co., P. Q.

During this sorrowful journey of more than five hundred miles, the valiant Confessors of the Faith did not cease blessing the Lord by pious hymns, and they converted very many people. After walking during a whole month, they arrived at Nagasaki. The place chosen for the execution was Tateyama Hill, where twenty-six crosses had been erected. The executioners anxious to get through with their work, hustled the holy victims about; but the latter, recalling to mind the sufferings of Our Lord on His way to Golgotha, ascended their calvary with admirable resignation. When they reached the summit, they knelt down and kissed their crosses; they were then tied to them and, at the cry, "*Eitsu!* (to death)", their hearts were pierced with lances. It was on a Friday, day on which they had desired to die, in order to have a greater resemblance to their loving Saviour... His Holiness Pope Pius IX canonized them in 1862, two hundred and fifty years after their death.

Friday, February 10

Our beautiful statue of the Blessed Virgin, broken in more than a hundred pieces during the earthquake of November, was repaired and decorated anew by good Sister Superior ⁽¹⁾. This morning, on entering the chapel, we were pleased to see Our Lady smile at us again from her shrine. She seemed more beautiful than ever! During Mass, dear Sister Marie Alida ⁽²⁾ renewed her vows.

This afternoon, three young girls from a spinning-mill came on an errand for their sewing teacher Miss Sato, a fervent Christian, who seizes every opportunity to make known to them our Holy Religion.

We invited them to come in. After hesitating for a moment, they accepted our invitation. In the parlour, a picture of Our Lady of Lourdes appearing to Bernadette attracted their attention. They were quite astonished when we told them what it represented; what particularly impressed them was the fact that the Queen of Heaven appeared to a child of the commonalty. After having had them visit the classrooms of the Kindergarten, we invited them to come to the chapel. It seemed as if they could not tire looking around; however, the statue of Our Immaculate Mother apparently won their preference.

When they left, Sister Superior gave to each of them a miraculous medal and a picture of Our Lady of Lourdes which greatly pleased them.

These young girls have been working at the factory for four years, with seven hundred companions. Another mill, not very far from here, hires one thousand five hundred girls. How much good could be done there, since most of these young ladies come from country-places and are very simple and kind.

Saturday, February 18

The father of one of our pupils — an officer in the army, who has just returned from China for a few months' vacation — came to lecture our little

1. Sister MADELEINE DU SAUVEUR (Alice Labelle, Montreal).

2. Rose Aimée DEMERS, Quebec.

ones, telling them what an important duty it is for them to love their country and to sacrifice everything for it.

This man is in a very pitiful condition; the horrors of the war have thrown him in a state of nervous surexcitation which he cannot control. A victim of insomnia, he has the impression, at the least noise, that a bomb is exploding at his side.

After having our children utter *banzai* (hurrahs) for the Emperor, he withdrew to return almost immediately. He feared, no doubt, that he had not sufficiently inflamed their patriotism, for he said to them: "You may not have understood all that I said, but remember this and engrave it profoundly in your hearts: 'We, Japanese, have been created for the Emperor and our country; and nothing else matters'."

When he left the hall, he said to Sister Agnes d'Assise⁽¹⁾: "Sister, camp life is very hard, but do you know what comforts us on the battle-field when we are hungry and cold? It is the remembrance of the departure scenes, the *banzai*, the hymns of triumph sung by the crowds who accompanied us to the train; that is what urges us on to victory!" Alas! in these pagan hearts, there is no thought of faith to really strengthen and console them!

The Japanese have rare qualities and, in these times of war, especially, we are in a position to admire their abnegation and spirit of sacrifice. Poverty is increasing every day. There are no more silver, nickel or even copper coins in circulation; those used at present are of a light metal resembling aluminum. Nevertheless, everybody is working for the soldiers and, when there are departures, much pomp is displayed to encourage those who are leaving to valiantly serve their country.

Tuesday, March 7

Sister Agnes d'Assise went to the station with the helpers and children, for the arrival of the ashes of a soldier — the father of one of our pupils — who died in China.

Some twenty bonzes dressed in white, green and brocade, were there, mumbling their prayers, clapping hands or rolling their buddhistic beads between their fingers. The wife of the deceased soldier came to receive, from the hands of a bonze, the small box containing the ashes of her husband. She then returned home in a rickshaw escorted by an imposing cortège of men and women who carried either flowers or the Japanese flag.

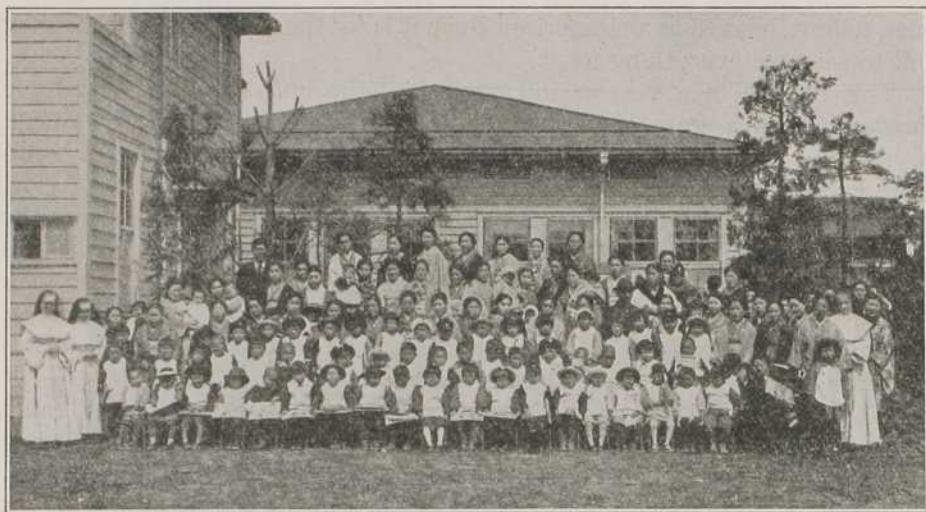
We grouped in front of the house to express our sympathy to the family in mourning. After the crowd had dispersed, the poor widow said to Sister: "I feel I have no longer the courage to live!"

