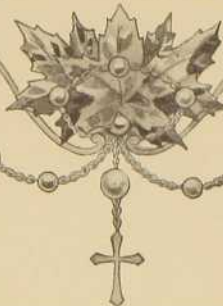


# THE PRECURSOR



Vol. XII. 18th Year      MONTREAL, September-October, 1940      No. 11



# Works of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

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(Continued on page 3 of the cover.)

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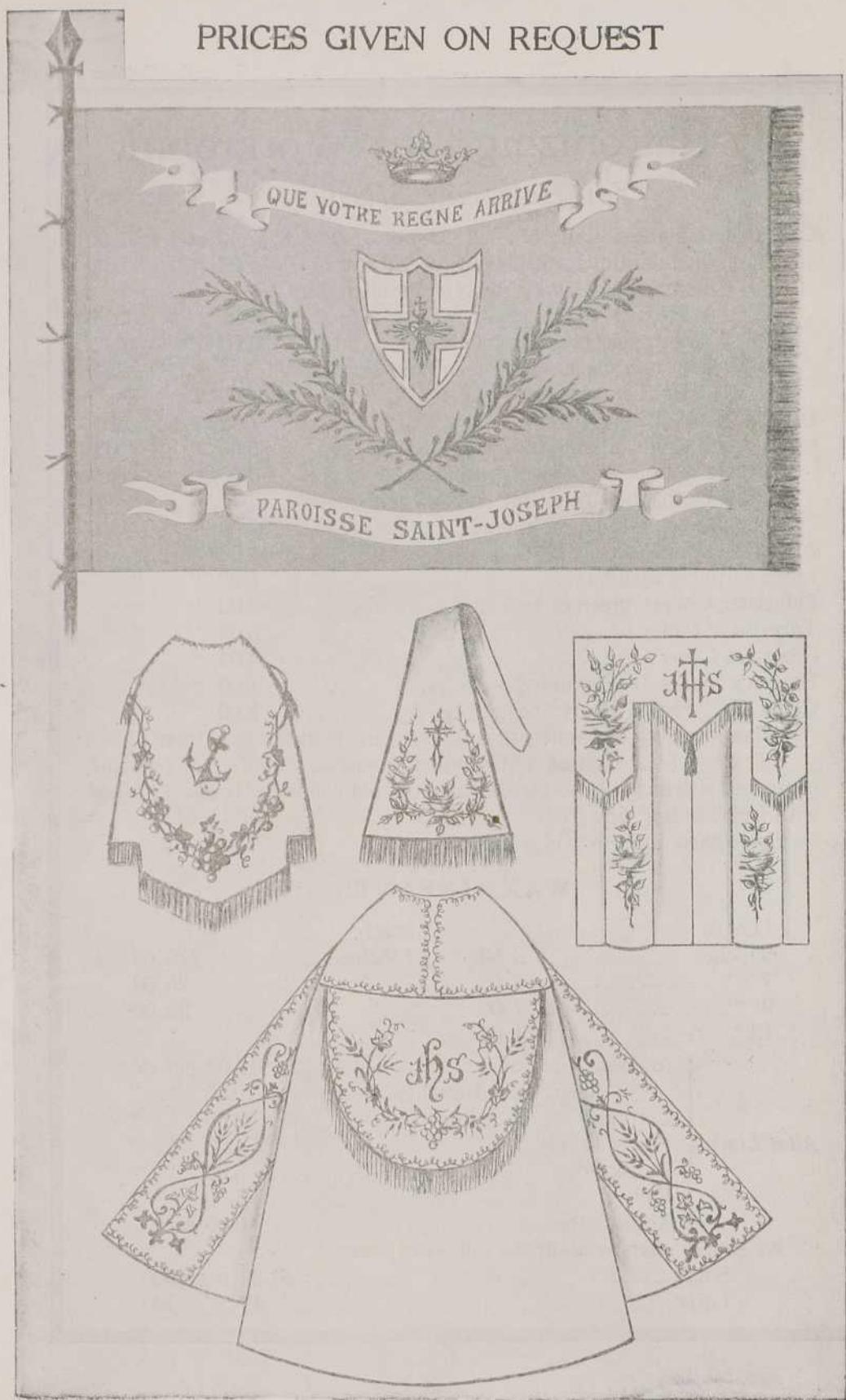
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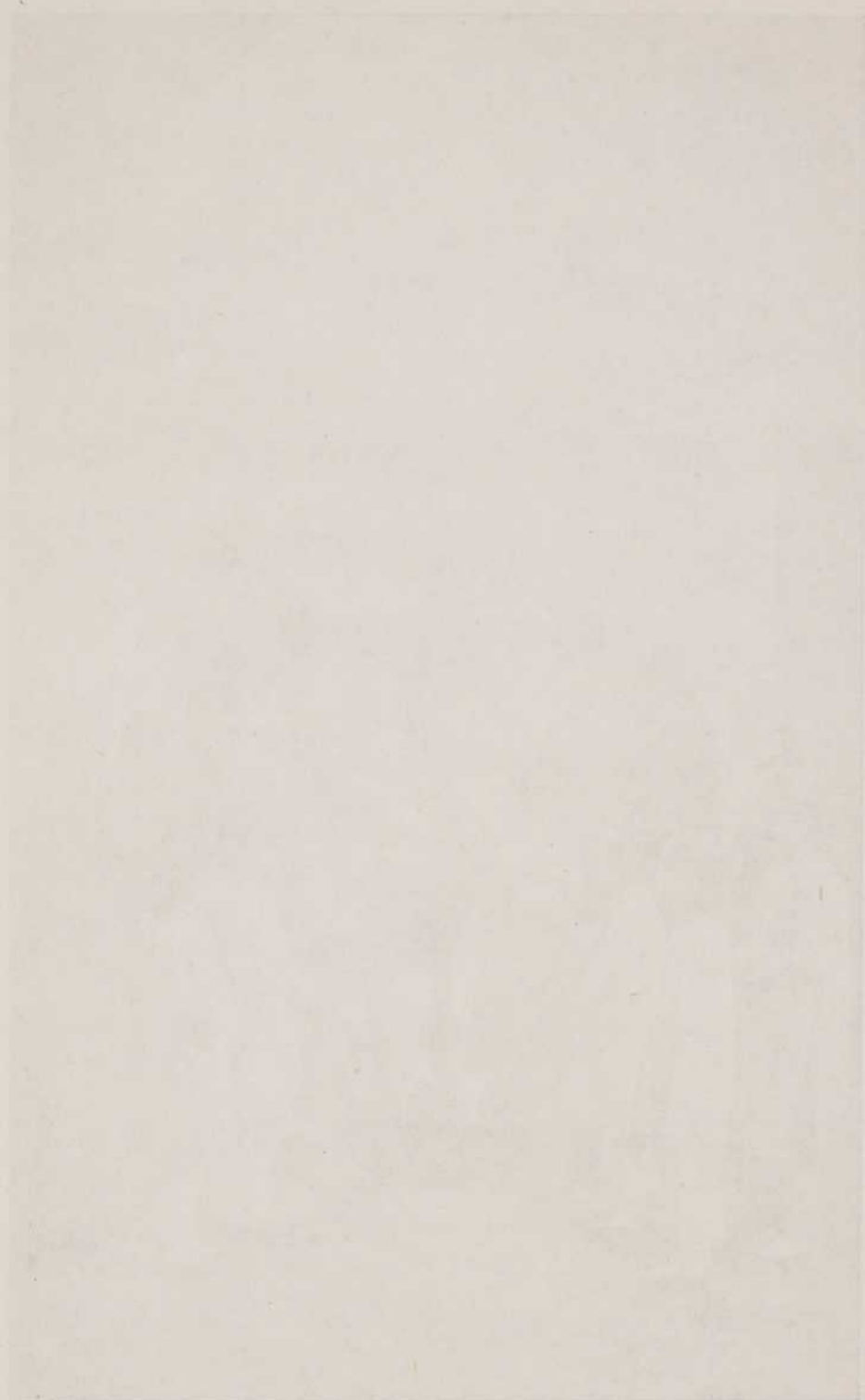
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O IMMACULATE MOTHER, PROTECT OUR BENEFACTORS.

# THE PRECURSOR

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of the Immaculate Conception

*with the approbation of the Archbishop of Montreal*

Vol. XII, 18th Year

Montreal, September-October 1940

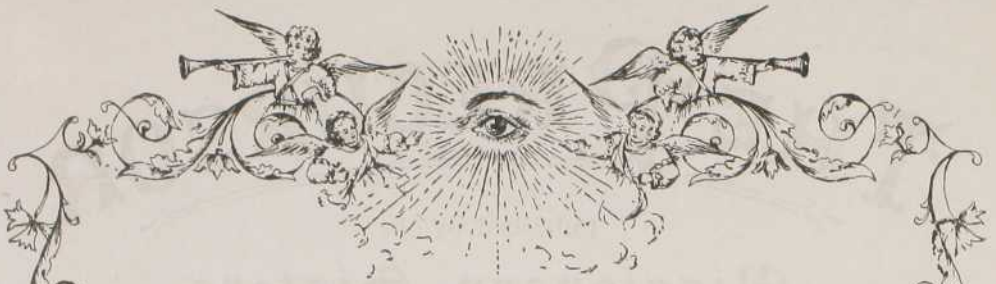
No. 11

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## The Lord Looks Down

*The shouts of a world in warfare,  
The cries of a world in pain;  
The ruined homes in field and town,  
Where men of our best have died in vain;  
Over the rivers of blood and of tears  
The Lord of the World looks down.*

*Where the peace of night is broken  
By hurtling bombs of flame;  
Where Heaven awards the hero's crown  
To the dying who die unknown to fame;  
Over the trenches of travail and woe  
The Lord of Love looks down.*

*Where the ocean depths are furrowed  
By death on unseen wings,  
Where men and ships of high renown  
In fragments 'round it flings;  
Over their lonesome and deep buried graves  
The Lord of the Sea looks down.*

*Where the dying stretch on sleepless beds,  
And the dead on crimsoned snow,  
Huddled in oozing blood to drown,  
'Neath the guns they served the men lie low;  
Over the pitiful heads of the slain  
The Lord of Life looks down.*

*Till the world is drenched with sorrow,  
Because of its lust and pride,  
Each stream with blood shall turn red-brown,  
Ere the flail be laid aside;  
Over the torrents of world-wide sin  
The Lord of Wrath looks down.*

*In His mighty hand He grasps the fan  
To purge earth's reeking floor,  
Till men shall pray with streaming eyes  
And kiss God's feet once more.  
Over the floodtide of penance and pain  
The Prince of Peace shall rise.*

—L. E O





# The Rosary

OUR TEACHER IN THE PRESENT NEEDS

**B**EHOLD the month of October, the month of the great prayer. The Catholic world will kneel, full of love and confidence, before its Sovereign and Mother, to recall to her in the angelic prayer, the *Ave Maria*, her power, her glory, the sorrows and miseries of her children on earth. Moans and supplications will be addressed to her by all afflicted hearts.

The Rosary is the Queen of Heaven's message to the whole world, message of salvation reverberated by the encyclical letters of Popes and, to-day, especially, by the desire of nations that are going through an unprecedented crisis.

A) *Our times lack proper focussing in regard to God.*

We have lost the sentiment of our dependence upon God. Before the depths of the infinite, we no longer seem to recognize the omnipotence of the Creator. "Consequently," says John Angel, "we lack submission to and confidence in Our Heavenly Father." Hence is lacking the Divine Central whence help always comes to our exhausted souls, and the connecting line between this world and the next. The Rosary wishes to re-establish this broken telegraph wire, reunite the branches with the Heavenly Central, restore to its place of honour philosophy, the mother of philosophy, as St. John Chrysostom calls it... prayer.

B) *Our times lack tranquillity and recollection.*

There seems to be in the world, at present, a great conspiracy plotted against man's most precious possession: his interior life. Noise, rapidity and agitation are the gods of to-day; solitude, recollection, silence and reflection have no longer any right to exist in our chaotic Babel. In fact, the newspapers, the radio and the cinema aim at dispensing man from reflecting. The unceasingly renewed pleasures of festivals and spectacles give us the illusion of a life well filled, abundant, intense, as we say. In reality, the life that we are leading is factitious, superficial, skin-deep, sacrificed to that which is of lower order... sensation. All that hinders us from examining ourselves, deciding our destiny and living as Christians. Let us expect nothing great, nothing productive, from this incoherency, this dispersion, this feverish activity; nothing for the intellect, nothing for the will. True energy is silent; men of action come from the retreat: they were contemplative.

The Rosary invites us to recollection by the meditation of the mysteries of the Hidden, the Suffering and the Glorious Life of Our Blessed Saviour. It extricates us from the futile anxieties of this earthly life to show us the only important affair of our soul. By the influence which it exercises on souls by means of the spirit of contemplation and prayer that it inspires, the Rosary sanctifies them and increases their progress in the paths of spirituality. It draws us from agitation and movement to make us rest in God. One day, the illustrious composer Haydn was in company with

eminent musicians, who were discussing the best means of restoring one's moral energy after it has been exhausted by incessant work. One recommended this; another, that. Haydn was urged to give his advice. "In my apartment," replied the great composer, "I have a little altar, where I always go to pray when I feel tired; and there, with the rosary in my hand, ideas come thronging into my mind."

In order to relax, reinvigorate, reanimate ourselves in the midst of our cares and labours, let us take our beads; and we shall find, in the meditation of the joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries, the consolation and hope necessary for our weary souls.

C) *Our times are times of crisis in many spheres.*

Crisis of unemployment among poor labourers, crisis of infidelity and selfishness in homes, crisis of independence and liberty among children, international crisis, crisis of ambition and domination among different nations.

Yes, we are traversing an unhappy period; it is a serious moment. Terrible and powerful enemies are working against the Kingdom of Christ and His Blessed Mother.

Well, the Rosary has lost none of its power and value. Its history tells us that it is a saviour in distress. How many crises has it not overcome! The crisis of the Albigenses, which was the occasion of its origin; that of the Mussulmans, at moments when the destiny of Europe was at stake (Lepanto, in 1571; Vienna, in 1683; Belgrade, in 1716); the famine and pest at Bologna, Lisbon and Vienna. How often did it not help our soldiers in the most critical moments during the Great War! How many, recalling those terrible instants, have said of the Rosary: "Without it, I could not have held out. It was my consolation."

Yesterday's history predicts to-day's; the present times resemble, in more ways than one, those of which I have just spoken; but the power of the Rosary is always there. We have it in our possession; and, if we use it with ardour and confidence as our forefathers did, the Blessed Virgin, who delivered them, will make us victorious, also. In vain will Hell put all its batteries into operation; the Rosary will not cease winning glorious victories over it.

THE ROSARY IS OUR TEACHER IN THE ERRORS OF OUR TIMES

A) *Eternal values are above the values of this world.*

There is much being said at the present time of "revaluation of all values". Such big words perplex minds. With a slight gesture, the eternal values are set aside.

The culture of the present life has become the ideal. To-day, we seek only comfort, riches and pleasures. We live as if this earth with all that belongs to it was to be our eternal abode. The body alone counts; the soul and the future life are not important enough to be taken into account. So, we create here below a chimerical state from which the Cross is banished.

To this evil, the Rosary offers the true remedy. The meditation of its mysteries leads us to the entrance of a grotto where God Himself experiences every anguish and agony, and to the foot of a cross upon which He has shed every drop of His Blood. This God made Man has disdained all the riches of earth, crowns and thrones. He has not chosen a powerful and rich man for His father. No, a carpenter is His foster-father; and a stable, a manger, poor shepherds, are His richest surroundings.

Why this abasement, this privation, this degradation of the King of Eternity in a manger? Is it not because there is something superior to this world's values? Is it not because we must "first of all, seek the Kingdom of God"? Yes, all the rest is perishable. The values of the world above are superior to the passing things of earth.

Hidden in a park on the Italian Riviera is to be seen a charming villa, the proprietor of which is envied by more than one passer-by. But, on approaching, this word can be read on the door: "*Relinquenda*", that is to say: it will have to be left. This word is written invisibly on all the houses of the earth, on all the false values of this world. Everything passes, everything is fleeting; the Rosary teaches us, then, the true revaluation of these delusive values.

B) *The culture of the soul is more important than physical culture.*

To-day, the care of the body is the idol before which all incline. In order to give this body all the beauty desired, sport has become the ruling question; everything: one's time, one's money and one's soul, is sacrificed to it. The future of a country whose energies and characters are daily degraded by so many different evils, demands, no doubt, an effort for the development of the best physical qualities. Sport, when it is not made a passion, makes men of us, provided that the final aim of our human formation dominates all our games, provided that the soul always prevails, even in the most passionate enthusiasm of our exercises. Perfect vigour, health and beauty must be given to the body. But of what use is physical beauty to us, if this body bears in it a filthy and corrupted soul?

To-day, sensualism is openly displayed and distils its black poison, which kills souls by subjecting them to sensual pleasures. To-day, sport is advertised in the name of sensualism. That which is sought and enjoyed above all is not *Mens sana in corpore sano*, but satisfaction of the senses. We were not born to be theatre heroes or circus acrobats, but to be men with wills to combat and overcome the enemies of our souls.

The Rosary writes in letters of blood before our eyes: "Why did the Son of God exude a sweat of Blood? Why did He let Himself be scourged? Why the wood of the Cross with its shame and suffering?" All that for our souls. Every drop of Blood, every wound of the scourging, every blow of the hammer, cries to us: "Of what advantage is it to you to gain the whole world, if you lose your soul?" The Rosary recalls to our conscience these words written on the door of an old Franciscan monastery: "I have but one soul; if I lose it, what will be left to me?"

