

THE PRECURSOR



Vol. XII, 18th Year

MONTREAL, March-April, 1940

No. 8



Works of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

IN CANADA

MOTHER HOUSE, 2900 St. Catherine Road, Cote des Neiges, Montreal, Que.,
(Founded in 1902).

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.

NOVITIATE, Pont Viau (near Montreal), Laval Co.

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The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception also visit Chinese patients in Catholic or Protestant hospitals, when requested to do so.

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

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

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Closed Retreats for ladies and girls. Hostel for young ladies. Sewing-circles. School. Kindergarten.

CHICOUTIMI, Que., 61 Jacques Cartier St., (Founded in 1930).

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Closed Retreats for ladies and girls. Sewing-circles. Hostel for young ladies.

GRANBY, Que., 279 Main St., (Founded in 1931).

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STE. MARIE, Beauce Co., (Founded in 1932). Apostolic School.

RIMOUSKI, Que., St. Jean Baptiste St., (Founded in 1932).

Closed Retreats for ladies and girls. Kindergarten.

ST. JOHNS, Que., 430 Champlain St., (Founded in 1935).

Closed Retreats for ladies and girls. Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood.

(Continued on page 3 of the cover.)

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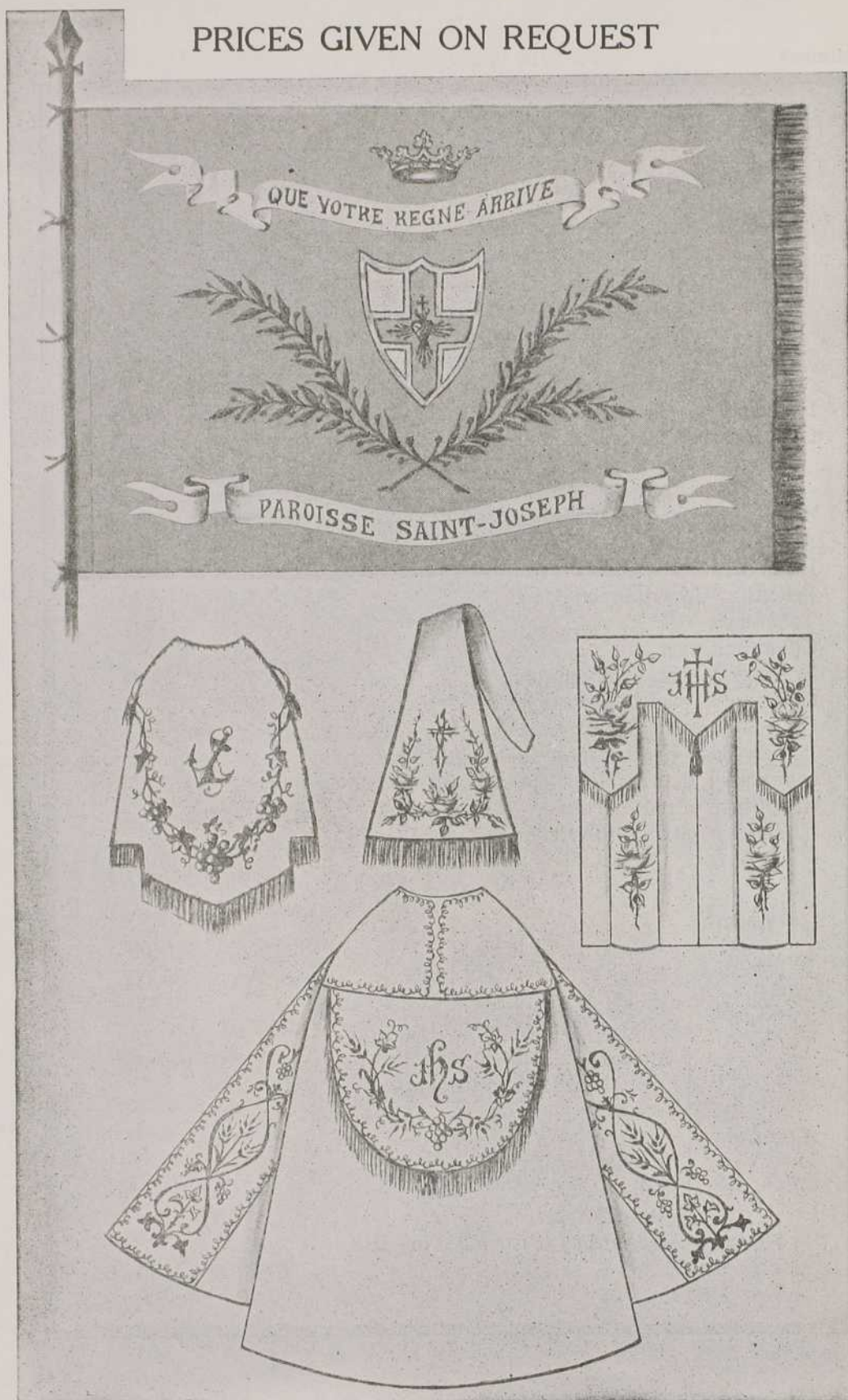
Length		Length	
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9 "	7.00	22 "	35.00
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O IMMACULATE MOTHER, PROTECT OUR BENEFACTORS

THE PRECURSOR

Published by the
Missionary Sisters
of the Immaculate Conception

with the approbation of the Archbishop of Montreal

Vol. XII, 18th Year

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Saint Joseph

*Vicar of God, were you on earth,
To rule the humble cave,
Wherein the Son of God had birth,
A sinful world to save.*

*Vicar of God to rule the house
In blessed Nazareth ;
Father of Christ and Mary's Spouse
In life, yea after death.*

*Vicar of God, Christ's Vicars here
Still hail your sceptre mild ;
Keep them, as once you kept from fear
Dear Mary and her Child!*

— H. Blunt.

St. Joseph's Greatness

THE Angels in Heaven extol and adore the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. It is the name of the Blessed Trinity, the mystery of Paradise. The children of the Church on earth extol the names of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, which recall to them the mystery of the Incarnation, the joy and hope of the world. For thirty years, this blessed mystery was entrusted to Jesus, Mary and Joseph; and, when it was revealed to the earth, these three names remained like three brilliant stars in the firmament of the Church, indicating it to the faithful.

Who is this Joseph, who had the supreme honour of constituting, with Jesus and Mary, an earthly trinity? What entitled him to such a grace? Two words suffice to say it: he was the Spouse of Mary and the Foster-Father of Jesus. That was his whole vocation; and, because he fulfilled it perfectly, Christians of all ages will never cease to associate his name with those of Our Saviour and His Mother.

Joseph belonged to the family of David; he descended directly from him. For a long time, already, his ancestors had been reduced to poverty: he worked for his living; he was a carpenter. But that which deprived him of earthly dignities won for him God's preference. Son of David, he inherited the promises made to Israel; poor, he bore a particular resemblance to the Messiah. This royal workman was quite prepared to partake of the mystery of Him Who came to annihilate Himself, by taking the form of a slave. Like Jesus, he was, at one and the same time, of illustrious extraction and very humble condition.

God had favoured him with many blessings. From early childhood, he had been prepared for the august ministry that he was to exercise. On leaving the Temple, the Blessed Virgin, on account of her virtue, was worthy of becoming the Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The grace received by St. Joseph, although very much inferior to Mary's, was similar to it and, so to say, of the same category. Joseph, too, had been perfectly faithful; he had become very holy. The day that Jesus and Mary were entrusted to him, he was worthy of becoming the Spouse of the Virgin, the Foster-Father of Jesus.

If such had not been the case, God would not have placed in his hands the Blessed Virgin, who was the most perfect creature on earth. Joseph could not have understood this holy Virgin's thoughts, nor have penetrated her purpose, approved of it and made of it the ideal and model of his life. From the moment that he was presented to Mary as her future spouse, he was capable of receiving the secret that she had to confide to him. He recognized, in the vow of perpetual virginity that she had made, a design of God which would affect himself and require him to imitate the virtue of her who was commending herself into his hands. In order to attain such a sublime resolution and keep to it, his faith had to be very strong; his love for God, perfect; his purity, integral; his habits, chaste and mortified. The delicateness of his sentiments, his discretion, his abnegation, his humility, everything in him, had to be equal to the sacrifice that God imposed upon him.

Nevertheless, God required still more of him. Together with Mary, the Immaculate Virgin, Jesus, the Word made flesh, was to be entrusted to him.

In becoming man, the Son of God subjected Himself to all the necessities of our nature. On the day of His birth, He needed to find, beside His crib, His mother to clothe and feed Him; a father to shelter, protect and provide for Him. Doubtless, the Heavenly Father was, and remained, His only true Father; but, regarding the subsequent and indispensable care required by every child coming into this world, the Heavenly Father had to rely upon another, since He was no longer to be there, in a visible manner at least, to protect His Son, God had to choose, among men, the one who could best replace Him.

Imagine a king who has but one heir — the hope of the Kingdom — and who is obliged to go far away on an expedition. To whom is he going to confide his son? He seeks among all the great lords of his court a man whose merit, wisdom and valour, whose love for his king and his country, render him worthy of such a trust. He, at last, finds one, names him governor of the young prince whom he commits to his care, and leaves.

God did likewise with Joseph. He looked upon the earth, examined the merit of every man, and found none more capable of watching over His Son than the holy Patriarch. He, therefore, entrusted Him to him and, with Him, the secret of His birth. Later on, only, was this secret to be revealed to the world. Joseph was to keep it; and, in order to be better able to do so, he was to adopt Jesus as do men who have no children. In that way, public curiosity would be satisfied, and Jesus would be looked upon as an ordinary man, having His father and mother on earth. The veils of marriage would protect God's secret until the time would come for it to be revealed.

What a mission for Joseph! What an honour! What a charge! What a responsibility! He would receive in his house the Son of God made man! He would be a father and protector to Him; he would be His earthly provider, His visible angel, the representative of the Heavenly Father! He would call Jesus his son; he would seem to men to be His true father. Speaking of Jesus, the people of Nazareth would say: "Is He not a workman, living among us? Is He not the son of Joseph?" In the light of faith, Joseph's dignity has no equal; no other man has ever lived so close to God.

How can we not honour him whom God has esteemed the most virtuous of men? How can we not have confidence in him in whom God has placed all His trust? We can apply to St. Joseph the words that Jesus addressed to Simon Peter: "Who thinkest thou is the faithful and wise steward, whom his lord setteth over his family, to give them their measure of wheat in due season? Blessed is that servant whom, when his lord shall come, he shall find so doing. Verily I say to you, he will set him over all that he possesseth." (*St. Luke, XII, 41.*)

Jesus had seen Joseph administering His possessions for thirty years with unparalleled fidelity and prudence. Now, in order to fulfil His promise, He had only to give him the eternal possession of the treasures that He had entrusted to him. But how could He do so, since these treasures were no other than Jesus Himself and His Mother? He would give Joseph an

unlimited power of intercession. He would make Himself and Mary, His Mother, tributary, so to say, to Joseph; the Son and His Mother would grant him all that he would request.

In Heaven, Joseph has found Jesus and Mary in the supreme glory: Jesus at the right hand of the Father; Mary constituted Queen of angels and of men. It is very much below them that he is placed; but, if he is inferior to them with regard to the rank that he holds, he possesses, nevertheless, great power of intercession with them and has the right to make requests of them. Jesus and Mary, not less humble in Heaven than They were while on earth, eagerly grant all his prayers, so happy are They to manifest to him their gratitude and love.

Over whom does St. Joseph exercise his protecting power? Certainly, over those, first of all, who have special devotion to him and who invoke him most fervently. Prayer establishes between the saints in Heaven and the faithful on earth relations which are a joy to them both. But Joseph's power is too great to be limited to a few privileged souls, only; the entire Church must profit by it. Joseph is the protector of the whole Church; he is the universal patron of the family of Christ; he shares this title with the Blessed Virgin, his Spouse.

In constituting him guardian of Jesus and Mary, God gave him, at the same time, the patronage of all Christians, brothers of Jesus, children of Mary.

It is the belief of the Church, as Pope Leo XIII so clearly declared in his Encyclical Letter *Quam pluries*, the most splendid ecclesiastical monument, perhaps, that has been erected to the glory of our holy Patriarch (August 15, 1889).

— REV. FATHER PERDREAU.

Prayer to St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church

O glorious St. Joseph, chosen by God to be the reputed Father of Jesus, the most pure Spouse of Mary ever virgin, and the Head of the Holy Family, and then elected by the Vicar of Christ to be the Heavenly Patron and Protector of the Church founded by Jesus Christ; with the greatest confidence I implore at this time thy powerful aid for the entire Church militant. Protect in a special manner with thy truly paternal love the Supreme Pontiff and all the bishops and priests united to the See of St. Peter. Defend all those who labour for souls in the midst of the afflictions and tribulations of this life, and obtain the willing submission of every nation throughout the world to the Church, the necessary means of salvation for all.

O dearest St. Joseph, be pleased to accept the consecration which I make to thee of myself. I dedicate myself entirely to thee that thou mayest ever be my father, my protector, and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me great purity of heart and a fervent love of the interior life. Grant that after thy example all my actions may be directed to the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and with thee. Finally, pray for me that I may be able to share in the peace and joy of thy most holy death. Amen.

(300 days, once a day. — Leo XIII, July 18, 1885.)



St. Patrick's Day

Sweet Jewel of the western sea!

*Where e'er thy sons and daughters roam,
Their hearts shall turn in memory,
To dreams of beauty, and of home.*

*To-day the sounding harps of gold,
O'er Erin's hills and valleys fair,
Shall hymn the tale so often told,
Of faithfulness so passing rare.*

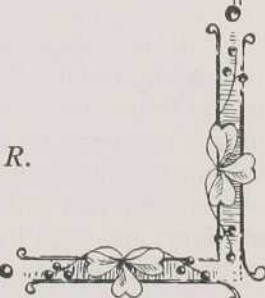

*St. Patrick! Name forever blest!
Whose glory time may not destroy ;
Thy children's hearts, atune to rest
In thine, can brook no base alloy.*

*Blow soft! ye winds! from Erin's Isle ;
And bring to us across the deep
Some portion of the gifts that smile,
Where great St. Patrick loves to sleep.*

*Then blow! ye winds! to listening ears,
The festal cadence of the strain ;
Bear on thy breath the song that cheers,
To hearts that have not loved in vain.*

*Ring! holy bells! on Erin's shore,
And let your music steal away ;
That joy and peace forever more,
May be your message for to-day.*

— Bro. Reginald, C. SS. R.



Homage and Wishes

The Precursor is pleased to offer its respectful homage and best wishes to:

His Excellency Most Reverend Gabriel Breynat, O. M. I., Vicar Apostolic of Mackenzie, appointed Titular Archbishop of Carella;

His Excellency Most Reverend Alexander Vachon, recently consecrated Titular Archbishop of Achrida and Coadjutor Archbishop of Ottawa.

His Excellency Most Reverend Arthur Douville, consecrated Titular Bishop of Vita and Auxiliary of St. Hyacinthe;

His Excellency Most Reverend Henry Belleau, O. M. I., named Vicar Apostolic of James Bay.



Mission Intention

"FOR WORKS OF CHARITY IN MISSION LANDS"

In the first of his notable epistles to the Corinthians, St. Paul stated, "If I should have all faith, so that I could remove mountains and have not charity, I am nothing". Appreciating this fact, it is not difficult therefore to understand the desire of Holy Mother the Church for the prayers in behalf of "works of charity in mission lands", where, as a recent *Fides* release assures us, "the glorious tradition of charity is best sustained. To the priest and sister toiling for Christ in foreign lands even natural antipathies of race and color are non-existent."

It must be remembered that to the mind of the average pagan, charity, as it is understood by the missionaries, is an unknown virtue. Besides, stark, everpresent poverty, the daily companion of millions in mission lands, leaves little room for interest in the needs of one's less fortunate brethren. Is it strange therefore that Christianity, and particularly Catholicism, offers such a revolutionary doctrine and such assured hope that the charity, inspired by Christ Himself will find tangible expression in the works of the missionaries?

Today it remains for the quiet spoken nun, the zealous priest, to exemplify the charity of the Master in the missions. Through the narrow and twisted streets of the Orient, across the sun-baked plains of Africa, along the dusty roads of India, down the jungle tracks of Oceania, they travel in season and out of season to find, to help, to encourage those sheep, millions in number, who are outside the Fold of the Redeemer. No soul is too depraved to feel the gentle hand of the missionary lifting him to the heights of Christian virtue through the ministrations of charity. No unwanted infant is too feeble or helpless to awaken the love and interest of the 20th century apostles who, when physical care proves inadequate, open the gateway to eternity by the saving waters of Baptism. The aged, the infirm, the insane, the lepers are all recipients of the real charity of Catholic missionaries.

Charity is the spark which fires the heart of every man and woman who volunteers for the mission apostolate; charity becomes the constant companion of everyone who labors in the missions; charity must develop as the helping hand which sustains the work and the workmen in spreading the Kingdom of Christ. For these reasons we understand the desire of the Holy See for the prayers of the faithful in behalf of the works of charity in the missions. Remember, "Charity is patient, is kind, is not ambitious; beareth all things, endureth all things", but the works of charity need the prayerful intercession and practical interest of the faithful if they are to continue and increase.

— Right Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. McDonald.



The good Bishop of Chicoutimi

His Excellency Most Reverend C. Lamarche

whom the Lord has just called to Himself

Upon the lamented deceased's grave, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception place, with the homage of their profound veneration, the expression of their filial gratitude and their fervent prayers. They will be ever mindful of his kindness to their humble Institute and the favour which he granted them in calling them into his diocese.

