

THE PRECURSOR



Vol. XIII. 19th Year MONTREAL, September-October, 1941 No. 5

Works of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

IN CANADA

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

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

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

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(Continued on page 3 of the cover.)

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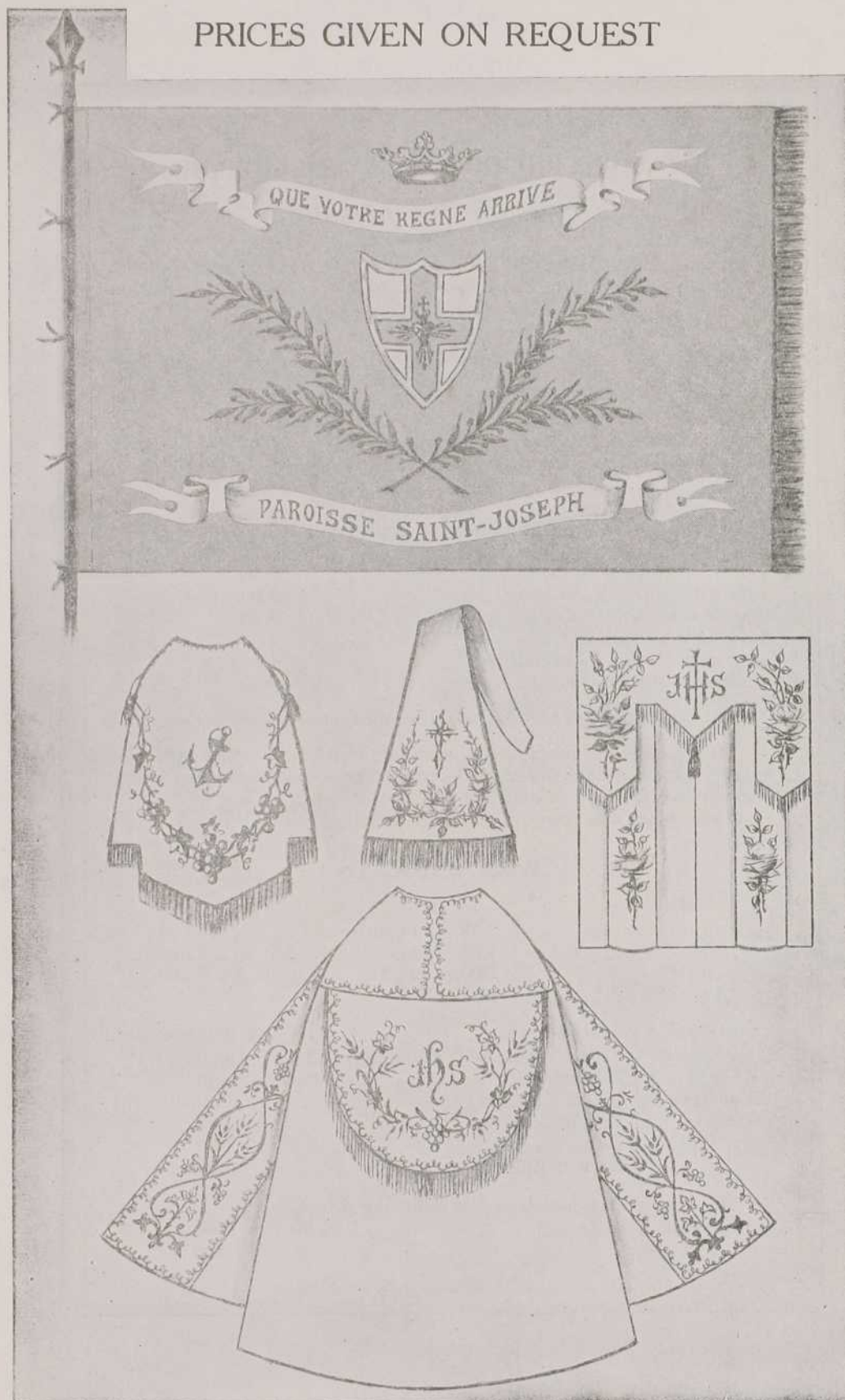
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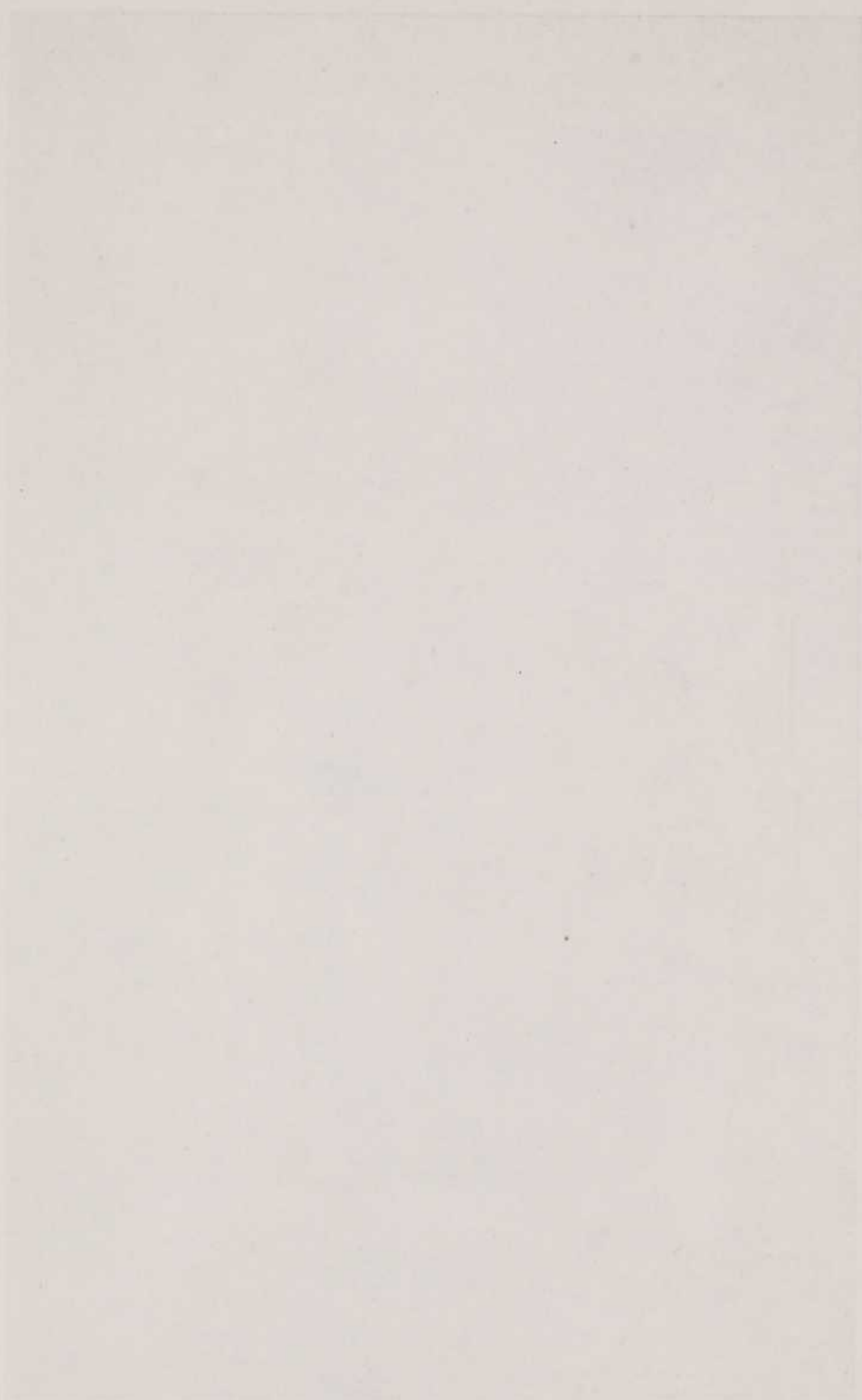
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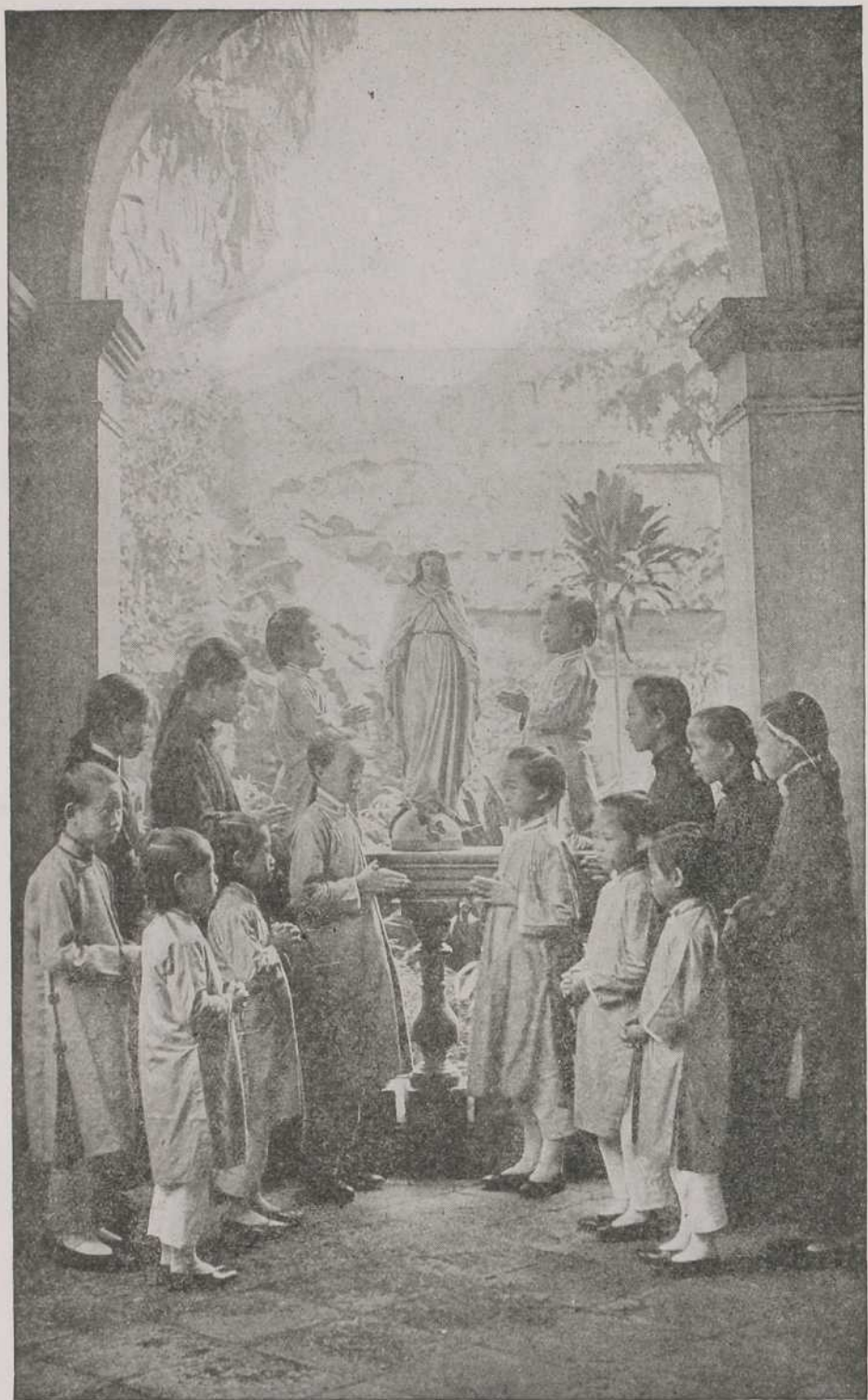
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O IMMACULATE MOTHER, PROTECT OUR BENEFACTORS.