How gloomy and distressing is the night of paganism which environs the non-Christian soul, and how well we understand, in mission countries, why the Church, in referring to the pagans, speaks of them as "sitting in the darkness of paganism and in the shadows of death"!

Sunday, March 19

As we were going to Mass, we witnessed a typical scene. A number of children, waving Japanese flags were stationed at the carriage-gate of a

1. Lucienne RENAUD, Montreal.



THE SIXTY LITTLE PUPILS OF THE KINDERGARTEN, KORIYAMA, JAPAN, WITH THEIR MOTHERS, AT THE OPENING OF THE SCHOOL-YEAR.

TO THE LEFT: SISTER MADELEINE DU SAUVEUR (ALICE LABELLE, MONTREAL) AND SISTER AGNES D'ASSISE (LUCIENNE RENAUD, MONTREAL); TO THE RIGHT: SISTER MARIE DE LA REDEMPTION (BASILISSE MAILLET, WEST BATHURST, N. B.).

wealthy family, whose dog was leaving for the war. An ovation was being made to this new kind of soldier before conducting him to the station. In front of his kennel two flags with eulogical titles praised his bravery. We could not help smiling at this naive demonstration; but the people were very serious and even *His Honour* the dog seemed to realize the solemnity of the moment and he stood with the dignity which the circumstances required.

The crowd's enthusiasm for all that concerns the war is ever increasing. The government carefully keeps it up by approving or suggesting religious ceremonies whose object is: prayer to the gods of the Empire that the Japanese may ever be victorious.

It has been estimated that, during the first days of this year, some two million pilgrims visited the temples in Tokyo and its surroundings. Numerous are those who make the *kwan mairi* (cold season pilgrimage); and to their prayers for the success of arms in China, they join the ascetic practice of icy showers. Every evening, at the temple of Fudo, there are about five hundred persons who bind themselves to this practice!

Alas! the Kingdom of our loving Saviour has not yet come to this poor country, so proud of its pagan civilization. We do not cease begging the Master of all hearts to have mercy on these souls of good will and to draw them all to Himself.

Monday, March 20

The graduation ceremony of our little ones who are leaving the Kindergarten for the Primary School took place at nine o'clock. After the singing of the National hymn, each child received a diploma. To express his thanks, he respectfully raised his hand to the height of his brow. The prize of

assiduity was then awarded to the child who deserved it and one of the tallest received, in the name of all the graduates, thirty-three little blue boxes, each of which contained a medal of the Blessed Virgin.

After the discourse of Sister Directress came that of Miss Misa Ko, seven years old, who, in the name of the graduates, thanked the Sisters and teachers for the devoted and loving care they received during their stay in the sunny classrooms of *Sei Maria Yochien*; then, turning to the little ones who remained, she told them to be sure and listen to the *sensei* and to be always like brothers and sisters together. After that, Master Jun, a little tot, five years old, stood up and, in the name of all those who were staying, expressed his regret at losing such amiable brothers and sisters. He wished them success in their studies and invited them to return often to their *Alma Mater*. After the Departure hymn, the graduates played for the last time their nicest piece of orchestra, to the great satisfaction of the numerous parents who assisted.

In the afternoon, Sister Directress had to accept the pressing invitation of the mothers of the graduates to go and take a Japanese dinner with our two helpers. In the intimacy of one's home, it is easier to ask questions concerning our Holy Religion, our mode of living, etc. It is then easier for us, also, to slip in a word about God and the Blessed Virgin — tiny seed which will grow and, with the help of Divine Grace, bear fruit in God's good time.

Saturday, April 1

The primary, secondary, superior and university schools are re-opening to-day. At the beginning of this new term we meet, in the streets of the city, a real army of children who, with their teachers, are on their way to the temple of *Hachiman* (god of the war) to dedicate their studies to him.

In spite of this religious revival, it is distressing to notice the apathy of the University pupils for religion. Just lately, an inquest was made at the Imperial University of Tokyo. In response to the question: "To which religion do you belong?" addressed to each of the pupils, six declared themselves to be disciples of Confucius, eight said they were Shintoists, sixty, Christians, and three hundred, Buddhists; on the other hand, one thousand five hundred declared they were atheists and over three thousand, agnostics. Other religious statistics revealed that of the thirty thousand students attending the universities of the State, twenty-seven thousand have no religion at all.

The Buddhists are actually making a big campaign in favour of their sect, especially to send some of their missionaries to China. The *Tokyo Nichi* paper endeavours to stimulate the zeal of the young in setting before their eyes the example of Catholic missionaries.

For some time past, the newspapers have manifested a greater tendency to speak of Catholicity and to give news about it to the public. A correspondent of the above-mentioned newspaper writes that, while travelling on the Chinese railroad, he was astonished at the number of churches he perceived from his coach, in the remotest country-places.



EXTRACTS FROM THE NOVITIATE CHRONICLES DEDICATED TO OUR DEAR PARENTS

Thursday, July 6

A short visit to the Point, Sunday evening, recalled to us merry picnics and pleasant hours spent there, and suggested to us wonderful projects, which we have realized to-day.

We feared a little for the weather at first; but, summoning up our confidence, despite the heavy grey clouds, we set out, laden with games, books and provisions of all kinds, furnished by some of our dear parents who had insisted on spoiling us. Our baggage seemed complete; at all events, if something had been forgotten, it certainly was not high spirits nor good humour.

Games were organized without delay. In the paths of the grove, some who were playing hide-and-seek ran into others who were going along slowly, admiring the beautiful nature and contemplating the charming landscapes; players of blindman's buff bumped against those who were taking part in races and other boisterous games. To the accents of singing were mingled the cheers of a group of young poets applauding their respective masterpieces. But, in a little nook apart, was a novice, grave-looking and solitary. At a certain moment, another came to her; a word was uttered, and the second novice took the place that the first one seemed loath to leave. This was repeated at regular intervals, like the relief of sentinels. However, they were not sentinels on the watch for enemies, spies or dreadful evil-doers, but guards of honour who, under the immense dome of clouds and foliage that sheltered us, were continuing to pay to the Queen of the Rosary the tribute of Aves which are recited all day long in our chapel for the intentions of our devoted benefactors. Those who had the privilege of taking part in this guard of honour enjoyed the greatest happiness of our holiday.