The First Encyclical Letter

of His Holiness Pope Pius XII

"Summi Pontificatus"

*To Our Venerable Brethren, the Patriarchs, Primates, Archbishops, Bishops
and other Ordinaries in peace and communion with the Apostolic See:*

(Continued)

Heartfelt Gratitude



OR can We pass over in silence the profound impression of heartfelt gratitude made on Us by the good wishes of those who, though not belonging to the visible body of the Catholic Church, have given noble and sincere expression to their appreciation of all that unites them to Us in love for the Person of Christ or in belief in God. We wish to express Our gratitude to them all. We entrust them one and all to the protection and to the guidance of the Lord and We assure them solemnly that one thought only fills Our mind; to imitate the example of the Good Shepherd in order to bring true happiness to all men: "that they may have life, and may have it more abundantly" (St. John 10, 10).

But We must, in obedience to an inner prompting, make special mention of Our gratitude for the tokens of reverent homage which we have had from the Sovereigns, heads of States and Governments of those nations with which the Holy See is in friendly relations. Our heart is joyous especially at the thought that We can, in this first Encyclical directed to the whole Christian people scattered over the world, rank among such friendly powers Our dear Italy, fruitful garden of the Faith, which was planted by the Princes of the Apostles. For, as a result of the Lateran Pacts, her representative occupies a place of honor among those officially accredited to the Apostolic See. "The Peace of Christ restored to Italy," like a new dawn of brotherly union in religious and in civil intercourse, had its beginning in these Pacts. We pray God that, in the serene atmosphere of that peace, He may pervade, revivify, strengthen and fortify the hearts of the Italian people, so close to Us, in the midst of whom We live, with whom We share the very air We breathe. We hope and trust that that people, so dear to Our predecessors and to Us, may be faithful to its glorious Catholic tradition, and experience through the Divine Protection ever more that truth of the Psalmist: "Happy is that people Whose God is the Lord" (Psalms, 143,15).

This happy new juridical and spiritual position which that achievement, destined to make an indelible mark in history, has secured and sealed for Italy and for the whole world, never appeared to Us so impressive in its unifying effects as when, from the lofty loggia of the Vatican Basilica, We opened and raised Our arms and Our hand for the first time in blessing over Rome — Rome, the Seat of the Papacy and Our own dear birthplace — over Italy reconciled with the Church, and over the peoples of the entire world.

With Paternal Charity

As Vicar of Him Who in a decisive hour pronounced before the highest earthly authority of that day, the great words: "For this was I born, and for this came I into the world; that I should give testimony of the truth. Every one that is of the truth, heareth my voice." (St. John, 18, 37), We feel We owe no greater debt to Our office and to Our time than to testify to the truth with Apostolic firmness: "to give testimony to the truth." This duty necessarily entails the exposition and confutation of errors and human faults, for these must be made known before it is possible to tend and to heal them. "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (St. John 8, 32). In the fulfillment of this, Our duty, we shall not let Ourselves be influenced by earthly considerations nor be held back by mistrust or opposition, by rebuffs or lack of appreciation of Our words, nor yet by fear of misconceptions and misinterpretations. We shall fulfill Our duty, animated ever with that paternal charity which, while it suffers from the evils which afflict Our children, at the same time points out to them the remedy; We shall strive to imitate the Divine Model of shepherds, Jesus, the good Shepherd, Who is light as well as love: "Doing the truth in charity" (Ephesians 4, 15).

At the head of the road which leads to the spiritual and moral bankruptcy of the present day stand the nefarious efforts of not a few to dethrone Christ; the abandonment of the law of truth which He proclaimed and of the law of love which is the life breath of His Kingdom.

In the recognition of the royal prerogatives of Christ and in the return of individuals and of society to the law of His truth and of His love lies the only way to salvation.

Appeal to Almighty

Venerable Brethren, as We write these lines the terrible news comes to Us that the dread tempest of war is already raging despite all Our efforts to avert it. When We think of the wave of suffering that has come on countless people who, but yesterday, enjoyed in the environment of their homes some little degree of well-being, We are tempted to lay down Our pen. Our paternal heart is torn by anguish as We look ahead to all that will yet come forth from the baneful seed of violence for which the sword today ploughs the blood-drenched furrow. But precisely because of this apocalyptic foresight of disaster, imminent and remote, We feel We have a duty to raise with still greater insistence the eyes and hearts of those in whom there yet remains good will to the One from Whom alone comes the salvation of the world — to One Whose almighty and merciful Hand can alone calm this tempest — to the One Whose truth and Whose love can enlighten the intellects and inflame the hearts of so great a section of mankind plunged in error, selfishness, strife and struggle, so as to give it a new orientation in the spirit of the Kingship of Christ.

Perhaps — God grant it — one may hope that this hour of direst need may bring a change of outlook and sentiment to those many who, till now,

have walked with blind faith along the path of popular errors unconscious of the treacherous and insecure ground on which they trod. Perhaps the many who have not grasped the importance of the educational and pastoral mission of the Church will now understand better her warnings, scouted in the false security of the past. No defense of Christianity could be more effective than the present straits. From the immense vortex of error and anti-Christian movements there has come forth a crop of such poignant disasters as to constitute a condemnation surpassing in its conclusiveness any merely theoretical refutation.

Hours of painful disillusionment are often hours of grace — “a passage of the Lord” (cf. Exodus 12, 11), when doors which in other circumstances would have remained shut open at Our Saviour’s words: “Behold, I stand at the gate and knock” (Apocalypse 3, 20). God knows that Our heart goes out in affectionate sympathy and spiritual joy to those who, as a result of such painful trials, feel within them an effective and salutary thirst for the truth, justice and peace of Christ. But for those also for whom as yet the hour of light from on high has not come, Our heart knows only love. Our lips move only in prayer to the Father of Light that He may cause to shine in their hearts, indifferent as yet or hostile to Christ, a ray of that Light which once transformed Saul into Paul; of that Light which has shown its mysterious power strongest in the times of greatest difficulty for the Church.

(To be continued)

Words of Pope Pius XII

Christ reigns, surrounded by the glory of His elect, and the ignoble reed they placed between His hands in token of disrespect, has been transformed into a rod of iron, with which He destroys rebel empires like clay vases. That Head, which was pierced with thorns, is now circumfused with the glory of the principdom He exercises over all things created, visible and invisible. Each of His venerated wounds, pledges of our salvation, now shines like the sun. His Heart, which was pierced by a cruel lance is now opened to us as a sanctuary of mercy. The Cross, the cause of all graces and source of every blessing, is raised in veneration in every part of the world.

Christ cannot but reign. He reigns when He is near, with the plenitude of His benefits. He reigns with the inevitable severity of His judgment when He is far on account of sin. Happy the man who obeys the laws of Christ and conforms to His commands and to the inspirations of His grace in all that He thinks and does. The soul of such a man, humble in prosperity and tranquil in misfortune, will be irradiated by the pure light of Faith, and rejoiced by a calm joy. His will, warmed by charity towards God and towards his neighbor, launches itself towards glorious works, and the very limbs of his body, having become instruments of holy actions, are subject to and obey the soul.

Blessing of a Retreat House

dedicated to Our Lady of the Holy Ghost

THE OLD HOUSE



It was on the flank of Mount Royal, in the Outremont section, at 314 St. Catherine Road; it was an old house well known to the birds of the mountain...

It had been erected in a remote period of the history of Outremont City, which appears to-day so gay and charming, with its spacious streets, pretty parks and numerous cottages, but which was then composed of a few scanty habitations and many vacant lots, full of promise.

It had a fine appearance, the old house, with its graceful form and its solid brick walls supported by a thick stone foundation firmly seated on the rock. It was a comfortable dwelling, modest and distinguished. Close by, a charming little brook, with its sparkling waters issuing from the mysterious depths of the mountain, descended in cascades over a bed of rock. Singing, babbling and, sometimes, roaring furiously, this merry brooklet was the soul of the surrounding solitude. During the summer months, when the earth was parched by the sun, its soft, sweet murmur was like the warbling of a bird; but, with the sudden burst of a storm, it flowed with greater velocity and turbulence. In the spring time, its waters, swelled with the melting snow and ice, resounded like those of a river at high flood and rushed down tumultuously, foaming at every fall. Later on, a pious grotto of Lourdes was erected on a little knoll on its bank, giving it a resemblance to the Gave, that humble stream of the Pyrenees made forever famous by a young shepherdess, Bernadette Soubirous; but let us not anticipate...

The old house, in its early days, sheltered persons apparently well-off, who were, so it seemed, to spend many happy years therein; but, one day, owing to one of these reverses that occur sometimes in the lives of men, it was announced that the property was to be sold by the sheriff — a common occurrence in the eyes of the passers-by, but which appeared extraordinary to a humble person, Mary Delia Tétreault⁽¹⁾, who recognized in this event the designs of God upon the place. She had already contemplated this site, high, vast and solitary, the charming brooklet with its little vine-covered bridge, and the spacious dwelling. She had desired it... and the opportunity of purchasing it, was it not a favour from Heaven?...

The old house was sold at a low price and became the property of this humble Superior of a nascent Institute. On December 10, 1906, she took possession of it with the little Community which she had founded, on June 3, 1902, in a tiny cottage at Cote des Neiges, in concert with two companions,

1. In religion, Mother Marie du Saint Esprit.

Miss Josephine Montmarquet⁽¹⁾ and Miss Ida L'Africain⁽²⁾, and which, a year later, she had moved to a more spacious one at 27 St. Catherine Road. It was a happy day when the foundress and her companions who, since December 7, 1904, according to the desire of the holy Pope Pius X, were called the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, left the last-mentioned dwelling, which had already become insufficient for the increasing personnel, and entered their new home!... Thanks to Divine Providence, the cradle of the Institute had now a fixed abode, and the number of its members could multiply... It did multiply, indeed, and so rapidly that the old house had to have a wing added to it, then another, and a little later, still another. Many were the years spent there, full of activity, hope and joy for the growing family... years abounding in trials, also, as was befitting an enterprise bearing the divine seal. The old house witnessed all these things, great and small, marvellous and humble, so many that it would require a volume to relate them.

THE NEW HOUSE

Thirty years had elapsed... thirty years of blessings at 314 St. Catherine Road, since that happy day of December 10, 1906. After undergoing many changes, the grounds had become quite attractive with beautiful trees, a grotto of Lourdes and pious oratories, an orchard and garden, and the ever-babbling brook...

The old house — the first Mother House — had become more and more cherished and venerated. It had given birth to thirty-three others, eighteen in foreign countries and fifteen in Canada. Since several years, however, a serious question had arisen concerning it: despite its annexes, it had again become too small for the ever-increasing personnel; and, this time, the land with its rapid inclination and the rock at its very surface, no longer favoured any further extension. What was to be done?... Add a wing to the Novitiate at Pont Viau and move there?... Insurmountable obstacles hindered such a project. Construct a new Mother House elsewhere?... But where find the necessary resources for that?... There was nothing to do but to pray and wait.

Heaven's answer came from a source whence it was least expected. In 1932, the City of Montreal had homologated a street on a piece of land belonging to the Community at Cote des Neiges since 1910; and, unknown to the latter, work had been commenced in preparation for the opening of this street, thus rendering the land unfit for the proprietors' use. They protested; but so many and such complicated difficulties arose, that they did not know what to do. At a certain moment, all seemed hopeless. Then, a discussion took place between the parties interested, and from this discussion issued a brilliant idea. It was God's Will that the Mother House be built immediately on this lot and that the homologated line be obliterated.

1. In religion, Mother Marie de St. Gustave, who died on January 23, 1917.

2. Miss Ida L'Africain, at the request of Most Reverend A. Langevin, Archbishop of St. Boniface, left the nascent Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, in order to assume the direction of the new Community of the Oblate Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and Mary Immaculate.

In blind obedience to this Divine manifestation, the affair was entrusted to Saint Joseph, who brought it to a happy and successful issue despite the thousand other obstacles put in the way, no doubt, by the Evil Spirit.

The construction being completed early in 1938, the moving was effected almost entirely upon the wings of charity.

And the old house, that had been left not without emotion and a certain regret, what was going to become of it? Was it to be abandoned? Not at all! It was to survive; for to it was to be entrusted a work, whose origin it had witnessed in 1911 — the first of its kind in Canada — a work, which it had sheltered for several years and which had to be discontinued on account of the exiguity of the place: the Work of Closed Retreats for Women and Girls. There was already great rejoicing at the thought of promptly executing this plan when, unfortunately, an insuperable obstacle arose to hinder it. The Authorities of the City of Outremont refused to grant the required permit, unless considerable and very onerous alterations were made, or a fire-proof wing were built.

The old house, so dear to the Daughters of the Immaculate, no longer charmed, as it had of old, the eyes of the passers-by, those of Inspectors, especially. "It is not up to date, it must be modernized," said some. "It is a fire-trap," added others. "Why not demolish it and build anew," suggested a third group. The poor old house, they found so much fault with it, that the Community, seeing that it had become an invincible hindrance to the organization of the Work in project, decided, although reluctantly, to sacrifice it, conserving, nevertheless, its annexes, and to construct in its stead a wing destined for rooms for Retreatants.

That is why, in the spring of 1939, after a year's hesitation, workmen with tools were to be seen making an assault on the old house, which, though it offered no resistance, produced prolonged cracking sounds like groans that were heart-rending for those who had loved it so dearly.

SIX MONTHS LATER



LOOKING up at 314 St. Catherine Road, six months later, the passers-by could see the new wing in all its freshness, having retained but the simple style of the old house and part of its material.

The lawn, with its hedge of lilacs, had also been altered; but the familiar statue of the Immaculate in its niche in front of the porch still remained...

The new house had still to be blest and dedicated. This pious ceremony took place in the afternoon of December 8th, the patronal feast of the Institute.

The earth, recently covered with dazzling snow, seemed to be attired for the occasion. A last touch had been given to the rooms to be blest; and the white chapel, the principal "relic" of former days, delicately

adorned with foliage, flowers and lights, presented a charming aspect. Towards three o'clock, it was thronged by a sympathetic assembly of benefactors and friends who had come to assist at the modest ceremony, which was presided over by Very Reverend Father L. P. Fafard, Provincial of the Clerics of St. Viator.

The allocution was pronounced by Reverend Father J. Bélanger, S. J., who expressed the desire that a great number of retreatants, ladies and girls, would come to this house.

"What is a Closed Retreat?" he said. "It is to forget the world in order to think of God and your soul... There, in silence and recollection, you learn to think, reflect and pray... you learn that you come from God and that you are to return to Him. You learn the importance of your soul's salvation. You see the obstacle to this salvation: mortal sin; and, converted, you say: 'Henceforth, rather die than offend God grievously!'"

"You come and throw yourself at the feet of the priest, who, by means of holy absolution, consoles and cheers you.

"And then, what remains to be done?... Our Lord presents Himself to you, saying: 'Come, follow Me... I am the Way, the Truth...'

"Moved by His Divine grace, seeing the goodness of His Heart and the greatness of His mercy, you answer: 'Yes, I wish to follow Thee, I place my trust in Thee!...' "

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given. Then followed the visit of the new wing, where, that very evening, began the exercises of a Retreat, preached by Reverend Father Olivier Gélinas, S. S. S., to twenty-two retreatants.

When all was silent again in and around the hospitable house dedicated to Our Lady of the Holy Ghost, the Daughters of the Immaculate destined to perpetuate God's work in this dwelling, as also those who had come from the Mother House to take part in the feast, knelt down before the Tabernacle to thank Our dear Lord for this happy day and fervently beg Him to continue to shower abundant blessings upon this house, upon those who inhabit it and, also, upon all those who will come therein to reap the precious graces of a Closed Retreat.

For information concerning Closed Retreats at the Retreat House dedicated to Our Lady of the Holy Ghost, apply to:

Reverend Sister Superior,
Retreat House Our Lady of the Holy Ghost,
314 St. Catherine Road,
Outremont, Que.

To those souls who have turned to God, the whole face of life changes. In material things, they may be no richer than before. They may be beloved fireside presences to mourn. And yet, deep in their hearts, they are really happy; because their measuring rod now is standard of Eternity.

— S. E. Card. O'Connell.

A Modern Martyr

Blessed Theophane Vénard

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

(Continued)

Chapter V.

In Paris — The "Missions Étrangères."

Three days after the sad parting we have just recorded, Theophane left Poitiers for Paris, and arrived at the Foreign Mission Seminary. "I had hardly come into the house," he wrote to his sister, "when I was met with affectionate greetings on all sides, and every kindness was showered upon me. One hoisted up my trunk into my cell; another uncorded it; a third made my bed and showed me where my little establishment was to be; a fourth took me all over the house, introduced me to the Directors, and showed me the garden. In half an hour I felt as if I knew them all intimately. Oh, the good their welcome did to my poor, sad heart! There is nothing like the love and charity of this house and the way they make one feel immediately at home."

This spirit of charity and mutual kindness is the distinguishing characteristic of the Foreign Mission Seminary in Paris. Its divine fire is carefully maintained by the superiors as the best means of spreading its genial rays to the extremities of the heathen world. In the heart of a great city, and in a world gone drunk with dissipation and all kinds of business, these young men find an abode of peace and quiet indeed, but no ascetic solitude. Rather is it a home where each strives to be foremost in loving, kindly ways and consideration for the others; and the Holy Spirit seems especially to bless this atmosphere of mutual charity and forbearance, and to pour His sevenfold gifts on the future Apostles, who are learning in that best of schools — for it is our Lord's — the school of love.

Theophane was thoroughly happy here, although his new life did not altogether do away with the bitterness of separation from those he held most dear.

He writes, "We are all like one family, with one object and one aim. We have no care or troubles and I should have nothing left to desire if you were by my side. I am greatly touched by your anxiety about me, my dearest father, but you must let me scold you about this a little bit. Am I not more than ever the child of Providence? Did you not yourself give me up to God? He who watches over the birds of the air and the flowers of the field, will He not take care of me wherever I may be? I cannot help longing for you, and missing you terribly sometimes; but love suffers and is resigned, and the thoughts of Heaven grow more vivid as we become more detached from all on earth. Only a little more trust! A little more confidence in God! A little more patience! and the end will come, and the past weary years will seem as nothing; then will arrive the moment of reunion, and all will be amply compensated for and repaid, principal and interest. O

Christian hope! How beautiful thou art! How thou dost satisfy the heart of man, the creature of a day, and yet created for an eternity of bliss!"