C) *Earthly suffering is not the greatest evil.*

We murmur against the suffering which affects our members; we become discouraged in presence of difficulties; and, every day, we must resume the heavy burden of work, suffering and mortification. Where can we find strength to support such labour? Go along the road of Calvary. There, you will meet Jesus Christ, the Son of God, bearing a heavy cross, dragging Himself along painfully and falling at every step. He will not stop until He will have reached the end of His martyrdom on the cross. "But, after martyrdom, after the cross," says the Rosary, "comes glory; it is the resurrection for us, as for Christ." All does not end at death. The soul does not die; the body itself falls into corruption only to resume a new life which will never end. Travellers here below, we are advancing towards Eternity. At the summit of this acclivity which is called life, the Divine Retributor is awaiting us with the crown; in His Kingdom, a place is prepared for us. There, we shall have no more sorrow or tears, but unalloyed happiness and endless joy. "Courage," says the Rosary, "after death, the resurrection; after sufferings, glory."

In the cemetery of Nuremberg, there is a tomb adorned with magnificent sculpture: a rock upon which an eagle is spreading out its wings to fly towards the sun. The chain which held it is broken. With its powerful wings, it darts towards liberty. For us, also, will come the hour of salvation. Our soul will be free to take its flight towards the Sun of Justice; and, then, God will be our Consolation.

Such are the beautiful lessons that the Rosary gives us. It comforts us, consoles us and saves us.

Let us love our Rosary; let us ever recite the *Ave Maria*; and, when we shall be terror-stricken by the cruel grip of death, the chain of our old rosary will fasten our sk ff in port.

— Charles CHARRON, C. S. C.

(Translated from the French.)

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## Have Confidence in Mary

### THE BAVARIAN'S ROSARY

It was during the war of 1870, under the walls of Paris.

The enemy had chosen its most dexterous shooters, who would steal into the least depressions of the ground, hide themselves behind hedges, shoot, and then disappear.

A French commander made an appeal to his most skilful gunners to oppose what he called a counter-mine to the tactics of the enemy.

These "lost children" were to drag themselves flat on the ground, approach their enemy and fire only when sure of their aim.

A foot-soldier had been on guard for a few hours when he thought he saw in a deep road, behind a tree, some four hundred meters away from him, a hand which appeared and then disappeared.

Soon he recognized, without doubt, that it was an enemy.

Seated on the ground, his head resting on his left arm, his legs stretched out, the German seemed for a moment to forget that he was a soldier. Apparently young, fair-haired and beardless, this Bavarian had an honest appearance.

One could easily discover in this soldier in uniform, the young peasant who was dreaming, no doubt, of his homestead, his mother, his sister, his village.

Let the soldier to whom this singular adventure happened relate the fact himself.

"I truly regretted having to kill him, as a hare in its form; however, I prepared to do so. Placing myself in a position to shoot, my right knee on the ground, my gun in hand with the butt-end on my shoulder, I waited until I could see him perfectly well, for I wanted to hit him straight in the chest. I was there motionless, watching intently...

"The Bavarian stretched his neck and looked around. Seeing nothing, he took out of his pocket a little leather bag from which he drew something I could not discern. I laid down my gun and used my spy-glass.

"The Bavarian was holding a Rosary between his fingers.

"He raised himself to a kneeling position, made the Sign of the Cross, and by his movements showed himself clearly to me.

"The instinct of war made me seize my gun. I aimed at the man; he was motionless, his head was slightly bowed and his eyes raised to Heaven. His lips moved in prayer, while the beads of his Rosary slipped between his fingers.

"I cannot express my inward feelings. All my Christian blood boiled in my veins. I thought I saw luminous rays coming down from Heaven on the brow of that man in prayer. He even seemed to rise in the air, wrapped in golden clouds. Enrapt in ecstasy, my gun fell to the ground.

"When I came to aim at him again, he had disappeared. He has doubtlessly returned to his native land without thinking that he had been saved by his precious Rosary.

"Two bullets whizzed past my head when I retired a few moments after his departure. I turned around quickly, but I could not see from what direction they came.

"The prayers of that man certainly protected me.

"However, the following night while on guard, I asked myself if I really had the right to thus spare an enemy of my country. To appease my fears, I fought as I had never done before at the Battle of 'Choisy-le-Roi', and paid my debt to my country. That night, I was brought almost lifeless to the ambulance and was decorated with the military medal."

Only in Heaven will this soldier ever know how his Rosary saved his life. In Heaven only will you also know from what corporal and spiritual dangers you have been preserved by the *Ave Maria* of the Rosary.

What graces Heaven bestows upon us through the Rosary!

#### A SOUL SNATCHED FROM THE FREEMASONS

I was at Nant, a little town of Aveyron, France. I had the occasion of seeing a workwoman, advanced in years, whose sad appearance had strangely struck me. Having learnt that she had lost her only son and wishing to give her a mark of sympathy, I spoke to her about her sorrow. This is what she told me.

I had an only son and loved him dearly; he also loved me very much. I kept him at school a long time for he was very bright. He won all the prizes and I was proud of him, too much, perhaps... When he was sixteen, he competed with many others for the position of exciseman or revenue-officer. He was classed among the first. A brilliant future was in store for him, I was told; so I consented to his leaving since it was for his good. Kissing him for the last time I said to him: "You love the Blessed Virgin, my son, now, remember this, 'She has never forsaken those who had recourse to her.' Will you promise me never to forget that, Charles?"

"Yes, Mother," he said, holding me in his arms...

He went to Marseilles. At first, his letters were frequent, full of affection and childlike simplicity; but as time went on, they became rare. Then... I cried, prayed, and waited; but no news came from him! One day, oh! a long time after, I received a telegram worded thus: *Come quickly, your son is asking for you.*

I started off in haste; twenty-four hours later I was at Marseilles. I ran to Charles' boarding-house; the landlord tried to prevent me from entering. "I am his mother," I said, and, frantic, climbed the stairway. I entered my son's room, in spite of the two gentleman at the door.

Charles, my poor boy was very ill. He held me embraced saying: "I implored Her, mother, and it is She who has sent you. A priest! a priest! Call for a priest!" After calming him the best I could, he told me what had happened to him. He had sided with bad company, men without faith or morals; he had become a Freemason and had sworn to live without God. Sickness came and at the approach of death, which was soon to take him away from this world, he remembered that he was a Christian and requested a priest, but met with a refusal. Two of his friends had constituted themselves sentinels of the devil to prevent the priest from penetrating into his room; his nurse, even, refused to call for one and Charles was dying! He recalled then my last recommendation and the *Memorare* came to his lips. He repeated it unceasingly and aloud. A young lady, an angel rather, heard him and entered his room during the absence of the nurse. Moved with pity, she sent me the telegram that made me hasten to the rescue of my son. "Just imagine, mother," he said, "they wanted my remains to bury them as they wished; they insisted that I sign a paper by which I gave them all rights over them... Oh! I would never have done that, for the shock would have killed you." A priest whom I had asked to kindly follow me arrived soon after. He heard the confession of my son and encouraged him. I remained two days more at his bedside; on the evening of that second day, he drew me close to him and whispered in my ear: "Mother, it is she who sent you!" A moment later my dear son was dead...

The grief-stricken mother bowed her head, while tears bathed her emaciated features. Then looking fixedly at me she said imploringly: "You who write, should have your readers know that the Blessed Virgin is the great protectress of the forsaken and afflicted." I promised and have kept my promise faithfully.

---

## League of Prayers and Sacrifices



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL.

### For the extinction of anti-religious societies

The Associates should, each day, recite one Hail Mary.

Three times the invocation: "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee."

The prayer of His Holiness Leo XIII, in honour of Saint Michael the Archangel.

And impose upon themselves a daily sacrifice.

The Associates should also wear the Miraculous Medal.

---

### PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our protection against the malice and snares of the devil. Rebuke him O God, we humbly pray; and do thou, O prince of the heavenly host, by the divine power, thrust into hell Satan and the other evil spirits who roam through the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.

---

Seen and approved March 12, 1924.

(100 days indulgence)

† L. N. Card. BEGIN, Archbp. of Quebec.

# The First Encyclical Letter

## of His Holiness Pope Pius XII

### "*Summi Pontificatus*"

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

Our immediate predecessor, of holy, venerated memory, applying such norms to a particularly delicate question, took some generous decisions which are a monument to his insight and to the intensity of his apostolic spirit. Nor need We tell you, Venerable Brethren, that We intend to proceed without hesitation along this way. Those who enter the Church, whatever be their origin or their speech, must know that they have equal rights as children in the House of the Lord, where the law of Christ and the peace of Christ prevail.

In accordance with these principles of equality, the Church devotes her care to forming cultured native clergy and gradually increasing the number of native Bishops. And in order to give external expression to these, Our intentions, We have chosen the forthcoming Feast of Christ the King to raise to the Episcopal dignity at the Tomb of the Apostles twelve representatives of widely different peoples and races. In the midst of the disruptive contrasts which divide the human family, may this solemn act proclaim to all Our Sons, scattered over the world, that the spirit, the teaching and the work of the Church can never be other than that which the Apostle of the Gentiles preached: "putting on the new (man), him who is renewed unto knowledge, according to the image of him that created him. Where there is neither Gentile nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, barbarian nor Scythian, bond nor free. But Christ is all and in all" (Colossians 3, 10, 11).

#### *Exercise of Charity*

Nor is there any fear lest the consciousness of universal brotherhood aroused by the teaching of Christianity, and the spirit which it inspires, be in contrast with love of traditions or the glories of one's fatherland, or impede the progress of prosperity or legitimate interests. For that same Christianity teaches that in the exercise of charity we must follow a God-given order, yielding the place of honor in our affections and good works to those who are bound to us by special ties. Nay, the Divine Master Himself gave an example of this preference for His Own country and fatherland, as He wept over the coming destruction of the Holy City. But legitimate and well-ordered love of our native country should not make us close our eyes to the all-embracing nature of Christian Charity, which calls for consideration of others and of their interests in the pacifying light of love.

Such is the marvelous doctrine of love and peace which has been such an ennobling factor in the civil and religious progress of mankind. And the heralds who proclaimed it, moved by supernatural charity, not only tilled the land and cared for the sick, but above all they reclaimed, moulded and raised life to divine heights, directing it toward the summit of sanctity in which everything is seen in the light of God. They have raised mansions

and temples which show to what lofty and kindly heights the Christian ideal urges man; but above all they have made of men, wise or ignorant, strong or weak, living temples of God and branches of the very vine which is Christ. They have handed on to future generations the treasures of ancient art and wisdom and have secured for them that inestimable gift of eternal wisdom which links men as brothers by the common recognition of a supernatural ownership.

Venerable Brethren, forgetfulness of the law of universal charity — of that charity which alone can consolidate peace by extinguishing hatred and softening envies and dissensions — is the source of very grave evils for peaceful relations between nations.

#### *Totalitarian Error*

But there is yet another error no less pernicious to the well-being of the nations and to the prosperity of that great human society which gathers together and embraces within its confines all races. It is the error contained in those ideas which do not hesitate to divorce civil authority from every kind of dependence upon the Supreme Being — First Source and absolute Master of man and of society — and from every restraint of a Higher Law derived from God as from its First Source. Thus they accord the civil authority an unrestricted field of action that is at the mercy of the changeful tide of human will, or of the dictates of casual historical claims, and of the interests of a few.

Once the authority of God and the sway of His law are denied in this way, the civil authority as an inevitable result tends to attribute to itself that absolute autonomy which belongs exclusively to the Supreme Maker. It puts itself in the place of the Almighty and elevates the State or group into the last end of life, the supreme criterion of the moral and juridical order, and therefore forbids every appeal to the principles of natural reason and of the Christian conscience. We do not, of course, fail to recognize that, fortunately, false principles do not always exercise their full influence, especially when age-old Christian traditions, on which the peoples have been nurtured, remain still deeply, even if unconsciously, rooted in their hearts.

None the less, one must not forget the essential insufficiency and weakness of every principle of social life which rests upon a purely human foundation, is inspired by merely earthly motives and relies for its force on the sanction of a purely external authority.

Where the dependence of human right upon the Divine is denied, where appeal is made only to some insecure idea of a merely human authority, and an autonomy is claimed which rests only upon a utilitarian morality, there human law itself justly forfeits in its more weighty application the moral force which is the essential condition for its acknowledgment and also for its demand of sacrifices.

#### *Brief Material Successes*

It is quite true that power based on such weak and unsteady foundations can attain at times, under chance circumstances, material successes apt to arouse wonder in superficial observers.



But the moment comes when the inevitable law triumphs, which strikes down all that has been constructed upon a hidden or open disproportion between the greatness of the material and outward success, and the weakness of the inward value and of its moral foundation. Such disproportion exists whenever public authority disregards or denies the dominion of the Supreme Law-giver, Who as He has given rulers power, has also set and marked its bounds.

Indeed, as Our great predecessor, Leo XIII, wisely taught in the Encyclical "Immortale Dei", it was the Creator's will that civil sovereignty should regulate social life after the dictates of an order changeless in its universal principles; should facilitate the attainment in the temporal order, by individuals, of physical, intellectual and moral perfection; and should aid them to reach their supernatural end.

Hence, it is the noble prerogative and function of the State to control, aid and direct the private and individual activities of national life that they converge harmoniously towards the common good. That good can neither be defined according to arbitrary ideas nor can it accept for its standard primarily the material prosperity of society, but rather it should be defined according to the harmonious development and the natural perfection of man. It is for this perfection that society is designed by the Creator as a means.

#### *Value of Private Action*

To consider the State as something ultimate to which everything else should be subordinated and directed, cannot fail to harm the true and lasting prosperity of nations. This can happen either when unrestricted dominion comes to be conferred on the State as having a mandate from the nation, people, or even a social order, or when the State arrogates such dominion to itself as absolute master, despotically, without any mandate whatsoever. If, in fact, the State lays claim to and directs private enterprises, these, ruled as they are by delicate and complicated internal principles which guarantee and assure the realization of their special aims, may be damaged to the detriment of the public good, by being wrenched from their natural surroundings, that is, from responsible private action.

Further, there would be danger lest the primary and essential cell of society, the family, with its well being and its growth, should come to be considered from the narrow standpoint of national power, and lest it be forgotten that man and the family are by nature anterior to the State, and that the Creator has given to both of them powers and rights and has assigned them a mission and a charge that correspond to undeniable natural requirements.

The education of the new generation in that case would not aim at the balanced and harmonious development of the physical powers and of all the intellectual and moral qualities, but at a one-sided formation of those civic virtues that are considered necessary for attaining political success, while the virtues which give society the fragrance of nobility, humanity and reverence would be inculcated less, for fear they should detract from the pride of the citizen.

Before Us stand out with painful clarity the dangers We fear will accrue to this and coming generations from the neglect or nonrecognition, the minimizing and the gradual abolition of the rights peculiar to the family. Therefore We stand up as determined defenders of those rights in the full consciousness of the duty imposed on Us by Our Apostolic office. The stress of our times, as well external as internal, material and spiritual alike, and the manifold errors with their countless repercussions are tasted by none so bitterly as by that noble little cell, the family.

*(To be continued)*

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## The Providence of God

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How sad and wretched is the life of the man who believes not in God's superintending providence! Like Cain, he is a wanderer and an outcast on the face of the earth. There is no brightness above him, no sunshine on his path, no joy within his breast. Everywhere are chaos and desolation. The music of the spheres affords no melody to his soul. All is discord to him, because he is out of harmony with God and His works. He sees no beauty in the flower at his feet, no brightness in the stars, no glory in the firmament. "He hears only the sound of his own footsteps in God's resplendent creation. To him it is no creation; to him, these fair creatures are hapless spectres: he knows not what to make of it. To him heaven and earth have lost their beauty." The past is to him a bad dream; the present, an oppressive weight; The future, a spectre of annihilation. He is without God in this world, and without the hope of Him in the next. O how dreary is such a life, because it is without a purpose! No wonder that so many unbelievers in a Providential God have, like Lucretius, put an end to their miserable lives; and that so many others, like the demons, find no satisfaction save that of infecting others with their horrible despair, and of communicating to them their gospel of hate and unbelief?

How blessed, on the contrary, is the man who is always conscious of the overshadowing influence of Divine Providence! He never feels lonely, because he is never alone. Like the infant nestling on his mother's breast, he has an abiding sense of security and confidence. He is ever basking in the sunlight of God's presence. Or if at times the face of God appears dark and lowering, he still recognizes it as the face of his Father. He knows that "whom the Lord loveth, He chastiseth, even as a father, the son of whom he delighteth." The world is not an enigma to him. It is the mirror reflecting his Father's face. It is an open Bible in which he reads God's dealing with His creatures. No event disquiets or startles or alarms him, or shakes his faith, because he knows that everything that occurs from the fall of an empire to the flight of a bird, is controlled by the moral Governor of the world.

— CARDINAL GIBBONS.



**His Exc. Most Rev. E. A. Deschamps**

TITULAR BISHOP OF THENNESIS AND AUXILIARY OF MONTREAL  
WHO DIED ON THE 23rd OF JUNE LAST.

*Born at Ste. Geneviève de Jacques-Cartier, July 12, 1874, ordained priest, December 23, 1899, he was elected Bishop of Thennesis and Auxiliary of Montreal, February 20, 1925 and consecrated on the 23rd of the following April.*

*He performed his grave functions with zeal, and his life was spent in labour and devotedness.*

*The Lord by calling him to Himself has liberally rewarded his merit in gratifying him with a magnificent heritage in the land of the living.*

## Instructions from the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda Concerning Certain Ceremonies and the Oath on Chinese Rites

IT is well known that certain Oriental ceremonies, formerly accompanied by pagan rites have at present, owing to the transformations that customs and ideas have undergone with time, only a civil meaning of respect for ancestors, of patriotism, and of politeness in social relation.

Consequently, in 1935 and 1936, the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda, with the approbation of the beloved lamented Sovereign Pontiff Pius XI, and in conformity with canon 22 of Canon Law, gave the Ordinaries of Manchuria and the Japanese Empire new norms, more conformable to the present conditions.

More recently, the Most Eminent Cardinals of the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda, during the plenary meeting of December 4, 1939, examined the question to find out if an analogous method should not be adopted in other countries where time may have likewise modified the situation.