Towards two o'clock, peals of thunder and impertinent rain-drops tried to make us leave the place, but we did not yield to their threats. We were very glad for having done so, for the weather soon cleared up.

We made our meditation at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes and, there, again, at the moment of our departure, towards nightfall, we offered fervent thanks to Our Heavenly Mother for all the joys of the day and sang our evening hymn in her honour.

Thursday, July 20

Passing through Canada on his way to Rome, Reverend Father Egidio Roy, Secretary of the Apostolic Delegation at Tokio, stopped at our Novitiate today to visit a relative. Although, as he told us, there was no such thing on his programme, Reverend Father was kind enough to speak to the Community assembled. He showed us, by the relation of several recent facts, that the secular hostility of the Japanese is giving way more and more from day to day to a tolerance which is the source of great hopes for the missionaries. Catholics are very few in Japan; nevertheless, it is they who are the most respected. The death of His Holiness Pope Pius XI was the occasion of very eloquent manifestations in this regard. The solemn service celebrated in the Cathedral of Tokio at that time was attended by an imposing number of distinguished personages, among whom were to be seen the Emperor's own brother and representatives of all the ministers of state and of most of the foreign ambassadors, who thereby wished to show their deference to the Holy See. What an evolution since seventy years ago, when persecution and the most severe ostracism reigned!

Our reverend Visitor related to us, also, how some pagan scouts organized a demonstration in honour of the deceased Pope. All those present were invited to bow before his picture and meditate for a minute in silence on the benefits for which Japan and the whole world are indebted to this great Pontiff; then, discourses full of sincere admiration and profound respect were delivered.

These young people recalled, especially, with emotion an audience at the Vatican, when several of them had been received by Pius XI with true paternal kindness.

The prestige of the Papacy and the Catholic Church has, therefore, considerably increased among the literati of the Japanese Empire, and continues to increase according as these acquire a better understanding of the missionary's role. And, in this respect, the present war is not failing to produce excellent results. Invading China, the Japanese find, there, engaged in the same works of zeal and charity, the evangelical workers whom, in Japan, they accused of being spies in the pay of foreign powers; and they are inclined to recognize that the missionaries are doing a world-wide work which is purely spiritual and which cannot give umbrage to their national life. It is this wholly spiritual characteristic of our religion, which depends upon no political or economical force, that is giving prestige to Holy Mother Church over there. It is for us, then, who desire to devote ourselves to her extension, to be perfectly supernatural and divine, if we wish to satisfy the requisites of our vocation.

Thursday, July 27

In a few hours, we shall be enjoying the religious silence and profound calm of the retreat; but, at present, there is more or less excitement here and there as each group of professed Sisters arrives. We are expecting one hundred and fifty of them.

After the first instants of joyous greetings, they take their baggage to the cells assigned to them; for everything is ready to receive them, and a place is reserved for each in the chapel, dormitory and refectory. We hope that the Dove-cot will be an abode of tranquillity and peace for them during the coming week.

The retreat will be preached by Reverend Father Bourbonnière, O. P.

Saturday, August 5

"Suscipe, Domine, universam meam libertatem." In the words of this beautiful prayer of St. Ignatius, we gave ourselves totally to God yesterday evening, at the close of our retreat. To-day, a good number of our Sisters made this donation under different forms, publicly and solemnly. First of all, at the Communion of the Community Mass, Annual Vows were renewed; then, at 9.30 A.M., seventeen novices pronounced their First Vows, which were received by Reverend Father Lacroix, brother of one of those taking part in the ceremony.

At 2.30 this afternoon, the bell called us to the chapel once again; but, this time, the nave being reserved for the numerous relatives and friends, we remained in the galleries while a group of postulants received the Holy Habit and seventeen professed Sisters made their Perpetual Vows.

The new novices were: Miss Lucie Dallaire, Montreal (Sister Marie Immaculata); Miss Rollande Vincent, Montreal (Sister Rollande Marie); Miss Edith Corbeil, Montreal (Sister Jacques du Sauveur); Miss Maria Perron, Lac aux Sables, Portneuf (Sister St. Augustin); Miss Madeleine Dugal, Quebec (Sister Madeleine de Pazzi); Miss Marie Paule Meloche, St. Hyacinthe (Sister Marie du Divin Cœur); Miss Clara Leblanc, Maddington Falls, Arthabaska (Sister St. Sylvère); Miss Marguerite Martel, Beauharnois (Sister Eugénie du Sacré Cœur); Miss Rose Hélène Turgeon, St. Anselme (Sister Marie Hélène); Miss Thérèse Lalande, Clarence Creek, Ont. (Sister Ste. Félicité); Miss Juliette Lambert, Shawinigan (Sister Imelda du St. Sacrement); Miss Marthe Leblanc, Jonquière (Sister Marie Hermeline); Miss Cécile Pellerin, Nicolet (Sister Marie Victor); Miss Emilienne Huot, Boischatel, Montmorency (Sister Marie Angèle); Miss Collette Brousseau, Quebec (Sister Colette de Jésus); Miss Suzanne Pépin, Three Rivers (Sister Louise du Rosaire.)