His family could not rise at once to his spiritual view of the future, and their letters gave evidence of the void he had left behind and their despair at losing him. His answers, therefore, were written at this time to heal the wound he had caused, and he had always a kind and loving word for the consolation of each. To Henry he writes, "Your letter touched me deeply, especially where you say that the thought of me is not enough—that you want my *bodily* presence to comfort you. I feel just the same about you all. My thoughts fly home to the little room where you all are in the evening, and to my place by Mélanie's side, and to the thousand and one recollections of our boyhood. But it is God's Will that we should be separated. May that Will be forever blessed! After all, are we not bound for the same haven? Will not the gaps in the family circle then be filled up? Nay, more, are we not already expected *up there* by one most near and dear to us? You recollect our last visit before leaving home — the visit paid at your suggestion — to the cemetery, where we prayed and cried so together for our darling mother? Well, very soon we shall go and join her; and the links that bind us are tightened at the thought, and the time which seems *so long* and *weary* is bridged over."

To his sister he says, "If I have read your dear letter over once, I have read it twenty times! Every word you say goes to my heart, for we are *one* — are we not? — with the same feelings, the same tastes, the same wishes, the same hopes. We really are, as the saying is, born for each other; and how comes it, then, that we are separated? Why, because God wished that we should be united eternally. As you said yourself one day, dearest Mélanie, if we could live together here below, we should have cared too much for the world, and so He has divided us that our souls may be more and more purified, and sigh more and more after the moment when they shall take their flight to Heaven. A great servant of God once said that "if some gall were not mingled in our earthly cup, we should be content with our exile, and think less of our own true country.'..."

(To be continued)



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 favour from this tender Mother.

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

A Spiritual Friendship

St. Teresa of Lisieux and Blessed Theophane Vénard

(Continued)



THEIR tender devotion to their Heavenly Mother. — A last resemblance attracted Teresa to Theophane. "*Theophane had a tender love for the Blessed Virgin.*" She who had sung:

"O thou who camest to smile on me in the morn of my life,
Come once again and smile, Mother, for now it is eventide,"

how could she not love him whose life was spent between two feasts of Our Lady and was a continual feast in her honour?

Theophane was born on Saturday, November 21, 1829, Feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple; and, on Saturday, February 2, 1861, this Heavenly Queen could present to the King of Martyrs, in the eternal Temple, this son who had honoured her as a child.

Like Teresa, Theophane had always a special devotion to the "Mother in Heaven".

When twelve years old, he wrote to his sister: "To-day, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, I have taken the resolution to recite my rosary every week; besides, I have been inscribed in the pious Associations of the Perpetual Rosary and the Propagation of the Faith."

Two years later, at his mother's death, the only consolation that he could find was "to throw himself into the arms of Mary"; and, after that, he spoke of her in nearly all his letters. In February, 1847, he reproached himself for "not having spoken enough of her that year"; then, in a moment of spiritual distress, his heart turned towards Mary, and he "made a vow to her to say his rosary every day", after which, a great peace came over him, and he found himself happy and contented again.

Teresa, also, when still quite young, had a similar period of distress — and how much more terrible it was! But the Queen of Heaven stilled the storm just at the moment when the delicate and tender stem of the little flower was about to be broken forever.

In 1849, when announcing his first Ordination, Theophane, full of tender devotion for Mary, wrote: "I am to be tonsured... I shall say to the Blessed Virgin, 'Queen of the Clergy, pray for us!'"

When pronouncing her Vows, on September 8, 1890, Teresa also thought of Mary. "What a beautiful feast on which to become the Spouse of Jesus!" she wrote. "It was the little new-born Holy Virgin who presented her little Flower to the little Jesus."

"I am the Blessed Virgin's spoiled child," declared Theophane. "It is sweet to rest one's head on a Mother's breast. How sweet it is to repose on her heart!"

And Teresa...

"I now wish
To sing upon thy knee, Mother, why I have loved thee so,
And to repeat for ever: 'Thy little child am I!'"

Expressing his happiness to live in the Foreign Mission Seminary, Theophane said: "The Blessed Virgin is much loved and honoured here." And Teresa, the Little Flower, bloomed "on the Mountain of Carmel, in the Virgin Mary's chosen garden".

Theophane enjoyed the pilgrimages to the Shrine of Our Lady of Victories. He never missed going there "every time that he had the occasion of doing so". There, he offered his heart to Mary and consecrated to her his priesthood.

At Paris, Teresa found "but one marvel"—Our Lady of Victories, "this shrine" where she was "filled with peace and happiness". She exclaimed: "Oh, how I love Our Blessed Lady! Had I been a Priest, how I would have sung her praises!" While still but a Missionary Aspirant, Theophane wrote to his brother: "You will crown all—the organization of your life—by keeping up the tender love of a little child for the Blessed Virgin." When a priest, according to witnesses of the Apostolic Process, "never was he more eloquent than when he spoke of the Blessed Virgin Mary; he seemed to love her with the most ardent and filial affection".

On June 9, 1895, Teresa offered herself as a victim of love, "by Mary, my dearest Mother, to whom I commit this oblation". On January 15, 1860, Theophane "consecrated himself to Jesus Christ by the hands of Mary". He wrote the essential part of the act and his signature with his blood.

A few minutes before her death, Teresa "fixed an inexpressible look upon the statue of the Immaculate Virgin".

Condemned to death, Theophane, for the last time, had recourse to his Mother: "When my head falls under the axe of the executioner, receive it, O Immaculate Mother, as the full-blown rose which has been gathered in your honour. *Ave Maria*." With what a sweet smile, the Immaculate Virgin must have received in Heaven her two children, her two tender flowers!

The final meeting.—Teresa and Theophane met each other in Mary's presence. Theophane could repeat to Teresa what he had written to one of his brothers: "I place my heart in yours; you place your heart in mine; we place ourselves both in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary and we are inseparable brothers... in Eternity."

(To be continued)

The Value of the Cross



The Cross, under the form of sufferings, contradictions, self-sacrifices and difficulties of all kinds, is, in the spiritual order, such a great treasure, that, if we perfectly understood its value, we would give all to possess it, even if we had to go to seek it at the extremities of the earth.

In the Cross is to be found strength of soul, merit and eternal glory; but so great is the spiritual ignorance and blindness of the majority of men, that they shun it. If, by God's permission, it comes to them, they make it very unwelcome; and, if it takes possession of their heart, if it settles itself upon their shoulders, how they murmur and rebel, sometimes, and what efforts they make to be discharged of it!

The Saints, who were not of a different nature from ours, have become saints because they fathomed the value of the Cross and surrendered themselves to it without reserve.

"O good Cross so long desired!..." exclaimed St. Andrew, the Apostle, at sight of the martyrdom that he was about to suffer.

"The Cross is our philosopher's stone which, by means of patience, converts the basest metals into gold, the most acute pains into delights, poverty into riches, and the most profound humiliations into glory!" wrote Blessed Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort.

"Suffering becomes the greatest of joys when we seek it as a precious treasure!" affirmed the admirable Carmelite, whose precocious wisdom drew from the lips of the glorious Pope Pius XI these authorized words: "God tells us much by Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus."

Christian Friends, God calls us all to sanctity; and it is for this reason that He sends us one or several Crosses which He proportions to our needs and accompanies with His grace. Let us, then, be grateful to Him for thinking of us thus and wishing our greatest good; and, if we cannot yet suffer with joy, let us suffer with patience, at least, and...in silence.

FURTHERMORE...

Furthermore, let us cast a glance at all those who have never seen the Cross and its light shining upon them, who do not know their Heavenly

Father and are slaves of superstition and error, who groan under the afflictions of life without hope in an eternal recompense. Let us pray for this multitude of pagans, which numbers over a thousand millions of men, that all Christians have the duty of winning to God. Let us offer daily a fervent supplication to the Lord for their conversion. Let us, also, help by our prayers and alms the missionaries, who sacrifice themselves completely in order to bring them the Light of the Gospel and the knowledge of the value of the Cross.

“ 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	November-December 1939.....	\$ 27.50
September-October 1939.....	67.85	January-February 1940.....	268.75

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.

Heartfelt thanks to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a favour obtained through her intercession. Would you kindly pray to the Blessed Virgin and St. Teresa that I may obtain another special favour. Miss J. P., **West Warwick, R. I.** — I am acquitting myself of a promise made in honour of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, for a favour obtained through her intercession. Mrs. A. G. R., **Montreal**. — Sincere thanks for a favour obtained through the intercession of the Patroness of Missionaries. Mrs. J. C. L., **Montreal**. — Lively gratitude towards St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for three great favours obtained. A. L., **Holyoke, Mass.** — Homage of gratitude to St. Teresa for a favour received through her intercession. I request of her my cure. Mrs. P. G., **Biencourt**. — Lively gratitude to the Patroness of Missionaries for a favour she has obtained for me. Mrs. D. L., **Dalkeith, Ont.** — A thousand thanks to St. Teresa for certain graces received through her intercession. She has generously scattered roses over our home. Anonymous. — I wish to express my gratitude to St. Teresa for a favour received. I beg of her to continue assisting me. Anonymous, **Ste. Marthe**. — Grateful thanks to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for favours obtained. May she continue protecting us. A Subscriber, **St. Laurent**. — Homage of gratitude to the “ Little Flower of Carmel ”. Mrs. D. M., **Ville Emard**. — Kindly help me to thank the dear “ Scatterer of Roses ” for the grace I have obtained through her intercession. Mrs. H. D., **Joliette**. — Heartfelt thanks to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a favour obtained. Mrs. E. Ellefsen, **Bagotville**.



ECHOES FROM OUR MISSIONS.

CHINA

*Letter from the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Süchow,
to their Superior General.*

Süchow, November 6, 1939.

REVEREND AND DEAR MOTHER,

We were very much grieved on hearing that serious reasons had obliged you to postpone your projected visit to the Missions. God is indeed asking a big sacrifice of us, but we firmly trust in His Divine Providence, and we are confident that, in a few months from now, all difficulties will be removed and our desires, realized.

We have been in great anxiety for the past three weeks. Owing to the fact that we are British subjects, every day we expected to be compelled to return to Canada. We are fervently begging the Divine Master to allow us to continue working in His harvest. Seemingly in response to our prayers, the misfortunes that were threatening us are now disappearing.

Misery, however, is continually increasing in Süchow; we may say that every home is affected by it. The price of victuals, clothes, medicine, etc., is more than quintupled, and wood and coal are sold at extravagant prices. What has the future in store for this poor country?

At the end of June, we inaugurated a Patronage for little girls, in order to assist the more needy families. There, the children receive, besides their daily food, a few notions of Catholicity and an elementary education. The work seems full of promise.

Already fifty-six busy bees are in the hive humming gaily in eager rivalry. So as to give the poor children some idea of order and cleanliness, and a little practical knowledge, each of the bigger girls has a task to do: the cleaning of the rooms, the washing of the bowls and chopsticks, sewing, etc. Then comes the recitation of the prayers and the explanation of the Doctrine, followed by recess. The children never lack animation in their amusements, especially since we have received balls, swings, and games from our generous benefactors of Canada.



TWO CHILDREN AT PLAY.
THE LITTLE BOY WEARS A PADDED SUIT
AND THE LITTLE GIRL,
A WOOLLEN CAPE AND BONNET

Another achievement which is also full of hope is the little school which could well be called *apostolic*. The pupils, numbering six, belong to good Christian families.

It is said that divine works are built upon suffering and contradiction. Once more, we have experienced the truth of this saying, in the foundation of our school. Scarcely had it been opened two days when, on their way to church for Mass, our pupils were stopped by a policeman, who forced them to follow him. Informed of the fact, Reverend Father Superior overtook the poor children and accompanied them to the police-station to reassure them and plead for them; but, when they got there, he was politely invited to withdraw. The whole day was spent in conferences with the authorities; and, when night came, the unfortunate children were still prisoners. The following day, towards four o'clock in the afternoon, the

three older pupils were liberated. As for the three younger ones, they had to remain for another day in their place of detention, which appeared to them, so they said, like a corner of hell. Finally, the little family was united, and fervent *Magnificats* ascended to Heaven in thanksgiving for their release.

At the Dispensary, dear Mother, the Sister Nurses are endeavouring to do as much good as possible. Just lately, they were gratified with a magnificent *Pien che* (ex-voto of gratitude). It is a blue board, seven feet long by two and a half feet wide, decorated with red silk. The gold characters sculptured upon it, are an expression of thanks for a perfect cure obtained. This kind of frame, in China, is considered the most eloquent testimony of gratitude. Placed in a sedan chair, it was brought to us in procession, to the sound of music. There was a big crowd of spectators assembled at our door when it arrived and was offered to us with great pomp. This solemn presentation was followed by an explosion of firecrackers. The donor of this ex-voto was Mr. Han, whom we had treated during four months for a sore on his arm, which was the result of an infection. Before coming here, he had had recourse to several Chinese doctors; but these, instead of relieving his sufferings had only aggravated them. Gangrene set in and the wound disclosed the bone of his arm as well as the nerves and tendons. Then only, despite a certain apprehension for foreign remedies, did the patient request our care; it was very late and an amputation seemed urgent. In our helplessness, we confided him to Catherine Tekakwitha, who did not delay in revealing her power of intercession with God. Not only did she obtain this man's cure, but what is better still, his conversion to the Christian faith. During his convalescence, Mr. Han began to study the principal

truths of our Holy Religion and, in a near future, he will have the happiness of taking rank among the fervent neophytes.

During the past few months, the number of our patients has considerably increased. Every day we give medical care to more than one hundred persons. While relieving their sufferings, we endeavour to pour into their souls the precious balm of Faith. May our Divine Master bless our humble efforts and render them fruitful by His all-powerful grace!

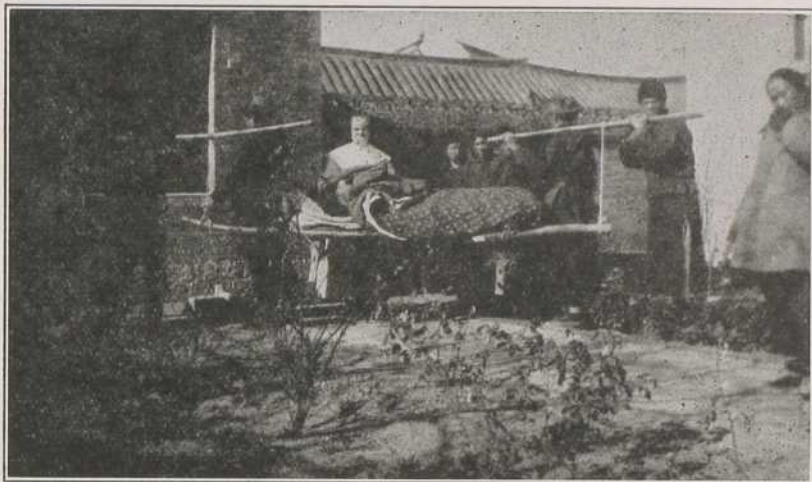
Like the Good Shepherd, we try to seek the stray sheep that do not think of coming to us or cannot do so. It is generally this pursuit through the city and country that affords us the greatest consolations. How many little children and even adults seem to await but our passage to take their flight to Heaven with their souls freshly purified in the Baptismal Waters.

One evening, towards half-past five, we were asked to go and see a dying woman. As it was already late and she lived quite far from the Mission, we proposed to wait until the next day to visit her; but other messengers arrived at that moment telling us that we did not need to disturb ourselves as the patient was about to expire. They added: "We are in a great hurry, for we have to go and buy her her garments. If, at least, we can have time to put them on her before she dies!" We no longer thought of waiting until the next day, but suggested that an injection might prolong the patient's life. The magic word "injection", revived the hope of these brave Chinese and they consented to conduct us to the bedside of the dying woman, who was a person of about fifty. She was unconscious when we arrived and her pulse was very weak. After giving her an injection, we poured the Saving Waters upon her brow and said to the parents: "We have given her our best remedy, if it does not relieve her, we have none more efficacious." We tied a Miraculous Medal around her neck and then returned to the Convent, quite certain that death would soon consummate its task.

Two days later, when we went to see her, what was not our surprise on noticing that she had almost entirely recovered. The whole family was unanimous in affirming that it was the great remedy that had cured her; and she herself, beaming with joy, said to us: "You have baptized me, I am very glad!" Astonished, we asked her who had told her that, "It is a neighbour who was here the other evening," she replied. "As she is studying your Religion, she explained to me what Baptism was. I am very happy to have received this Sacrament and, when I am stronger, I will go to the catechumenate." Our gratitude ascended most fervent towards the Immaculate Virgin for this new conquest!

The Jesuit Fathers have had great trials this year. At the end of April, Reverend Father Le Bayon, missionary at Haechow, was seized by Chinese bandits who, after killing Father Hermand, his companion, kept him a prisoner for forty-two days. The good missionary does not talk of his sufferings, but we can easily imagine what he must have endured in his underground hole — some kind of a dug-out under a barn — in which he was confined. He was blindfolded and had to keep his bandage on, even during his meals. Little by little, the guard, touched with compassion, consented to remove it, at least for the time he took his meagre pittance.

If they had to travel, they always did so by night; therefore, the poor missionary cannot say where he went. The bandits were not without telling him that a big sum of money was exacted for his ransom and that he would not be released until the whole of it was paid. The Missionary let them talk. He knew quite well that the Fathers of the Mission would never be able to give such a large amount. Besides, even if they were, they would not do so, because in consenting to give something for the ransom of a captive missionary, they would encourage the bandits to make hostages.