Having considered attentively the *pros* and *cons* and asked advice of prudent and expert persons, the Most Eminent Cardinals have decided to make the following declarations:

1. Given that, several times, the Chinese Government has explicitly proclaimed that every one is free to profess his chosen religion and that it does not pretend to issue laws or regulations concerning religious matters, and that, consequently, the ceremonies prescribed or accomplished by the public authorities in honour of Confucius are not intended to render religious worship, but solely to promote and render the honour which is befitting an illustrious personage and the homage which is due to the ancestral traditions, it is lawful for Catholics to take part in ceremonies in honour of Confucius before his picture, or the tablet bearing his name, in his monuments or in the schools.

2. It must not be considered illicit, especially if the authorities order it, to place the picture of Confucius, or the tablet bearing his name, in Catholic schools, or to bow the head before them; if there be ever any danger of scandal, Catholics will be careful to declare their right intention.

3. It can be admitted that, if the functionaries and pupils of Catholic schools are ordered to assist at public ceremonies, even if these seem to be superstitious, they do not refuse to assist at them, provided that, according to canon 1258 of Canon Law, they assist at them passively and take part only in the homage which can rightly be considered as purely civil; in order to avoid all false interpretation of their attitude, they will, as above, declare their intention whenever it seems necessary.

4. Bowing the head, and all other manifestations of civil respect, before the dead, or before their pictures and the tablets bearing their names, will be considered lawful and expedient.

On the other hand, the Most Eminent Cardinals, considering that the oath on Chinese rites, prescribed by the Sovereign Pontiff Benedict XIV in the Constitution *Ex quo singulari* of July 11, 1742, to all the priests "in the Chinese Empire and the neighbouring kingdoms and provinces", no longer agrees fully with the recent norms of the Propaganda, and that, besides, this oath has become absolutely superfluous at present as a means of discipline, since, as every one knows, the old controversies on Chinese rites have ceased and the priests have no need whatever of being obliged by oath to obey the Holy See promptly and filially, the Most Eminent Cardinals have decided to suppress the obligation of this oath everywhere, in China or elsewhere, where it may be customary. It is understood that the other prescriptions of the Sovereign Pontiff Benedict XIV that have not been modified by more recent instructions, especially the prohibition to discuss the question of Chinese rites, remain in force.

The decisions of the Most Eminent Cardinals, signed by the Cardinal Prefect of the Propaganda, were submitted to Our Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, by Divine Providence, in the audience of December 7, 1939, and His Holiness deigned to fully approve and ratify them.

Rome, Palace of the Propaganda, December 8, 1939, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Peter, Cardinal FUMASONI-BIONDI, *Prefect.*

Celso COSTANTINI, *Titular-Archbishop of Theodosiopolis, Secretary.*



## Progress of Catholicism in China in 1939

The Apostolic Delegation to China has sent the statistics of 1938-1939 to the Propaganda. These statistics, instead of being heart-rending as we expected, are, on the contrary, most consoling and indicate progress in most parts of the apostolate. Despite the war which is raging since 1937, the Delegation has received the statistics from all the Missions except five: Sinkiang and the Missions most exposed to the difficulties of the war. Besides, the statistics speak only of the Missions of China properly so called, excluding the ten districts of Manchuria.

While the majority of educational works have been severely tried, it is consoling to see that Seminary life continues normally. There are 1,857 students in the preparatory schools, 3,372 in the Minor Seminaries, 904 in the Major Seminaries, 32 in Rome, and 565 in the formation houses of Institutes.

The number of Priests has slightly augmented: the foreign Priests have increased from 2,267 to 2,294 and the Chinese Priests from 1,810 to 1,834, making a progress of 27 and 24 Priests. These figures refer only to the Priests working directly among the people, and do not take into account the 145 Missionaries and 38 native Priests occupied in religious or educational institutions, nor the 159 Missionaries and 78 Chinese Priests living in the procuries and Local Seminaries.

There is, also, evident progress in the conversions: they attain the fine number of 99,944. If the statistics were complete, they would certainly exceed 100,000. The conversions of 1937-1938 numbered only 76,903. This year's progress is due to the immense field of apostolate opened to the Missionaries during the war. Their charity and courage have won sympathy and admiration everywhere; in the hospitals and refuge camps, they have come into contact with many souls that had never had the occasion of meeting a missionary. It is Christian charity, and not interest, which has worked these miracles. It must be said, also, that there are many persons of the middle-class: students, employees, etc. among the refugees and wounded; and, for these pagans, the generosity and loyalty of the Missionaries have overcome many prejudices.

Despite these 99,944 conversions and the fact that the number of births exceeded that of deaths by 7,221, the Catholic population has really augmented by 82,358 souls, only; so that the whole Catholic population has increased from 2,909,116 in 1938 to 2,991,474. The loss of 24,807 Catholics is due to the general disorganization, emigrants, refugees dispersed... and to the fact that the former statistics have been corrected.

However, this progress of 82,358 new Christians (while that of last year was only 69,878) has increased the average progress for each Missionary from 18.8 to 24.3 and shows the valour of the Missionaries, who have, by their courage and devotedness, transformed adverse circumstances into favourable ones.

*The Catholic Missions.*



## In a Nazareth Garden



*Once, towards the evening of the year,  
Upon a day so calm and clear,  
So tranquil still, it almost seemed  
As if the Autumn feared to breathe,  
Lest the cold winds of winter rise,  
To chill the soft airs of her sighs,  
The Mother stood with Him to see  
The sun rise over Galilee.  
A wakeful bird outpoured its song, —  
Often she thought of it in long*

*And lonely days to come.  
And Jesus Child stood listening:  
Then clasped her hand between His own;  
“ Who taught the little birds to sing? ”*

*Soon from the East, with banners bright,  
Came forth the pageant of the light.  
The gay forerunners of the sun,  
Sped swift the sky and hills along.  
By hill, by vale, by wood they came,  
With pennant gay and oriflame;  
For where should lovelier sunrise be  
Than over the hills of Galilee?  
And golden rays of light streamed down.  
To gild His hair, to touch her gown,  
To wake the little village town.*

*And Jesus asked: “ Who made the sky? ”  
Then laid His cheek against her hand:  
“ Once; long ago, I dreamt 'twas I? ”*

*A briar trail, sunkissed to death,  
Came fluttering down with crackling breath.  
Its leafy skroud with color glowed:  
Russet and crimson, green and gold.  
It hoped perhaps it might be trod  
Beneath the sacred feet of God.  
But smooth His path and way must be,  
In this fair nook of Galilee.  
So Mary laid it lightly on  
A cool white resting-place of stone.*

*He caught her hand against His breast:  
“ In all the world and everywhere,  
O Mother mine, whom love you best? ”*

— M. Woellwarth.

## Homage of Gratitude

**T**HE Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception are pleased to offer their lively gratitude to the kind workers of the different sewing-circles organized for the assistance of their distant missions. By their regular attendance at the weekly reunions, and their ardour at work, these charitable auxiliaries have given proof of their great devotedness.

A magnificent display of their work stands forth as an eloquent testimony of this: small lingerie for children of the Foundling-Homes and Orphanages confided to the Missionaries; a beautiful variety of sacred linens and Church vestments for the poor chapels in foreign lands; moreover, at the exhibitions held in June at the Mother House, Cote des Neiges, and at the Outremont Convent, one could admire an estimable number of articles which will be very useful for the Dispensaries. Two complete trousseaus for the Sisters leaving for the missions were greatly appreciated.

In return, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception beg Our Divine Lord and the Immaculate Virgin Mary, to shower their blessings upon these benevolent purveyors who, either by their needle-work or knitting, in groups or individually, help them so efficaciously in their apostolic labours.

All the charitable workers of the past years are cordially invited to resume their meritorious work after the summer vacation. May they find other recruits to share their activities so that this beautiful work of charity may produce many more abundant fruits.

For all information concerning these charitable reunions at the Convents of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, apply to one of the following addresses:

2900 St. Catherine Road, Cote des Neiges, Montreal.	
314 St. Catherine Road, Outremont	St. John the Baptist St., Rimouski
4 Simard St., Quebec	466 Bonaventure St., Three Rivers
61 Jacques-Cartier St., Chicoutimi	35 Dufferin St., Granby
750 St. Louis St., Joliette	279 Main St., Granby
430 Champlain St., St. Johns, Que.	

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### Votive Lights in Honour of the Blessed Virgin

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*In the chapel of the Missionary Sisters  
of the Immaculate Conception*

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

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



# A Modern Martyr

*Blessed Theophane Vénard*

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

*(Continued)*

**G**OD alone is the sovereign beauty and His works alone are perfect. If man be ever so great, it is only when he draws his inspirations from God, and when, in heartfelt humility, he gives to Him the glory. In Catholic countries all human potentates seek the support of the Church, for she is the one power — first and indestructible — and without her aid no Catholic government can exist, for the winds and the tempests would blow and sweep it away from the face of the earth.”

This, surely, is a noble view to take of the political situation of a great Catholic country. In 1848 Theophane had been painfully moved by the debate in the National Assembly; and when he came to Paris he asked and obtained permission to go to the Chambers and hear the principal speakers. He gave an account of his impressions to his father, and his sinister previsions were soon realized. The political horizon became more and more darkened and the agitation was at its height, when the *Coup d'Etat* of the 2nd of December gave the signal for a fresh revolution. On this event Theophane wrote as follows: — “My dearest Father, — It is ten o'clock in the morning. Paris is declared in a state of siege. The National Assembly is dissolved.” ...Then he goes on to relate facts well known, and subjoins, “May our good God come to our aid, and direct all to His honour and glory! Let us pray for France and for all Europe. We have been expecting this shock from day to day and so we are not troubled. When and how will it all end? Human events succeed one another so rapidly and then pass away. God alone is immutable — let us go to Him! After all, what does the future matter to us? If the world were destroyed we should be safe in the bosom of His Church. The works of men alone remain — let them, then, be works of charity and justice. All this seems to me to detach one more and more from things of earth and to fix one's thoughts and heart on Heaven.” To a college friend he writes, “To remedy the evil, France must be converted or else God will permit the working classes, the men who possess nothing, to be sooner or later the instruments of His vengeance. It seems to me our business is to try to become, each one of us, better, and then God will have pity upon our country... As far as I am concerned, I assure you I am in perfect safety. Our congregation is looked upon with a favorable eye in Paris, and everyone knows us and is kind to us. In February, 1848, on the eve of the dethronement of Louis Philippe, our community was going across the Champs Elysées. An immense crowd had collected and some deliberated what they should do to the students. But the majority exclaimed, ‘Let us leave them alone. Those are the men who are going to *martyrize* themselves in China!’ and the observation saved our poor missionaries.

“The 4th of December we remained almost the whole day near the Bois de Boulogne. A detachment of cuirassiers had galloped toward Paris where the fighting had begun. The workmen were in the streets, quiet and orderly, but anxious. They were very civil to us. The next day three of our students

were obliged to go through the streets where they had already erected barricades. The soldiers were bivouacking by their fires; a dense mob thronged around them, sullen and silent, and breathing nothing but vengeance; but they allowed our missionaries to pass without molestation, and even showed them marks of kindness and good will."

After the *Coup d'Etat*, the agitation ceased, and people gradually became calmer. Theophane wrote hopefully to his godmother: "The new government seems well disposed towards religion and willing to give the Church her due. If it goes on so, God will send His blessing on this poor, distracted country and there may be some chance of seeing things reorganized. Since our Lord Jesus Christ became man, His Divine manhood must take the lead in human affairs; for a people calling itself Christian, and throwing off all allegiance to the Most High, becomes thoroughly ungovernable, for the simple reason that corruption is greater when it shows itself in what was originally good. Those who think they can see farther than their neighbors are hopeful as to the future of France, which makes me sanguine too. Although I may soon be far away, I shall always look anxiously for tidings of my country's welfare. May God bring about a brighter day! Amen." He ends with the beautiful words, —

"O my Lord, Thy people know and love Thee by instinct; but they are deceived by their chiefs, who betray and mislead them. Oh, if only all the world were of one heart and one mind to serve and honor and glorify Thee!"

(To be continued.)

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### Where Are the Souls of Your Children ?

Fathers and mothers, who take great care of the bodies of your children but are heedless of their souls; who, by your immodesty, your indecent way of clothing them, scandalize these innocent creatures from their tender years; who are not mindful of their games and the choice of their companions; who leave them run the streets where they will certainly be in the occasion of offending God; fathers and mothers, fear, for the chastisement of the Lord is awaiting you.

Cain killed his brother Abel, and the blood of the innocent cried to God for vengeance. The Lord pursued Cain: "Where is thy brother?" He asked. And He avenged the blood of Abel.

In His Divine plan, the Creator and Sovereign Master of all things has destined you to be fathers and mothers; consequently you must correspond to His Holy Will. He gave you all the graces and means necessary to bring up your children so that they will love and fear Him, that they will be worthy instruments of His glory, elects of Paradise, and the precious jewels of your immortal crown; but, by your bad example, your voluntary negligences, your guilty condescensions, you make of them kindling for hell.

Dear fathers and mothers, fear and amend your ways and your doings before it is too late for the souls entrusted to your care; otherwise, on Judgment Day which may be close at hand, the Almighty, the equitable Judge shall ask you, "Where are the souls of your children?"

# Salvation in the Cross



*"I would plant on heathen soil  
the glorious standard of Thy Cross,  
O my Beloved."*

Often, alas! too often, are heard these injurious words: "What have I done to God, that He makes me suffer so much?"

Poor souls! May God forgive them this offence; for, no doubt, they do not know what they are saying... They do not consider that every one here below must work out his salvation by means of the Cross.

After the fault of Adam, Heaven was separated from the earth by a profound abyss: the abyss of sin. The Redeemer's Cross came to reunite them and open to all the gate of the Eternal Kingdom; but remember, it is from the foot of the Cross that everything that goes to Heaven must depart.

If, therefore, we wish, not only to avoid the everlasting flames after death, but to enjoy great happiness in Eternity, we must place at the foot of the Cross the greatest possible number of acts of self-sacrifice and loving self-surrender to the Divine

Will. In the beginning, it will be very painful to always conquer ourselves, mortify ourselves, suffer everything from others and endeavour to make no one suffer; but, if we persevere courageously in this way which the Author of the *Imitation of Christ* calls the "King's Highway of the Holy Cross", the habit of self-denial will soon become familiar to us; little by little, we shall feel our souls alleviated, disengaged from the bonds which hindered them from belonging entirely to God; our minds will be enlightened with Divine Light; and we shall be filled with interior joy, the only true joy to be had here below.

Worldly joys are vain and ephemeral, and are usually accompanied by a shadow of sadness; they vanish like smoke and dry up as do dewdrops with the first wind that blows. Joys that are derived from the Cross, however, are profound and lasting; their suavity is a foretaste of eternal happiness.

Christian Friends, cling to the Cross; put all your hope in it. It will be your light, your consolation and your strength; in it, you will find salvation. If, on the contrary, you do not love it, if you avoid it, despise it, it will be a torment to you, and you will have it for judge on the Last Day.

The Cross is the inseparable companion of life. "Dispose and order all things according as thou wilt," says the *Imitation of Christ*, "and as seems best to thee; and thou wilt still find something to suffer, either willingly or unwillingly, and so thou shalt still find the Cross.

"For either thou shalt feel pain in the body, or sustain in thy soul tribulation of spirit.

"Sometimes, thou shalt be left by God; other times, thou shalt be afflicted by thy neighbour; and what is more, thou shalt often be a trouble to thyself.

"The Cross, therefore, is always ready, and everywhere waits for thee. Thou canst not escape it, whithersoever thou runnest; for, whithersoever thou goest, thou carriest thyself with thee, and shalt always find thyself.

"Turn thyself upwards, or turn thyself downwards; turn thyself without, or turn thyself within thee; and everywhere thou shalt find the Cross.

"If thou fling away one Cross, without doubt thou wilt find another, and perhaps a heavier."

You who have the happiness of knowing and loving the Cross and of working out your salvation by means of it, be grateful to God for this favour. So many others do not know it at all; so many others have but a slight knowledge of it and, consequently, do not appreciate it!

Like good and faithful disciples of the Cross, endeavour to propagate its devotion: around you, by word and example; far away, by offering prayers and alms for the Missionaries, who are the true Cross-bearers in the midst of infidel nations.



Whatever one may do it will always be impossible to unite these extreme terms, the first and the last, the great and the little, if there be not just in the midst the Gospel and the Cross—the Cross, the sole arch of alliance, the Gospel, the sole treaty of peace.

— *Pope Pius X.*

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A daily visit to our Truest Friend will draw us closer to Him and we shall become like unto Him. As often as we receive Him worthily in life, we shall have greater assurance of enjoying His eternal Presence in that heavenly abode, where our joys shall know no bounds.

— *Father Francis.*

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Do not look forward to what might happen to-morrow; the same Everlasting Father who cares for you to-day will take care of you to-morrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering or He will give you unflinching strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

— *St. Francis de Sales.*

# “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-December 1939.....	\$176.60	March-April 1940.....	\$40.00
January-February 1940.....	\$268.75	May-June 1940.....	26.25
July-August 1940.....			\$24.00

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.



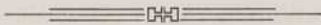
## A Few Roses Scattered

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.*

Thanksgiving for favour received through the intercession of the Little Flower of Jesus. Mrs. J. L., **Indian Orchard, Mass.** — Heartfelt thanks to the Little Flower of Jesus for favour received. Miss J. P., **Anthony, R. I.** — Many thanks to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for favour obtained. Mrs. H. F., **Hemmingford.** — Grateful thanks to the Patroness of the Missionaries for a grace obtained through her intercession. Miss M. A. A., **Montreal.** — Thanks to the Little Flower for position obtained after promise of publication. Mrs. P. D., **Montreal.** — Sincere thanks to St. Teresa for curing my knee. Mrs. N. V., **St. Marc.** — Homage of gratitude to the “Scatterer of Roses”. A friend of St. Teresa of Jesus. — I am acquitting myself of a promise in honour of the Little Flower for a favour received through her intercession. Mrs. R. C. — Grateful thanks for cure obtained through the intercession of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. Mrs. I. G. L., **Saskatchewan.** — Thanksgiving to the Little Flower of Lisieux for favour received. Mrs. E. B., **Southbridge, Mass.** — Lively gratitude for grace obtained through the intercession of St. Teresa of Lisieux. A Friend. — A thousand thanks to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for favours received. Mrs. P. B., **La Tuque.** — Thanksgiving to St. Teresa of Lisieux for favours granted. Mrs. E. St. D., **Montreal.** — St. Teresa has bestowed great favours upon me, please help me to thank her and pray that she continue to protect my family. M. S. L., **St. Eugene de Guigues.** — Lively gratitude for graces obtained through the intercession of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. G. G., **Montreal.**



My true service of God consists in performing the ordinary actions of the day as perfectly and as fervently as I can, with a pure intention for love of my Jesus.