Those who then knelt for the final oblation at the feet of Monsignor Masse, Prefect Apostolic of Lintong, who honoured us by officiating at this ceremony, were: Sister Ste. Sabine (Laurette Goulet, Ste. Sabine); Sister Rita de Jésus (Rita Gosselin, Sherbrooke); Sister Ste. Candide (Juliette Trudeau, Verchères); Sister St. Julien (Marguerite Julien, Champigny, Portneuf); Sister Claire de l'Eucharistie (Claire Fontaine, Quebec); Sister Ste. Lucie (Madeleine Bertrand, Mont Laurier); Sister Elisabeth du Portugal (Anne Marie Breton, Quebec); Sister St. Charles de Milan (Jeanne Bouchard, St. Eloi, Témiscouata); Sister Marie Philippe (Juliette Chouinard, Montreal); Sister Mechtilde du Sacré Cœur (Jeannette Papillon, Quebec); Sister Monique d'Ostie (Mamie Martel, Quebec); Sister Madeleine du Calvaire (Annonciade Gauthier, St. Théodore d'Acton); Sister

Madeleine de la Résurrection (Jeanne d'Arc Gauthier, St. Théodore d'Ac-ton); Sister Marie Léopold (Marie Paule Blanchet, Lambton, Frontenac); Sister Cécile des Anges (Cécile Kirouac, Bristol, Conn.); Sister Ste. Croix Cécile Lemay, Ste. Croix, Lotbinière); Sister Cyrille de l'Enfant Jésus (Maria Beauregard, St. Hyacinthe).

The solemnity of this feast was enhanced by the presence of the following members of the clergy: Right Reverend Monsignor Edgar Larochelle, P. A., Superior General of the Foreign Mission Seminary; Canon J. B. O. Archambault, Seminary of St. Hyacinthe; Reverend Fathers G. A. Goyette, P. P., St. Robert; Emile Bédard, P. P., St. Emile; Philibert Goulet, P. P., Ste. Euphémie; Raoul Couture, P. P., Sherbrooke; Joseph Chagnon, S. M. M.; Paul Lachapelle; Godéric Blanchet, St. Georges; Alexandre Lacroix, St. Ferdinand; and Reverend Brother Barthélemy Couture.

During the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, we fervently thanked Our Lord for having called us to live in His intimacy, and we begged Him to constantly increase our zeal and fidelity, so that our religious life might be truly, as Reverend Father Bourbonnière, O. P., had said in his allocution for the occasion, "the complement of the sacrifice offered by Jesus to His Heavenly Father with a view to the Redemption."

A pleasant family reunion usually crowns such thrilling days of mystical espousals; but, as to-morrow is Sunday, the departures were multiplied this afternoon; and, this evening, all our visitors are gone, even our dear Sister St. Paul, who returned from China last week after 29 years of apostolate, and of whom we had but a glimpse; even our reverend and good Mother Superior General, whom we would have so much desired to keep in our midst.

We spent the evening in the Novitiate Hall with Mother St. Jean François Régis and our Mother Mistress. Our companions of yesterday, the newly-professed, seemed quite transformed by their blessed black veils and, especially, by the happiness which illuminated their countenances. Other faces, also, those of our new little sister novices, shone with a significative brightness. Our Lady of the Snows had sprinkled them with whiteness, and the little black birds had become doves.

We, too, have passed another stage, for we are constantly making rapid strides towards the end of our novitiate. How quickly this precious time passes! But, at the same time, how eager we are for our turn to make Profession!

Thursday, August 10

Our recent retreat and the touching ceremonies which closed it, were somewhat like Thabor with its ineffable delights; consequently, how could we not say with the Apostle: "Lord, let us remain with Thee; it is so good to be here!" And Jesus has heard our prayer... We have Him with us in a special manner for two days and two nights — for the Forty Hours' Devotion. In our humble chapel, which has become His royal court, everybody and everything prays and adores, even the gracious gladioli which adorn the altar, the sanctuary lamp which has multiplied its lights and,

especially, the happy Sisters who succeed one another in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

This evening, we left the guard of honour for the night to the young postulants who arrived on Tuesday; and we begged the Divine Master to bless and compensate them, in this intimate and silent interview, for the sacrifices which they have just made for love of Him. There, quite close to Our Eucharistic Lord, they will enjoy, as we have, the hundred-fold of the Divine Promises. Thanks, Oh! yes, a thousand thanks, dear Lord, for the graces that Thou dost not cease to shower upon us!

Tuesday, August 15

The glorious Feast of the Assumption of Our Heavenly Mother is usually a pleasant holiday for us; but, to-day, there was some very urgent work to be done, and in order to accomplish it, we thought it more prudent to keep our tongues quiet. It was a small sacrifice, indeed, but one which has obtained an inestimable amount of eternal merit for us — the merit of the privation of our recreation, the merit of our humble work, and the merit of those hours of silence which we wished to employ in ardently praising our Heavenly Queen. Besides, must we not accustom ourselves to what we shall have to practise later on? We shall not always be at the Novitiate; and we know quite well that it is very often impossible for our Sisters who are absorbed in the many occupations of our works, to enjoy the pleasant reunions and chats which are the charm of feast-days here. We thought of that while busily sewing; and we offered ourselves to the Divine Master for the most absorbing tasks and most laborious occupations.

This evening, before the statue of the Blessed Virgin, the postulants received their veils and blue belts and fervently consecrated themselves to Our Immaculate Mother's service. Kneeling down with them, we implored perseverance and fidelity for each of them.

Sunday, September 3

The sad rumour, that war was declared in Europe, has been officially confirmed to-day...

We are sorrow-stricken when we think of the horrors inseparable from this scourge, of all the lives that are going to be mown down, and of the souls, many perhaps, that are going to be exposed to this peril and are not ready to appear before God. And then, do we know just to what extent our own dear country is going to be involved in the matter?...

But let us not, in our trouble, forget the lesson that Our Lord gave us in the Gospel of the Mass this morning, a lesson of confident self-surrender to Divine Providence "Who knoweth what we need." "Be not solicitous," Jesus said. How good He is to have recalled these sweet, consoling words to us on this very day of affliction!

Since it is the Sunday of Divine Providence, it is the feast of our reverend and dear Mother Superior General. Consequently, all her children offer in unison ardent prayers for her intentions, and her affectionate little ones of Pont Viau hope to be able to express their loving wishes to her personally before long.



The Children's Page

DEAR CHILDREN,

Faithful to orders, Mr. Winter is with us again. Issuing from the heights of heaven, coming forth from the distant horizon, he scattered to the wind the last signs of summer, chased far away the gentle breezes and perfumes of the woods, breathed his icy breath upon the sunbeams, spread his heavy ermine mantle over our fields and hills, powdered our houses, trees and fences with snow and frost, and beat them with his roaring blasts. He froze our lakes and rivers, obliged all living beings to take shelter; and we could not hinder him. Why?... Because he came in the Name of God... and who can resist the Almighty? What can the creature do in opposition to the Creator?