THE PRECURSOR

Published by the
Missionary Sisters
of the Immaculate Conception

with the approbation of the Archbishop of Montreal

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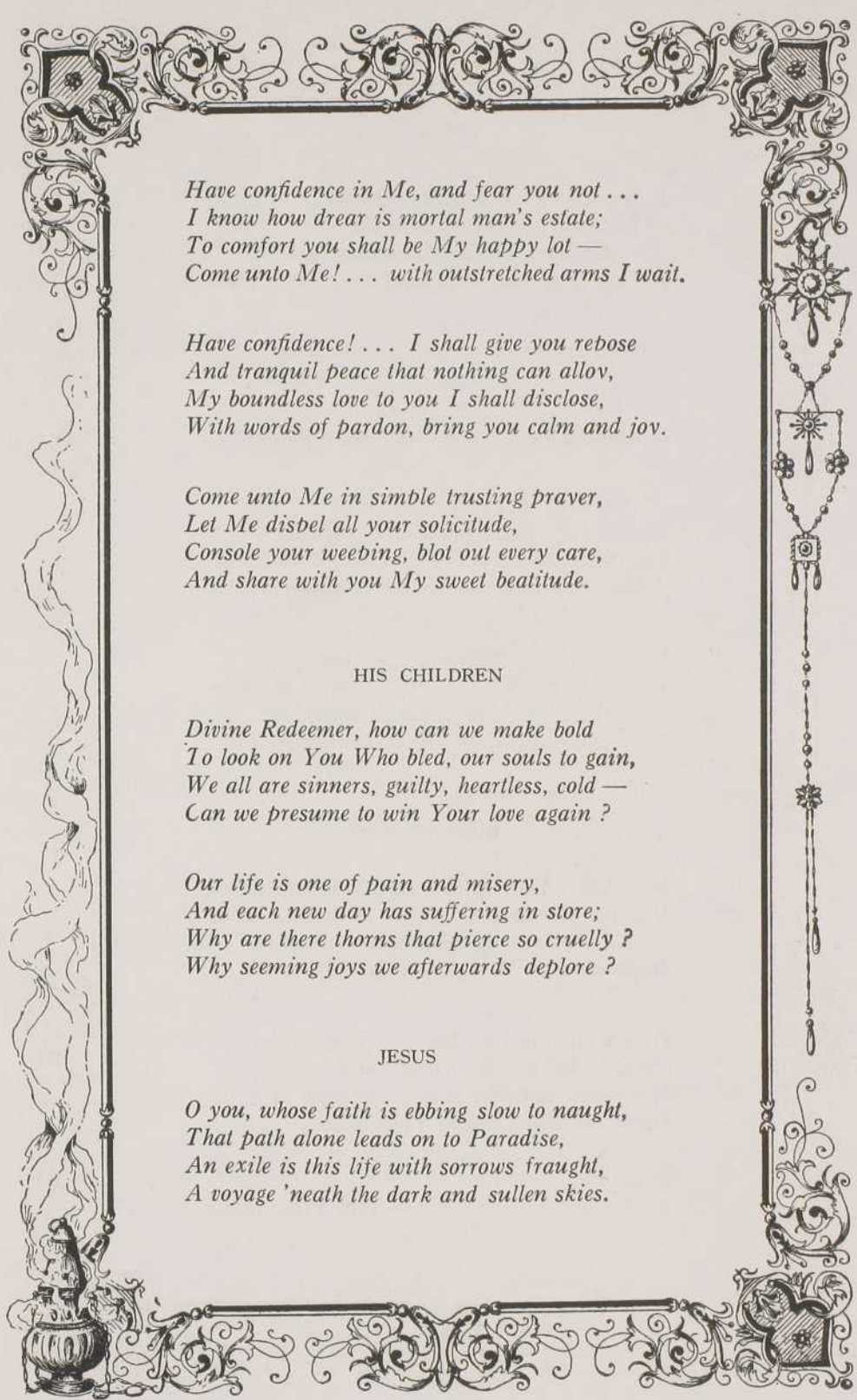
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King of our Souls

JESUS

*Come unto Me, all you whom sorrows press,
Before My Altar-throne I bid you bring
The bleeding wounds, the cares, the deep distress,
To Me, your God, your Father, and your King.]*



*Have confidence in Me, and fear you not . . .
I know how drear is mortal man's estate;
To comfort you shall be My happy lot —
Come unto Me! . . . with outstretched arms I wait.*

*Have confidence! . . . I shall give you repose
And tranquil peace that nothing can allow,
My boundless love to you I shall disclose,
With words of pardon, bring you calm and joy.*

*Come unto Me in simple trusting prayer,
Let Me dispel all your solicitude,
Console your weeping, blot out every care,
And share with you My sweet beatitude.*

HIS CHILDREN

*Divine Redeemer, how can we make bold
To look on You Who bled, our souls to gain,
We all are sinners, guilty, heartless, cold —
Can we presume to win Your love again ?*

*Our life is one of pain and misery,
And each new day has suffering in store;
Why are there thorns that pierce so cruelly ?
Why seeming joys we afterwards deplore ?*

JESUS

*O you, whose faith is ebbing slow to naught,
That path alone leads on to Paradise,
An exile is this life with sorrows fraught,
A voyage 'neath the dark and sullen skies.*

*It is a time with meriting replete,
Of blessed trials that in turn disclose
The nothingness of earthly things so fleet,
The worth of good — beyond the grave it goes.*

*All you who toil and bear a heavy load
Come unto Me, and gather strength again,
For I alone, with peace and joy untold,
A soothing balm can pour on every pain.*

*If you accept to do My holy Will,
To bear My Yoke, you shall experience
The true repose, the ardent love that fill
A heart that comes to Me with confidence.*

*Within My Eucharistic Sacrament,
I give My Flesh your famished souls to feed ;
I am the Living Bread from Heaven sent,
Take you and eat, My Flesh is meat indeed.*

HIS CHILDREN

*Dear Lord, Your tenderness beyond compare
Has won our hearts, we wish to be Your own,
Behold, we kneel in humble, contrite prayer,
In presence of Your Eucharistic Throne.*

*Within our souls we bear Your sacred Law,
Grant us the will its precepts to maintain,
Make pure our lives from every stain or flaw,
Upon our hearts extend Your blessed reign!*

— THE PRECURSOR.