— *Father William Doyle, S. J.*



## JAPAN

*Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters in Koriyama*

### Friday, September 29, 1939

It is the last day of the great *Matsuri* festival in Koriyama. Every door is decorated with a rice-straw cord, which is considered sacred by the pagans. To it are attached white papers cut out in zig-zags and equally looked upon as sacred.

The idols are taken out of their niches and conveyed on palanquins through the streets of the city. A great number of satellites accompany them, shouting all along the way, in order to warn the people not to look at the gods from above, that is from a second story, as this would be a great sacrilege. The courtyards of the temples are thronged with devotees who are paying their respects to the gods of the Empire.

### Sunday, October 1

His Excellency Bishop Lemieux celebrated Mass in the church of the Mission and presided at the solemn opening of the month of the Holy Rosary. In a substantial allocution he exhorted the Christians to be faithful to a devotion so highly recommended by the Sovereign Pontiffs.

Two pagan women whom we know quite well assisted at Mass with us. They are very well disposed towards our Holy Religion. Just as we were leaving the Convent to go to the church, one of them, Mrs. Inoyue, came up to us and said: "A Sister was telling me the other day, 'Inoyue San, I am praying for you that you may know the true God.' That deeply touched me, and it is why I wish to accompany you to-day." The other, Mrs. Inuzuka, responding to our invitation, was still unacquainted with the decorum observed in Catholic churches. She walked up to Sister Superior <sup>(1)</sup> and, prostrating herself according to Japanese fashion, began addressing her aloud the customary salutations. We gave her a prayer-book and exhorted her to follow attentively the ceremonies that were going on at the altar.

1. Alice LABELLE, Montreal.

After Mass, the Christians assembled in the hall to greet His Excellency and have a cup of tea. A funereal ceremony took place in the afternoon at half-past one — the translation of the mortal remains of Mrs. Hayashi, a former Christian of Koriyama who, having died some twenty years ago, had been buried in a pagan cemetery as there was no Catholic one at the time. Now that the church of Koriyama has a cemetery, Mrs. Hayashi's children have wished to have their mother's ashes transferred. We were shown a little corner that is reserved for us there. It is a small enclosure bordered by a pretty hedge of dwarf-cedars and in which six coffins can be placed. The surrounding scenery is splendid. The aged giant pines with their twisted branches, the ancestral cherry-trees and the enormous ferns form like a tapestry in the background; while in front of the graves, the green rice-fields and mulberry plantations extend farther than the eye can reach, and all around the graveyard golden chrysanthemums cast a cheerful glow and speak to us of resurrection.

Towards evening, after giving us a last blessing, His Excellency left, saying how pleased he was to have spent the day at the Mission and asking us to pray for the diocese where the lack of priests is most sorely felt.

### Sunday, October 15

This morning all the people are outside shaking their *tatamis* (straw mats). It is house-cleaning everywhere. The policemen are solemnly circulating through the streets that are crowded with furniture, garbage, etc. Each house is emptied of its belongings which are put out on the side of the street. The men take the mats outside while the women, with a towel twisted around their heads, *dust* before doing the sweeping according to the Japanese formulary. The little shops in the neighbourhood have displayed their merchandise — dried fish here, tubs and baskets there. The god of the household himself has been taken out without any ceremony and seems quite dazzled on finding himself in such bright light, he who is almost always in a dark and smoky alcove.

This evening order reigns everywhere; and, in a house shining with cleanliness, the people take a substantial *gohan* (rice, seasoned with vegetables) to renew their strength after the day's fatigue.

### Sunday, October 22

At six o'clock this morning, all is silent in the Convent. Assembled at the feet of Our Divine Master for our daily audience, we beg Him, on this Feast of the Propagation of the Faith, to have mercy on the poor pagans that surround us.

All of a sudden the door-bell rings and two little pagan girls enter. "Honourable Teachers," do they say pleadingly, "teach us to say the noble prayer as you do." Is it not the Lord's answer to our petition? We give a little happiness to those children by teaching them how to greet the Blessed Virgin by the *Ave Maria* in their own tongue. It goes as follows: "I nobly hail thee, Mary, full of grace. The Lord is nobly with thee. Thou, amongst women, art favoured, and blessed is the noble Infant of your noble body,

Jesus. Mother of the Master of Heaven, Holy Mary, for us who have become sinners, now and at the hour of our agony, deign to pray. Amen."

### Sunday, November 12

Two weeks ago we were going to the Old Folks' Home which is supported by the City. The poor old women were very pleased to see us. One of our friends was in bed, as she could no longer stand on her feet. Lying on a pallet, she was shivering and trying in vain to warm herself up under her *futons* (wadded quilts). A log covered with a dirty rag served her as a pillow. Near her, on the floor, was her provision — a few Japanese potatoes. The fire was out in her *brasero* and nobody bothered preparing her food. She confided us all her troubles and we tried to comfort her by speaking to her of Heaven which would be her share if she wished to become a child of God by Baptism.

This Home is supposed to shelter gratuitously the poor, and the cripple who are penniless; but, in reality, a certain amount of work is exacted from each, and when this work is not done, the poor unfortunate is left without food, the only thing which is furnished him is a lodging which consists of a straw mat, six feet by three. The inmate sleeps on this mat, works and eats there. Moreover, he must find room upon it for his kitchen utensils and working implements.

The adjoining room, ten feet square, is the Babies' Department, kept by a poor woman whom the City Hall remunerates. On entering it we noticed a number of little rice-straw hammocks hanging from the ceiling, which served as cradles for the little guests. Over this room, on the *nikai* (second floor), lying on straw mats were older babies, who were sleeping or amusing themselves.

A real kingdom of misery is this Refuge! If, besides the happiness of speaking of God to the poor unfortunates, we are also able to relieve part of their sufferings, it is thanks to our generous benefactresses of Canada to whom we are indebted for the large cases of clothing, the fruit of their many hours of labour devoted to the Missions.

To-day, we paid another visit to our good old friends of the Home. They were busy preparing supper, and insisted on having us stay to share their meal. It was impossible to decline their invitation without grieving them, so we complied with their desire. With childlike joy, each one insisted on doing the honours of the table. By the way, this table was about ten inches high and three feet long. The second-hand cook served us a plate of sweet potatoes in their skins while another old lady busied herself around the *brasero* to make tea.

As the few cups taken down from the shelf seemed too dusty to be presented to the *foreign bonzesses*, they were rubbed briskly with a dirty old rag. While sipping our tea, according to Japanese etiquette, we inquired about each one's health and scattered in the aching hearts of these poor women whose temper has been soured by the misfortunes of a life devoid of faith, the hope of a remunerative Lord.



We feel confident that the Blessed Virgin, after having obtained for us free access to this miserable abode will help us to win a few souls to God.

### Thursday, December 14

During the Octave of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, our Heavenly Mother has granted us the ineffable and rare happiness of offering her an immortal lily — a soul regenerated in the Baptismal Waters. The privileged one was a good old lady of the Home to whom we had spoken several times of the great Master of Heaven, and who always listened very respectfully to us, repeating her *arigato sama* (noble thanks). Finding her worse to-day, we suggested to wash her soul, that she might go to Heaven. In a loud and very distinct tone which somewhat surprised us as she was so weak, Obasan said to us: "*O negai itashimasu*" (I make the noble request). Moved and happy, Sister Superior poured the Saving Waters upon her brow saying: "Mary Rose Anna, I baptize thee in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." The dying woman repeated unceasingly *arigato sama*. This filthy dwelling now appeared to us radiant with light.

Before returning to the Convent, we stopped at the bedside of another patient who was seriously ill. She was greatly pleased to see us and assured us that she had felt much relief, since we had rubbed her with the Miraculous Medal. While chatting with her we said: "Obasan, one must love God and serve Him to go to Heaven. Do you sometimes pray to the true God?"

"Do I pray to Him?..." she answered, "Of course! Every morning I turn towards the *Maria Ryo* (this is how they call our convent) and I adore the *kami sama* (god) of the *Maria Ryo*. When I have little joys, I thank Him; when I lack food, fire or suitable garments, I bear this patiently and say to myself: "These things are not due to me."

Could we request a more indubitable manifestation of good will on the part of this pagan woman? Before leaving her we explained Baptism of desire to her so that she might make acts if she wished. We intend to watch her closely so as to provide her with a passport for Heaven when comes the favourable moment.

### Sunday, February 11

His Excellency Bishop Lemieux, who arrived yesterday evening, celebrated Mass at our Convent, this morning, and took breakfast here.

Our pupils of the Kindergarten, as well as those of all the other schools of the city, assembled at nine o'clock for the salute to the Emperor. It being the two thousand six hundred and sixtieth anniversary of the foundation of the Empire by Jimmu Tenno, the first imperial ancestor whose name is known, the feast is celebrated with more pomp, this year.

Great is the jubilation in our little Community also, to-day. Our two youngest Sisters, Sister St. Come<sup>(1)</sup> and Sister Marie Alida<sup>(2)</sup> pronounced,

1. Alice LABELLE, Montreal.

2. Thérèse LALIBERTE, Lotbinière, Que.

3. Rose Aimée DEMERS, Quebec.

this afternoon, their final Vows which bind them irrevocably to their Divine Spouse. Our Sisters of Wakamatsu joined us for the occasion.



PERPETUAL PROFESSION AT THE CONVENT OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, KORIYAMA, JAPAN, PRESIDED OVER BY HIS EXCELLENCY BISHOP LEMIEUX, O. P.

Towards two o'clock, Mother St. Louis du Sacré Cœur, Superior, and Mother Marie Anne of the Congregation of Notre Dame, arrived from Fukushima, doing us the honour and pleasure of assisting at the modest ceremony. Then Christians and pagans began to fill the chapel which was all illuminated and adorned as on the greatest solemnities.

At three o'clock, His Excellency Bishop Lemieux made his solemn entry, accompanied by the Reverend Pastors of Koriyama and Fukushima. Reverend Brother Simard, O. F. M., was present in the sanctuary. After the

singing of the *Veni Creator*, His Excellency delivered an inspiring allocution in Japanese, explaining the meaning and importance of the step the elect were about to take; then wearing mitre and cope, he presided at the ceremony which took place before a partly pagan congregation. It was sublime and beautiful in its simplicity and the



SISTER ST. COME (THERESE LALIBERTE, LOTBINIERE) AND SISTER MARIE ALIDA (ROSE AIMEE DEMERS, QUEBEC) ON THE EVENING OF PERPETUAL PROFESSION DAY.

atmosphere of purity and peace which permeated the place, lifted our souls to a state of elevated enjoyment. The radiant countenances of the happy Spouses of Jesus returning to their seats in possession of the ring of fidelity was a silent but eloquent exhortation to all. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament brought this somewhat heavenly feast to a close.

His Excellency and the Reverend Pastors left at about four o'clock. Before supper, during the singing of the *Veni Sponsa Christi*, Sister Superior crowned the privileged Spouses of Christ.

### Wednesday, February 14

In October last, the papers announced the death of Masao Takazaki, brother of one of our helpers of the Kindergarten. He died on the battlefield. Until his ashes were brought home, the photograph of the deceased was placed on a little table in the family parlour and was surrounded with flowers and offerings. Even the *brasero* for incense was placed before it. As the Propaganda has recently prescribed to look upon these rites as mere tokens of respect, the Christians observe them as well as the pagans. In this Christian family, however, the cross dominated all. A great number of visitors came to the dwelling of Mrs. Takazaki who, despite her poverty, was obliged to serve cake and tea to them all. Poor Japanese! to what ceremonies and complications are they not subjected!

To-day we accompanied the pupils of the Kindergarten to the station for the arrival of the ashes of Masao. An officer in uniform received from the hands of the brother of the deceased, the little box draped in white which contained the ashes, while the bonzes who presided at the civil ceremony offered incense. There were eight *kuruma* at the station. The officer carrying the precious box attached to his neck by a strip of white cotton, occupied the first. Mrs. Takazaki took her place in the second; she also carried a little box covered with white, and containing the souvenirs which had been found on her son when he died. These had been carefully kept by the military authorities. In the third *kuruma*, Katsue, the eldest brother, held Masao's photograph draped with black and white ribbon. Then followed Mr. Seki, assistant-mayor, the Shintoist bonze dressed in an ample white kimono, with a black mitre on his head; two superior Buddhist bonzes wearing flowing garments of purple silk and a very short black veil tightened around the head like a cap; last, came a little inferior Buddhist bonze with his head shaved, a brown gown and Buddhistic beads twisted around his arm. On each side of the street from the station to Mrs. Takazaki's dwelling, a living hedge was formed by the school children, who bowed respectfully as the triumphal cortege went by. The country was thereby manifesting her gratitude to a son who had laid down his life for her.

Finally the cortege came to the street leading to the Catholic church and the vehicles stopped. The officer descended and walked to the door where the Pastor, wearing a black cope, awaited the ashes with three acolytes. Our Holy Mother the Church received him who, scarcely six months previous, had come to ask her for strength and consolation before entering

upon his arduous career. To-day he was soliciting of her a last blessing and a resting-place. We then entered Mrs. Takazaki's house, next to the church. The box of ashes was deposited on the platform prepared for this. Each member of the cortege, beginning by the officer and the bonzes, came and made a bow and offered incense. The bonzes did not feel much at ease in this house where the crucifix occupied the place of honour; having terminated their office, they withdrew immediately.

This evening, we joined the Priest and the Christians to go and pray near Masao's remains. According to Japanese tradition, a cushion was placed in front of the platform and each person had to sit down on it, make a profound reverence and sprinkle the box of ashes with holy water. The little leather bag carried by the mother during the triumphal defile, was opened before us and how edifying and consoling it was to see its contents! It enclosed all the treasures of the dear deceased, his beads, his medals, his catechism, his prayer-book, his pictures, his Baptism certificate and letters of recommendation he had obtained from the Pastor and Sister Superior. He had requested these, in order to show them to the Catholic priests or to our Sisters, if he happened to meet any in China. Among other medals was a rusty Miraculous Medal, wrapped up in a little white cloth. It was with the identification plate worn by all Japanese soldiers. The bag also contained a few memorandum-books in which he had inserted his intimate notes. Among these were found reflections like the following: "I shall try to recall the sacrifice of Abraham... Jesus, the Light of the world... The victory of the Cross." It is in the Catholic Religion that Masao found the strength and courage which made of him a hero. His officers and comrades unanimously bore witness that he gave all whole-heartedly for his country.

He met with death while observing the position of the enemy from a very perilous post. On reaching the summit of a steep hill, which he had climbed at the head of his comrades, he offered himself as scout, and just had time to signal the enemy when a ball struck him through the temples. Half an hour later, the place was taken and the victory almost certain, thanks to the courage and energy of this young hero of twenty-four. Near the spot where he fell grew a young pine; the officer engraved a cross on it with the epitaph: "Unless the grain of wheat fall into the ground, and die, itself remaineth alone." This man was a pagan but he had formerly read the Gospel and these words came to his mind at the thought of the exemplary life and heroic death of this young Christian.

### **Saturday, March 2**

In September last, we went out to the country in order to stimulate a few Christian families forgetful of their duties and exhort them to be faithful to assist at Mass on Sundays. Laden with crucifixes, beads and medals, we crossed the rice-fields and our first stop was at a wretched thatched cottage. Mr. Imaizumi looked shy on seeing us, for he had not been true to the promise he had made to come to church. His wife, baptized but not practising,

fled as soon as she perceived us. We left Rosary-beads and medals to the father for his five children, and had him promise to send the older ones to the Mission, that we might teach them their prayers.

The reception was more cordial at Mrs. Watanabe's. We gave religious magazines to the grandfather, who is paralysed; these will rejoice him when he feels lonely. We then went to the next house where his son lives with his children and grandchildren. The good old grandmother related to us how her people were fervent in the past. "I was baptized when I was fourteen years old," she said, "and in those days there was no school so, to learn my prayers and catechism, I had made a vow — which I faithfully kept — to go without breakfast every day during a year. In the fields, as early as day-break, I often cried for hunger; but I remained steadfast in my resolution and I managed to learn my prayers and catechism by heart. Alas!" she continued, "we have relaxed since. At that time the whole family went to Mass on Sunday and there were no bad weeds growing in our garden; now that we think that we have no time to go, our fields are full of them." We were informed that several of the children, the eldest, nineteen years old, had not made their First Communion. Thereupon we proposed to come each week to give them a catechism lesson in order to prepare them for the reception of this Sacrament. Thanks to the Blessed Virgin, our offer was accepted.

The following Saturday we returned to visit this family. They were expecting us and the children had invited their friends. A few dried branches thrown on the embers of the hearth afforded some light in the dark kitchen where young and old sat around us, eager to learn about our Holy Religion. Seated on our heels in the centre of the group, we instructed them and the lesson was brought to a close by a hymn to *Seibo Maria*. All promised to study prayers and catechism, even the mother who, while loading her tiny pipe, assured us that she was going to set to study her catechism which she had forgotten. We profited by these good dispositions to urge her to come the next day to have her four-month-old little girl baptized. She promised to do so. The old grandmother came in at the end, and distributed cookies to the children whom she praised for having been so good. "You, also," she added, addressing the group of pagan children, "must study what concerns the true God."