One day, in the beginning of time, when He created His earth, the Lord looked at it, the part that we inhabit, especially, and thought: "Let there be winter!" And there was winter. Faithfully, ever since then, on the return of his season, Mr. Winter presents himself before God and says: "I am ready!" God blesses him and he comes...

WHY DOES HE COME?

To give the earth a rest from its hard summer labour and let it acquire, in a beneficent sleep, renewed energy to produce once more a world of marvels. What marvels, indeed, does the earth offer to us on its awakening! What freshness of life and activity! What beauties, perfumes, songs and smiles!...

Ah! how unhappy is the man who is not touched by the magnificence and suavity of nature and who does not see in it the Hand of the Almighty! His soul is not able to rise to the serene heights of such noble and delicate sentiments. Why?... Because his heart is accustomed to crawling over vile things, and his troubled conscience flees the Eye of God, which appears so vigilant in the universe.

Oh! dear Children, whose hearts are pure and belong wholly to Our Heavenly Father, fear nothing so much as to lose this blessed state! The devil, your enemy, is setting traps for you everywhere, in order to rob your soul of its treasures: purity, spiritual joy, divine life — the most precious treasures that you can possess, treasures which the fallen angel has lost forever and which he cannot bear to see in others.

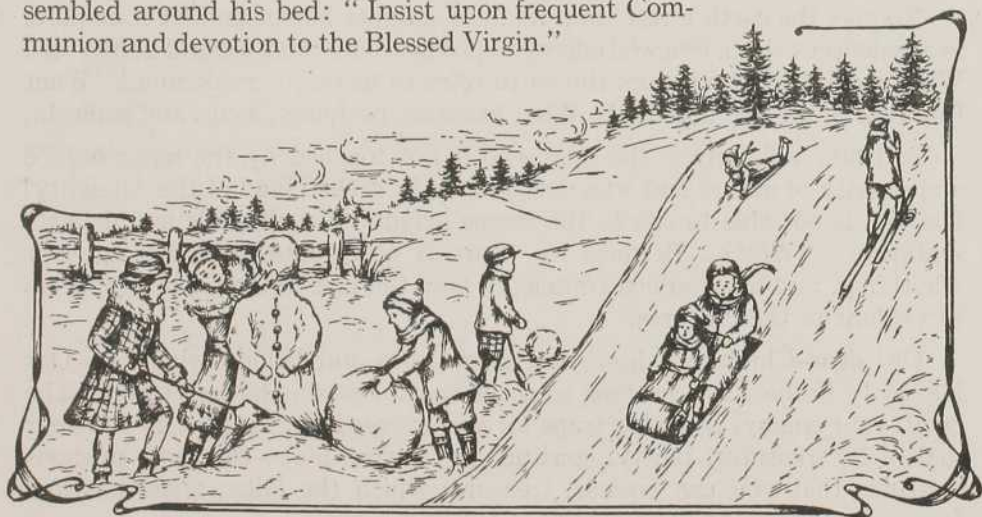
You know quite well, dear Children, that a soul in the state of grace is one of God's Temples. He dwells in it, communicates His own life to it and renders all its good actions eternally meritorious. But if sin enters the soul, what happens? Venial sin disfigures it in the eyes of its Creator, like stains on a splendid garment; it lessens sanctifying grace in it and inclines it to mortal sin, which drives out the Divine Presence, causes death to the soul and renders null even actions which are good in themselves.

Be on your guard, therefore, and flee... flee the companion that carries on evil discourses, that other one who incites you to neglect your duties; avoid that book, newspaper, or leaflet, which contains immoral and pernicious ideas; resist all temptations to evil, however slight it may be; because all that is poison which causes death to your soul. And then, pray... "Watch and pray," said Our Lord. Pray, especially, to your Heavenly Mother, who is so good and powerful; and besides, receive Holy Communion frequently...

The Blessed Eucharist and Devotion to the Blessed Virgin are the two excellent means of protecting young people's souls, that were employed and constantly recommended, during his whole life, by one of the most perfect educators and friends of children that Heaven has ever given to earth: St. John Bosco — founder of two religious communities, one for men and one for women, — who died in 1888 and was canonized by Pius XI in 1934.

This great confessor of children, this profound reader of consciences, this untiring apostle, found in these two holy practices the secret of the marvellous fruitfulness of his apostolate among the thousands of young souls that were entrusted to him.

On New Year's Eve, at the close of his laborious career, during the serious illness which was to be his last, one of his religious having asked him as usual what gifts he wished to give to the children, the Saint replied: "Devotion to the Blessed Virgin and frequent Communion". About a month later, just before expiring, he repeated for the last time to his spiritual sons assembled around his bed: "Insist upon frequent Communion and devotion to the Blessed Virgin."



Amusing sports in the pure brisk air, on the dazzling snow...



MY GIFTS

Returning to us with the wintry blasts and snow-covered roads, Mr. Winter brings back to us, also, more than one pleasure, more than one joy: amusing sports in the pure, brisk air, on the dazzling snow or the mirror-like stretches of ice; family gatherings around the fire; and the beautiful feasts of Christmas and New Year's, so dear to children, especially.

When the snow appears, the little children begin to dream of Christmas. For them, it is the feast which brings, first of all, the sparkling tree, laden with presents by Jesus and His beautiful Angels; then, the poor stable with the ass and the ox, so interesting, and the charming Infant Jesus, lying upon the cold straw, stretching out His little hands, smiling, attracting, and speaking... silently... but how lumi-

nously sometimes, especially, if these little ones have already made their First Communion.

For the older ones, those whose hearts are still pure, Christmas is the beautiful liturgical feast, with the joys of Midnight Mass, the suavity of a fervent Communion, and sweet memories...

For all are children, large or small,
Around the Christmas tree;
Then, back to childhood, one and all
Must go with childish glee.

They must — because the crib so fair
Is bathed in childhood's light;
They must — because a Babe so rare
Once came in Holy Night.