SISTER MARIE XAVIER (BERTHE PARADIS, TINGWICK, ARTHABASKA), MISSIONARY SISTER OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, RECEIVING A PATIENT WHO IS VERY ILL AT THE DISPENSARY OF SUCHOW.

Thanks to this attitude, captures of the kind are rare. Reverend Father Le Bayon was telling us that he had always hoped in Divine Providence, even in the most critical hours of his captivity, and that this hope had been for him a constant ray of sunshine and an appeasement in his sufferings. When came the moment of his deliverance, early in the night, his rescuers had been obliged to pull him out of his hiding-place by his arms, the entrance to this underground hole being too steep for him to be able to climb out. Besides, his legs, ankylosed by such a long reclusion refused to carry him. He was placed on a wheelbarrow and thus conveyed to the Yamen. The mandarin, to whom he owed his salvation, seeing that he had nothing but a pair of trousers and a belt, took pity on him and provided him with clothes. After a few hours' rest, the Missionary took the route to Süchow, accompanied by a confrère who had come to meet him.

In June, Reverend Brother Ricard, scholastic, died of typhoid at Shanghai where he had just completed his first year of Theology.

At the end of October, a sad accident happened to Reverend Brothers L. Fontaine and E. Gauvin who, accompanied by Reverend Father Bourassa, were returning on bicycle from Matsing, post situated about fifty *li* from Süchow. At about twenty *li* from the city, two shots fired by the Japanese

sentry, who was at a thousand five hundred feet from the road, attained Brother Gauvin first, perforating the upper part of the intestines, then Brother Fontaine, piercing him in the omoplate. Noticing that each of his shots had told, the soldier hastened to the spot and very great was his stupefaction in recognizing that his victims were strangers. He declared that he had signaled; but, as the wind was strong and blowing in the opposite direction, the missionaries had not heard the signalement. First aid was given to the unfortunate wounded and soon the ambulance conveyed them



A TRAVELING-MERCHANT WHO SELLS SWEET POTATOES, SUCHOW, CHINA. IN ONE OF HIS BASKETS HE CARRIES THE STOVE ON WHICH HE COOKS THE POTATOES. AFTER PLACING THEM IN LITTLE BOWLS, HE OFFERS THEM TO THE PASSERS-BY.

to the Japanese Hospital in Süchow. As one must see the Holy Will of God in all events, we cannot doubt that God has permitted these trials for His greater glory; however, they are terrible blows for the missionaries, who are so few to accomplish such an immense task.

Before closing, we request the help of your prayers, very dear Mother, as well as those of all our Sisters, that the Divine Master may bless our apostolate in pagan lands. We are sowing the seed, but it is the grace of God, alone, that will cause it to germinate and ripen. We therefore expect the help of all those who are dear to us, to obtain an abundant harvest for the heavenly granaries.

Report of the Dispensary, from June, 1939, to October, inclusive:

Baptisms.....	188	Patients.....	12,623	Treatments.....	23,572
Dressings.....	4,504	Teeth extracted..	71	Homes visited...	85
Injections.....	1,720	Consultations....	3,507	Vaccinations....	130

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters in Paitchengtze

A HOME FOR THE AGED

Since January 12, 1939, a new work has been added to those already confided to our dear Mission, it is that of a Home for the abandoned old people. How heartily we welcomed the seven first recruits sent to us by God! They were all very poor and wretched and, what was sadder still, they did not know that they had a Father in Heaven. New-comers arrived a few months later. Among them was a beggar who had spent some time at the Mission, three years ago, and had gone away under the pretext that the devil did not want to leave him alone. He now seems to be quite happy, and we cherish the hope of seeing him become a child of Holy Mother Church, soon.

There are three blind men among our protégés. We encourage all these dear folks to be kind to one another according to the example of their great Model, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

CHINESE INVENTIONS

While visiting a sick man, we learnt how easy it was to fabricate an unexpensive stove. An ordinary pail was placed on its side in the middle of the house. It was heated by the opening in the end, while a grating over it supported a pipkin or a pot. A kind of grate had been inserted in the pail, in order to allow the ashes to fall to the bottom according as the coal was consumed. When the winter is over, the little stove will become a pail again and will be used for drawing water.

During another visit, we became acquainted with a new device for ironing. Upon a white cushion laid on the floor was spread the article to be ironed. A saucepan filled with glowing embers was substituted for an iron. After the operation the article appeared just as well ironed as if it had been done with an electric iron.

FOR NEITHER GLORY NOR MONEY

A woman begged the "Doctor of the Mission," Sister St. Alexandre⁽¹⁾, to practise magic over her body, that she might be cured instantaneously. "I shall pay you whatever it costs," she said, showing a bundle of ten dollar bills. As Sister objected, the stranger audaciously put her honour at stake. "You have such a good reputation," she said, "and you cannot even practise magic to cure me? I was told that you had great power. I believe it and I shall not leave this place until you have cured me." Very coolly, Sister indicated to her patient two means from which to choose: either to return home or to be more respectful. This firm reply brought the discussion to an end. "I see," said the lady, "that you are working for neither glory nor money, that is exactly what I wished to find out. I am sorry I troubled you. Please accept this small offering in compensation.

1. Alexandrine Surprenant, St. Alexandre d'Iberville.

PASTORAL VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY BISHOP LAPIERRE

On Sunday, April 2nd, the Mission of Paitchengtze had the happiness of welcoming His Excellency Bishop Lapierre, who was making his Pastoral visit.

On the eve of his arrival, Christians came in great numbers from all parts of the Mission and its stations, in order to greet their Pastor.

You would, perhaps, like to have an idea of the arrival of one of the numerous families that enter the Mission on similar occasions.

Two donkeys and two small horses are seen dragging a van conveying father, mother, children and baggage. The vehicle stops at the men's building, first of all, where five minutes are spent sorting out its contents. All the occupants seem pleased with their journey, despite the fact that it must not have been very restful for them, seated as they were, in the bottom of the wagon which had neither springs nor cushions, and travelling on a road more or less rough. But such disadvantages matter little to people who have not been able to come to church or acquit themselves of their religious duties for a year. The youngest not having been baptized yet is brought to receive this Sacrament. The father or the eldest of the boys takes care of the horses while the mother, daughter-in-law, and little boys and girls, all dressed in their showy rags, come to the women's Catechuminate. What joy it is for these good souls to find themselves among Christians after having been in the midst of pagans for such a long time.

At the sound of the Angelus, in the evening, His Excellency entered the Mission. The whole personnel was lined up on both sides of the wide alley of the Mission-compound, and many a Sign of the Cross did the Pastor trace over the kneeling throng. An expression of joy lit up this loving Father's countenance as he beheld his missionaries and their flocks after a two years' absence. All proceeded to the church, where the usual prayers were recited; then followed an allocution in which the worthy prelate recalled to his listeners their duties of fervent Christians.

The next day, after the Pontifical Mass, Confirmation was administered to eighty-five persons.

At half-past eleven, His Excellency took the road to Loung Ts'uan, where he was expected by thirty-five Christians whom Reverend Father Pelletier had prepared for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

These blessed days, during which we enjoyed the presence of our venerable Pastor, went by very rapidly; but his good counsels and paternal encouragement will remain in our memory to stimulate us in our apostolic labours.

A TOUCHING EXAMPLE

At nightfall, while Sister Superior was keeping watch at the Boarding-School, which is quite close to the church, she heard the tread of feet advancing in that direction. Fearing the approach of evil-doers, she hastened to look out the window and, what did she see?... In the twilight, two forms were advancing towards the Temple. It was the Mission-catechist with

his little boy. Both reverently knelt down on the church-steps, the door being closed; and, in silent adoration, paid homage to their God and Creator. Very edifying was this manifestation of ardent faith.

HOW SOULS ARE CULLED

It was twenty-five minutes past eleven. Sister Blandine de Jesus⁽¹⁾ closed the doors of the Workroom, in order to return to the Convent for dinner. As she passed through the Dispensary, Sister Marie Emmanuel⁽²⁾, who was about to pour the Saving Waters upon the brow of a dying babe,



SISTER MARIE DE L'ASSOMPTION (ALICE LAROUCHE, SWEETSBURG, QUE.)
MISSIONARY SISTER OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, GIVING A SINGING LESSON
TO THE PUPILS OF THE SCHOOL, PAITCHENGITZE.

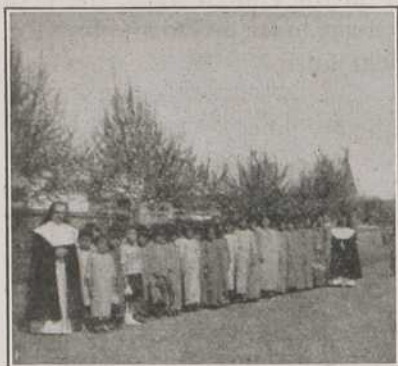
amiably offered her this enviable opportunity of opening the Heavenly Portals to a little soul. Knowing that she would not be late to rejoin the Community, as this act required but a moment, Sister eagerly accepted the offer, saying: "Marie Berthe, I baptize thee in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

Called to the bedside of a dying woman, the Sister-Nurse hastened to the spot. The heat was intense and the journey fatiguing, but the hope of winning a soul to God and the fervent *Aves* she recited on her way gave her strength and courage.

She lavished tender care upon the patient and spoke to her about contrition for her sins, the grace of Baptism, and the happiness of Heaven. Deeply moved, the dying woman accepted to see a priest. Called at once, Reverend Father G. Pelletier administered to her the Sacrament which made her an heir to Heaven.

1. Blandine SIMARD, Roberval.

2. Berthe CREVIER, St. Anne de Bellevue, Que.



MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION TAKING THE PUPILS OF THE WORKROOM FOR A WALK IN THE COUNTRY, PAITCHENG TZE.

A baby girl having died, her pagan mother threw her little corpse into a ditch. As her twin-sister seemed to be about to follow her into eternity, the grandmother, a patient of the Dispensary, who had heard a few explanations of the Christian Doctrine, came to inform us that the child had but a few hours to live. She would have liked us to go and see the baby; but, as the family was hostile to the "Foreign Doctor," she did not know what to do.

We proposed to send one of our Chinese helpers. The latter was welcomed with kindness by the family and, after giving some medicine to the frail

little creature, she made it a child of Heaven.

The earth was not yet shrouded in darkness when, already, little Mary had gone to rejoin her Mother and Patron.

Report of the Dispensary of Paitchengtze for the year 1938:

Baptisms.....	47	Patients.....	15,372
Treatments.....	26,279	Dressings.....	8,265
Homes visited....	425	Teeth extracted....	50
		Injections.....	469
		Vaccinations.....	70

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* *

JAPAN

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters in Koriyama

Sunday, May 28, 1939

There was great rejoicing at the church of the Mission: the Sacrament of Baptism was administered to Miss Abe, a young catechumen. The joy which filled her soul was reflected on her countenance, she was radiant!

Her sister, a tuberculous person baptized a few years ago during a stay in Bethany Sanatorium at Father Flaujac's, was her godmother.

On her return home after her cure, finding herself despised by her parents and relatives, she tried to be as patient and resigned as possible. She was left all by herself on the second floor of the house and never had any visitors. Her young sister informed her, one day, that she had gone to the Protestant church and that she intended to embrace that religion. The older girl exclaimed: "No, no, there is but one Church founded by Christ, and it is that one that you must join."

Miss Abe seemed quite happy, this morning, when the Regenerating Waters flowed upon her young sister's brow; and her faith and recollection edified us very much. Despite her great weakness, she remained at church until the end of the ceremony. Apparently, God will soon come and cull this fair flower which has bloomed on Japanese soil!...

Tuesday, May 30

This morning we had the privilege of assisting at two Masses celebrated in our chapel. Reverend Father Dauphinais, who is returning to Canada, wished to bid us good-bye before leaving. The ardent apostle greatly interested us by the relation of the opening of his little parish of Ichinoseki, which numbers no more than twenty-three Christians, but which is full of promise.

The Christians of that post had been without a resident priest for two years when he arrived there; and a Missionary from a neighbouring village came to say Mass for them twice a month, on Monday. They had become so used to putting off Sunday to Monday, that they had finished by thinking that their Sunday was really Monday and, consequently, they worked on the Lord's day without scruple and rested on the following day. After much patience and kindness, the Missionary succeeded in bringing things back to their normal state. Little by little, the number of catechumens increased. Six young men among the literati have now become Christians and are determined to win others over.

There is something quite unusual about the post of Ichinoseki: the singing choir is entirely composed of pagan girls, who consider it a pleasure and make it a duty to sing Mass and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The whole population now sympathizes with the Catholic Missionary. When Father Dauphinais left, a number of pagans came to make him *omi okuri* (noble escort) to the station.

Sunday, June 4

The Mission church was almost filled, this morning. Mr. Kaduka, a fervent Christian who, as tailor, hires some forty workers, most of whom are pagans, conceived the good idea of inviting them to assist at Mass on Sunday. The workers divided in two groups alternate each week. Theresa, one of them, baptized a few years ago and a real apostle, is full of solicitude for her companions; she shows them the pages of the prayers to be recited and the places of the hymns to be sung.

A few of these young girls will assemble here this afternoon, to chat, sing and amuse themselves. We would like to be able to unite a greater number; but, unfortunately, the workers of the mills have but one Sunday off every month. Takahashi San, one of those who come here most regularly, was telling us that her companions had manifested the desire to learn the hymn to the Blessed Virgin, that we had taught her. She gladly complied with their request; and, since then, a canticle of praise to the Queen of

Heaven arises daily from these young pagan hearts, amid the noise of the busy looms.

How lovingly Our Lady must smile down upon them. We cherish the hope that in her maternal love, she will soon conduct them to her Divine Son.

Sunday, June 18

Great animation reigned on the vacant lot next to ours. The ladies of the *Bo Koku Fujin Kai* (Women's Association for the Defence of the Country) were having a sale there, for the benefit of the soldiers. They wore an apron and a wide banderole upon which the name of their association was written in black characters. During the past three days they had gone from door to door collecting, in little wheel-barrows, all kinds of articles which the families no longer needed, in order to sell them. The devotedness of these ladies who, for the greater number, belong to the highest class of society in the city, was really admirable; they worked all morning in the burning sun.

Towards one o'clock, they came and asked us permission to visit our house — they were about seventy in all. We began by showing them the Kindergarten section. What interested them most on the first floor was the resting-room for the children who are tired or ill. On seeing the two white beds, they said to one another: "See how our children have good care here; we need not be *shimpai* (anxious) about them." To tell the truth, this room also serves us for a parlour.

They were very much pleased when Sister Superior invited them to go up to the *nikai* (second floor). They entered the chapel very respectfully, making the great Japanese prostration and they looked in amazement at all that could be seen; however, the pictures of the Stations of the Cross particularly attracted their attention. "Sister," asked one of them, pointing to the last stations, "would you kindly tell us the beginning of this beautiful story." For about five minutes, all listened with the deepest interest to a short explanation of each station of the sorrowful journey. Exclamations of pity were heard especially at the fourth and thirteenth stations when they seemed to wish to sympathize with Our Lady of Sorrows in her grief. Before leaving, they again made a Japanese prostration before the tabernacle. How earnestly we begged Our Lord to bless them and draw them all to Himself.

They then resumed their visit. The kitchen, the washing-room, our Japanese helpers' room, all greatly interested them. They inquired about what we did all day long, how often we *ogamu* (adored), etc., and were quite astonished to see that we kept no servants.

They left us after several bows and repeated *arigato* (thanks). Let us hope that this visit will contribute to bring them closer to us, that they may become acquainted with our Holy Religion.

Wednesday, June 21

Our little ones are very jolly to-day for it is the feast of the boys. According to a custom, multicoloured carps are the order of the day and are



A GOODLY NUMBER OF PAGANS OF KORIYAMA, JAPAN, COME TO STUDY THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION AT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTED BY THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: SISTER MARIE DE LA RÉDEMPTION (BASISSE MAILLET, WEST BATHURST, N.B.), SISTER STE. HEDWIGE (BLANCHE ROSS, FALL RIVER, MASS.) AND SISTER MARIE ALIDA (ROSE AIMÉE DEMERS, QUEBEC).

hoisted like flags here and there. In Japan, the carp — fish which swims up the current — is a symbol of strength and bravery. Beneath the roofs of the houses are attached bouquets of iris leaves, to which is attributed the property of chasing the devil.

The children, assembled in the hall, enjoyed the *bento*: traditional lunch served at this feast, consisting of rice-balls seasoned with a certain yellow powder and carefully wrapped up in bamboo

bark. The origin of this custom, we are told, can be traced back almost two thousand years ago, when the sages of China brought their civilization to great Japan. One of these sages was unfortunately drowned on his way to an Island and the Japanese, wishing to pay homage to him, presented him offerings as to a god. They wrapped rice balls in the bark of bamboo trees and threw them into the river at the spot where the would-be god had died. In later years, the Japanese most probably thought it was more practical to eat the rice-balls rather than throw them into the river!]

Friday, July 7

Our pupils were in high spirits when they arrived this morning; it is the feast of Tanabata. The story recalled to the little ones to-day, is that of two stars: a goddess star, Shikyu and a god star, Kengyu Sama, who meet once a year on the seventh of July. If, unfortunately, one drop of rain fell at the moment of their meeting, the milky way, which separates the two stars and which the Japanese call *ame no kawa* (river of heaven), would overflow, and the meeting could not take place. To-day, according to a custom, the children decorate a bamboo-tree with multicoloured paper and they plant it near the front door.

Tuesday, July 18

Last Sunday, on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, two young catechumens embraced our Holy Religion. Tried for a long time before being admitted to Baptism, they had prepared themselves very fervently for the reception of this august Sacrament.