Thy Kingdom Come!

"Art Thou a king then?" Pilate asked Jesus.

"Thou sayest that I am a king . . . but My Kingdom is not of this world."

Jesus is our King, because He is the Only Son of God, God Himself, equal to His Father in all things, Creator of Heaven and earth, to Whom every being owes its existence and conservation, to Whom all are subject and must return.

Jesus is our King, because He has redeemed us from the slavery of sin. We are His by right of conquest. But His Kingdom is not of this world . . . of this ephemeral world, whose glory is vain and fleeting, whose honours are vile and transient, and whose maxims are opposed to His Law.

The Kingdom of Jesus is in Heaven, where He reigns with unlimited power; the angels and saints, confirmed in grace and no longer capable of offending Him, remain attached to Him like the axis to its centre.

It is on earth, in the whole creation and in the souls of the faithful. But how small is the number of the latter! Why this anomaly? Because the great majority of men do not know God; because God wishes to be served freely by them, and many take advantage of their liberty to err from their path and commit sin. That is why we, children of His Kingdom, ask God each day that His Kingdom come . . . that His Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

O Jesus, Our King, may Thy Kingdom come here below in all souls present and future, in the souls of sinners who, in order to satisfy their passions, forsake Thy Law of peace and love, wound Thy Heart and outrage Thy Holy Name! Forgive them, for they know not what they do. Inspire many holy souls to sacrifice themselves for them; constrain them by means of goodness and mercy to return to Thee.

In the souls of pagans, the multitude of whom is so great, may Thy Kingdom come, O Jesus, Our King! Poor souls, thirsting for light and truth, sitting in the darkness of error and the sufferings of paganism, because no one has evangelized them! Raise up numerous apostles, filled with Thy Spirit, to bring them the knowledge of Thy Divine Teachings and the sweetness of Thy Yoke.

In the souls of Thy faithful, may Thy Kingdom come more perfectly, O Jesus, Our King! There are so many of them who, wishing to ally God and the world, belong to Thee only by halves. Draw them all to Thee by the force of Thy Spirit and the tenderness of Thy Heart.

From one pole to the other, in all souls present and future, may Thy Kingdom come, O Jesus, Our King! May Thy Will be done as it is in Heaven!

— THE PRECURSOR.



There is no one in the world who does not carry deep down in his soul, a need, a hunger, a thirst for God.



To His Exc. Most Rev. Conrad Chaumont

NEWLY-APPOINTED TITULAR BISHOP OF ARENA AND
AUXILIARY OF THE DIOCESE OF MONTREAL,

*The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
offer their sincere wishes
for a long and fruitful episcopate.*

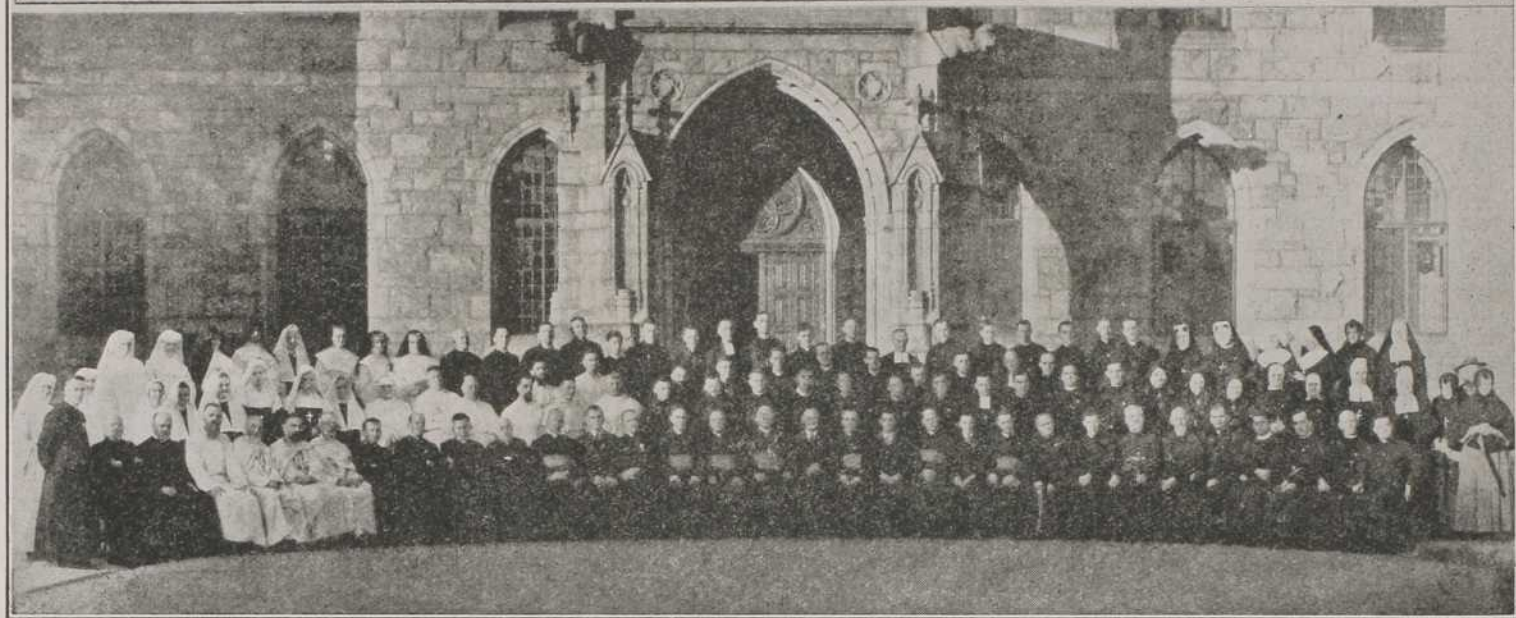


To His Exc. Most Rev. Lawrence Whelan,

RECENTLY-APPOINTED TITULAR BISHOP OF OPUS AND
AUXILIARY OF THE DIOCESE OF MONTREAL,

*The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
offer their best wishes
for a long and fruitful episcopal career.*