Then, there are the pleasant family reunions and the exchanging of Gifts and Good Wishes.

For the others, unfortunately, whose hearts are far from God, this blessed feast is but a day of worldly merry-making. And, when night comes, what happens? The former go to rest full of joy and contentment for having spent a good day; but the latter?... Ah! these feel the gloom and trouble of remorse, uneasiness of conscience and that void... that dreadful void which follows them everywhere and becomes more terrible in the darkness... that void which is everywhere where God is not.

When the north wind blows and the sun rises late and sets early, we know that the year is drawing to a close and a new one is about to dawn... yes, we shall soon be celebrating New Year's Day.

On this beautiful feast, which recalls to us how the Divine Child, so soon after His Birth, suffered for us and shed the first drops of His Precious Blood, in the Circumcision, receiving at the same time the Name of Jesus, all Christians should assemble at the foot of the altar to begin the year in a fitting manner, by the accomplishment of their religious duties. On this day, also, Good Wishes and Gifts, as tokens of friendship and affection, are exchanged with relatives, friends and acquaintances.

Your "Great Friend" also, dear Children, has Good Wishes and Gifts to offer on New Year's Day. Like all good Christians, he presents his most fervent Good Wishes and most beautiful Gifts, first of all, to God, his Heavenly Father; then, to his Immaculate Mother, good St. Joseph, his Guardian Angel and his favourite Saints; and, finally, to all those who are dear to him, here below, not excepting... his countless friends, the Children.

Good Wishes for you, dear Little Ones, my heart is full of them... wishes that you may grow in wisdom and grace, that you may ever remain pure and good, and that you may accomplish faithfully God's Holy Will in your regard.

And my Gifts?... Although there are many that I might offer to you, I shall give you only those that Don Bosco gave to his thousands of protégés, and which are the most precious: Frequent Communion and Devotion to the Blessed Virgin.

Make use of them as often as possible, and I assure you a Happy and Holy New Year.

Your Great Friend,

THE PRECURSOR.

Before the Crib

Oh! the Church is always dear —
Always, all throughout the year, —
Most when Christmas time is here.

For the Child whom Mary bare,
Holy Jesus, Babe most fair, —
See Him in the manger there!

Let us kneel and kiss His feet —
Holy Jesus, Babe most sweet, —
While our *Aves* we repeat.

Mary is our Mother, too, —
This is always, always true;
And she loves both me and you.

— E. Merryweather.

Thanksgivings to the Blessed Virgin

for favours obtained



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

BL. HENRY SUZO.

I made a Novena to the Blessed Virgin asking her to obtain a position for my husband. My prayers have been answered and I am most grateful to my loving Mother. Kindly join me in another Novena requesting the cure of my husband's hand. Mrs. A. H. S., **Portland, Me.** — I have made several Novenas and my health has greatly improved. Heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin for helping me so, and I pray that even better health be mine in the future. Mrs. R. D., **Millbury, Mass.** — Please have a lamp lit in honour of Our Blessed Mother for a favour received. Would you kindly make another Novena for a very special intention. Mrs. G. F., **St. Eustache sur le Lac, Que.** — Last spring I wrote to you and asked you if you would pray for the recovery of my daughter, who was very ill. She is well now, and will soon take up her position. Please pray for her, so that she can continue in her office work. Please pray for my son, that he may find work. Mrs. E. L. B., **Leominster, Mass.** — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for two favours received. Mr. M. J. B., **Pineville, N. B.** — Thanksgiving to Our Blessed Mother for a favour obtained. Please pray for another special intention. Mrs. C. McK., **Jewett City, Conn.** — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin, I am feeling better. Mrs. B., **Montreal.** — Thanksgiving to St. Ann for a favour obtained. Please pray for the recovery of my health. Mrs. N. V., **Spencer, Mass.** — Lively gratitude for favour obtained. Mrs. Arpin, **Waterbury, Mass.** — I am acquitting myself of a promise in honour of the Blessed Virgin and I thank her for the grace she has obtained for me. Mrs. E. N., **Grand'Mère.** — I thank the Immaculate Conception for her protection and I request another favour. A Subscriber, **Thetford.** — Lively gratitude to the Blessed Virgin for a position obtained. R. D., **Montreal.** — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a favour obtained. Mrs. Haggerty, **Waterbury, Mass.** — Homage of gratitude to Mary. O. B., **Montreal.** — Thanksgiving to my loving Mother for her powerful protection. M. R., **Montreal.** — I am pleased to acquit myself of a promise in honour of Our Heavenly Mother for a favour I have received from her. Mrs. E. L., **St. Alban.** — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for the success of a serious operation. Mrs. O. M., **Cote des Neiges.** — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for diploma obtained with success. Miss G. Lebel. — Thanksgiving to Mary for a benefit received. A Subscriber, **Montreal.** — Thanks to the Loving Virgin for a favour obtained. I request two other special favours. Miss G. L., **Lewiston, Me.** — I have obtained great relief after a Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes. I thank Our Blessed Mother and solicit a complete cure. Mrs. M. L., **St. Eugene de Guigues.** — Lively gratitude to the Blessed Virgin, who has helped my son to find work. Mrs. H. B., **Montreal.** — I gladly acquit myself of a promise made in honour of the Immaculate Virgin. Miss C. L. — Our Heavenly Mother has protected us again during the last month. A thousand thanks. Mrs. A. S., **Charny.** — The Blessed Virgin has helped me to return to the path of duty. I thank her from the bottom of my heart, and solicit her protection to persevere in this path. Anonymous, **Montreal.** — Thanksgiving for favours obtained. Mrs. A. P., **Woonsocket, R. I.** — Homage of gratitude for a favour obtained for my daughter. Mrs. F. F. — Heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin for improvement in health. A. L. — My little girl was cured in wearing the miraculous medal. A thousand thanks! Mrs. R. B., **Viauville.** — Lively gratitude for my brother's cure. Miss M. L. B., **Quebec.** — I am coming to thank the Blessed Virgin for a grace she has obtained for me. D. L., **Newton Falls, Ont.** — Thanks to the Blessed Virgin, I have obtained happy results. I beg Our Heavenly Mother to obtain health for me. Mrs. E. L., **Sabattus, Me.** — Thanksgiving to Our Lord and His Blessed Mother for protection at work. Mrs. L. A. L., **Northbridge, Mass.** — My husband is working. I am acquitting myself of a promise in thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. A. L., **New Bedford, Mass.** — Thanks to Our Heavenly Mother, my daughter has obtained her diploma. Mrs. O. B., **Lac au Saumon.** — Thanks to the Blessed Virgin's maternal protection, my nephew has found work. Miss O. P., **Montreal.** — I am coming to acquit myself of a promise in honour of the Blessed Virgin. Miss M. A. L., **Central Falls.** — Thanksgiving to the Immaculate Virgin for the good position she has obtained for me. Miss A. L., **Chicopee Falls, Mass.** — I obtained the grace I was asking, and I beg you to help me to thank Our Heavenly Mother. Mrs. E. C., **Sorel.** — I thank the Blessed Virgin who has obtained a change in my husband's conduct, and I beg her to help him to persevere in the right path. Anonymous, **Ville Emard.** — Kindly help me to thank the Blessed Virgin, who has granted