At noon, that same day, they came and took dinner at the Convent with their godmothers: one of our helpers and Miss Abe who was baptized on Pentecost; then, at one o'clock, they went to the chapel for the Act of Con-



THE LITTLE TOTS OF THE KINDERGARTEN, KORIYAMA, TAKING A WALK
THROUGH THE FLOWERY FIELDS OF JAPAN.

secration to the Blessed Virgin, which was followed by a hymn and the recitation of the beads, the mysteries of which were sung in Japanese. Some ten young girls of the spinning-mill, all pagans, who had come for the monthly reunion, assisted at the touching ceremony. One of them asked the newly-baptized if they were happy. "Oh! yes," came the answer, "so happy, that no words can express what we feel!" "As happy as I was myself on the day I was baptized," added Miss Abe. The latter seizes every opportunity to make known our Holy Religion, and she does all in her power to win souls to God.

To-day, these two new Catholics came to receive Communion in our chapel. As they had to return to work immediately after Mass, they asked to see Sister Superior, to thank her for her kindness towards them. "Pray for us," they added, "for we wish to advance rapidly in the path of virtue." Hoping to be nuns, they began to take lessons in French. "We shall study with all our heart," they said to us, on leaving, "and we are confident that God will arrange everything so that our parents, still pagans, will consent to let us go."

Friday, July 21

War drills have been very frequent since the beginning of the week. As soon as the siren is heard, the people must run out of their houses and stand in readiness to carry water and sand in whichever direction the chiefs of the district should mention.

These exercises began at five o'clock, this morning, and were repeated every three hours.

As to-morrow is the feast of Sister Superior, we had made up our minds to offer her our wishes in a little entertainment, this evening; but, scarcely had we finished singing the cantata when the shrill sound of the siren called us to duty. Quickly, we took possession of the masks and we just had time to go out when would-be bombs began to explode near the entrance of our Kindergarten. It was supposed that the neighbouring hovel was on fire and that the firemen were unable to get there on time, so we had to extinguish it ourselves. A chain of at least fifty persons was formed and, for almost a quarter of an hour, buckets of water passed from hand to hand to be thrown on the hut which, after such a bath, will need quite a few days to dry.

"It is burning, throw some more water... that's it!..." cried the policeman, gesticulating; not a single person would have evinced a smile, all obeyed blindly. Finally, the signal for the end of the exercise was given, and the officer addressed us, *the heroic savers*, words of praise interlarded with a few remarks on a certain lack of order or prudence. Then he exhorted his compatriots to always show as much energy and courage for the love of their country as they had just shown; and, pointing to us, he added: "These noble persons have given us, Japanese, a great example of devotedness and bravery. Let us strive not to be outdone by them." There was a general bow and the people dispersed.

Sunday, August 20

God came and visited us, this evening, in the person of a leper who was asking for alms. His face, hands and ears were horribly bloated and his right leg was covered with pustules, his toenails were falling off, while his heel was completely stripped of its skin. He told us that his sufferings were so great at times, that he took injections of morphine to be able to bear them. "I know it is not right," he added, "but sometimes I suffer so much that I cannot endure the pain." He is a Catholic, having been baptized at the Lazaretto of Koyama, where he was treated a few years ago. His disease was rather benign at the time, for then, only his hands were affected, and he was finally dismissed as being cured. A few months ago, the dreadful disease knocked him down again. "Only in the Catholic Church do I find sympathy," said he, "outside of it, everybody shuns and



IN A STREET OF KORIYAMA, JAPAN.

SISTER MARIE DE LA RÉDEMPTION (BASILISSE MAILLET, WEST BATHURST, N. B.), AT A CHINA-WARE STORE.

THE ENSIGN TELLS US THAT FOR TWO OR FIVE CENTS THE CUSTOMERS MAY CHOOSE AN ARTICLE ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE OR ON THE RIGHT.

disdains me, spits on me, even, and rails at me. I now consider myself as a dead man, and I have resolved to forget all things in order to think only of God."

After consoling him as well as we could, we served him a good hot supper, which he accepted with gratitude, and we also gave him a little alcohol and bandages that had been prepared a few years ago by our venerable Mother Foundress. When he had finished his meal, he picked up all that had served for him and made a little package with it, to throw it away, no doubt. Provided with a Rosary, a miraculous medal and a substantial *bento* (lunch), he left the convent, promising to pray for us. He had already been walking for several weeks when he came here, and he still had a good distance to cover, as he was going to the Catholic Lazaretto of Koyama, which is an eight hours' trip by train from Koriyama.

Monday, August 28

To-day is *Bon Matsuri* (festival of the dead or of lanterns). While taking a walk with our pupils, we crossed a pagan cemetery which was well kept: the graves were adorned with flowers, incense and even *mochi* (cookies).

On this great solemnity of ancestor worship, thousands of lanterns, blue, pink, silver, etc., decorate the houses of the city. Where death has ravished a loved one during the year, an electric lantern decorated with a cedar branch is attached to the top of a bamboo-tree. This light is supposed to guide the wandering soul to its dwelling. The opening of the feast took place yesterday. The streets were crowded with folks who, with lighted lanterns in hand, were going to the cemetery to get the souls of the dead so as to bring them home, where many *gochiso* (sweets) had been prepared for them.

We knelt on the grave of Amatsu San, a young Christian who died a few years ago; his pagan family had brought bouquets of flowers there and placed four candies on the arms of the Cross.

At the entrance to the cemetery, we met a noble personage *Chizo Sama*, god of the children who, wearing his cotton bonnet and bib, smiled placidly at us. Our pagan pupils hastened to pick up pebbles and placed them on the above-mentioned divinity; it is believed that when the stone remains at its place, the favour requested is to be granted; should it roll off, the child has to pay a *sen* (fine), in expiation for the sins which deprive him of the favour of the God, Chizo.



When we are expecting only suffering, the least joy surprises us: suffering itself becomes the greatest of joys when we seek it as a precious treasure.

—*St. Teresa of the Child Jesus.*

The comfort and strength of a visit to Our Lord is a common experience in the lives of Catholics. Troubles and cares are, for the moment, forgotten; sorrow finds relief in sharing it with the sympathetic Friend always waiting for our approach. Brief though the call has been, the soul invariably is strengthened and refreshed to face anew the problems and trials of life.

VANCOUVER

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

GRANDMA MALEA

Saturday, January 28, 1939

Grandma Malea, who had been baptized on September 11, 1938, was favoured with a beautiful tree on Christmas Day. At eighty years of age, to be for the first time in possession of such a brilliant object, so well decorated was, it seemed, too great a joy to let it fade in a few days. Such was, most probably, what good old granny thought; for, when the Sister Nurse spoke of taking the tree down, because it had lost most of its freshness, and promised her another, just as nice, for the following year, Mary Delia exclaimed: "I want to keep it all the time." It had been given to her, so she considered it as part of her furniture, just like her chair and bed.

One day, wishing to eat sweet potatoes, Mary Delia went up to the Virgin-catechist and said to her ingenuously: "I am sure Sister Superior would like to eat sweet potatoes, they're so good! Why don't you ask her

for ten cents and buy her some? You like them, too, and I think the other Sister would enjoy them also."

The more granny pretended to put herself aside, the better her interlocutor understood what she meant. The latter finally promised her a treat for that same evening. Grandma was beside herself with joy, and her eyes sparkled with delight.

Poor dear granny! She often has some difficulty retaining the prayers which are taught to her; and, now and again, she makes up some of her own. "All the saint Josephs, pray for me." is the new invocation she keeps repeating since a while.

THE MERCY OF GOD

Gin Gan, a tuberculous Chinese, received the Sacrament of Baptism recently. As he understood very little English, Sister Teresa, our Virgin-catechist, repeated to him in his mother-tongue, the consoling words the priest had pronounced: "The mercy of God is infinite. If you have committed any sins during



SISTER MARIE DE LA FOI (JEANNE LAMY, ST. BARTHELEMY), MISSIONARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, VANCOUVER, WITH SISTER THERESA, VIRGIN-CATECHIST, AND MRS. MAH CHOW, WHO WAS BAPTIZED RECENTLY, UNDER THE NAMES MARY DELIA ANNA.

your life, ask God to forgive you, and your soul will become perfectly white." A radiant smile lit up the countenance of the dying man: no doubt he was one of these souls of good will to whom the Divine Master has promised peace. Shortly afterwards, Gin Gan went to contemplate, on high, the One Whom he had known so late.

Choo Chong Fai, despite his rather poor intelligence, could certainly be numbered among those of whom it has been said in the Holy Scriptures that God has revealed His secrets to the little ones, for as soon as the Virgin-catechist spoke to him about God and Heaven, he seemed to understand everything; he opened his eyes wide and, clasping his hands, exclaimed in a loud voice: "Oh! how glad I am to believe in Jesus, yes, Jesus, so good!" This new thief of Heaven peacefully expired a few hours after he had received Baptism.

A patient, seriously ill with cancer of the throat, came to the Dispensary. As all our beds were occupied, we had to send him to the General Hospital. We put him in Our Heavenly Mother's keeping, for who would think of baptizing him in a Protestant hospital?... Having gone to visit him the next day, we briefly instructed him in the truths of our Holy Religion. The patient, earnestly begged for the Purifying Waters, which were poured upon his brow immediately; there was no time to lose... On the evening of that same day, Our Immaculate Mother came for her child.

God sometimes conducts one to the gates of eternity to open to him those of the true life. Gong Lin, a tuberculous Chinese, suddenly became very weak, so weak, that death seemed imminent. He was baptized at once, to his great contentment. To the Sister Nurse who asked him if he knew how to pray, he answered ingenuously: "I know only one prayer and it is this one: 'My God, I love Thee'." This prayer must certainly have been very pleasing to Our Divine Lord! Minutes, hours and days went by and Gong Lin did not die. Unsearchable are God's ways!

GOOD FRANCIS XAVIER

Sunday, March 26

For a while, Francis Xavier was quite perplexed: the orderly was not at his post at the usual hour, and nobody seemed to be anxious about him. Moreover, had he not been sent away from the chapel with these words, which he tried in vain to understand: "Come a little later, there is a sermon just now." He finally decided to ask a few explanations to the Virgin-catechist, who told him that the employees were on retreat. Retreat! what a mysterious word, and what could it mean, anyhow? Although a Christian since a year, Francis understood nothing of it. "To make a retreat," explained the Virgin, "means to pray very much, to think of God and make sacrifices..." "And not to work," Francis hastened to add — the tardy arrival of the orderly still weighing on his mind. "I also, then, wish to make a retreat," said he. "It is easy, pray, make sacrifices and not work." A few days later, Francis began his retreat. He had prepared for it by a Novena to the Holy Ghost. A very simple program had been given to him and he followed it to the letter. It was touching to see how fervently

he recited his beads and made sacrifices. He had made it a point not to read any Chinese newspapers and to help one of his companions, especially, for whom he felt a certain aversion. One day, having been entrusted with the care of awaking for Sunday Mass one of the Japanese inmates of the Home, Francis not only awoke him, but dressed him and conducted him by the arm to the elevator. That was certainly a meritorious act of charity, especially in these troublous times when the war causes such antipathy between Chinese and Japanese.

During the employees' retreat, we had the happiness of seeing one of our Protestant nurses follow all the exercises with great fervour. This young lady wears the Miraculous Medal. Recently, she confided to one of the Sister Nurses that she was very fond of the sermons of the Catholic priests. "Your Pastors are not like ours," she said. "After our ministers have spoken a long time, we are not any further advanced; but your priests give us a few thoughts upon which we can meditate, and they give us good advice also." We confide this upright soul, who is seeking the truth, to Our Lady of Mercy.

One night, one of our patients was to receive Baptism *in articulo mortis*. As there was no time to lose, Francis was awakened to be the godfather of the happy neophyte. Before the ceremony, Sister told him: "All you have to do is to repeat after the priest: 'I renounce Satan, etc., etc.'" "Very well, I have understood," replied our man. In fact, all went well at first;



SISTER MARIE DE LA VISITATION (ELISE CROTEAU, ST. ANTOINE DE TILLY, QUE.), MISSIONARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, AND SISTER THERESA, CHINESE VIRGIN-CATECHIST, RECEIVING THE PATIENTS IN THE WAITING-ROOM OF THE DISPENSARY OF THE ORIENTAL HOSPITAL, VANCOUVER.

but when the priest asked him to recite the *Credo*, Francis repeated simply: "*Credo*". Sister made him a sign, and whispered: "Say *I believe in God* in Chinese." Francis repeated: "I believe in God in Chinese." For this time, it was not the godfather who made the profession of faith; but, everything turned out well!

A twelve-year-old Chinese was admitted into St. Joseph's ward. At first, the child was very much afraid of the nun, having never seen such persons before. Finally he decided to call: "Nurse, nurse," but Francis did not give him time to finish his sentence. "It's Sister you must say," he shouted, "you see, Sisters work for God while nurses work for money."

A BEAUTIFUL SOUL

Saturday, April 8

God, wishing no doubt to adorn Heaven with one more lily, came and culled the candid soul of Mah Fee, "Charlie", who had been a patient of the Home for more than a year. He was baptized shortly before Christmas and, since the great day on which he had been made a child of Our Heavenly Father, he was so happy, that he spoke unceasingly of his departure for the other world.

One day, when the Sister Nurse found him with his hands clasped and in an attitude of deep recollection, she asked him: "Well, what are you doing?" — "I am making arrangements with *Tin Tu* (God)", he answered immediately.

Last Sunday, again, he was at Mass with his room-mates and, this morning, he expired after having received the Sacraments that Holy Mother Church administers to the dying.

His sudden death was greatly mourned by all the inmates of the Home, who loved him dearly. Joseph Kawai, especially, a little Japanese who called Mah Fee his bosom friend, is inconsolable.

May our good Charlie, now that he is in Heaven, obtain for all his friends of the Home as happy a death as his own and the conversion of his pagan brothers!

THE INFLUENCE OF GOOD EXAMPLE

The funeral service of Oyama was sung at the Japanese Mission this morning. Since her Baptism, which took place on the 23rd of April last, this young girl was completely changed. Formerly disagreeable and insubordinate, she did not want to accept her mortal illness. But after the Regenerating Waters had flowed upon her brow, a pleasant smile was on her lips. She unceasingly repeated her joy at having become a child of God and eagerly desired to die, in order to go and contemplate Him soon.

Recalling memories of the past, she was telling the Sister Nurse, lately: "It must be the prayers, the sacrifices and especially the edifying examples of the Catholic family where I worked before my illness that have been the basis of my conversion. These folks were very good; they had holy pictures like yours everywhere in their house. I remember that on Sunday, they

never failed to go to church and, before leaving, the children often looked for something... it resembled the Rosary you gave me; I had to help them to find it for they never went away without it."

The members of Oyama's family, all pagans, consented to have her buried according to Catholic rites. When the long file of parents and friends was out of the church, a Buddhist minister came up to the father and asked to have the corpse incinerated, according to the Japanese custom. "No," replied the latter, immediately, "this is not practised in the Church to which my daughter belongs." May this privileged child obtain for all her loved ones the inestimable Gift of Faith, which she herself has received!

THE RESULT OF GOOD READING

Monday, June 27

One of the Sisters returned quite happy from her visit to the sick. The reason was that several of the patients, rather fanatic, had asked her to lend them books which spoke about Religion. For some time she had passed them a few pamphlets apparently indifferent, but tending to excite their curiosity concerning Religion; and, later, she gave them others which treated a little of God. The mustard seed is sown and, now, we cherish the hope of seeing it grow up to be a big tree!...

Tatemichi has become very enthusiastic about his reading; he read the Japanese translation of the interesting volume *Notre Dame de Lourdes*, by Henri Laserre, three times. When he returned it to Sister, he related to her one of the wonderful cures which had particularly impressed him. On hearing him, his neighbour seemed quite interested and said: "If we had some of that water, it would perhaps do us good." He was very much pleased when Sister replied: "I shall see if we have some." Before she left, she turned again to the young man and asked him: "Would you like to learn the prayer that the Blessed Virgin recited with Bernadette?"

"Oh! yes, Sister," he replied.

So Sister gave him a catechism in which were the Angelical Salutation and the principal prayers of a Christian. There is nothing else to be done now, but to beg Our Lady of Mercy to conduct these souls to her loving Child.

BENEFITS OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

Wednesday, July 5

Marjorie Chow was going to die, and she felt it. Vainly she resisted with all her might, death was coming mercilessly. All of a sudden, she was overcome with fear — no doubt the Evil Spirit was displaying all its power, she had so often refused Baptism; but the Most Loving Virgin was there. Was not Marjorie wearing her Miraculous Medal?...

"Marjorie," said the Sister Nurse, "you are very sick, would you not like to become a child of God by Holy Baptism?..."

The Chinese girl smiled. "Oh! yes, Sister," she replied, "baptize me."

Sister immediately baptized her under the names Mary Louise Delia and suggested to her acts of faith, hope and charity; she also had her repeat

after her: "My God, I give Thee my heart, my mind, my soul... and my life." For such a long time she had resisted the grace of God and refused to die; however, faith had penetrated into her soul and, one day, she said confidentially to one of the nurses: "I know quite well that Sister will not let me die without Baptism."

At last, she was baptized and her beaming countenance reflected the ineffable happiness which filled her soul. At the end of that same day, she peacefully expired.

"Martin is dying!" Such was the message the Sister Nurse sent to Sister Superior this morning. Now, Martin was a Protestant Japanese whom we had vainly endeavoured to convert, and he was dying... His mother, a fanatic Protestant stayed at his bedside all the time; however, he could not die like that, for we had succeeded in having him wear a Miraculous Medal.

All of a sudden, the mother was called to the telephone. Scarcely had she left the ward when the patient caught hold of the Sister Nurse's hand and murmured in Japanese: "Baptism." She just had time to baptize him before his mother returned. A few moments later the fortunate young man commended his soul into the hands of God.