A L'EXPOSITION MISSIONNAIRE
DE SHERBROOKE



HIS EXCELLENCY MOST REVEREND PHILIPPE DESRANLEAU, BISHOP OF SHERBROOKE, MONSIGNOR Z. LETENDRE, VICAR GENERAL,
HIS HONOUR J. LABRECQUE, MAYOR, THE PRINCIPAL ORGANIZERS OF THE MISSION-EXHIBIT
AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMUNITIES WHO HAD A BOOTH THERE.

The Missionary Exposition at Sherbrooke

It is estimated that one hundred and thirty-five thousand persons visited the magnificent Missionary Exposition, which was held at Sherbrooke from the 13th to the 20th of July, representing the apostolic works carried on by forty Communities in pagan lands.

This imposing week, opened by His Eminence Rodrigue Cardinal Villeneuve, Primate of the Church in Canada, and closed by His Excellency the Most Reverend Ildebrando Antoniutti, Apostolic Delegate, is a memorable event in the missionary history of our Country. No doubt, it will also produce the fruits that were expected of it for the honour of Holy Church and the advancement of the Mission Cause, despite the present troublous times which, apparently, are to be an obstacle to missionary works and to the development of apostolic vocations.



BOOTH OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
AT THE MISSION-EXHIBIT IN SHERBROOKE.

It is the mind of the Church that all should engage themselves in some form of charity. Some, God has blessed with riches, because He wishes them to enter whole-heartedly into the service of others. There are those whose means are slight and who must eke out their livelihood by honest toil. In the faithful accomplishment of their work, they, too, serve God.

— Cardinal O'Connell.

A life of faith is of the utmost importance if we are to fulfil our mission as apostles for, without it, we shall be but tinkling cymbals, or voices in the wilderness! The right understanding and appreciation of our sublime vocation, and the holy and indomitable energy we need to carry it on — in spite of a thousand difficulties — must come to us exclusively from a lively and unshaken spirit of faith.

— Rev. Mateo Crawley-Boevey, SS. CC.

A Memorable Day

THE first diocesan Apostolic Day for the retreatants of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception at Joliette was held on Sunday, June 29th last, and will certainly bear salutary fruits in thousands of homes present or future. It has been organized with that very aim in view, and the atmosphere of piety and holy enthusiasm in which the different exercises of the day have taken place foretell a deep and sincere renewal of Christian fervour.

It is estimated that three thousand ladies and young girls from the Diocese and elsewhere were present. This first Apostolic Day for ladies opened by Holy Mass on the Convent grounds. An altar, tastefully decorated, had been erected on the balcony. At 9.30, Reverend Father Sylvestre, Provincial of the Clerics of St. Viator, said a low Mass; the choir of the Ladies of St. Ann of Joliette, under the direction of Mrs. J. Desormeaux, sang beautiful hymns to which the whole congregation replied in a glorious refrain. In the midst of a very impressive silence, several priests proceeded to distribute the Bread of Life to nearly one thousand persons.

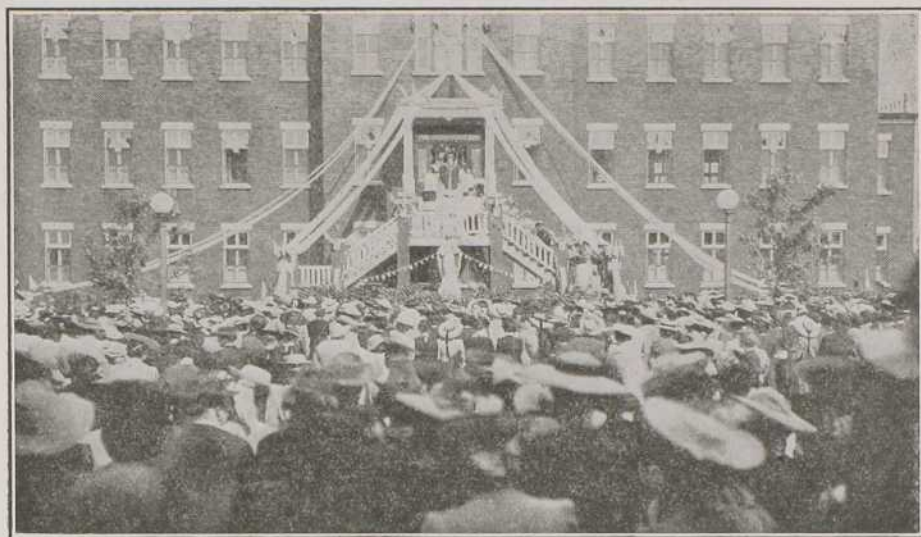
After Mass, Very Reverend Canon Archambault, Pastor of St. Peter's, presided at the thanksgiving prayers, remarking that this first part of the day must needs draw down upon all souls Divine graces capable of considerably increasing love for God Who has loved us so much, and an ardent desire of procuring the glory of Christ by the Christian education of our children.

Breakfast was then served by the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, after which the retreatants proceeded to the Seminary Academic Hall, which soon became too small for the vast multitude that sought admittance. Consequently, many listened from outside to the lecture delivered by Reverend Father Lamarche, S. J., on "The Supernatural in Education."