my petition. Mrs. S. G., **St. Hyacinthe**. — Sincere thanks for favour obtained and request for other graces. Mrs. J. R., **Cote St. Paul**. — O Mary, my dear Mother, I am coming to thank you for your powerful protection and I beg of you the cure of my husband, health for my son and myself. Mrs. E. F., **Notre Dame de Grace**. — I am pleased to tell you that I have obtained my cure. My most heartfelt thanks to the Immaculate Virgin. Mrs. P. Perron, **North Adams, Mass.** — Lively gratitude for benefit received, I solicit a prayer for a sick person. Mrs. A. T., **Pawtucket, R. I.** — Homage of gratitude to the Blessed Virgin for a favour she has obtained for me. I request other graces. Mrs. M. M., **Fort Kent, Me.** Sincere thanks for favour received. Mrs. J. B., **Montreal**. — Kindly help me to thank the Blessed Virgin for a grace obtained through her intercession. Mrs. C. Nolin. — Lively gratitude to our Lady of Providence for favours received. A. C., **Montreal**. — Thanksgiving to St. Anthony for three positions obtained after promising to publish my gratitude. Mrs. L. R., **Montreal**. — I am coming to thank good St. Ann and the Blessed Virgin for favours received through their intercession. Miss M. P. L., **Guenette**. — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin, St. Ann and St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a temporal favour received after promising to publish. Mrs. J. A. D., **Montreal**.

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."

Will you kindly pray for my brother, who does not practise his Religion, and for his wife and little boy. Please pray for my other brother also, that he may obtain employment. Miss K. M., **Montreal**. — Please pray that my husband may keep the position he is now holding. Mrs. L. D., **North Malden, Ont.** — We are poor and in great trouble, beg God to have pity on us. Please pray for me that I may obtain the grace of a happy death. Mrs. M. A. L., **Matapedia**. — Please pray for a special intention. Mrs. V. E., McN. **Caribou, Me.** — Please pray for two of my brothers and sisters who are sick with diabetes. One especially is very sick now with gangrene and is not expected to live. Please pray to the Blessed Virgin that she may give him and the others the grace of a happy death. Mrs. N. S., **South Berwick, Me.** — Please burn a votive light at Mary's shrine that my son may obtain work. Kindly offer prayers for our intentions. Mrs. A. I. F., **Worcester, Mass.** — Would you kindly pray for my baby girl who has been sick ever since birth. Mrs. B., **Fort Kent, Me.** — Once more I write asking you to continue praying for me as I am quite sure your prayers have helped me a great deal. Miss E. MacM., **North Adams, Mass.** — Will you pray for my son who is in trouble and has a trial in court, very soon. Mrs. A. B., **Verdun**. — My niece has a boy four years old who has asthmatic spasms. Please pray to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal that he may be cured. Mrs. F. H., **Millbury, Mass.** — I strained my shoulder two months ago and I cannot raise my arm the way I want to, for it is still very painful, so please pray to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal that I may be cured. Please pray for my son also, that he may keep his position. Mrs. A. L., **Millbury, Mass.** — Will you please have a Novena offered up for my husband who is suffering with stomach and head trouble, which is making him very despondent. Mrs. E. M., **Montreal**. — Would you please make a Novena that my father and brother may obtain special favours and that I may obtain a position in the near future. Miss M. B., **Sutton, Que.** — Would you please make a Novena for my boys that they may obtain good, steady employments. Mrs. M. McC., **Chute Rouge, Que.** — Kindly make a Novena for me that I may know the Will of God and have the strength to accomplish it. Please pray also for the sale of a farm and other graces. Miss D. T., **Woonsocket, R. I.** — I solicit Heavenly help as I have a serious decision to make. Mrs. A. B. — Please pray for a young man who wishes to assist his mother in need, that he may obtain a position. A Subscriber. — A young girl who wishes to become a religious would like to be remembered

in your prayers. Anonymous. — Would you kindly pray for the mother of twelve children, who has had a stroke of paralysis. Mrs. L. F., Swanton, Vt. — A Subscriber solicits prayers in order to obtain health and work. Mrs. A. C., Grand'Mère. — Please pray for the following intentions: A good tenant; an undecided orphan; a sick father of a family, two sister-nurses. Mrs. J. E. B. — Kindly pray for two persons that they may recover their health. A Subscriber, Grand'Mère. — I beg of the Blessed Virgin the conversion of a soul. A Subscriber. — I implore the help of the Blessed Virgin. Anonymous. — I should like you to pray for my son that he may put in a good year's study and that he may become less violent. Mrs. R. C. D., Montreal. — Please pray for a vocation and a special intention. Miss D. D., Montreal. — Kindly remember the following intentions in your prayers: the conversion of a great sinner; that a question of honour may be settled; courage to bear my crosses. Mrs. J. F. D. — I request a position of the Blessed Virgin. Mr. A. Patry, Longueuil. — A cure is requested. Mrs. P. L., St. Marcellin. — Will you please pray for me that an amount of money which is due to me may be paid. Anonymous. Kindly say a prayer for me. — Will you please pray to the Blessed Virgin that the mother of fourteen children may be cured. Mrs. E. A., Montreal Sud. — I should like you to pray to Mary, Help of the afflicted, for me. Mrs. D., St. Lambert Annex. — My nephew is seriously ill, will you please pray for his recovery. Miss M. M. L., Montreal. — I am requesting a favour of the Blessed Virgin. Kindly help me to pray. L. M., Montreal. — Prayers are requested for the following intentions: vocations, conversions, cures, positions, special intentions. — A young girl requests prayers in order to obtain a position. Chicopee Falls, Mass. — Will you kindly pray that I may be successful in my studies. Mr. J. B., Montreal.