On our way back, while walking along the rice-fields, we murmured *Aves* of thanksgiving to Our Lady and begged her to always bless our labours.

The following day, Sunday, the whole family was at Mass. Misao, a fourteen-year-old boy who had not received the Sacraments for several years, was radiant with happiness when he returned to his place after Holy Communion. The mother carried little Teru Ko on her back and had her baptized by the Pastor after Mass. Satan had finally no more rights on any member of this family.

Each week, since then, our Saturday School, as we like to call it, groups together in this country-place, some twelve children among whom are a few pagans eager to learn about Jesus and His holy Mother.

### Wednesday, March 20

Thirty-nine of our pupils of the Kindergarten left us to-day to enter the Primary School. As early as seven o'clock they began to arrive in full dress, some with their mothers, others with their big sisters. The ceremony opened at nine o'clock with the salute to the emperor; then followed a minute of prayer for the brave who died on the battle-field. During this time all remained deeply inclined. The National Hymn was then sung. Finally, the distribution of the longed-for diplomas took place. Sister Directress gave to each his precious white roll which attested that he had followed the courses given at St. Mary's School. As in preceding years, each "graduate" received a tiny blue box containing a precious *mamori* (amulet), the dear Miraculous Medal. A few discourses appropriate to the occasion were delivered and the departure hymn brought the entertainment to a close. The mothers, proud of their little ones, made us many reverences and thanked us for the care we had given the children.

### Friday, May 3

On the 20th of April last, a cable coming from Canada announced the arrival of our beloved Mother General for the near future. The hopes we had been cherishing for such a long time were about to be realized. How great was our joy!...

This evening, we were at the refectory for supper when a despatch informed us that our dear Mother would be with us in a few hours. Our joy was indescribable! Sister Marie de la Rédemption<sup>(1)</sup> and Sister St. Hedwidge<sup>(2)</sup> went to the station with a group of Christians accompanied by our Reverend Pastor. At thirty-five minutes past seven, the train coming from Tokyo conveyed our beloved visitor and her companions, Sister Madeleine Marie<sup>(3)</sup>, Sister de l'Ange Gardien<sup>(4)</sup> and Sister Ste. Foy<sup>(5)</sup>, the last two having to wait here for the boat that will take them to China.

Our travellers took their places in the *kuruma* (jinrikishas) to come to the Convent, where the remaining Sisters were awaiting them at the front door. All eyes were dimmed with tears, but these were tears of joy. After a fervent *Magnificat* at the chapel, Mother and her companions took a light supper and we assembled in the Community Hall to give utterance to our joy... How good it was to hear about venerable Mother Foundress and the dear Sisters of our native land!... The moments slipped by so rapidly that we were all surprised to hear the bell for night prayer. As we knelt at the feet of our loving Master, our hearts were overflowing with happiness and from them burst forth tender expressions of gratitude.

### Sunday, May 5

Yesterday evening in an intimate reunion, we expressed our filial love, joy and gratitude to our beloved Mother.

1. Basilisse MAILLET, West Bathurst, N. B.
2. Blanche ROSS, Fall River, Mass.
3. Madeleine LORANGER, Montreal.
4. Elzire GAMACHE, St. Jean Port Joli, Que.
5. Elizabeth LEMIRE, Baie du Febvre, Que.

This morning we went to the Mission church together, to hear Mass. After the Holy Sacrifice, the Christians formed a circle around the porch to welcome her. Dear Mother thanked them and, through an interpreter, told them how edified she was to see the piety they manifested during the Divine Office. A little child that was baptized at that moment received the name Francis Xavier in honour of the father of our dear visitor.

Towards one o'clock this afternoon, the poor children who attend Sunday School offered her their greetings. They recited prayers and sang hymns. Their joy was at its height when Mother distributed medals of the Blessed Virgin to them.

### Thursday, May 9

We were invited to accompany Reverend Mother to an entertainment organized by the women of the *Haha no Kai* (children's mothers) Association.



COMMUNITY OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, KORIYAMA, JAPAN, DURING THE VISIT OF THEIR VERY REVEREND MOTHER SUPERIOR GENERAL.

SEATED: VERY REVEREND MOTHER MARIE DE LA PROVIDENCE, SUPERIOR GENERAL AND SISTER MADELEINE DU SAUVEUR (ALICE LABELLE, MONTREAL), LOCAL SUPERIOR.

STANDING, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: SISTER ST. COME (THERESE LALIBERTE, LOTBINIERE), SISTER ST. HEDWIGE (BLANCHE ROSS, FALL RIVER, MASS.), SISTER AGNES D'ASSISE (LUCIENNE RENAUD, MONTREAL), SISTER MARIE DE LA REDEMPTION (BASILISSE MAILLET, WEST BATHURST, N. B.), AND SISTER MARIE ALIDA (ROSE AIMEE DEMERS, QUEBEC).

The opening number on the program was a song accompanied by the *koto* (Japanese harp). The artists were our former pupils, little girls of about ten years old. They were seated on the floor in front of their instrument which resembles a bench five feet long by ten inches high. The strings stretched by means of little ivory bridges extend from one end of the instrument to the other.

The entertainment was followed by a tea-party — ceremony much appreciated by the Japanese, but rather tedious for the Occidentals, on account

of the interminable reverences which accompany it. In the apartment could be seen a screen and a *brasero* upon which had been placed the precious iron-kettle which the Japanese never wipe but leave on the fire to dry. A young lady clad in an iridescent coloured kimono entered the room dragging her feet and prostrated herself at a few steps from the *brasero*. She deposited her folded fan in front of her, looked at the fire on the right side and then on the left and, finally, made two profound bows. Rising and always dragging her feet, which were shod with white pumps called *tabi*, she went and sat behind the screen. This time, the fan was placed behind her; she lay her left hand on her right and placidly awaited the arrival of the other guests who, each in turn, observed the same ceremonial. At last, the mistress of the house entered and made a profound bow to all her visitors. She went out and returned with a little jug of cold water, which she carried at arm's length and deposited near the *brasero*. All her movements and her steps were counted and measured ahead of time. When she had thus brought the tea, cups and utensils, she wiped these with a square piece of red silk which she wore at her belt. She bowed again profoundly and began the infusion. The water was drawn from the kettle, always in a certain manner, with a tiny bamboo ladle, then poured into the bowl. Taking in the prescribed manner the tiny bowl for the tea, she put a small spoonful in it and stirred it vigorously with a little bamboo broom. The visitors who had been silent all this time and had retained the classical position — seated on their heels without any cushion, their left hand resting on the right, their countenance impassible — took out of their belt a little square of paper and, helping themselves to the dainties in the plate on the floor in front of them, they ate their bit according to the rules of Japanese etiquette. The hostess then handed them the cup of tea without saying a word and without leaving her place. Each guest advanced on her knees helping herself with her two hands until she could reach the cup which she placed at about one foot in front of her. She then moved back to her place, always holding her cup one foot away from her. Finally, the moment came when she could enjoy the excellent beverage so highly appreciated by Orientals. Her first care was to turn the cup on every side to examine the paintings; then, holding it in her two hands, she carried it to her mouth. With a plastic expression, as requested by etiquette, she murmured while looking at the mistress of the house: *Kekko de gosaimasu* (It is delicious), and she swallowed the rest in three draughts. Once again, she examined her cup, considered the mark of the chinaware and complimented the hostess, then replaced it on her knees. When all the guests had finished drinking they made a profound reverence and resumed their ceremonious attitude. The mistress took the water-jug and withdrew as she had come; she returned for each utensil, always conforming herself to the above-mentioned rules. Finally, she took her leave without having said a word to her visitors; the tea-party was over!... The tea served on such occasions is of superior quality, it is made with the most tender shoots of the tea-shrubs, that are reduced to a fine powder. This powder is sold as high as 25.00 *yen* a pound.

The tea-party over, three ladies sang a classical song accompanied by



the *shamisen*, stringed instrument somewhat resembling a guitar, but less harmonious. Several graceful Japanese dances were executed by little girls clad in the national costume. The feast finished towards four o'clock. Dear Mother General addressed a few kind words to the ladies who were greatly pleased.

### Saturday, May 11

To respond to the exigencies of missionary adaptation, we were obliged to leave the peaceful solitude of our Convent. Mrs. Sato, one of the most influential women of the city, invited our beloved Mother to go for tea with as many Sisters as possible.

On arriving, we were conducted to the second floor, where the splendid kimonos Mrs. Sato wore on the day of her wedding were displayed before us, that we might admire them. After having contemplated them for some time, we were ushered into the parlour for the famous tea-party. On our request, a seat had been prepared for Mother General; her cup was placed on a black lacquered elevation, this is a mark of distinction which is granted only to the lords. The other Sisters were invited to sit in Japanese fashion. Miss Sato to whom we taught cooking, came to greet us. She presided at the reception and, pleased as she was to welcome us at her home, she was less mindful of the gravity requested on similar occasions. We then went down to the family parlour, where a cup of tea was served to us again, but without too much ceremony this time. The domestic temple was opened so that we might admire it. It was a real jewel; the interior was lacquered with gold and Buddha was glittering on his lotus flower. On both sides stood the ancestral tablets in front of which the offerings had been placed. On a little table before the temple could be seen articles used for Buddhistic worship, a little bell having a very pretty sound, books of the *sutra*, beads, etc.

Seats had been prepared for us in this apartment; but the ladies, mothers of our pupils, who accompanied us, remained seated in Japanese fashion, without any cushion, through respect for Reverend Mother. We heard beautiful music and Mrs. Sato offered us, as very appreciated dainties, pickles she herself had prepared, radishes in the spume of *sake* (rice wine) and pickled cucumbers. As a favour, the family begged Mother to sign a card attesting that she had enjoyed her visit. She complied very graciously. All the Sisters were then requested to sign their name on this same card. We returned at five o'clock and found it good to be able to converse with God in our pious chapel.

### Saturday, May 18

Dear Sister de l'Ange Gardien<sup>(1)</sup> and Sister Ste. Foy<sup>(2)</sup> left us this morning for their respective missions. This afternoon, our beloved Mother whom we have scarcely seen, it seems, is leaving for Wakamatsu. "I am

1. Elzire GAMACHE, St. Jean Port Joli, Que.

2. Elizabeth LEMIRE, Baie du Febvre, Que.

not going away for good," she said. "I shall return in the beginning of June. Rejoice at the thought of the happiness of your Sisters who are expecting me."

### Friday, May 24

Miss Sato who received us on the 11th, came to pay us a visit. She asked a few details concerning certain points of our Holy Religion. This young lady is very sympathetic and we hope that the Blessed Virgin to whom we have confided her will soon conduct her to her Divine Son.

We are told that from the beginning of June, the ration of sugar will be diminished. Only half a pound a month will be allowed to each person. Severe control will also be exercised over the rice. There was a shortage of food last year on account of the drought, and the same scourge is dreaded this year; it is why the government is taking measures in order to assure public security.

### Wednesday, June 5

Dear Mother Superior General, who has been in our midst again since the first of June, is leaving for Tokyo this morning. Her presence has been a comfort and a stimulant to us, and the fruits of her maternal visit will last, we are positive.

At half-past eight, we embraced her for the last time, then all together, we accompanied her to the station where a delegation of Christians and the parents of our pupils wished her a pleasant trip. We had made up our minds to be courageous but when we saw Mother on the train, tears dimmed our eyes and our hearts shrank at the thought of seeing her no more. Mother always smiling, spoke a few words of comfort and promised to come again on her return from the Missions of China. Sister Superior<sup>(1)</sup> and Sister Ste. Angèle de Mérici<sup>(2)</sup> accompanied her to the Capital.

Yesterday, when going to buy the tickets for the trip, we passed by the courtyard of the large Shintoist temple of the god of war. The magnificent rose-bushes which grow around the bonze's dwelling were in full bloom. How we wished to have some of these flowers exhale their exquisite perfume at Our Lady's feet! The wife of the bonze bowed to us from the terrace and asked if we would not like to have roses. "You should come oftener," she said to us, "I am always ready to give you flowers for Maria Sama!" She gave us about ten of the prettiest and had the precaution of dipping the stems in peppermint oil, that they might remain fresh longer. When placing these lovely roses before the statue of our Immaculate Mother, we begged her to look with tenderness upon these poor pagans and to reward them by calling them to the true Faith.

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A word prepared during prayer enters, penetrates, gains a soul.

*Père de Ravignan.*

1. Alice LABELLE, Montreal.

2. Marie Jeanne L'HEUREUX, Loretteville, Que.

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

**Monday, January 2, 1940**

The city of Shizuoka having been partly destroyed by a terrible fire, thousands of families were left without shelter. The scarcity of building material and the high cost of living, in these critical times, render the situation more painful. The Japanese people on such occasions show themselves worthy of admiration. Everywhere, even in the remotest cities, charity drives are organized and considerable sums are already collected, besides the gifts in kind which have been shipped. The Christians of Wakamatsu do their share, and our little ones of the Kindergarten give up a large part of their savings in favour of the afflicted of Shizuoka. These organizations of benevolence, so well directed and yet inspired by mere natural virtues, give an idea of the strength this kind nation would have to protect the rights of God, if it possessed the great gift of Faith.

**Saturday, February 17**

The merchants of Wakamatsu have the reputation of not being good sellers a fact recognized many miles round. To conform themselves to the present times, they were obliged to raise their prices during the past few months, but it is not rare to hear them say: "This is so dear, one might as well go without it," or else: "This article isn't worth the selling price." If these incidents sometimes amuse us, they are an evident proof that the allurements of gain is for very little in the lives of these good people, who often give us examples of great charity and kindness.

However, there is a day on which the merchants make an exception, and this is on the occasion of the *Takaichi*, the tenth of the first lunar month, anniversary of a great sale established about two hundred years ago is it said, by the lord of the place. One must see how each complies with this antique custom and becomes an apt salesman once in a year. A glimpse of the principal streets of the city will give us a good idea of it. The wide road leading to the station, for example, is literally transformed and all traffic prohibited. It is lined with numerous small tents each having its speciality: here, a counter with toys, there, an assortment of tubs. This merchant exhibits cups, while his neighbour proclaims the quality of his pipes. A book-seller offers his books, without minding, in the least, the long discourse that is being given near him, on the advantage of repairing old rubbers. Material for kimonos, kitchen utensils, fruits, cigarette-cases, lacquered objects, sweet or salted cookies, all come side by side without order. Even portable temples are erected to satisfy the piety of the visitors. It is the nicest Oriental bazaar that can be imagined. In general the articles to be sold are not of the best quality, but they have the advantage of being offered at a low price; it is a bargain for the poor, and for the merchants, it is a good occasion to do the general cleaning of their shelves. The sale of the *Takaichi* is a peculiarity of Wakamatsu, also the most insignificant article bought on that day is not considered so common.



HIS EXCELLENCY BISHOP LEMIEUX, REVEREND FATHERS GAGNON AND LENZETTI, O. P., REVEREND FATHER KAINUMA, THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND THE CHRISTIANS WHO TOOK PART IN THE CEREMONY OF THE BENEDICTION OF THE GROTTA OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES ERECTED ON THE MISSION COMPOUND, WAKAMATSU, JAPAN.

### Sunday, March 10

A feeling of intense joy permeated the atmosphere of the Mission, for another young man entered the pale of the Church; he was baptized this morning and received his Saviour for the first time. After the ceremony, the Christians convened in their assembly hall, had tea in honour of the elect of the day.

A young pagan girl, who assisted at Mass, came to pay us a visit this afternoon. We admire how God, by the action of His grace, attracts the souls of good will. For a long time, this young lady has been desiring to know our Holy Religion. After a conversation with a Christian, she inquired about the time the religious ceremonies were held and, on a sudden, declared to her mother that she wanted to become a Catholic. The surprise of the pagan mother was indeed very great, however, she granted the desired permission and the important step was taken this morning. We congratulated this generous child and encouraged her to persevere in her good dispositions.

### Saturday, April 20

As a flash of lightning, the news, the most pleasant news, was spread throughout the Convent, bringing joy to each and everyone of us: Our beloved Mother General will arrive in Japan on May 2nd! A fervent *Magnificat* rises from our souls to thank God for this happy message.

### Saturday, May 18

What a pleasant event has enhanced this day! The four o'clock train brought us our dear Mother... Sister Superior<sup>(1)</sup>, Sister de l'Enfant-Jésus<sup>(2)</sup> and the teachers went to meet her at the station.

After paying a visit to the Prisoner of Love, our kind Mother repaired to the Community Hall. To-day, we are realizing, as never before, that there are joys too intimate to be expressed. Tears of happiness dim our eyes and tell what our lips cannot say. Sister Madeleine-Marie<sup>(3)</sup> who is to stay with us after having accompanied our revered Superior-General throughout her visit to all our convents is also very welcome, already we feel that she is one of our own little family. Oh! how powerful is the bond that unites the members of a religious community!

### Sunday, May 19

The Christians, wishing to greet our beloved Mother, assembled in the hall of the Mission, after Mass. Reverend Father Kainuma introduced our dear Mother to his parishioners, then followed a discourse by Mrs. Tanaka, wife of the Catechist of Wakamatsu, and president of the Catholic women's circle. In phrases which leave no doubt as to the sincerity of her sentiments, she spoke of the numerous favours for which the Mission is indebted to our little Community, and this, thanks to our dear Mother, since it is through her permission that so many *good things came to them*:

1. Marie Jeanne L'HEUREUX, Loretteville, Que.

2. Florentine DANSEREAU, Vercheres, Que.

3. Madeleine LORANGER, Montreal.

the benefit of the Kindergarten, which permits the families to come into closer contact with the Church or Catholic Religion, the benefit of the closed retreat held last year with such consoling results. As a token of gratitude, Mrs. Tanaka kindly begged Reverend Mother to accept the bouquet of flowers offered by a little Christian girl and a gift presented in the name of



THE CHRISTIAN LADIES WELCOME THE VERY REVEREND MOTHER SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

the Christians of the Mission. The box, bearing the formal seal and ribbons, contained two magnificent lacquered vases decorated with cherry blossoms.