His Excellency Bishop Papineau presided at this first study session. With him were also present Very Reverend Canon W. Caillé, Director of the Catholic Action movement, Very Reverend Canon Irénée Gervais, Reverend Father Gustave Lamarche, C. S. V., and other priests, chaplains of the different leagues of retreatants.

At the opening of the session, Reverend Father A. Cholette, Director of Closed Retreats, gave a warm welcome to all the retreatants and expressed the desire that these solemn reunions bear good fruits. He then briefly summed up the activities of the Retreat House of the Immaculate Conception where 327 complete retreats have been followed since 1930 by 7,731 retreatants. All the parishes of the Diocese have sent ladies or girls. The year 1940 ends up with a total of 51 retreats, a number exceeding that of the preceding years.

May we hope that this Retreat House will steadily progress for the greater glory of God!



MASS IN THE OPEN AIR AT THE RETREAT HOUSE
OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, JOLIETTE.

THE SUPERNATURAL IN EDUCATION

Reverend Father Maurice Lamarche, S. J., strongly convinced of the dire need of a thorough education for the future generation, treated with great ability and eloquence this subject of actual urgency for retreatant mothers and future mothers.

The child to educate is not simply a body to perfect physically, neither is it simply a body and soul, but the child is a god, that is, a human creature who, besides being born of his parents according to the flesh, is also born of God according to Grace, by the Sacrament of Baptism; and within this soul exists the most sublime of realities: a participation in Divine nature. This truth, which fills the angels with amazement and sinks saintly souls in admiration, must absolutely be at the base of education. Otherwise, we are heading straight for failure, verily, we are paganizing education.

The mother must, with the Grace of God, model her little child, from his very early years, on Jesus. This work of education is an art — and a truly marvelous one — but, at the same time, how delicate a task! To obtain success in her beautiful work the mother must:

1— stay at home — her studio — for she is an artist.

2— be strongly convinced that children will not by themselves reproduce the features of Our Lord; consequently, she must place the Divine Model in full light that she may retrace it more perfectly in their soul. To this end she herself will have to live of the very life of Christ imparted to her by the Gospel, prayer, penance, and close union with God.

3— instil in the young the habit of accomplishing all their actions, whatever they may be, with a pure intention; in a word, make of her "little ones" passionate apostles of God's glory.

Thus we see how the supernatural may and must find entrance into the great work of Education.

SACRIFICE IN EDUCATION

The afternoon session opened at half-past two after the retreatants had been served a good dinner in the vast recreation hall of the Seminary. To prepare a meal for such a large number of persons, the Procurator had mobilized many a volunteer: sisters, domestics, who were joined by a group of retreatants both ladies and girls, and by some jocists of the Diocese.

His Excellency again presided, accompanied by those members of the clergy mentioned above, and also by Canon Lamarche, Pastor of the Cathedral, and some twenty other priests who had come for the afternoon.

The reunion opened by a hymn after which Reverend Father Maurice Lamarche gratified the congregation with a second lecture, as beautiful as the first, and just as practical — Sacrifice in Education.

The spirit of our times concerning educational matters has become anti-Christian, a regretful consequence of the numerous concessions made to the Evil One who breathes over the world hatred for suffering.

And still, whether we like it or not, the Cross is at the base of Christianity: suffering and the spirit of mortification must be to our lives what yeast is to the dough — a ferment absolutely necessary — for God has hidden His Grace in the Cross... and not elsewhere. "Unless you shall do penance, you shall all likewise perish." Divine sentence which does not alarm the wicked but is a stimulant for souls that love God. The numerous examples presented, the pressing appeals to provide children with a real Christian education by teaching them the spirit of sacrifice: all these have certainly implanted in the hearts of mothers and future mothers desires which already have borne fruit.

PROGRESS IN MODERN EDUCATION

The "Parabolières du Roi", under the capable direction of Miss Yolande Théoret, teacher in elocution, then executed most successfully a choral-play that will go down in history. It is a composition of Reverend Father Gustave Lamarche, C. S. V., and well deserves to be called a masterpiece. It was indeed the most fitting lesson that could be presented to the retreatants after the two lectures given by Reverend Father Maurice Lamarche. It represents the striking paradox existing in modern life where, under the pretext of defending the liberty of the young we ruin it through indiscipline. Luckily the Church, personified by the Queen of Sheba, opposes to the law of "progress" the eternal law of God derived from Holy Scripture. Progress gives way before charity — the base of all lasting Christian education.

HIS EXCELLENCY BISHOP PAPINEAU

It rightly belonged to His Excellency to draw conclusions from this beautiful day. He expressed a sincere desire that this first Apostolic Day for ladies would leave an imprint in the hearts of those who had taken part in it.

His Excellency extended hearty thanks to the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception who have assumed the Work of Closed Retreats for ladies and young girls, accepting to this aim to build their house on St. Louis Street, to uphold it and to see to its progress. On an equal footing with the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception he placed the Clerics of St. Viator who are preaching the retreats. "Their recompense," said he, "will be great, for besides preaching most of the retreats for ladies and young girls, they direct the 'Querbes Retreat House' for men and boys. Closed Retreats are the best means of keeping to Christ families and also youth, the object of our Pastors' solicitude."

His Excellency congratulated the ladies who help the Works of the Immaculate Conception, and all those who contributed to the success of the day, especially Reverend Father Cholette, C. S. V., Director of Closed Retreats, and Very Reverend Canon Caillé, Director of Catholic Action. In a word, all those who, from far and near, helped in one way or another to make this feast a truly magnificent one.

Here His Excellency extended a tribute of homage to the two Fathers Lamarche, lecturer of the day and author of the choral-play so wonderfully executed by the "Parabolières". "Those two Religious are brothers according to the flesh", remarked he, "and such they are also in spirit and in their apostolate. Both have extolled the same doctrine: A God better known, better loved, better served by a youth better trained in the school of Christ by mothers more courageous, more devoted, more pious."