One day, we gave the dear Medal to a Chinese who had come to the Clinic. Shortly afterwards, he entered the General Hospital. Sister Marie de Bethanie⁽¹⁾ with a Chinese Virgin, having gone to visit him, found him ready to undergo a serious operation. After having briefly exposed to him the truths of our Holy Religion, Sister, upon his request, hastened to make him a child of God. The formula was barely finished when the orderlies entered with the stretcher.

While visiting the sick, we met a bright looking little lad who confided to us: "At school, I can't remember a thing." We gave him a Miraculous Medal, explaining to him that it was the picture of his Mother in Heaven and that certainly she would not fail to help him if he asked her with confidence to do so. Although a Protestant, the little boy accepted the Medal and great was his joy when, some time later, he met us again. "Sister," he said cheerfully, "I have no mistakes in my dictation and I understand my lessons better."

One day, when we were visiting Oriental patients in a non-Catholic Hospital, a Hindu accosted us very politely, saying: "Sisters, are you Canadians? There is a white man like you, here, and he is always alone; nobody comes to see him." In fact, the patient was a good Canadian who was about to undergo a dangerous operation. He had vainly asked for a Catholic priest and he was very glad to see us. We encouraged him and promised to send him a priest. As for the charitable Hindu, after having exchanged a few words with him, we learnt that he adored the sun and knew nothing about God. We offered him a Miraculous Medal which he accepted. Thanks to this precious talisman, we are confident that the Divine Sun will not delay in disclosing to him the beauties of our Holy Religion.

1. Berthe Piché, St. Basile, Portneuf Co.

HE IS HAPPY WHO MAKES OTHERS HAPPY

Thursday, August 17

On receiving his tray for breakfast, each patient glanced at his companion to the right and to the left and, all of a sudden, a peal of laughter resounded in the ward; the reason was that each had just received a kind invitation to a banquet-dinner which was to be served on the green lawn in the garden. The joy of all was at its height, some even began to clap hands, saying: "To-day, Christmas!" Their first care was to look out the window to see the Sisters, nurses and orderlies who were busily setting the tables. To dine in the garden, at a table, was a pleasure that several had not enjoyed for a long time. The happy moment came at last! The tables were blessed by the Chaplain and the patients came down in the elevator. An expression of joy brightened up their pale countenances. Each one took his place and, in no time, had put a coloured-paper hat on his head. The effect was very picturesque: at the side of an enormous red cap could be seen a tiny white Panama; here was a mandarin's hat, there, a tall hat... The happiness of our dear Orientals was quite visible, we needed but look at them empty their bowls to judge of their satisfaction! At the end of the meal, the orderlies, most of whom were improvised musicians, organized a little band, and joyful melodies filled the air. Finally, it was necessary to have the dear patients rest. Each one joyfully returned to his bed where he soon fell asleep.

After the blessing of our new ward, the "Pavillion of Divine Providence", for our tuberculous patients, Sister Superior had celebrated its opening by a similar banquet. In the brilliantly-illuminated rectangular hall, decorated with fresh paintings, two long tables had been set. Around these had taken place some fifty patients wearing party-coloured kimonos and hats of all shapes and colours.

These little feasts rejoice our good Orientals and, on seeing their pleasure and contentment, we are, perhaps, still happier than they are, so true it is that "To give is sweeter than to receive."

A TRIBUTE OF GRATITUDE

Tuesday, September 19

Our modest Hospital was the witness of a rather extraordinary event, this morning. With the permission of His Excellency the Archbishop, a *Requiem* High Mass for the repose of the soul of Sister Marie, Franciscan Sister of the Reparation, who died suddenly on the 5th ult., was celebrated in the corridor of the third floor, which had been converted into a chapel for the occasion. At the farther end, in front of the wide window decorated with purple hangings in the centre of which a large crucifix was suspended, had been placed a long table concealed under a wide altar-cloth and a black frontal. A portable tabernacle and all that was necessary for Mass was on that improvised altar.

At half-past eight, the Clergy arrived in processional order. Our patients, Chinese and Japanese, some in invalids' chairs, others in their beds, assisted

with great interest at this spectacle which was quite new to them. After the Absolution, Reverend Father Benedict, Pastor of the Japanese Mission, delivered an allocution in Japanese, giving a brief account of the edifying life of the deceased. Born in England and belonging to the Anglican Church, Sister Marie had come to Vancouver some fifty years ago, to devote herself to the conversion of the Japanese. Her work began in poverty and sacrifice; and God, Who could not leave such generosity unrewarded, opened her eyes to the light of the true faith. Having become a Catholic, she devoted herself with incredible zeal and ardour to bring into the Fold those whom she had won to the Anglican Church; she converted, besides, a great number of pagans. Then, after becoming a Religious, she continued her apostolic work until the last moments of her life, for it was while she was catechizing a Japanese adult that death visited her. The Missionary finally urged his listeners to imitate the exemplary life of the lamented deceased.

This Mass had been offered by our Japanese patients in token of esteem and veneration for the one who had untiringly devoted herself to those of their nationality. They had contributed an amount of money and given it to Sister Superior, that she might buy flowers and have them deposited near the mortal remains of Sister Marie, but Sister Superior had suggested to consecrate part of the amount for a Mass and the rest for flowers, explaining to them the value of prayer and of the Holy Sacrifice, especially. Though the greater number were pagans, all had willingly accepted the proposition.

WON TO GOD

Recently, in Our Lady of Lourdes' ward, Our Eucharistic Lord came and visited for the first time, the heart of Lee Gim Thoo, tuberculous Chinese. His companions who, for the greater number were pagans, followed every incident of the ceremony that was taking place before them; and the solemn silence that reigned in the ward gave us the impression that all sensed the presence of God in that little Host. Lee Gim Thoo, deeply recollected, was beaming with joy. What a beautiful soul is his, so easily directed towards Heaven and so charming on account of its simplicity!

Lee Gim Thoo is happy, but how many of his fellow-countrymen equally well-disposed die, nevertheless, without hope or consolation, in non-Catholic Hospitals! Oh! most likely, they are not deprived of care and remedies, but what about their souls?... Does anybody think of preparing them for eternity? Would that we had more space and greater funds, all the Oriental patients would receive a hearty welcome under Our Lady's roof!...

On the morning of the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy, one of our patients took his flight to Heaven after receiving the Holy Waters of Baptism. In the afternoon, four dying Chinese temporarily occupied the white operating-room, awaiting with hearts full of joy, to be made children of God. On a little table, a statue of the Immaculate Virgin seemed to smile lovingly at them. Reverend Father Robert administered the Sacrament of Baptism to them and exchanged their names for those of powerful intercessors: John,

Patrick, Joseph and Peter. They seemed quite happy at that moment, yet still greater was to be their joy a few days later, for they were called to their eternal reward: Heaven and its unending bliss!

A PRECIOUS VISIT

Sunday, October 22

On the 12th of this month, all the Sisters, assembled at the front door, awaited in eager expectation, Reverend Mother Superior General and our dear Sisters en route to the Orient. At half-past eight, finally, Reverend Mother arrived. What happiness! What joy! After kissing each one of



THE LITTLE COMMUNITY OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, VANCOUVER, ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF THEIR REVEREND SUPERIOR GENERAL, MOTHER MARIE DE LA PROVIDENCE, LAST OCTOBER.

us, she and the travelling Sisters repaired to the chapel, where they received Holy Communion. The bell having summoned us all to the Community hall, dear Mother gave us news of our venerable Mother Foundress and all the Sisters. In the afternoon our welcome guests visited the Hospital.

God had a great joy in store for our beloved Mother, the next day: that of pouring the Saving Waters upon the brow of a dying man. In fact, Wong Pong was dying and regained consciousness all of a sudden; he accepted Holy Baptism, smiled, and even made a few signs to manifest his gratitude to the one who, under the names Joseph John, had made him an heir to Heaven. After this sublime act, our beloved Mother assisted at a little entertainment we had prepared for her.

The 14th was Departure Day for the dear Missionaries. The hours passed quickly, oh! so quickly... We wished we had been able to eternize these short moments which afforded us the happiness of living in the company of so cherished a Mother!

Alas! it was the last day Mother was spending in our midst, so the recreation-bell rang at half-past nine and, together, we formed a ring around her. The clock, scorning our sighs, ticked and ticked on without minding us; vainly we murmured: "Oh! how time flies!"

God had another apostolic joy in store for our dear Visitor on this last day. She named her second godchild Francis Xavier, in remembrance of her father. Shortly after his Baptism, the privileged child went to join the angels.

Then came the moment of the departure. After a last "*au revoir*" and "thank you", the vehicle carried away our Reverend and beloved Mother. Several of the Sisters had the pleasure of accompanying her to the station. There, to pass the gateway, Reverend Mother showed her ticket and all the Sisters who were with her followed. "It will be like this for our entrance into Heaven," then said Mother; and Sister Superior added: "Yes, provided we always follow our Mother." The younger Sisters who kept the house could see the train pass. It always is a consolation to wave the hand a last time and glance again at the dear ones who are leaving us!

All is over! Oh! how fleeting are earthly joys! In Heaven only will we enjoy everlasting bliss.

*Report of St. Joseph's Oriental Hospital, Vancouver,
Year 1939.*

Baptisms of adults.....	42	Fluoroscopes.....	916
Baptisms <i>in articulo mortis</i>	13	Laboratory tests.....	1,716
First Communions.....	5	Dressings.....	3,389
Holy Communions.....	144	Hypodermics.....	1,626
Extreme Unctions.....	17	Divers treatments.....	10,612
Homes visited.....	58	Medicaments.....	40,638
X-Rays.....	211	Patients registered.....	162

Report of the Chinese Dispensary, Year 1939.

Number of patients treated.....	894	Physical examinations.....	227
Medicaments distributed.....	914	Dressings.....	22

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*Report of the Dispensary of the Montreal Chinese Hospital,
Year 1939.*

Baptisms.....	31	Prescriptions filled.....	1,488
First Communions.....	4	Dressings.....	2,054
Confirmation.....	1	Electric Treatments.....	144
Extreme Unctions.....	7	X-Rays.....	10
Patients registered.....	105	Hypodermics.....	1,598
Patients received at the Dis- pensary.....	1,361	Operations.....	9
Deaths.....		Deaths.....	11
Days in the Hospital.....	2,100	Visits to Homes and Hospitals.....	122



EXTRACTS FROM THE NOVITIATE CHRONICLES DEDICATED TO OUR DEAR PARENTS

Monday, November 20, 1939

To-day, the Feast of St. Octavius afforded us a joyous holiday and the occasion of offering a sincere and cordial tribute of prayers and good wishes to dear Sister Superior, whose patronal feast it was.

After supper, we were invited to a charming entertainment. By way of prologue, a professed Sister explained the triple object to be realized this year by these traditional rejoicings of November 20th. You must know that, by a singular coincidence, three patronal feasts which cannot be overlooked here follow immediately one upon another in the church calendar: the Feast of St. Octavius, that of the Presentation of Mary, and that of St. Cecilia. Each number of the interesting program executed by the postulants and the professed Sisters was addressed, therefore, in respectful homage to good Sister Superior and the devoted Mistress of Postulants, and, at the same time, repeated to us novices the wishes already expressed to us at the beginning of the entertainment, wishes for fervour, perseverance and the faithful imitation of the little Virgin of the Temple, our Patron.

The joyful evening was brought to a close by the bell calling us to prayer. We had not time to give utterance to our joy and gratitude, as usual, by the singing of the *Magnificat*, but we did not fail to recite it individually while going to the chapel.

Tuesday, November 21

It is Tuesday, and yet the appearance of our hall would give us to believe that it is Sunday. Upon the tables, there is no sign of the different work which usually calls for every aptitude and every good will. Our devoted Superiors wished this day to be a first-class feast and nothing is lacking to our joy.

Returning from the chapel at two o'clock, after singing the praises of Our Heavenly Queen and Patron, we found our apartment transformed into a battle-field. The authors of this transformation? Our little Sisters, the postulants, no doubt; but we had not time to inquire about it. The mere sight of the announcement on a bulletin-board conspicuously placed inspired us with a warlike ardour such as we had never felt before, and incited us to take up arms. This is what we read: "Missionary Crusade under the

command of the invincible little Virgin of the Temple, for the purpose of delivering souls from the power of Satan and winning them to Jesus. Conditions of enrolment: the Crusaders must be well trained in all the missionary virtues and be skilful in handling the arms of perfection. The departure will be on November 21, at two o'clock in the afternoon."

We all, of course, wished to take part in the expedition, and the battle began immediately with redoubled blows of faith, hope, charity, humility and the cardinal virtues. The ensigns of the nations at war were staked in each new assault and became the glorious trophies of the winners. Ten games of "Perfection" were played with incredible enthusiasm. Hostilities had not yet ceased when the bell rang for the spiritual exercises; so the armistice and the proclamation of victories had to be postponed to the evening...

In the meantime, before the Blessed Sacrament exposed, we thought of the great missionary army of which we are the rear-guard and which does not cease to wage upon the pagan people the pacific war of evangelization.

O Jesus, may we, in the near future, combat in the ranks of Thy apostles and plant in countless souls Thy sacred standard!

Scarcely had our hearts uttered this prayer, when our attention, guided by Our Lord, no doubt, was attracted towards the statue of the little Virgin of the Temple, our Model. Absorbed in fervent prayer, she seemed to tell us that, like her long ago in Jerusalem, we can, even now, in the solitude of the Novitiate, make most marvellous spiritual conquests by the faithful accomplishment of our little daily duties. Oh! yes, under the banner of our amiable Patron, we wish to be conquerors on the immense battle-fields of the missionary apostolate!

Sunday, November 26

Whenever we say "the old novices" or, more reverentially, "the elder Sisters of the Novitiate," we mean those who are finishing their period of probation; for there is no question of age among us. The different dates of entry, only, divide us into diverse groups.

This evening, however, during a little entertainment improvised by the postulants, our eldest Sister according to age was, to her great surprise, the object of special attention: a bouquet was gracefully presented to her in honour of St. Catherine.

For the composition of their program, our little Sisters were inspired by yesterday's feast and to-morrow's, the feast of St. Catherine and that of the Miraculous Medal; and the evening closed with a tableau vivant, showing the Blessed Virgin as she is represented on this blessed medal, whose heavenly origin and a few of its marvellous effects had just been related to us.

Thursday, November 30

This day set apart for perpetual acknowledgment of the Divine favours granted to our young Institute and for more ample thanksgiving, brought us a painful deception and, then, a joy.

Reverend Mother Superior General's visit had been announced to us; but we waited all day in vain and were told that the critical condition of our venerable Mother Foundress was the cause of her delay. God seems more and more desirous of calling to Himself this dear suffering Mother, whom we have never had the happiness to see and hear, but to whom we have pledged a respectful devotion of filial love and gratitude. A few days ago, she received Extreme-Uncion again, and it is heart-rending for us to think of all that she is suffering and of the danger in which we are of losing her.

This evening, however, prospects seemed brighter, when, at supper-time, we saw dear Mother General enter the refectory. Her presence assured us that the condition of our venerable Mother Foundress had somewhat improved, and promised us, also, one of these pleasant family reunions which we enjoy so much!

Sunday, December 3

The Feast of St. Francis Xavier was left somewhat in the background, to-day, for the Church gave her attention, first of all, to the opening of the holy Time of Advent. We happily made it our duty, however, to offer our pious homage to our heavenly Patron.

This evening, thanks to the kindness of Reverend Father G. Sauvé, O. M. I., brother of two of our professed Sisters, we had the pleasure of assisting at an interesting cinematographic display, at which were present Monsignor E. Laroche, Superior of the Foreign Mission Society, and Reverend Father Michaud, P. M. E., recently arrived from Manchukuo.

"The first number is for the children, who can then go to bed," said Monsignor humorously, while Reverend Father Sauvé was putting his apparatus in motion.

The comedy finished, however, we took good care not to leave our places; for, if we felt quite young and had laughed heartily, we were none the less interested in the program that was to follow.

It was, first of all, the Vatican City that appeared to us, at the time of the last Conclave, and the Coronation of His Holiness Pope Pius XII. With cheers, we greeted this beloved Pontiff and, also, His Eminence, the Cardinal of Quebec, then in the Eternal City.

We were next invited to visit Spain, peaceful and prosperous at first, then, excited to insurrection by the propagators of communistic ideas, and a prey to civil war. We witnessed several battles: the fusillade crepitated in our ears, bullets whizzed shrilly, the machine-guns accomplished their work of destruction, cannons and aeroplanes cast their deadly bombs, and we could hear the piercing cry of sirens announcing the air-raid. What a sad thing is war! We pity our dear Sisters in China, who are experiencing these distressful horrors, and the countries of Europe actually afflicted by this dreadful scourge... O Mary, Queen of Peace, stronger than an army in battle array, have mercy on thy children!

Is it not to this powerful Virgin that Christian Spain is indebted for its victory over atheistic communism? Precisely for that, the Immaculate

Conception, its Patron, is honoured there with general devotion. In the schools, so Father Sauvé told us, a touching custom has been established. Entering the class-room, the children, raising their hands towards the statue of their Heavenly Mother, greet her in chorus with this invocation: "Hail Virgin, Most Pure" to which the teacher responds by these words: "And conceived without sin."

Reverend Father also related to us a Marian incident of this war which has reduced to ruins twenty-four thousand churches and caused the death of seventeen thousand priests and so many religious of both sexes! At Saragossa, the destruction of a temple dedicated to the Blessed Virgin was decided. Three aeroplanes were to throw three colossal bombs. These were, indeed, dropped; but, traversing roofs and floors, remained fixed in the ground, causing no further damage. It was considered a miracle; but as was later discovered, it was not the miracle that it was thought to be. The Queen who reigns over all hearts had touched those of the communist engineers who had prepared these destructive engines and who, in order to spare this sanctuary of the Madonna, had not put any explosive in them.