In the afternoon, the Sunday School pupils executed a number of vocal solos to welcome our Mother, while the evening gathered us around her to express our gratitude and filial affection.

### Saturday, May 25

Sister Madeleine-du-Sauveur<sup>(1)</sup> and Sister Marie-Alida<sup>(2)</sup> arrived from Koriyama this evening, to witness the beautiful manifestations to be held to-morrow. His Excellency Bishop Lemieux will bless the grotto of Lourdes recently erected on the Missions grounds. Carved out of a pure block of marble the statue of the Immaculate Conception, whose sculptor is a Japanese pagan, came himself from Tokyo, to place his masterpiece in the niche.

All in the grotto satisfies the purest artistic taste: the reddish coloured stones so skilfully joined appear to be one solid rock, and the trees which seem to have grown by enchantment, form a pleasing background. Moss and ivy cover the excavations and a little brook babbles near by. The rich green of the foliage, the reddish tint of the rock and the statue of the Immaculate Virgin with its golden halo present a very charming aspect.

1. Alice LABELLE, Montreal.

2. Rose Aimée DEMERS, Quebec.

**Sunday, May 26**

What a beautiful day have we just passed, we might say it was a day of heaven! It will form an epoch in the history of our Christian Mission on account of its memorable ceremonies and signal graces.

Mother-Nature seemingly fond of harmonizing with the happiness which inundates all hearts, chased away the greyish clouds and radiated sunbeams everywhere; even the azaleas, which have blossomed during the night, and the green verdure made fresh by the morning dew, were the object of her watchful eye.

After High Mass sung by His Excellency Bishop Lemieux, who arrived last night from Sendai, the parishioners assembled before the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. Soon, all heads bowed under the blessing hand of our venerable Pastor who, by this beautiful ceremony, somewhat inaugurated the religious movement which this grotto, like that of Lourdes, is destined to produce in days to come.

Reverend Father Kainuma, our devoted Pastor, after explaining the meaning of the ceremony to his parishioners, invited them to look upon this spot as consecrated to honour the Blessed Virgin. The *Ave Maris Stella* followed by the national hymn brought the ceremony to a close.

Dinner was then served, as on great feast days, in the hall of the Christians and was presided over by His Excellency. Knowing that her presence



VERY REVEREND MOTHER MARIE DE LA PROVIDENCE, SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, SISTER ST. ANGELE DE MERICI (MARIE JEANNE L'HEUREUX, LORETTEVILLE) SISTER MADELEINE MARIE (MADELEINE LORANGER, MONTREAL) MRS. SUTO AND HER DAUGHTERS, WAKAMATSU, JAPAN.

was desired by all, our beloved Mother, also took part in the family feast and tasted of the good pink rice, with chop-sticks.

About three o'clock, everything was ready at the grotto and the pathways of the compound were decorated with carpets, made with multi-coloured saw-dust and bearing symbolical designs. Before leaving the church the

Christians intoned a hymn to the Blessed Sacrament, then as the strains of the *Pange Lingua* began, they filed out in procession. His Excellency himself, carried the Ostensorium and was assisted by the Reverend Fathers Lenzetti and Gagnon while Father Kainuma marshalled the pious cortege.



PHOTO TAKEN AFTER THE LITTLE ENTERTAINMENT HELD IN HONOUR OF THE VERY REVEREND MOTHER GENERAL OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, WAKAMATSU, JAPAN.

Four little girls in white strewed flowers along the route of the procession. The most notable men of the Mission carried the canopy, and six Christians accompanied the Blessed Sacrament with lighted lanterns. All these good persons prayed and sang with touching fervour. Ultimately the procession entered the grounds surrounding the grotto where the Repository had been erected and, under the smile of the Virgin of Lourdes, our Divine Lord blest His children of Wakamatsu. It would be difficult to describe the emotion we felt at this solemn moment, for a supernatural joy, inexpressible but real, penetrated us at the thought of the favours bestowed upon our dear Mission.

This memorable day, leaves our hearts overflowing with ardent love and gratitude towards God, Who so lavishly showers His Divine consolations upon His missionaries.

### Monday, May 27

Mrs. Nori having invited our Mother for tea, we accompany her this afternoon. We admired the magnificent gardens surrounding the house, one of the nicest and most ancient of the city. The oldest tree on the property is a cedar about five-hundred years old, this means that it has sheltered many a generation of little birds under its hospitable branches.

As a souvenir of her visit, Mother left a Rosary to Mrs. Nori and a medal of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus to her son who is ill. The family offered her in return two beautiful gold lacquered vases.



**Tuesday, May 28**

Wishing our Reverend Mother to meet the pupils of the private courses, and their parents, we organized a little concert which took place, to-day. Each of our fifteen pianists executed herself with grace, to the satisfaction of the parents who could not defend themselves from legitimate pride.

Our kind Mr. Ichijo, sociologist of the region to whom we have the honour of teaching French, gave in good French, the opening speech which was of his own composition. His compatriots present, greatly admired him. A few gymnastic drills were executed, then two young ladies sang a classical song accompanied by the melancholic notes of the *shamisen*. There were two other vocal solos by a young Teacher of the Kindergarten. With charming simplicity he artistically expressed the inmost feelings of the Japanese soul.

To bring the recital to a close, Reverend Father Kainuma exposed very frankly and with perfect freedom the aim of our religious life: bring souls to know and love God, the Divine Artist, the Creator of all things. The audience was capable of grasping the elevated topic of this conference, also every one followed with avidity the words of the speaker. We hope that they will produce abundant fruit and bring some of these pagan souls to their Creator and Divine Master.

**Saturday, June 1**

Soon after breakfast, we turn to our beloved Mother Superior General to ask for a holiday, this day being the last that she will pass with us. We are quickly understood and *Deo Gratias* is immediately given.

We group around the mother so dearly loved, to listen to her maternal teachings. We feel more than ever, the great favour God has bestowed upon our religious family by giving us such a perfect copy of our Venerable Mother-Foundress in the person of our revered Superior General. How we wish we could eternise the moments spent with her, but the clock heedless of our desires scrupulously strikes all the hours.

Dinner being over, the last preparations for the departure must be attended to. How quickly the happy days go by! Oh! only in Heaven shall we have the joy of seeing them last forever! However, the thought that our dear Sisters of the Missions are also eagerly awaiting, since a long time our dear Mother, does not permit our egoism to wish to prolong her sojourn among us, for we have experienced ourselves what joy and encouragement her visits bring.

A pious hymn gathers us once more at the feet of our Eucharistic Lord and His Immaculate Mother for a last blessing, then some of us accompany our beloved Visitor to the station. The Pastor himself was there with a few Christians.

To-night our convent seems empty but not cold and dreary; on the contrary, the thought that our Mother passed two pleasant weeks under our roof makes our home dearer than ever to us.



THE PUPILS OF THE KINDERGARTEN OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, WAKAMATSU, JAPAN, DURING THE VISIT OF THE VERY REVEREND MOTHER MARIE DE LA PROVIDENCE, SUPERIOR GENERAL.

### Monday, June 10

Many a time during the day do we go in spirit to the seaport of Kobe, where our dear Mother will embark for Manchuria. How we wish we had the power of the silver-winged gulls to escort her during her voyage! But no, we have better... our filial hearts will forever be united to hers, and more powerful than the ocean-birds, they will soar directly to Heaven and obtain from our Eternal Father, graces of light and strength which will accompany her throughout her visit to our different missions.

### Sunday, June 30

There is great animation in our Kindergarten hall this afternoon; every one of our little tots attending Sunday School is busy preparing what he or she needs, under the direction of Miss Uchija, our devoted Teacher.

But, why all these preparations? To-day being the anniversary feast of Reverend Father Kainuma, his eighty little children are anxious to show their gratitude and profound affection by a little play prepared in his honour. During nearly an hour, a captivating program is carried out. One of the most faithful to attend the reunions is chosen to read the address in the name of all, then two little girls offer the gifts, one being donated by the Christian ladies.

Reverend Father thanked his dear children and encouraged them to persevere in their good dispositions. These little feasts attract to the study of our Religion and bring unutterable joy to the hearts of our children.



Whatever masters us in such a way as to make us feel that our reason is not free, should be looked on as suspicious; and we shall never in that way attain to liberty of spirit, one of the characteristics of which is the finding of God in all things and the ability to think of Him in the midst of them.

— *St. Teresa.*

## FROM JAPAN TO MANCHURIA

*Letter from Reverend Mother Marie de la Providence,  
Superior General of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception,  
visiting the missions of the Institute.*

*Moji, Japan, Tuesday, June 11, 1940.*

VENERABLE AND BELOVED MOTHER,  
VERY DEAR MOTHERS AND SISTERS,

There are no passengers aboard our ship the "Nokka Maru". It is ten o'clock, and we shall be in port till twelve. I find it more pleasant to come and chat with you than to go and visit the city; one thing only would tempt me, it is a visit to the Blessed Sacrament in the pretty little church I perceive on the knoll. God is certainly blessing me from there, for it seems to me that He is pleased to see me near you in thought.

I dreamt about Venerable Mother, last night. I often dream of her and of you all even when wide awake. It is eight o'clock at Cote des Neiges and you are preparing for your night's rest, we therefore wish you good night.

Our ship is very comfortable, thus we had a good night's sleep. At seven o'clock we were invited to go down to the hall to have our passports examined but this took place only after breakfast, at half-past eight. The food is almost Canadian and we are well served. The harbour is vast and one cannot imagine what activity reigns therein. A while ago we saw a graceful white and blue skiff which reminded us of the little one which is at the foot of the statue of Our Lady of Mercy in the chapel of the Mother House. Besides the steamers there are boats of all forms and sizes. Here the ships are supplied with coal; a large number of bales of merchandise are received and delivered. We have ideal weather and are enjoying it since we are out on deck to write to you.

The last news we sent you was from Koriyama. The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of June were the last days we spent with our Sisters there; I think I spoke to you about them already. On Wednesday, June 5th, we set out for Tokyo under the protection of our loving Father St. Joseph. Sister Madeleine du Sauveur<sup>(1)</sup> and Sister Ste. Angele de Mérici<sup>(2)</sup> accompanied me. Towards four o'clock in the afternoon, we arrived at the Convent of the Ladies of the Sacred Heart, who are very hospitable. The Superior has now been in Japan for thirty-seven years; these religious have one thousand three hundred pupils of all nationalities; the classes of the Japanese are separated from those of the Europeans; one hundred and fifty only are Christians. We did not visit their house, for the two days we were there, we went out immediately after breakfast and came in only at five o'clock. On Thursday we visited Father Flaujac's works; he has a sanatorium for the tuberculous, where nothing is lacking. Those who are about to die are separated from the others and are all baptized before leaving this earth. The convalescents feed the hens, the rabbits, the cows, the goats, they do the gardening, etc.

1. Alice LABELLE, Montreal.

2. Marie Jeanne L'HEUREUX, Loretteville, Que.

Children of tuberculous parents are in a special ward; several, now orphans, belong to the Mission.

This work is a difficult one, as the Japanese dread this disease very much. In order to assure its success, Father Flaujac founded a Community of Japanese religious who go through their noviceship with the Ladies of St. Maur. The two professed Sisters that we met seem to be fervent religious. The Community numbers ten professed nuns, five novices and some ten postulants; their little Convent is very tidy, their chapel pretty; they served us a very good dinner. The property is immense, twenty-five thousand *tsubo*; a *tsubo* measures about six feet by six. When crossing the grounds, we saw extensive fields of wheat about ready to be mown; the barley had been already cut in several places. Our Sisters in Japan like many families make porridge with hulled barley.

In order to be able to give his catechism lessons to the patients without offending anyone, Father had a radio put up in the Hospital and he gives his conferences from his room; in this way, everybody listens and derives much benefit from them. Father is also admitted to the Government Sanatorium; he is even paid to instruct the inmates, for the doctors say that the Catholic patients are easier to treat than the others. He gave us three books which illustrate the progress of these works really blessed by God and destined to do much good.

We then paid a visit to His Excellency Archbishop Doi, of Tokyo, and to Reverend Father Sawade, former Pastor of Wakamatsu. Both are very worried about the Church in Japan; their anxieties are shared by the other bishops but the whole responsibility weighs on Archbishop Doi. Be sure and pray very much for this important intention.

On Friday 7th, we had the happiness of hearing two Masses as it was the First Friday of the month, several of the pupils received Holy Communion; they sang hymns at the second Mass, it was very pious. We left again after breakfast to go and pay a visit to the Apostolic Delegate. He was very kind and showed great interest in our works which he already knows. He recommended us to patiently await God's good time. After this visit we went to the Hospital of the Franciscans of Mary to see Mother St. Longin, sister of Mother Marie du Bon Conseil. Needless to say, we had a young lady to accompany us, for we would have lost our way in the big city of Tokyo and it takes about forty minutes to reach the Hospital, after leaving the city. We can take either the bus or the tramway but we have to know where to take it and where to go down.

We spent a very pleasant afternoon. Mother St. Longin had us visit the pretty chapel and all the Hospital. We even went up on the roof which is entirely covered with asphalt; there, we breathe freely and the panorama is gorgeous. These Sisters have sixty-eight patients just now, and they are building another wing for the poor. In a large passage uniting the two houses, quite near the dispensary, canary-birds and little green parrakeets seem well at home. It is there that the children are brought to be consoled after their visit to the doctor. We then saw a ward where a few indigent patients are kept; they are generally baptized before dying, it is a vestibule

of Heaven. Finally we proceeded to the old women's quarters; they seem happy like queens; they are two, three, or four in a room and live on straw mats in Japanese fashion. One of them does the cooking. They have a little chapel all for themselves, where Mass is celebrated three times a week; even the pagans assist now and then; with time all will belong to the same Fold. This long visit gave me much happiness and I would have liked Mother Marie du Bon Conseil to be in my place on that day, she would have been so happy!

At eight o'clock the next day, we were leaving the Convent with our baggage. Our two companions stayed at the station till the departure at nine, when a very rapid train carried us off in the direction of Kobe, where we arrived at half-past five in the evening. We did not find this eight hours' trip tiresome; we had walked so much the two preceding days that we were glad to be able to rest a while. During our journey, we admired the beautiful landscapes and the vegetation which is magnificent.

At Kobe, the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus were at the station to receive us. How good God is to place visible Angels here and there to receive us! Supper being only at seven o'clock, after bringing our valises to the Convent, we immediately went to see Father Deyrat who replaces Father Fage, now too old to see to the travelling missionaries. Father bought our tickets as we wished to have them in time; we then saw to have our baggage transported on the *Nekka Maru* as early as Monday morning. Fortunately we had hurried, for the Fathers and their confidential man spent all day yesterday with priests of their Order who are leaving for Europe. This proves that, "One must never put off till to-morrow what can be done to-day."

On Sunday, June 9th, we went to Mass at the Europeans' Parish Church — a gothic style construction. It was very pious, we could have mistaken this church for a Canadian one. Having returned to the Convent, we went up to our room after breakfast to write a few letters.

After dinner we took recreation with the only three Canadian Sisters of the Convent among whom was Sister Madeleine a former pupil of our Apostolic School in Rimouski; then we made a visit to the chapel which was really attractive with its cream-coloured walls, its hemispherical vault, and its beautiful designs; the columns are an imitation of *terrazo* very pale; it is somewhat striking. The rest of the afternoon was spent visiting the house. Our room was on the third floor of the school, which is separated from it by the chapel yard. We went up on the roof whence we could see the whole city of Kobe. There, as throughout Japan, are lofty mountains. A number of boats were anchored in the port. The Sisters came and spent the evening recreation with us; we learnt that a few have been on the missions for forty years. When it came time for prayer, we retired for our last night on land.

Mass was celebrated at the Convent on Monday; we took our valises down after breakfast, made our visit to the Blessed Sacrament and our Stations of the Cross, then we left with Sister St. Paul and a Japanese Sister; these dear Sisters have been very helpful to us. Towards eleven o'clock the Fathers' man arrived; he went down in the hold of the ship and assured us that our baggage was really there, so our kind companions left us. We

remained on deck, and at twelve exactly, the *Nekka Maru* slowly left the port of Kobe, and sailed towards Manchuria. There are arm-chairs and little tables on the deck for those who wish to write. We are four at our table, a kind English gentleman, a Consul for Belgium and Sweden living at Chefu and his wife, who are returning from a three weeks' vacation in Japan. It is not warm, the sea is calm and reflects the blue of the firmament.

*Tuesday, June 11.* As I told you above we spent all morning in the port of Moji; towards half-past eleven we went out on deck to send a card to Mother Assistant and we stayed there until the departure. It was very interesting to watch the voyagers. There was already a big crowd when



LAKE CHUZENJI NIKKO, JAPAN.

several classes of little boys arrived carrying yellow paper flags which bore what we suppose to be the blazon of the School; the chief had a large flag made of rich fabric. At a certain moment they all began to wave their flags and to shout so loud that we could hardly hear ourselves. What was the matter? A Japanese, a personage, no doubt, had just boarded the ship and it was he they were hailing with such enthusiasm.

Dinner which is generally served at half-past twelve was postponed to one o'clock. The time that was not taken up by our spiritual exercises was spent in writing. As on the *Heian Maru*, the employees are polite and everything is first class.

*Wednesday, June 12.* We rose early this morning and spent an hour on deck before breakfast, to say our prayers and make our meditation in the vast temple of the Lord. We are almost alone, the brilliant sun traces an immense golden band on the sea which retains its azure tint; we see mountains here and there, they form the coasts of Korea, a light mist gives them a blue appearance. Everybody on our ship enjoys the marvels of nature, but we are the only ones to know the Creator. This thought overwhelms us and we suffer not to be able to speak to these kind people, who would be quite willing to love and serve God if only they had the happiness of knowing Him. How precious

is the Gift of Faith and how we must thank God and pray for those who have not received it! The sight of everything that surrounds us is conducive to meditation on zeal for the glory of God! We are prompted to repeat constantly: "My God, why do You not make Yourself known? Why do You not make Yourself loved?" The spectacle of these thousands, of these millions of souls that are still pagan is painful... Let us pray, let us pray, let us work, let us suffer for these poor souls and let us thank Our Heavenly Father for having made us Christians and Missionaries! In Heaven only shall we understand the value of such benefits.