"To bring up her children well," added His Excellency, "a mother must look on work, happiness, riches, pleasure and liberty as Jesus did; she must also share the affections of Jesus, she must reproduce His actions so that everything in the home will speak of Him: the teachings that are given, the examples set by the parents, the papers that are read, the gatherings that are organized, etc.

She must herself possess and inculcate in her children a great respect for authority and for discipline. Let us not forget that everything depends on the education we receive. If we look forward to a youth, pure, energetic, believing, furnishing noble vocations, our youth must be self-sacrificing, mortified and fervent. The image of the Boy Jesus must be in every home to serve as a model to a growing generation which must, whatever the cost—for this is a matter of eternal salvation—become a youth schooled in sacrifice as their model, the Divine Crucified."

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament given at the Cathedral and presided over by Very Reverend Canon L. P. Lamarche, brought to a close this beautiful day. Before the Hymn, *Tantum Ergo*, Very Reverend Canon Caillé consecrated to the Sacred Heart the retreatants, their families and our youth.

Translated.

L'Action Populaire.



The first and indispensable step in Catholic Action is the building up of the spirit of Christ in one's own heart.



"Were you at Joliette for the former retreatants' Apostolic Day?"

"Certainly, I should not have wished to miss that!"

"I did not see you . . . I looked for you in the crowd, but there were so many people! . . ."

"Say, that day was a real success, was it not?"

"A real success, assuredly! Nothing was lacking: the weather was ideal; the attendance, large; the open-air Mass, very pious and impressive; and the number of Communions, beyond all hopes. The lectures and singing, how appreciated they were!"

"Let us hope that the fruits expected of it may be manifold and lasting."

"Good will certainly follow from it. For my part, I was deeply moved . . . I should have liked to have Lucy accompany me; no doubt, she would have profited by the lesson, also. . . . I am worried about that dear child since she is out of the convent. She goes out frequently and with anybody, without informing me, and comes in late. She does no work in the house, but spends her time reading I know not what, listening to the radio and smoking cigarettes. . . . I regret now having been too indulgent to her when she was young, having yielded too much to her caprices, and having blamed the Sisters many times for punishing her for her insubordination and mischief. I loved her so dearly, the little darling . . . and she had such delicate health! I should not have wished to lose her; I suffered so much . . . and cried so bitterly at poor Madeline's death!"

"Dear Friend, correction properly inflicted does not in any way impair children's health."

"You, dear Anna, you have such docile children!"

"Not at all. Each of them has his own peculiar character; but, ever since they were babies, I have never overlooked any of their caprices. Correction does them so much good that, sometimes, they astonish me and please me at the same time by their generosity and spirit of sacrifice. And I feel that they sincerely love me. For nothing in the world would they want to displease me; and often, even, they contrive pleasant surprises for me. They love one another and are not selfish, accustomed as they are from childhood to sacrifice themselves and share what they have with one another. I already realize this saying that my grandfather so often repeated: 'The parents who properly correct their children are the most loved and respected.' This dear old man, who made of his children stanch Christians — a Priest, a Brother, two Sisters and six respectable citizens — was until his death the idol of his family, that took good care of him and overwhelmed him with kindness. No, Grandfather did not spoil his children.

To have an idea of his firmness in bringing them up, you ought to hear them relating the ingenious corrections of which they were the object. An upright man as he was, he always gave them good example. His wife seconded him; but, meek and patient, she always left him the more rigorous corrections."

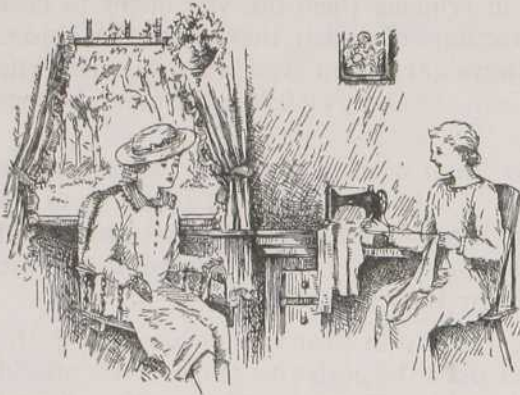
"My husband was severe, too, but I never wished to let him interfere in the education of my two girls. I told him to attend to the boys. I know now that I was wrong not to listen to him, for he has been successful with my sons, who are all a consolation to me. If he were still living, the poor man, how grieved he would be by Lucy's conduct!"

"It is necessary that the parents agree in their way of bringing up the children, for these feel it quite well when the authority of one is not upheld by the other. In such a case, their education is inevitably affected, and they too are influenced by their father's and mother's bad examples."

"Would you believe that, the other day, when I told Lucy that she smoked too many cigarettes, that this abuse was prejudicial to her health and cost me dearly, 'You smoke just as many, Mama!' was her prompt reply? That made me reflect. . . . It is true that I smoke some, but not so often. . . . You, dear Anna, I believe that you have completely given up that injurious habit."

"For the past two years, my lips have not touched a cigarette. I had begun smoking one now and again, unknown to the children; then, I had gradually increased the number and I do not know where this bad habit would have led me, if a certain circumstance, or rather God Himself, had not opened my eyes. This is how it happened: I went to make a closed retreat at the Convent of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, at Joliette. I was scarcely settled in my room when a Religious entered, wishing to know if I was lacking anything. Immediately noticing a box of cigarettes that I had just placed on the table, she said mildly and firmly: 'It is not permitted to smoke during the retreat. Kindly confide this box to me, so that it may not be a temptation to you, and I shall return it to you at your departure.' I did not dare resist; but, shortly afterwards, I felt so weary and spiritless that I regretted having come to the retreat. 'How good a cigarette would be!' I thought. Nevertheless, I went to the first instruction and I had a very good night; but, the following day, the same spiritual torpidity and a more ardent desire to smoke. I tried to divert myself, in order to chase away the temptation; but it tormented me so incessantly that I decided to redemand my box of cigarettes. On perceiving me, the little Sister quickly understood what I was coming for. 'Your box,' she said, 'I put it at the foot of the big Crucifix in the lecture-hall and I offered it to Our Lord as a generous sacrifice from you, begging Him to reward you for it by some precious graces. I cannot take it back now. If you can, go and do so; as for me, I cannot offer Our Lord such an affront.'