We would have willingly spent the night listening to Reverend Father relating to us with enthusiasm incidents of his recent trip to Spain; but, as it was growing late, our obliging Visitor had to interrupt his interesting lecture, for which we are heartily grateful.

Friday, December 8

What a memorable and holy day all imbued with profound joy and pure emotions we have just spent! Never before, to be sure, has the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at the Novitiate been characterized by so much solemnity and grandeur.

This morning, as we were absorbed in the contemplation of Our Immaculate Mother's incomparable beauty, the meditation-hour seemed to us very short, when, all of a sudden, floods of light inundated the chapel, while the choir intoned the *Tu es Petrus*.

Yes, we had the inestimable honour of receiving the Apostolic Delegate, His Excellency Most Reverend Ildebrando Antoniutti, who had the delicate thought of enhancing the splendour of our patronal feast by coming to celebrate a Pontifical Mass in our humble sanctuary. Preceded by a goodly number of priests and seminarists of the Foreign Mission Society accompanied by His Excellency Bishop Prudhomme and Monsignor Larochelle, P. A., the Representative of the Vicar of Christ advanced, therefore, blessing us.

The august rites of the Mass were performed amidst imposing liturgical ceremonies such as had never before been seen in our chapel. At the moment of the Communion, Reverend Mother Superior General, followed by our professed Sisters, advanced towards the Communion railing, and all together, they renewed their Religious Vows. What a privilege it was for our Mother and our elder Sisters to inaugurate, in the presence of the Holy Father's Delegate, this general renovation, which took place this morning, for the first time, in all the houses of our Institute, and which will, henceforth, be repeated every year on this blessed date! As for us, we heartily promised

our Divine Fiancé to follow Him generously in the paths of obedience, chastity and poverty, and we begged Our Immaculate Mother to instil into our hearts the spirit of our vocation and to help us to be counted, at last, among the spouses of Jesus.

After a light breakfast, our most reverend Visitor repaired to the parlor, where the Community was assembled to receive his paternal instructions and his blessing. Following is the substance of his precious discourse:

"It is a pleasure for me to be with you on this beautiful feast... Your habit recalls the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin, but you must retrace in your hearts the love and purity which appeared in the whole life of this Heavenly Mother.

"This morning, it seemed to me like a vision. On reading the account of the Proclamation of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception, we learn that, when the papal cortège entered St. Peter's Basilica, the Superior-Generals of the Franciscan Order, which had affirmed for centuries the truth of this dogma and solicited its definition, presented to the Holy Father most symbolical gifts: two silver lilies and two golden roses — the former representing holiness, purity and innocence; the latter, love, sacrifice and generosity — in token of generosity to the great Pontiff, from the universal Church.

"At the moment of the Communion, you presented to the Blessed Virgin the homage of your perfect consecration, as a tribute of gratitude for the choice graces with which she has favoured you. The Pope's Representative received that offering of your life and presented the lilies of your purity and the roses of your love to Our Lord in your name. Conserve these virtues in your heart; continue to advance in obedience and perfection... In the words of the *Magnificat*, you can say: '*Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est.*' Yes, the Lord, in His goodness, has done great things to you. But you, also, can do, and you have to do, great things for the salvation of souls and your own sanctification. In union with Our Lord, in humility and self-abnegation, you will find strength to accomplish these generous and heroic actions which are the aim of your vocation... You will ever remember this memorable feast. It is in the shadow of the Pope's Representative that you have renewed your engagements. It is in the Pope's name that I have begged Our Lord to receive your offering, to keep you in fervour; and, when the Head of the Church requests graces, Heaven grants them in abundance."

Finally, His Excellency told us that, more than others, we can, in the silence and calm of our Convent, pray for the Sovereign Pontiff; and he exhorted us to recommend to God the Holy Father's pressing desires during the present troublous times.

Soon, after giving us a last blessing, our illustrious Visitor took his leave. Never shall we forget his admirable condescension and kindness, or his pious counsels.

Our dear Reverend Mother, then, began the holiday with vibrating acclamations in honour of Our Immaculate Mother, Our Holy Father the Pope, and the Apostolic Delegate — acclamations which we repeated with

enthusiasm. Towards ten o'clock, she had to leave us to go with Mother St. Jean François Régis to Outremont, where was to take place, this afternoon, the blessing of the annex added to our former Mother House and destined for the work of Closed Retreats.

This evening, Monsignor Larochelle had the kindness to come to give us Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, with deacon and sub-deacon. Thus, even to its close, this incomparable day has shone with splendour and beauty.

In the dwelling of the Immaculate, we are unceasingly the object of her maternal bounties; but, to-day, this Heavenly Mother has exceeded the measure and heaped her favours upon us. May we thank her worthily and publish her benefits far and wide!

Saturday, December 9

Yesterday, at the moment of his departure, His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate bade us keep carefully the original fervour and spirit of our Community. This exhortation is to be constantly put into practice; and, even to-day, we are doing so, in taking joyously and without delay the Papal holiday which was granted us, for our venerable Mother Foundress always taught her children the most profound respect and prompt submission regarding the Princes of the Church, and a true filial love for the Sovereign Pontiff.

Sunday, December 24

Our thoughts and desires are entirely concentrated on the mysteries of the Divine Nativity. Relieved from most of our employments, as it is Sunday, we have had the leisure to unite our prayers with the great voice of the Church already thrilling with joy at the approaching solemnities.

After Vespers, which were sung at two o'clock, we began the recitation of the thousand *Aves*. From every corner of the Convent, greetings full of love and supplication, rise towards the blessed Virgin who is bringing us a Saviour.

Monday, December 25

Christmas! What blessed memories and sweet joys this word recalls! Christmas at the Novitiate, delicious feast in which are intermingled the everlasting impressions of our childhood Christmases and the pure happiness of a closer union to Jesus in the Crib!

Awakened, last night, by floods of harmony, echoes of the celestial invitations transmitted long ago by the Angelic Messengers to the shepherds of Bethlehem, we hastened to the poor and humble Crib of the King of kings to adore Him and offer Him our hearts.

In response to the desire expressed by His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate during his visit on December 8th, it was no longer only a group of singers up in the choir, but the whole congregation in the nave, that sang the High Mass at Midnight, uniting us thus more intimately to the Holy Sacrifice.

At daylight, pious voices, bells and violins repeated from dormitory to dormitory, the joyful tidings of the Divine Child's Birth, and invited us to celebrate His coming. Everything in the house expressed gaiety and merriment. We assembled, after breakfast, in our Hall daintily festooned, and adorned with a lovely Christmas-tree.

A mysterious box arrived yesterday from the Mother House. Evidently, it contained gifts — surprise-gifts, for we were not expecting any after receiving beautiful vestments: chasuble, dalmatics, stoles, maniples, burse and ciborium-cover, for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Were we to wait patiently until New Year's Day to open the attractive packages bearing these words: "From your two loving Mothers"? Decidedly, no. We reserved for January 1st the letter conveying the wishes of our reverend and dear Mother Superior General; but we opened wide our eyes to admire the other maternal bounties, and wide our hands to receive our share of pictures and leaflets containing precious spiritual manna for us.

The letters from our dear Parents were also distributed, as well as the sweets that the same benevolent donors bestow, every year, upon the numerous personnel of the Novitiate.

What happiness, O Jesus, the Anniversary of Thy Birth always brings us! Grant that it may bring as much to all mankind, our brothers. Make straight all hearts and wills, so that the cruel wars may cease and the peace promised to men "of good will" may reign over the world.

Tuesday, December 26

1939 has been most trying for us with regard to our spiritual Heads. In the beginning of the year, death bereaved us of Our Holy Father Pope Pius XI; in the autumn, of our venerable Pastor, Archbishop Bruchesi; and last night, God called to Himself Reverend Father Derome, Parish Priest of St. Christopher.

This zealous priest who always manifested the greatest sympathy for our Community, was our extraordinary confessor for several years. It is a duty for us to pray for the repose of the soul of this devoted pastor, whose sudden death is a great loss for Pont Viau; but we believe that, having died on Christmas night, this faithful servant must have received the sentence of Eternal Happiness, for is it not the all-loving and all-merciful Christ-Child Who is the Presiding Judge at the Sovereign Tribunal on that blessed Feast?

Friday, December 29

During the past three days, we went in successive groups of twelve to pray near Reverend Father Derome's mortal remains. Two funeral services were celebrated at the parochial church at half-past seven and half-past nine, this morning. Our Superiors and a good number of Sisters assisted. It was the last exterior mark of esteem, veneration and gratitude, that we could offer this beloved Pastor, who will live long in our memory.



The Children's Page

DEAR CHILDREN,

Were you ever out in the country, far from any place of shelter, when a violent storm was approaching?

If you were, what did you feel when the sun became darkened and the sky overcast with sullen clouds, when the wind arose angry and threatening, the lightning flashed through the heavens, and the thunder roared in the distance and advanced with a crash. You were very much frightened, no doubt, and felt the urgent need of taking refuge somewhere... On reaching cover, however, your fears immediately vanished, leaving you calm and hopeful again.

At present, dear Children, there is also a storm, a big storm threatening the whole world. The firmament of the future is covered with gloomy clouds which, here and there, seem ready to burst; flashes of lightning appear on the horizon and, in the distance, a thundering sound is to be heard, the terrible sound of war. Grown-up people make of these events the subject of their conversation; and children, hearing what they say without fully understanding its meaning, shudder with fear at the dreadful scenes that crowd their imagination. When evening comes and darkness prevails, their little eyelids seem loath to close; and when, at last, sleep does come, instead of bearing them away to a happy dreamland of songs and smiles, to chase after butterflies and pluck pretty flowers, as is usual for children of their age, it suggests to them direful dreams of battles and bloodshed, of ships sunk, aeroplanes destroyed, houses burnt, etc., etc.

What happens then, when dawn has dispersed the shadows of the night and ushered in the day? The anxieties of the eve torment anew the hearts of my dear little Friends, who, haunted by the apprehension of misfortunes that might befall them, try to imagine a place of safety. Where?...

In the arms of Papa or Mama?

But they are too big now...

In some unknown corner of the house?

But an aeroplane might come and destroy it completely...

In a secluded spot in the garden, hidden in the bushes?

And if a bomb were to explode at that very spot?...

In the depths of a grove?...



*Direful dreams of battles and bloodshed,
of ships sunk, aeroplanes destroyed,
houses burnt, etc., etc.*

But what if it were set on fire?...

Truce, dear Children, truce to so much anxiety! Your Great Friend knows a place of safety where you can all take refuge, a place where you can remain cheerful and calm despite every anguish, a place of rest and love: it is in the Arms... the almighty Arms, embracing the whole world... the loving Arms of Jesus.

THE ARMS OF JESUS

Did you ever think, dear Children, why Jesus is nearly always represented with outstretched Arms? Contemplate Him in the Crib... His little Arms uplifted express already what, later on, He will say to the multitudes eager to hear Him: "Come to Me... and I will refresh you... If any man thirst, let him come to Me!... Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

And His Arms ultimately extended on the Cross, what does it mean?

They draw us... and will continue to draw until the consummation of the world, according to Jesus' own words: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all things to myself."

Ah! if we could only see with our poor mortal eyes, were it even for an instant, Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, assuredly, we would see Him with His Arms open to receive us; for this irresistible attraction that we feel for Our Eucharistic Lord, when passing before a church or a chapel, what else is it but a "Come to Me" issuing from the Tabernacle? And this ardent desire that we sometimes have for Holy Communion, what else is it but a new invitation from Jesus, another "Come to Me"?

But the misfortune, the great misfortune, is that the majority of men remain deaf to the tender calls of Jesus.

Why?

Because Jesus is purity, humility, mortification, justice, the whole Divine Law and... Everlasting Glory; while the maxims of the world, presented by Satan, are altogether opposed to that; they gratify the passions, require no effort, procure fleeting pleasures, are adopted by the greater number and, what is worse, give a false idea of God and Eternity. Nevertheless, whether men believe it or not, God with His Eternity exists. He is a Father full of love, goodness and mercy; such is His essence. He is Our Father; it is He Who has made us. He has created our immortal soul and our mortal

body destined for the future resurrection. He constantly watches over us and lavishes His tender care upon us. But, as all qualities and perfections exist in Him, He is, also, infinitely just, and must, therefore, reward the good and punish the wicked; so does He do for each one at the hour of death, assigning to some, Heaven and its endless bliss, and to others, Hell and its eternal torments.

And during life?...

A Father full of love and wisdom, He tries His faithful children in order to increase their merits; He chastises the ungrateful and rebellious ones; and, when the abomination of evil prevails upon earth, He sends plagues, one of the greatest of which is war. Then, even, and especially then, His Arms remain wide open to repentance and good-will...

For you, dear Children, is there a place in the Arms of Jesus? Assuredly, there is, and a choice one... on His Breast. It is there that the Friend of purity draws pure souls, souls of children; there, He inspires them with confidence and lovingly caresses them. St. Teresa of the Child Jesus quickly understood the excellency of that place; having made of it her perpetual abode, she reposed there in perfect tranquillity. "Thine Arms, O Jesus," she said, "are the lift which must raise me up even unto Heaven."

How, indeed, not be at ease while resting upon the loving Heart of the Almighty? King of kings, Sovereign Master of all things, He holds in His Hand the course of events, the lives of men, the recesses of consciences; and, while He rules the fury of the storms, He pours a stream of peace into the souls that have placed all their trust in Him...

PEACE

Our Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, and our Pastors, likewise, request prayers for the re-establishment of peace in the world. Be attentive, dear Children, to the urgent solicitations of our Spiritual Heads. To pray for peace means to ask the grace for nations to return to the path of justice and duty, the conversion of misled multitudes to God, and the revival of Christian life in many languishing souls; for there is no doubt but that the innumerable offences committed against God are the principal cause of the war.



COME TO ME...

Yes, dear Children, be among those who pray, who receive Holy Communion frequently, who sacrifice themselves for peace, and among those, too, who rest perfectly confident in the Divine Arms, knowing that nothing can happen to them.

Your Great Friend,

THE PRECURSOR.

Thanksgivings to the Blessed Virgin for favours obtained



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

BL. HENRY SUZO.

I am thankful to the Blessed Virgin for graces received. Kindly continue praying for me and my family. Mrs. A. B., Southbridge, Mass. — Thanksgiving to Our dear Mother for a very special favour received some time ago. I am asking her to intercede for me. Miss E. K., Springfield, Mass. — Thanksgiving for favour obtained through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. Please continue praying for my intention. Mrs. F. D., Island Falls, Me. — Please publish my thanks to the Blessed Virgin for my cure, and kindly continue praying for me that I may keep well. Please keep on praying for my husband, also. Mrs. L. C. B., Three Rivers, Mass. — I am still on the gain and feeling much better each day, thanks to the Blessed Virgin. Please continue praying so that I may regain strength. Mrs. A. D., Millbury, Mass. — Heartfelt appreciation for your prayers and the many favours we have received through the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin. Mr. R. L., Rosemount, Que. — I prayed that my sister might get employment and this prayer was answered the first day THE PRECURSOR arrived. My most profound gratitude to the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. J. McK., Pittsfield, Mass. — I am ever so grateful and thankful to the Blessed Virgin Mary for her graces and favours. Will you kindly join me in making a Novena for several other favours. Mrs. N. M. B., Lewiston, Me. — Thanksgiving for favour received. Kindly pray for me. Mrs. A. J. T., Southbridge, Mass. — Kindly have a Votive candle burn at the shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary in thanksgiving for a favour received. Please pray to her that another one may be granted me. Mr. M. J. B., Pineville, N. B. — The Blessed Virgin has granted us many graces. Please pray again that she may bless our house and family with the best of health and good luck. Mr. and Mrs. F. C., Caribou, Me. — My prayers have partly been answered. Kindly continue praying for my intentions. Miss E. MacM., North Adams, Mass. — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for having granted me one half of my favour. Please keep on praying for me. Mrs. A. B., Collinsville, Mass. — I wish to thank Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal for a wonderful cure. One night I was having so much pain in my head and ears from sinus trouble which I have had on and off for over a year, that I decided I would go to the doctor's the next day. Then, I thought of the Miraculous Medal which I was wearing. I took it and rubbed it all around my ears and head and asked Our Lady to cure me. Well, inside of half an hour I was completely cured of all that pain and deafness. I could hardly realize it. I am so grateful to Our Lady for this cure, that I wish others to know about it. Will you please pray in a special manner for other very urgent requests. Mrs. N. McEvoy, Montreal. — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for favours received. Mrs. L. C., Southbridge, Mass. — I wish to publish my thanksgiving to the Immaculate Conception. I underwent a very serious operation which was successful. I placed my trust in the Precious Blood and Mary Immaculate. I always wear a Miraculous Medal and have great confidence in the power of the Mother of God. Mrs. E. McCloskey, Kirkland Lake, Ont. — Thanksgiving for favours received through the Precious Blood and the poor souls in Purgatory. A grateful client of Mary. — I wish to thank Our Sorrowful Mother for a favour granted to me on the sixth day of my Novena. Thanks to St. Joseph also. I would like you to pray to the Blessed Virgin for another favour. Grateful Client, Cornwall, Ont. — We have previously written to you asking for special prayers in behalf of afflicted parents who had not heard from their son for a long time. We had tried to get news of him everywhere and in the different companies where he had worked before, but to no avail, until the Novena to good St. Anthony was nearly over. I think on the ninth day, they received their