It is eleven o'clock, we see nothing else but water and sky. We shall be in Dairen to-morrow morning at eight o'clock. Our thoughts go towards our Sisters who are awaiting us. We shall rise early to-morrow and breakfast will be served sooner than usual. We shall try to have all our spiritual exercises of the morning finished before our arrival, for after that we can promise nothing, the joys of the meeting will absorb us....

Venerable and beloved Mother, very dear Mothers and Sisters, I am always going farther away from you, as far as distance is concerned, but if we consider time, I am coming closer to you, for two months have already elapsed since I left you. The thought of seeing you again is very dear to me; my love for you makes me see my return sooner than it really is; time passes quickly and these will be such happy days! All the sick Sisters will have recovered, I trust; it is the prayer I address each day to Our Immaculate Mother and good St. Joseph.

I embrace each one of you very affectionately and I hide with you all in the Heart of Our Immaculate Mother.

Your Mother who loves you,

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

I open my letter at Szepingkai, June 17th. We spent two long days at Dairen trying to have our cases from the Custom House, but it was impossible. We finally had to leave without them after finding someone to look after them.

The Maryknoll Sisters spared no effort to make us happy and comfortable for they have very little spare room. They were very kind to us and invited us to stay with them again on our return.

We took the train for Szepingkai at 9.00 A. M. and arrived there towards four o'clock in the afternoon. It was very impressive to see all our Sisters, the native Sisters and the pupils of the Apostolic School, forming a hedge on both sides of the street at the entrance to the Mission. My brother, Cleric of St. Viator, was standing a little aside. All had tears in their eyes and their silence added a note of solemnity to the scene. We entered the chapel immediately for the singing of the *Magnificat* and once we had reached the Convent, we gave free utterance to our joy.

I shall speak to you of Manchuria in my next letter. The Sisters are leaving to send you these lines.

Love to all and particularly to our venerable Mother.



EXTRACTS FROM THE  
NOVITIATE CHRONICLES  
DEDICATED TO OUR DEAR PARENTS

Sunday, May 5

The ideal temperature of this first Sunday of May permitted us to wend our way in pious procession along the shady paths of our garden. A first stop was made at the oratory of the Blessed Virgin, where the statue of the Immaculate Virgin has been re-installed at the beginning of her beautiful month. The tall trees, unfolding their leaf-buds, the winged dwellers of our woods, mingling their rapid trills with the pious notes of the Litanies, added touches of beauty to the scene and amplified the concert of praise which ascended towards our Heavenly Mother. As we knelt at her feet, after having sung our gratitude in a vibrant *Magnificat*, we renewed our act of abandonment to this all-merciful Queen.

The double file then entered the cemetery where a *De Profundis* was recited and a *Salve Regina* sung for the special intention of the dear Sisters who are resting there. In spite of the calm of this secluded spot, in spite of the radiant sunshine and of all the beauties of reviving Nature, a tinge of melancholy sombered our souls as we considered that, again this year, our cemetery numbers one more white cross. But, divine Hope soon dispelled these gloomy thoughts by presenting to our minds the consoling promises of After-life.

We pursued our course till another oratory, that of St. Joseph, was reached. There we recited a prayer, soliciting aid and protection from this beloved Father. Then, still chanting the Litanies of the titles of Mary, we returned to the chapel, starting-point of the procession.

Tuesday, May 7

What a pleasant surprise for all of us! Mother St. Jean François Régis, whose departure for the Mother-House we had reluctantly witnessed at the beginning of April, came to spend the day with us.

During recess, we little Novices, overwhelmed with joy, crowded round the platform, and related every detail of every event which had occurred during the past month. But, to satisfy our affection, a whole afternoon would not be too long; therefore, a much-wished-for holiday was granted. The postulants joined us and shared our happiness.

Alas! how fleeting were these joyous instants! Immediately after supper our dear Mother again bade us farewell.

And, as we thanked God from the bottom of our hearts for the pleasures of this day, we prayed that He may soon bring back the Mother who has



done so much for us, and ever continues to watch over her children of the Novitiate.

### Thursday, May 9

To-day, we began the triduum preparatory to the great Feast of Pentecost. Silence reigned supreme in the house, thus favouring the intention each Sister had of making of her soul a Cenacle closed to all distractions. Our invocations to the Holy Ghost were oft-recurring for we bore in mind this consoling truth, "that Pentecost is not only a commemoration of the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the apostles and the disciples", but also a true communication to the well-disposed Christians who beseech this Sanctifier to implant His graces in their souls.

### Sunday, May 12

It is Pentecost Sunday! It is the feast of light, of joy, of purity, one of the most solemn festivals of the ecclesiastical year; one which we would readily call the feast of missionaries! For, was it not on this day that the apostles effectively became worthy bearers of their beautiful title, and was it not the Divine Gift which changed them into new men?

Although we are as yet but in the apprenticeship of religious and apostolic life, the assistance of the Divine Paraclete is none the less most necessary to us. This conviction made us sing with renewed fervour, this morning, the hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus*, which usually opens our daily spiritual exercises.

We had the intimate feeling that our Immaculate Mother was in the midst of us, just as she was in the Cenacle at the time of the first Pentecost, and that she asked in our name, with equally great insistence, that the fire of love be enkindled in our hearts.

During Mass, in union with Holy Mother Church, we repeated our pressing solicitations imploring the Spirit of strength and peace to renew the face of the earth so agitated by the terrible war, and to diffuse everywhere the divine incense of charity, sole efficacious remedy for the world's numerous ills.

To the joys of this great solemnity were added, for our Institute, those of the patronal feast of our venerable Mother Foundress. Oh! how delightful it would have been to stand at her bed-side and give utterance to our filial love and grateful wishes! But, we Novices had to sacrifice this desire. In compensation we prayed our older Sisters to act as our interpreters and to assure our dear Mother that her children of the Novitiate were gathered very near her in heart and mind, with all her other loving daughters dispersed throughout the world.

Another intention which could not go unnoticed was engrafted upon the feast already doubly dear to grateful hearts. For, by a happy coincidence, this second Sunday of May was Mother's day.

First of all, we offered our homages to our Immaculate Mother, for has she not very special claims to our filial affection? We begged her to liberally

pour forth her choicest blessings on our beloved Mother of Cote des Neiges, who so rightly deserves all our gratitude.

But our fugitive thought did not stop there. It continued its flight, crossed the vast Pacific Ocean and, on the wings of our Guardian Angel, carried our prayers and wishes to our Mother Superior General, whom duty has called to distant Oriental mission-fields.

Our gratitude and love, similar to fire which, although divided into parts loses nothing of its intensity, were also expressed to those devoted Mothers to whom God has entrusted us, and who have guided our first steps along the path to perfection. Our thanks could not brook restraint at the thought of the blessed hearth we have left. United to our dear brothers and sisters, we also came to offer our best wishes to our good mothers, to assure them that our departure has in no way diminished our affection, and that we never pass a single day without recommending all their intentions to our Immaculate Mother.

The Novitiate was in high spirits and nothing could suppress the joys of this great holiday. Games, songs, music, quickly succeeded one another, clearly revealing the happiness which enlivened us.

### **Sunday, May 19**

As days, weeks and months move on we follow the cycle of the feasts of the Church and celebrate the great truths of our Religion. To-day, the Holy Liturgy proposed to our meditation the mystery of the adorable Trinity, and, in this way made us recapitulate, so to speak, all that we owe to the three Divine Persons.

Our praises were, it is true, but a stammer, but we know that the greatness of our God is surpassed by His leniency towards His poor creatures; that is why we dared repeat and sing with all the love of our hearts: "Glory, love, and thanksgiving to God the Father, our Maker, Who has loved us from all eternity, Who, by His merciful Providence, constantly watches over us! Glory, love, and thanksgiving to God, the only-begotten Son, sweet Pontiff, Who freed man from the bondage of sin and spiritual death, and re-opened to him the doors of His Kingdom, by taking upon Himself our human nature and annihilating Himself! Glory, love, and thanksgiving to the Holy Ghost, Spirit of love, Light divine, Interpreter of the mercy, the goodness, the condescension of our great God, Teacher Who makes us understand these lessons which would be incomprehensible to our unenlightened minds!"

In order to proclaim still more the solemnity of this festival, we sang the "*Gloria Patri*" after each decade of the Rosary, for we felt confident that our homage thus associated with that of our heavenly Mother, would be most pleasing to the Blessed Trinity.

The altar was specially ornamented with yellow lilies from the midst of which emerged several triads of golden lamps which drew attention, in their own way, to the object of our praise. It was also for us a holiday. We were all of one heart and soul to experience the holy joys which liturgical feasts have the power to render true and lasting.

**Friday, May 24**

A pious remembrance marks this day. Sixteen years ago, in the modest chapel of this Novitiate, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was offered for the first time, and the beloved Master deigned to become our Commensal. Since then, these same benefits have not ceased being bestowed on us; therefore, our hearts were overflowing with gratitude.

To express our sentiments more adequately, we prayed Our Lady, Help of Christians, whose festival it was, to render thanks to God on our behalf, and to continue always her maternal mediation.

**Sunday, May 26, Solemnity of Corpus Christi**

What a radiant day flooded with sunlight.... and prayer! In the peaceful Parish of St. Christopher this feast was celebrated with fervour, and, as in the past, we were invited to join the ranks of the parishioners for the procession of the Blessed Sacrament.

Moreover, and what a source of happiness for us, our Convent has been chosen as the site of the repository. Yesterday, we started decorating: streamers and banners were already waving in the breeze, when, cruel deception, a shower surprised us in the evening and forced us to take everything down. But, this morning, the first flush of dawn heralded a delightful day, consequently, we fearlessly resumed our task.

At six-thirty we were present at Holy Mass which His Excellency Mgr-Prud'homme did us the honour and also the surprise of celebrating. Then, immediately after breakfast, we set to work again with all diligence possible, for we ardently desired to offer a most suitable temporary shelter for Christ, our Lord. Once again flags were unfurled; a beautiful little altar was erected and bedecked with the choicest blooms of the season. Even the unpretentious wild flowerets were represented. No doubt they felt quite honoured at being able to send up towards the Eucharistic King their modest and last perfume with the messages of love of those who have gathered and placed them so near the tabernacle.

At about nine thirty we left for church, where, presently, the procession was organized. While the bells filled the air with holy sounds, the recollected faithful filed through different streets of the Parish, took the direction of the Foreign Mission Seminary and finally entered our grounds by one of the main avenues. While words and melodies of pious hymns rose and fell in measured song, Jesus, the King of kings, carried in the golden monstrance by His minister, neared the repository. Heads were bent in humble prayer; all was impressively silent, save the leaves which mingled their harmony of praise with the songs of the birds; it was Nature's *Benedicite* expressing the earnest entreaties, the awed adoration of the prostrate crowd.

Hours of grace, most solemn moments, propitious for obtaining the greatest favours from Heaven. Therefore, on bended knees, we conjured the God Who holds the world in His hands to grant it a lasting peace. We made it our duty to offer up manifold supplications for this paramount intention especially recommended by our Most Holy Father.

After the last notes of the *Tantum Ergo* had died away, Jesus blessed us from His ostensorium. Then the faithful retraced their steps to the parochial church where this impressive religious manifestation ended with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

O Lord of Hosts! how we rejoiced in Thy triumph, in the pomp which environed Thee, in the paean of praise which rose towards Thy throne of glory! But, alas! why is it not given to all men to unite their voices to ours? Why do they not all know and love Thee? Why do they not all experience how sweet and light is the yoke of Thy Gospel? It would be their happiness in this vale of tears while awaiting eternal beatitude!

To these pure joys of Christian faith was allied the intimate happiness of family life. For, while celebrating the great mystery of the Holy Eucharist, we had not forgotten that it was the patronal feast of our beloved Mother-Mistress. Last evening, the preparatives for the repository prevented us from conveniently offering her our wishes. But, the postponed plans were far from being abandoned, as was evidenced by our afternoon occupations: putting the final touches to stage decorations and rehearsing the play which was to be performed in her honour.

At seven o'clock everybody was convened in the reception-hall, where the following program was executed: duet, cantata, two short plays — the first, comico-tragic, "Javotte's Idea", and the second, "The Legend of the Blue Bird" — with a musical interlude. The congratulatory address was then read. It expressed the sentiments of filial love as well as the sincere wishes hidden deep in the hearts of all the little Novices. Two bouquets were also offered: one, a lovely bunch of flowers, a symbolism of the second, which more definitely expressed our gratitude, since it was gathered exclusively in the fields of virtues, prayers and sacrifices.

A fervent *Magnificat* ended this beautiful day.

### **Monday, May 27**

A most agreeable surprise awaited us: Mother Ste. Marie Madeleine and Mother St. Jean François Régis arrived at the Novitiate after supper.

Our joyous greetings afforded a few moments of pleasant recreation, then, we invited our two dear Mothers to accompany us to the reception-hall, where we had the pleasure of repeating the play put on yesterday. Their presence among us had the power to add a particular charm to the whole evening.

### **Tuesday, May 28**

Our two Mothers spent the day with us. During recess they related diverse missionary occurrences and exhorted us to be truly fervent in order to draw the blessings of God on our Institute and on the whole world. We lent an attentive ear to every word spoken, for we were sure these counsels were imbued with the spirit of our venerable Mother Foundress.

### **Thursday, May 30**

The octave of Corpus Christi brought us the privilege of once again erecting a repository for our Eucharist Lord, and of accompanying Him in

the procession held by the personnel of the Foreign Mission Seminary and that of the Novitiate.

The fine weather was propitious to our pious design. At about three-thirty the groups met under the portico of the Seminary; Jesus left His Tabernacle, covered the short distance separating the two houses, and took possession of the humble altar prepared for Him by His loving fiancées. After receiving His blessing, we returned to the Seminary where Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given.

How we eagerly desired that this renewed demonstration of our love for our Eucharistic Lord might atone for the abandonment He has to suffer because of the lukewarmness of so many, who forget to visit Him in His prison of love. How nigh we drew to His throne of grace and mercy, asking Him to bestow on us, His future apostles, the graces of which we so keenly feel the need.

### **Monday, June 3**

It is sometimes said, that gratitude is an exotic flower lacking ability of acclimatization in our terrestrial gardens. Whatever may be the opinion of certain sceptics, we know that this virtue, so highly esteemed by our venerable Mother Foundress, blooms marvellously in the flower-bed of the Immaculate, and, on this day, anniversary of the foundation of our Institute, it shone forth in all its splendour.

In common transports of joy we heartily sang our thankfulness—firstly, to our Divine Master, for all the good our Community has been granted to do since the 3rd of June, 1902, and for the grace of the missionary vocation with which He has endowed us.

Thankfulness to our Immaculate Mother for her constant maternal protection and for the innumerable favours which she has deigned to bestow on her children.

Thankfulness to our venerable Mother Foundress, who has blazed for us the missionary trail at the cost of countless sacrifices and labours, and who has merited us the privilege of seeing the foundation of our Institute established on a firm basis.

Thankfulness also to all our benefactors who have assisted the valiant pioneers with their alms and their prayers.

Convinced of our powerlessness to make an adequate return for the inestimable treasure by which we have benefited, we united to sing with all our heart and soul: "What shall I render unto the Lord for all the things that He hath rendered unto me?"

A welcome recreation came to enliven our young hearts ever appreciative of the relaxation furnished by such feasts. Each one of us tried to imitate the winning virtues of our venerable Mother Foundress, for our elders tell us, joy was her faithful companion, and she loved nothing more than to see little Novices laugh to their heart's content under the protection of the Immaculate Virgin.



# The Children's Page

DEAR CHILDREN,

Summer, the beautiful summer will mellow into autumn... Too soon, oh! yes, too soon, will it attain the realm of the past to be there forever.

Fair summer, with your magnificent flowers, how we have admired you! Have you not charmed us by your babble, your songs and your murmurs? We have been embalmed by your sweet perfumes, your gentle zephyrs; we have enjoyed your bounties and now you are leaving us!...

The green foliage, so fresh and pretty, will soon be tinged with purple and gold; already, a few leaves hastily detached from their boughs have fallen as first tears...

The grass we trample is not so soft; here and there discoloured blades appear, as first white hairs...

In the depths of the heavens, not so light and mild are the winds; and the gentle birds, in the midst of the saddening woods, are quietly musing on their approaching journey to the fruitful regions of the South.

— And what are the little children thinking about?

— No doubt.... that after summer comes autumn with its gleeful pastimes: its playing in the russet-hued heaps of dead leaves which go fluttering around; its gathering of nuts and haws, etc. You are also thinking how you will enjoy Mother Nature's rich-coloured attire.— That is all very well for boys and girls of your age, but your Great Friend, who has seen several summers, thinks of many other things. He sees in the agreeable season now disappearing, an image of life, he realizes once again, that all must pass here below, and he falls into salutary reflections....



*We admired your beauty...*

## AN IMAGE OF LIFE

Life presents four very distinct stages: childhood, youth, maturity and old age.

Childhood — it is life awakening and budding fresh and graceful; life full of merriment and smiles, it is seed-time, it is ....Spring.

Less fair is summer, riding high  
 In fierce solstitial power,  
 Less fair than when a lenient sky  
 Brings on her parting hour.  
 When earth repays with golden sheaves  
 The labours of the plough,  
 And ripening fruits and forest leaves  
 All brighten on the bough.

Youth, may be compared to Summer with its flowers, its songs, its beauty, its hopes and dreams, its happiness, and sometimes its sorrows; it is also the period when the seeds reach their complete development and bear fruit.

What pensive beauty autumn shows,  
 Before she hears the sound  
 Of winter rushing in, to close  
 The emblematic round!

— *Wordsworth.*

Is not maturity the image of Autumn, which first appears to us with its golden, hazy atmosphere and its gorgeous woods and forests, its harvests of ripened grain and fruits, and which soon cedes its place to Winter, image of old age?