NECROLOGY

Reverend Sister Jeanne de Chantal, Ursuline, Three Rivers; Reverend Sister Marie de Liguori, Sisters of Charity of St. Louis, St. Philemon de Bellechasse; Mr. Honorius Parizeau, Ile Bigras; Mrs. Ovide De Serres, St. Guillaume d'Upton, grandmother of our Sisters Marie Bernard, Mechilde du St. Sacrement and Marie Edouard; Mr. John Albert Holland, Notre Dame de Grace; Mr. Narcisse Richard, Indian Orchard, Mass.; Mr. James Michael O'Dea, Indian Orchard, Mass.; Mr. Samuel F. Brown, Indian Orchard, Mass.; Mrs. Anna Hines, Chicopee Falls, Mass.; Mrs. Cath. Leary, Chicopee Falls, Mass.; Mr. T. Miller, Fitchburg, Mass.; Mr. Patrick J. Hart, Fitchburg, Mass.; Miss Mary McGrath, Fitchburg, Mass.; Mrs. Frank Davidson, Tuxedo Park, N. Y.; Mr. C. Leroux, Granby; Miss Joan Francavilla, Fitchburg, Mass.; Mr. and Mrs. Calixte Poirier, Fitchburg, Mass.; Mr. Leo Poirier, Fitchburg, Mass.; Mrs. Mathilda Beausoleil, Fitchburg, Mass.; Mr. Andrew Donlon, Fitchburg, Mass.; Mr. George Smith, New Haven, Conn.; Mr. and Mrs. T. Kelleher, Gilbertville, Mass.; Mrs. Annie Walsh, Fall River, Mass.; Mr. Samuel Robidoux, Keene, N. H.; Mr. Charles O'Connor, Worcester, Mass.; Mrs. Fanny Rivers, Worcester, Mass.; Mrs. Margaret King, Worcester, Mass.; Mr. J. Adelard Buron, Worcester, Mass.; Mr. Alexander Boyson, Beverly, Mass.; Mrs. Charles Smith, Beverly, Mass.; Mrs. D. Cook, Salem, Mass.; Mr. Joseph Lapierre, Haverhill, Mass.; Mr. Dufour, Haverhill, Mass.; Mrs. J. W. Long, Collinsville, Mass.; Mr. John J. Hiland, Collinsville, Mass.; Mrs. Mary Ellsworth, Roxbury, Mass.; Mr. James Ellsworth, Roxbury, Mass.; Mr. Patrick Byrne, Arlington, Mass.; Mrs. Rose Byrne, Arlington, Mass.; Mr. Hendrick Peples, Holland.

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MONTREAL, QUE.

IN CHINA

CANTON, Holy Childhood Home, P. O. Box 93, (Founded in 1909).

School for catechists. Catechumenate. School for Christian and pagan pupils. Orphanage. Foundling-Home. Workrooms.

SHEK LUNG, near Canton, (Founded in 1913). Lazaretto.

HONG KONG, 24 Austin Road, Kowloon, (Founded in 1927). Procure and School.

TSUNGMING, Catholic Mission, Paochen, Kiangsu, (Founded in 1928).

Orphanage. Foundling-Home. School. Native Novitiate " St. Teresa of the Child Jesus ".

SUCHOW, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1934).

Training of native virgin-catechists. Dispensary.

IN MANCHUKUO, VIA JAPAN

LEAOYUANSIEN, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1927). Dispensary.

PAMIENCHENG, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1929).

Dispensary. Orphanage. School.

FAKOU, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1930). Dispensary. School

TAONAN, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1931). Dispensary. School.

SZEPINGKAI, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1931).

Dispensary. Native Novitiate " Our Lady of the Rosary ". Boarding-School.

TUNGLEAO, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1932). Dispensary. School.

PAITCHENG TZE, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1933). Dispensary

KOUNGTCHOULING, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1933). Dispensary.

IN JAPAN

KORIYAMA, 96 Toramaru, Koriyama Shi, Fukushima Ken, (Founded in 1930).

Kindergarten.

WAKAMATSU, 480 sakae machi, Hon 3 no cho No 1, Aizu Wakamatsu, (Founded in 1933).

Kindergarten.

IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

MANILA, 286 Blumentritt St., (Founded in 1921).

Chinese General Hospital. Training School for Nurses. Hostel " St. Teresa of the Child Jesus ". School for Chinese.

IN ITALY

ROME, 18 Via Acquedotto Paolo, Monte Mario, (Founded in 1925).

Procure for the Missions.

Benefactors of the Society

of the

Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

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

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

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

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

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

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

Privileges Granted to Benefactors

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

Besides, Benefactors are entitled to the following spiritual advantages:

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

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

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

4. — For the same intentions, the members of the Community make, every day, the Guard of Honour to Mary, which consists in the continual recitation of the Rosary before the altar of the Blessed Virgin. The Guard of Honour is also made at the Shek Lung Lazaretto. There, the poor leper women, in successive groups of fifteen, continue the Rosary for the intentions of the Society's Benefactors.

5. — A Requiem High Mass is sung every year for deceased Benefactors.

6. — A share in the merits of the Way of the Cross, made daily by the Sisters, is also granted to deceased Benefactors.

7. — Two Masses are 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 Benefactors, living and deceased.