first news from their son. All thanks to good St. Anthony. Miss H. M. M., **L'Ardoise, N. S.** — Lively gratitude to the Blessed Virgin for a favour obtained. Mrs. A. B., **Montreal**. — Thanks to the Blessed Virgin for numerous graces obtained during the year. Mrs. O. P., **Cote des Neiges**. — Gratitude to the Blessed Virgin for favour obtained. Miss R. C. — I have obtained a better position after making a Novena to the Blessed Virgin. Heartfelt thanks to Our Heavenly Mother! A. P. — Thanksgiving to Mary Immaculate for a special favour obtained. E. H. — Homage of profound gratitude for a cure which I consider to be miraculous. J. B., **St. Aimé**. — Sincere thanks to our Heavenly Mother for success in examinations and University diploma obtained. Miss A. D., **Ste. Agathe**. — Heartfelt thanks to Our Lady of the Missions for having protected my son. I beg for other favours. Anonymous. — Lively gratitude for benefit received. Mrs. A. G., **Belœil**. — Thanksgiving for favour obtained. Mrs. G. B., **L'Ange Gardien**. — I am acquitting myself of a promise in thanksgiving for my son's cure and I beg Our Heavenly Mother's protection for my family. Mrs. O. G., **St. Timothée d'Hérouxville**. — Lively gratitude for spiritual and temporal favours obtained through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin after promising to publish. A. M. — I am coming to acquit myself of a promise in honour of the Blessed Virgin, for a cure obtained. L. M. — Grateful thanks for a benefit received. Mrs. J. L., **Roxton Falls**. — Thanksgiving to Mary Immaculate for improvement in my son's position. Mrs. J. B., **Quebec**. — Heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin for the favours she has obtained for me. Miss L. G., **Bagotville**. — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a favour obtained through her intercession. Mrs. P. F., **St. Johns, Que.** — Sincere thanks for a permanent position obtained. I am asking for the grace to be able to keep it. A Subscriber. — Homage of gratitude for relief obtained in a long illness. Mrs. C. G. — Thanksgiving for favour obtained. Mrs. J. D. C. — I am acquitting myself of a promise made to the Blessed Virgin long ago, in thanksgiving for a favour obtained. Mrs. E. B., **Bristol, Conn.** — Thanksgiving for a cure obtained through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. A. N. — Sincere thanks to the Blessed Virgin for the favour she has obtained for me. Mrs. L. L., **Roberval**. — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for an increase in salary. M. V., **Newport, Vt.** — I am pleased to fulfil the promise I had made in honour of the Blessed Virgin, for I have obtained a favour through her intercession. Mrs. E. L. — Lively gratitude for a favour obtained. I implore Our Lady's assistance for my sister and brother-in-law. Anonymous. — I was threatened to have my foot amputated but, after the application of the Miraculous Medal, my condition has improved every day. I thank the Blessed Virgin and beg for a complete cure. Mrs. E. L., **Southbridge, Mass.** — My husband has obtained a position. Kindly help me to thank the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. J. R. B., **Thetford Mines**. — Lively gratitude for a favour obtained. Mrs. W. L., **Montreal**. — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for the graces she has showered upon me during the past year. L. L. — I am pleased to tell you that the Blessed Virgin has cured the person dear to me, for whom I had requested your prayers. Kindly help me to thank her. Mrs. C. F. — My little boy did not have to undergo an operation. My most heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. R. B., **Montreal**. — Thanksgiving for a special favour obtained. May the Blessed Virgin ever protect my child. Mrs. M. D., **Port Menier**. — Thanksgiving for work obtained. Mrs. R. B., **Verdun**. — With great joy I acquit myself of a debt of gratitude towards the Blessed Virgin for success in important examinations. Miss C. L., **Holyoke, Mass.** — Homage of gratitude for favours obtained through the intercession of Mary Immaculate. Mrs. E. B., **Bristol, Conn.** — Gratitude for favour received. G. T., **Montreal**. — I am acquitting myself of a promise I had made, in thanksgiving to Mary Immaculate. Mrs. E. B., **Bristol, Conn.** — Lively gratitude to the Blessed Virgin for graces received. I am requesting other favours. Mrs. A. A., **Montreal**. — Thanksgiving for favour obtained. Mrs. R. F., **Ste. Anne des Plaines**. — Heartfelt thanks for favour obtained. Mrs. J. F. B.

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

Petitions

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

Please pray, that I may obtain a spiritual favour. Miss G. B., **Montreal**. — I have a sister who is seriously ill in the hospital. Please say special prayers for her speedy recovery. Miss N. B., **Lewiston, Me.** — Would you please offer up prayers in honour of the Blessed Virgin, asking her to help me and my family, also a married son who is out of work. Mrs. D. L., **Westmount**. — I am coming to ask you to pray for the speedy recovery of my brother who has been ill with pneumonia for the past month and is not out of danger yet. Miss V. H., **West Jct., Que.** — Please light candles in honour of the Blessed Virgin for a special favour I wish to obtain. Mrs. A. McE., **Millinocket, Me.** — Will you please make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin, that I may obtain two special favours. Mrs. A. B., **Collinsville, Mass.** — I wish you would offer a few prayers for my children, that God may guide them in the right path, that my son may find a good position, and that a very sick man may be cured. Mrs. J. M., **Montreal**. — Kindly include in your Novena to the Immaculate Conception my petitions: protection for my home; return to the Sacraments of four relatives who have been careless for some years; a special temporal favour; a very special spiritual favour. Lifelong client. — I would like you to start a Novena as soon as possible for my sister who is very sick with tuberculosis of the lungs. Mrs. R. **Montreal**. — Please make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin for my husband, who has been sick for two years, that he may recover. Mrs. R. M., **Rouyn, Que.** — My son is very sick, please make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin for his intentions. Mrs. F. McB., **Notre Dame du Nord, Que.** — I have had pneumonia and I am left with a terrible cough. Would you kindly make a Novena for me. Miss C. R., **Golden Lake, Ont.** — Kindly pray, that I may not have to undergo an operation, and that I may have better health. Mrs. W. P. R., **Hemmingford, Que.** — As I have been out of work for over two years, would you be so kind as to make a Novena for me, that I may obtain a permanent position as soon as possible. A Client of Mary, **Montreal**. — I would like you to start a Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal for my little girl who is in a cast for twelve weeks. Mrs. W. R., **Montreal**. — I am unemployed and I need work very badly. Please have special prayers said to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception for my intention. Mr. L. C. C., **Eagle Lake, Me.** — Kindly remember my intentions in your prayers. Miss B. P., **Montreal**. — May I request you to join me in a Novena to St. Ann, that better health may be granted to my husband and myself. A Subscriber. — Would you please pray for my son, that he may find work. He has been away from home for quite a while and I am so worried. Mrs. R. L. — Will you kindly make a Novena in honour of St. Anthony for me, as I am asking for the return of my son. His father and myself are worried about him and we are very anxious, if it is God's Will, that good St. Anthony answer our request. Mr. and Mrs. J. A. B. — Kindly pray for my daughter, that she may obtain health and strength to carry on her work. Mrs. LeB., **Verdun**. — Will you kindly pray and ask the Sacred Heart that there may be a change with my father. Miss M. L. S., **Verdun, Que.** — Please remember my husband in your prayers, that he may be cured of eczema. Mrs. D. L. — I would like you to pray that we may sell a farm. Mrs. J. A. B., **Metabetchouan**. — Kindly have prayers said for my four sons, that they may cease taking liquor. A Subscriber. — I request the following favours of the Blessed Virgin: work for my son and success in his undertakings. Mrs. G., **St. Johns**. — Please pray for a happy reconciliation between my husband and I, that I may be able to go to church the way I should. Please pray that he may have sufficient work this summer. I need prayers and help very badly. Mrs. G. — Once more I am writing, begging for your prayers for my special intentions. Mrs. E. MacM., **North Adams, Mass.** — My mother is very sick in the Hospital and I am afraid God is going to take her from me. Please remember her in your prayers. Mr. W. A., **Gardner, Conn.** — Kindly remember my intention in your prayers. Miss A. C., **Waterbury, Mass.** — Please help me to pray for my husband who has been sick for a year. The doctors say he has a growing tumor on his lung. Mrs. I. S., **Fairview, Mass.** — Please pray for my husband, that he may have better health and get a better position. Mrs. N. V., **Spencer, Mass.** — Please place a votive light at Mary's shrine for my intentions. Miss M. M. O'D., **Portland, Me.** — Please pray to the Blessed Virgin for me, that I may recover my health, and that my son and daughter may also obtain health. Mrs. T. H., **Waterville, Me.** — Please pray for my intentions. Mrs. J. L., **Springfield, Mass.** — Kindly remember me in your prayers. Miss V. C., **Notre Dame de Grace**. — Please pray for a special intention of mine. Miss A. K., **Chicopee Falls, Mass.** — I wish you to make a special Novena for me for a spiritual favor and two temporal ones. Miss H. McD., **Montreal**. — Please pray for two special intentions: A faithful client, **Montreal**. — Please pray to the Blessed Virgin, that I may receive a special favour. I would like you to pray also for my sister who is suffering from lung trouble, that she may be cured. Mrs. L. S., **Newport, Vt.** — Will you kindly pray for my son's cure. Please pray also, that I may rent my room and for the conversion of a daughter. M. J. B. — Will you please pray for one dear to me, that he may recover

and be able to work. A Subscriber, **Skowhegan, Me.** — Please pray for a special favour. **A. L., Orlando, Fla.** — Please make a Novena to Our Blessed Lady, as I have not been keeping well and I have to have an operation. **Miss H. C., Kilmarnock, Scotland.** — Please continue to pray for my grandson, that he may keep in good health. **Mrs. Z., Rumford, Me.** — I am asking through your prayers the rental of our furnished apartment to a reliable and permanent tenant. Will you please include my son in your prayers. **Mrs. E. McM., Marlboro, Mass.** — Would you kindly say some prayers for me as I am threatened to lose my hearing. Please pray also for success in business. **Mrs. J. M., Montreal.** — I hope you will pray for me that I may be able to support my family and recover my health. **Mrs. L. L., Ludlow, Mass.** — Please pray for us, that God may give us health to do His Will, and also for all our other intentions. **Miss K. G., Sebringville, Ont.** — Please pray for a special intention of mine. **Miss J. B., Worcester, Mass.** — Will you please pray for a dear friend of mine. Kindly remember me also in your prayers. **Miss B. G. H., Worcester, Mass.** — Will you please remember me in your prayers to the Blessed Mother, for a special favour. Please pray for my daughter that she may have good health and recover her eyesight. **Mrs. W. L. R., Worcester, Mass.** — Will you kindly pray for the following intentions: that I may be cured of my nervousness and headache, that I may be able to sleep at night, and that my husband may get a better paying position. **Mrs. L. C., Southbridge, Mass.** — Please pray, that Our Blessed Mother may grant me my wish. **Miss R. B., Skowhegan, Me.** — I am asking a very special favour of the Blessed Virgin for my son. Please join me in a Novena to obtain it, as it is very important. **Mrs. J. S., Whitinsville, Mass.** — I am asking a very special favour for my little granddaughter, that she may be cured of her cripple hand, that the operation may be a success. Also pray that I may obtain health and that my son may get a steady position. **Mrs. W. F., Detroit, Mich.** — Please pray for my intentions. **Mrs. E. T., Cleveland, Ohio.** — I would like you to make a Novena for the speedy recovery of my son, and daughter's little boy. **Mrs. L. B., Three Rivers, Mass.** — Please pray for our family, we have been in sickness now for one year. I hope, with the help of the Blessed Virgin, that we shall be able to get around once more. **Mrs. B. H. C., Skowhegan, Me.** — I would ask you to please pray for me, that I may receive two special favours through the intercession of the Blessed Mother. **Mrs. K. G., Montreal.** — I wish to be remembered in your prayers, that my son may soon receive a steady position. **Mrs. P. S., Verdun.** — Would you kindly pray to the Blessed Virgin for all our intentions. A Subscriber, **Frelighsburg, Que.** — Will you please pray to the Blessed Virgin that I may regain my strength and be well again. **Miss M. D., Gardner, Mass.** — Would you please make a Novena in honour of our Blessed Mother, that my son may be converted and have plenty of work. I am a widow. A Subscriber, **Chicopee Falls, Mass.** — I would like you to make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin for something that I asked and would like to receive. **M. S., Easthampton, Mass.** — Please make a Novena for my intentions: Improvement in my mother's health; cure of eyes; and a special intention. **Miss E. C., Westmount, Que.** — Here I am again asking you to make a Novena with me, that I may obtain three special favours. **Miss R. E. V., Waterville, Me.** — I implore prayers for the cure of my husband's eye. I sincerely thank the Blessed Virgin for favours received. Please pray that I may have better eyesight. **Mrs. E. J. D., St. Giles, Que.** — Please pray, that I may find a cure for a head cold that lasts the whole year round. **Mrs. F. B., Easthampton, Mass.** — Will you please make a Novena, that I may receive a steady position right away or in the near future, that my brother may receive work too, and that I may be successful in a test I am about to take. **M. J. K., Bondsville, Mass.** — Will you kindly make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin and St. Teresa for three special favours of mine. **Miss K. V., Griffith, Ont.** — Will you please pray to the Blessed Mother and St. Teresa, that my son's hand may be cured. **Mrs. L. V. P., Vankleek Hill.** — Please offer a Novena to Our Blessed Lady and the Little Flower for a steady position and two other intentions of mine. **Mrs. E. J. R., South Porcupine, Ont.** — Kindly pray for a special favour. A Subscriber. — Kindly pray for the conversion of two brothers of mine. One who has much grief. — Would you kindly make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin, that I may obtain a grace. Anonymous, **Verdun, Que.** — I request the help of your prayers for two very special intentions. **M. R., Montreal.** — A Subscriber to THE PRECURSOR requests prayers for a young girl who has had an operation. — Kindly pray for the following intentions. Success in business; a permanent position for my husband; money to pay our debts. **Mrs. M. L. C., Mecamic.** — I request of the Blessed Virgin, health and a permanent position for my husband; my mother's and brother's cure. **Mrs. E. B., Montreal.** — Please pray for my husband who has not made his Easter duty for several years and makes us suffer very much. Anonymous. — I beg the Blessed Virgin to make me find a means of earning some money. A Child of Mary. — I have a very sore foot. Please pray that I may be cured. A Subscriber. — Would you kindly join me in a Novena to the Blessed Virgin for my daughter, that a special grace may be granted her. A Subscriber. — I implore the help of the Blessed Virgin for a special favour and the future of my children. A Subscriber. — A position is requested. **A. Guertin, Coaticook.** — A Subscriber requests her cure through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. **M. H., Montreal.** — Kindly make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin for my husband, who drinks. Anonymous, **Springfield, Mass.** — Kindly pray for the recovery of my daughter who has had an accident. **Mrs. Arthur Frappier, Cote des Neiges.** — Please pray to the Blessed Virgin for my husband's conversion. **Mrs. W. B., Shawinigan.** — Kindly pray for my husband's cure. **Mrs. J. St.O.**

— I solicit your prayers for my daughter's cure. Mrs. P., **Shawinigan**. — Kindly pray for the success of an important affair. A Subscriber, **Three Rivers**. — A position for my husband. Mrs. L. M., **Granby**. — May Our Immaculate Mother grant us success in our undertakings, and more work. Mrs. W. L., **Three Rivers**. — Through the Blessed Virgin's intercession, I request my husband's cure. Mrs. R. Z., **Shawinigan**. — A position for my son. Mrs. H. L., **Shawinigan**. — A sick person asks for the grace of resignation. Anonymous. — The conversion of two persons. A Subscriber. — Courage, health for my husband and my son's perfect recovery. Mrs. P. G., **Shawinigan**. — Success in our undertakings. Mrs. L. D., **Three Rivers**. — Kindly pray for my brother's cure and for all my intentions. G. B., **Montreal**. — A father requests his cure, that he may be able to earn a living for his family. M. L. L., **Three Rivers**.



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



NECROLOGY

Right Reverend Monsignor William A. Plamondon, **Burlington, Vt.**; Reverend Father F. G. Polan, P. P., St. Aloysius Parish, **Montreal**; Reverend Father Avila Derome, P. P., **Pont Viau**; Reverend Sister St. Clément, Missionary Sister of the Immaculate Conception, **Szeping kai, Manchukuo, China**; Miss Marie Claire Carrier, **Stoke Centre**, sister of our Sister St. Guillaume; Mrs. Onésime Henri, **Victoriaville**, grandmother of our Sister Jeanne de Jésus; Mr. A. Lipton, **Montreal**; Mr. R. T. Hogan, **Montreal**; Mr. John Peacock, **Montreal**; Mr. Joseph J. Fahey, **Montreal**; Mrs. Anna Harper, **Montreal**; Mrs. Ellen Murphy, **Montreal**; Mrs. John Neilson, **Park Extension**; Miss Marie Wilson, **Notre Dame de Grace**; Mrs. Azarie Fontaine, **Fort William, Ont.**; Mrs. Marie Guyette, **Marlboro, Mass.**; Mrs. Lucy Anne Chapeskie, **Killaloe Station, Ont.**; Miss Rose Gregoire, **Spencer, Mass.**; Mrs. Fred Kennedy, **Montreal**; Mr. Claude Kennedy, **Montreal**; Mrs. Annie Carroll, **Montreal**; Mr. R. H. Hamilton, **Notre Dame de Grace**; Mrs. Alan Kimlin, **Montreal**; Mr. Edward Rogers, **Montreal**; Mr. John Gallagher, **Montreal**; Mrs. Abigail Conroy, **Kirkland Lake**; Mr. Wm. J. Geeves, Sr., **Montreal**; Mr. Michael Ryan, **Montreal**; Mr. Charles Hendley, **Rosemount**; Mrs. Agnes Felling, **Verdun**; Mrs. Catherine O'Leary, **So. Brewer, Me.**; Messrs. Peter, Joseph and John Gallagher, **So. Brewer, Me.**; Miss Cecilia Gallagher, **So. Brewer, Me.**; Mr. Amos Labrie, **Orono, Me.**; Mr. Michael Joseph Henchey, **Charny, Que.**; Mrs. Patrick Murphy, **Greenview, Ireland**; Miss Mary Wilson, **St. Clair, Michigan**.

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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.