Dear children, who are all in the bloom of early youth, tell me: When you build "Castles in Spain", or when you dream of your future career, do the years that are to come seem long and far away?

Yes, I hear you say, but believe your Great Friend, these years will soon come and go as smoke curling in the air and disappearing. A day will come when you will want to hold them back, but mercilessly, they will escape you, leaving on your heads the stamp of the seasons.

In the field of your souls, imitate the wise gardener who profits by warm days to sow, weed and prune, and thus prepares for himself an abundant harvest!

Youth is the time to do this, consequently, strive unceasingly to form good habits, to correct your defects, to cultivate the spirit of self-denial and prayer.

Oh, do not wait until old age to begin to love God, for then physical strength gives way to feebleness and the body suffering, how can the moral faculties remain vigorous to practise virtue! Then is the time when one garners the grain he has sown in youth.

God alone knows if you will ever see the last season of life; so set to work, immediately, dear Children, prepare now, your eternal crown by the faithful accomplishment of your daily duties as Christian children and moreover....

## BE APOSTLES

The world, infatuated with unbridled passions which more than ever prevail everywhere, is rushing madly towards the abyss. Who will turn it away from its evil course and bring it to the right path? It will be the apostles, the true friends of Jesus.

Just at present, a great number of agents of the devil are striving with furious animosity to destroy God's reign on earth. Their hearts are full of hatred for the Divine name, of contempt for the Holy Law, of horror for virtue and prayer; and like venomous snakes, they distil wherever they pass the poison of their perverse sentiments and pernicious doctrines. Unhappily, many, lending an ear to their seductive voices are caught in their snares.

Oh! what an injury to Our Heavenly Father and what affliction for His Heart so tender and loving. No, it is not surprising that all humanity is actually plunged in confusion; its great sins have compelled the Almighty to chastise it by the terrible wars which are now raging throughout the world.

Who then will appease God's wrath and draw His infinite mercy upon the guilty? It will be His faithful children, by their sacrifices, their prayers, their good conduct, their zeal for His glory.... It will be His apostles.

Apostles, a legion of them would be needed to combat the disastrous influence of the emissaries of Satan! May Heaven raise a multitude of them soon....

My dear Children, you at least, be apostles as much as one may be at your age. That is what expects of you

Your *Great Friend*,

THE PRECURSOR.

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## Obedience

There was once a great philosopher who had a little daughter. A friend of the philosopher's came to see him, and while waiting he asked the little girl: "What is your father teaching?"

With confident trust the little child looked up to him and said; "Obedience." Could the children in our families truthfully repeat after that little girl? Could the children in our schools truthfully repeat after the little girl? Obedience is the greatest of knowledge, the foundation of and secret of safe social relations.

Children have no cornerstone to build knowledge or character on, if they have not learned to obey. And the very highest faith in God has but one way of expressing itself it must be the way for heaven as well as for earth—"If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine."

— *Sacred Heart Union.*



# 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.

Heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin for position obtained through her intercession. Mrs. J. C. — Thanksgiving for favour received through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. Kindly remember my three sons, who are away from home. Mrs. S., **Verdun**. — I have many favours for which to give thanks to Our Lord and His Blessed Mother. Please remember me in your prayers. M. P., **Montreal**. — Grateful thanks for the good health of my children. Please pray that I may get a position. Mrs. J. A. K., **Dover Foxcroft, Me.** — Heartfelt thanks to our Blessed Mother, my husband is getting better. Please make a novena to the Sacred Heart, to the Blessed Virgin and to good St. Joseph, for a complete cure. Also pray for the needs of my family. G. W., **Notre Dame du Nord**. — Many thanks for favours obtained. Mrs. C. E. R., **Sutton**. — In fulfilment of a promise made, I heartily thank Our Blessed Mother and the Little Flower for having granted my prayers. G. A. G., **Lewiston, Me.** — I return thanks to Our Immaculate Mother for the great favour she has obtained me. Would you please make a Novena to Our Immaculate Mother so that my brother will stop going out with a Protestant girl and that he will stop drinking and go to Mass every Sunday. M. C. — Lively gratitude for favours obtained through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. A. J. C., **Southbridge, Mass.** — I am most grateful for the past favours obtained. R. D., **Millbury, Mass.** — Heartfelt thanks for favour received. I have great faith in the Miraculous Medal and have consolation in reading the prayers and making the Novenas. Miss M. L. H., **Millbury, Mass.** — Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for two favours obtained during the month of June and to St. Joseph for grace received in March. A. L., **Westmount**. — I am most grateful to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for a favour received. Please pray for the health of my husband and my own. Mr. and Mrs. N. V., **Spencer, Mass.** — Thanksgiving for the success of an operation. Miss Bernadette Ouimet, **Ste. Anne des Plaines**. — Favours obtained after promise of publishing. Mrs. A. J., **Lac Lavoie**. — Love and thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin who cured me. I recommend to her conversions and peace in the family. Mrs. C. E., **Montreal**. — Gratitude for favours received after promise of having them published. Mrs. Omer Gauthier, **St. Irenée**. — Thanksgiving for grace obtained. Mr. François Gilbert, **St. Hilarion**. — I thank Mary for curing my child, and pray that she continue protecting her. Mrs. Brisebois, **Vankleek Hill, Ont.** — Lively gratitude to Our Heavenly Mother for favour obtained. Mr. J. A. G. — Lively gratitude for favour obtained through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. Dalpé, **Derby Line, Vt.** — Grateful homage to the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. Ed. Loranger, **St. Alban**. — Many thanks to the Blessed Virgin for graces received. Mrs. Labelle. — Lively gratitude for cure. Anonymous, **La Sarre**. — Heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin for two favours obtained after promise of publication. Mrs. G. R. B., — After an operation, the doctor told me that I had to undergo another. I recommended myself to the Blessed Virgin and promised to have it published if I was cured. I did not have to wait a long time: I am now in perfect health. A thousand thanks to my Heavenly Mother! Rose Paquet, **Lac St. Jean**. — Sincere thanks to Mary for graces obtained. E. N., **Montreal**. — Please help me thank the Blessed Virgin for a position obtained through Her intercession. F. F., **Montreal**. — Gratitude for great favour obtained from the Blessed Virgin: Cure of my little son who had measles and inflammation of the lungs. Mrs. L. L., **Grand Falls, N. B.** — Great grace received through the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin. Mrs. A. C., **Lewiston, Mass.** — Gratitude to Mary for an important grace accorded me through her credit. Anonymous, **Chicopee, Mass.** — Thanks to the Blessed Virgin for favour received. Gracia Faucher, **Montreal**. — I acquit myself of the debt of gratitude I have contracted towards the Blessed Virgin for the many graces accorded me during the year. Mrs. C. N., **Asbestos**. — My husband obtained work; please thank the Blessed Virgin for this great grace and beg her to continue to protect us. Mrs. J. L. B., **Verdun**. — Fulfilment of a promise in homage of gratitude for favour received. J. A. P., **Lewiston, Me.** — I have obtained the favour I solicited and I am glad to fulfil my promise, in thanksgiving. M. L., **Montreal**.

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

# Petitions

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

Will you please pray that my mother may be cured, and for another favour also. **M. W., Montreal.** — Would you make a Novena to the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin that I may obtain two special favours which will mean a great deal to me. A Subscriber. — Please continue to pray for my wife and I. **Mr. Z. L., Gardner, Mass.** — Would you kindly pray for me. **Mrs. G. M., Springfield, Mass.** — Will you please pray the Blessed Virgin that I may completely recover my health. **Mrs. L. P., Millbury, Mass.** — Would you please make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin that she will make me see better. A Subscriber. Would you kindly start a Novena to Our Blessed Mother and good St. Ann that my husband get a permanent position, that my sister in England return safely to Canada, and lastly, for the vocations of my children. A Subscriber, **Maidstone, Ont.** — Will you please make a Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal that I will have a steady position and a home for my family; also for another special intention. **Mr. and Mrs. R. J. C., Caribou, Me.** — Will you please make a novena at Mary's shrine that this tender Mother may grant us the following graces: that I may get rid of the eczema on my hand, and obtain improvement of my health, and that my husband and I may have a home of our own next year. **Mrs. J. B., Woodslee, Ont.** — Please have a light burn at Mary's shrine and kindly make a novena for my intentions. **Anonymous.** — Please pray that I may regain my health which I have lost three years ago, if it is God's will. **Mrs. F. G., Southbridge, Mass.** — Would you please offer prayers in honour of the Blessed Virgin asking her to help my family and I; that my sons obtain permanent positions and also the return to the Sacraments of two relatives. **Mrs. A. C. D., Worcester, Mass.** — Kindly have a Novena of lights burn for a special intention. **Miss M. V., Detroit, Mich.** — Please have a candle burn in front of the statue of the Blessed Virgin in thanksgiving for favour received. I am sending you other intentions to be placed at the feet of Our good Mother. "Client" — Will you and the little children confided to your care pray for the return of my son to the Faith. I have great confidence in the Blessed Virgin and in the Miraculous Medal. **Mrs. H., Millbury, Mass.** — Please make another Novena to the Blessed Virgin so that my husband may obtain work in the near future and also a home of our own. **Mrs. J. S. L., Caribou, Me.** — Will you please pray to the Blessed Virgin for two favours. **Mrs. W. L. R., Worcester, Mass.** — Will you please make a Novena to Our Immaculate Mother for a great favour that I especially need for myself, and another for my husband that he may find a position. **Mrs. T. L., Timmins, Ont.** — Will you please pray for my little girl who has a serious case of "middle-ear infection", kindly ask Our Lady to cure her soon. **Mrs. R. L., Gardner, Mass.** — I would be very thankful to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal if she would grant me a special grace. **Mrs. V. B., Millbury, Mass.** — Please make a special Novena that my husband will find employment soon. **Mrs. A. S., Southbridge, Mass.** — Please say special prayers for my daughter. **Mrs. M. B., Montreal.** — Would you please pray for a special intention, for my mother. **Mrs. O. J. A., Montreal.** — A mother asks prayers for the cure of her child and the conversion of a dear person. A Subscriber, **Ormsdown.** — My two sons and my daughter have now obtained work for which I heartily render thanks to Our Immaculate Mother and beg Her to please help me in the difficult position in which I am at present. Will you also pray with me that one of my sons stop drinking. **Mrs. A. D.** — Please pray the Blessed Virgin that I obtain all the favours that I am asking, and that my son may get a position. A Subscriber. **Mrs. A. F., Dighton.** — Kindly pray for three important requests for which I shall be very grateful. **H. F., Fitchburg, Mass.** — Will you please start a Novena asking the Blessed Virgin to obtain from Her divine Son that the cataract growing on my right eye may stop and thus prevent me from losing my eyesight. **H. R., Ontario.** — Kindly start a Novena to the Blessed Virgin, that my sister may obtain work during the coming month. I have already asked you in March to pray for a special favour, Our Blessed Mother gave us more than we demanded. Grateful thanks to Our Heavenly Protectress. **Mrs. K. G., Lake Renaud.** — Please make a Novena for my sister who is in the hospital since two years. **Mrs. McC., Windsor, Ont.** — Would you please pray for my son, that he may get work and another special intention. **Mrs. C. A., Windsor, Ont.** — Will you please make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary for my husband who was operated on for a tumour on the brain. He is now nearly blind and the doctors say that he will never see again. **Mrs. Ed. D., Windsor, Ont.** — Would you please make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin that I may be cured. **Miss M. A., Providence, R. I.** — Will you please be so kind as to pray to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal for an improvement in my brother's health if it is the Holy Will of God. **Miss G. C. G., Lewiston, Me.** — I would be grateful if you would pray for my married sister living in England and from whom I have not heard for a long time. **Miss M. T., Sweetsburg, P. Q.** — I wish to thank you for the Novena that you made for my health, which has improved a little. Would you continue praying that I may be cured to return to my work. Please pray also for a brother of mine so that he will stop drinking and find steady employment. **S. C., Westbrook, Me.** — I would be very grateful to the Blessed Virgin if she would grant me the numerous favours which I desire. **M. E. G., St. Sylvester, P. Q.** — Please pray for me that I may be able to walk again if it is God's will.

Mrs. J. S., **Limestone, Me.** — Thanksgiving for favours received. Please continue praying that I may obtain another favour. A reader of THE PRECURSOR, R. M. S., **Limestone, Me.** — Please help us by your prayers for my husband is out of work. Mrs. G. C., **Brunswick, Me.** — Please pray for all the favours that I desire for a dear person. Mrs. L. C. B., **Three Rivers, Mass.** — I would be grateful to you if you would kindly pray Our Blessed Mother to cure me if it is God's will. Mrs. J. G. G., **Van Buren, Me.** — Would you very kindly say a few special prayers for me. I have been suffering from an itch in my head and face for quite a long time. I am sure your good prayers would help me in this respect. Also would you please say a few prayers for the health and success of my family and myself. L. R. M., **Montreal.** — Please pray that I obtain all the graces that I desire for myself and my family. Mrs. H. C., **Electric, P. I.** — Kindly pray that I get steady work. P. G., **Millbury, Mass.** — Please pray to Our Blessed Mother that I and my brother may be cured. A. B., **Lucknow, Ont.** — Will you please make a Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help for me, that I may get a position. Miss I. H., **Montreal.** — Will you please light a votive candle at the shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary for a special favour. M. J. B., **Pineville, N. B.** — Please pray for our intentions. G. A. G., **Lewiston, Me.** — Please pray that I may obtain success and, also, for the health of my family. J. L., **Millinockett, Me.** — Please remember me in your prayers. M. E. **Ontario.** — Please pray that I may be successful in getting a satisfactory apartment at a reasonable price. Mrs. H. H., **New York.** — Please say a prayer for me that I may succeed in my work and that I may become a good aeroplane pilot as this is of great importance to me. J. G., **Fitchburg, Mass.** — Please pray to Our Blessed Lady for three special favours. Also that God may bless our family. S. M. B., **Chatham, Ont.** — Will you kindly pray for my son that he may get a position that he is expecting since a month; he is getting discouraged. Mrs. D. G., **Windsor, Ont.** — Please continue praying for me so that I may obtain a complete recovery. Kindly pray also for my husband. Mrs. R. D., **Millbury, Mass.** — Please pray to Our Lady, that my daughter and son get positions. Mrs. A. B., **Tecumseh, Ont.**

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 Rev. Msgr. Pierre Langlois, former Pastor, **Tecumseh, Ont.**; Rev. Father Paul Levasseur, P. P., **St. Antonin**; Rev. Father Ludger Picher, P. P., **L'Ange Gardien**; Sister Marie de St. Antoine de Padoue, nee Beausejour, Sister of the Good Shepherd, **Laval des Rapides**; Mrs. Joseph Blais, **Quebec**, mother of our Sister Eugénie de Jesus; Mrs. Barthelemy Auger, **New Bedford, Mass.**, sister of our Sister St. Benoit; Mrs. Seraphin Bertrand, **Leclercville**, grandmother of our Sister Ste. Croix; Mrs. F. X. Gendron, **Stoney Point, Ont.**, grandmother of our Sister St. Ludger; Mrs. John Graham, **Outremont**; Mrs. Wm. Myles, **Montreal**; Mr. Eugene Mailloux, **Amherstburg, Ont.**; Mrs. Harriet Hamel, **Amherstburg, Ont.**; Mr. Victor Lemay, **McGregor, Ont.**; Mrs. Charles Butler, **Vankleek Hill, Ont.**; Mr. William Harkens, **Vankleek Hill, Ont.**; Mr. J. H., Wheeler, **Montreal**; Mr. Alfred Roy, **Sherbrooke**; Mrs. Oscar Hanson, **Newport, Vt.**; Mr. A. J. Bulay, **Richmond, Vt.**; Mr. John J. Coffey, **Huntingdon**; Mr. J. A. Murphy, **St. Agnes de Dundee**; Mrs. Mary O'Donnell, **London, Ont.**; Mrs. W. Carter, **Maynooth Island, Ireland**; Mrs. John O'Brien, **Renfrew, Ont.**; Mr. John J. Hiland, **Dracut, Mass.**; Miss M. Dunn, **North Adams, Mass.**; Mr. John P. Gallagher, **Fitchburg, Mass.**; Mr. Hervé Pinsonneault, **Paincourt, Ont.**; Mrs. Michael Doherty, **Montreal**; Mrs. Norah Brennan, **Montreal**; Mr. Michael Norton, **Montreal**.

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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.

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## IN MANCHUKUO, VIA JAPAN

LEAOYUANSIEN, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1927).

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PAMIENCHENG, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1929).

Dispensary. Orphanage. School.

FAKOU, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1930).

Dispensary. School.

TAONAN, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1931).

Dispensary. Boarding-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.

PAITCHENGTZE, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1933).

Dispensary.

KOUNGTCHOULING, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1933).

Dispensary.

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## 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.

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## IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

MANILA, 287 Tayuman St., (Founded in 1921).

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

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## 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

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1. — **Founders**, those who donate \$1,000.00 or more.
2. — **Protectors**, those who by a donation of \$500.00, provide the dowry and trousseau 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.

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## Privileges Granted to Benefactors

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

Besides, Benefactors are entitled to the following spiritual advantages:

1. — A special intention in all the Masses heard and Communions received by the Sisters.
2. — A Mass offered every month for their intentions.
3. — Every Friday and Sunday in the year, the Sisters offer, for their Benefactors' intentions, their hours of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the chapel of the Mother House. (The names of Founders and Protectors are placed on the Altar of Exposition).
4. — For the same intentions, the members of the Community make, every day, the Guard of Honour to Mary, which consists in the continual recitation of the Rosary before the altar of the Blessed Virgin. The Guard of Honour is also made at the Shek Lung Lazaretto. There, the poor leper women, in successive groups of fifteen, continue the Rosary for the intentions of the Society's Benefactors.
5. — A Requiem High Mass is sung every year for deceased Benefactors.
6. — A share in the merits of the Way of the Cross, made daily by the Sisters, is also granted to deceased Benefactors.
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.