"Deeply moved by these words, I went to the lecture-hall and, indeed, saw my box at the foot of the Cross. I knelt down on one of the steps and remained for a long time in prayer. The sight of that beautiful Christ,



Would she consent to make a closed retreat? . . .

bruised and bleeding, vividly impressed me, and I thought I heard His Voice speak to my soul and reproach me with many an act of cowardice. I begged His pardon, I resolved to amend and I promised to give up cigarettes altogether. Immediately, peace and consolation flooded my soul. I rose up strong and courageous, and continued my retreat with extraordinary fervour. Since then, I am determined never to let Joan, my daughter, smoke. Now

almost seventeen years old, she asked my permission to do so in the beginning of the vacation, to imitate some of her friends; but I refused it to her. She accompanied me to the Apostolic Day, and I was glad that she was there when Reverend Father Lamarche asked us to abstain from cigarettes. I do not believe that she will speak of it to me again, for she is very obedient. She seems, also, to have well understood what the Father said about the education of children, how they must be accustomed to sacrifices, etc."

"What a pity it is, that Lucy did not want to come with me! I strongly urged her to do so, but she alleged that she was not a former retreatant to take part in that reunion."

"Would she consent to make a closed retreat?"

"She would have to be drawn by other girls. . . for my speaking to her of it would be useless."

"Never mind, let not that be an objection. I can see to having one organized by some good young ladies, and Joan will be one of them. The dear child has just asked me to make one during the summer. Miss X., who is always so devoted, will be glad to do the recruiting and go to see Lucy. She is so good and zealous that it is difficult, not to say impossible, to resist her proposals."

"I should be very grateful to you, dear Friend, if you could help me with my dear Lucy. I am already very anxious about her and I am wondering what is in store for me later on. Ah! how foolish I was not to have corrected her of her caprices and disobedience when she was a child! Then, I thought that, growing up, she would understand my love and goodness for her and would improve in conduct. How mistaken I was! . . ."

"A good retreat would, no doubt, have a salutary effect upon her. However, if you wish her to discontinue making an abuse of cigarettes, believe me, you must give her the example. . . ."

"Well then, I shall not smoke any more. I just thought of that on the evening of the Apostolic Day. In like manner, hereafter, I shall no longer wear short dresses, so that my daughter, too, may be more modest."

"These sacrifices, dear Friend, will be very pleasing to God, and I do not doubt but that He will grant you in return the amendment that you desire for Lucy."

"Such will be, for my daughter and myself, the fruits of the Apostolic Day at Joliette."

Prayer has brought thousands into the Catholic Church. But there is also another apostolate that has also done wonders, and that is the apostolate of good example. So live that your friends will respect and love not only you but also the Faith which directs your life. The Catholic Church is frequently judged as good or bad, by the lives of Catholics as seen by non-Catholics. Be sure that by your example you edify and not scandalize.

Homage of Gratitude

THE Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception heartily thank the ladies and young girls who have devoted themselves, as members of the workrooms or sewing circles, in making Church vestments for the poor missions, and clothing for the unfortunate children of foundling-homes and orphanages. They beg God to reward these kind helpers even here below, whilst reserving for them on high the recompense promised to those who help the apostle.

Throughout the month of June, beautiful expositions of these works have been held in different centres, showing the amount of labour these benevolent auxiliaries have done.

This year again, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception will be able, if circumstances permit, to send to their dear Sisters in foreign lands valuable cases whose contents will relieve many a misery and bring joy to more than one heart.

After the restful holidays, these charitable reunions which are the occasion of friendly chats, will resume their course. The ladies and young girls who can do needlework and dispose of an afternoon a week are cordially invited to take part in these works of charity. They may have themselves inscribed at one of the following addresses:

Mother House, 2900 St. Catherine Rd., Cote des Neiges, Montreal.

314 St. Catherine Rd., Outremont.

4 Simard St., Quebec.

61 Jacques Cartier St., Chicoutimi.

St. John the Baptist St., Rimouski.

466 Bonaventure St., Three Rivers.

35 Dufferin St., Granby.

430 Champlain St., Saint Johns, P. Q.

Our Enemy



WE have a terrible and very powerful enemy, animated with ferocious hatred against us and intent upon our loss. It is not merely a man, head of an empire, with numerous battalions at his disposal; it is Satan. Driven out of Heaven, furious against God, incapable of taking revenge on His intangible Majesty, he wants to vent his hate upon His image, man. He seeks to paralyse all His designs of goodness and salvation regarding humanity. He desires companions of his misfortune and eternal wretchedness. Like a roaring lion, he is unceasingly roaming in search of prey to devour. He has under his command other devils, subaltern commanders of the infernal cohorts, and has full sway over millions and millions of evil spirits, that are dispersed in the air and invade everything: homes, workshops, schools, fields, cities and even the sacred temple. These attack all. Every man is possessed with a troop of rebellious angels, that tempt him, excite him to evil, suggest wicked thoughts to him, inflame his passions, deceive him, discourage him, and elate him with vain presumption in order to despoil him cunningly of the life of grace. They attack nations, especially Christian nations, for the purpose of sowing in them division, impiety, immorality and neglect of their duties towards God. They have a special grudge against Our Saviour's work *par excellence*, the Church. Relying upon his agents: the proud, the ungodly and the materialists, and utilizing every means: false knowledge, calumny, and allurements to evil pleasure, Satan incessantly breeds mistrust, contempt and hatred for the Church, originates heresies and even provokes violent persecutions against it whenever there is a favourable occasion for doing so. Incapable of annihilating it completely, he aims, at least, at paralyzing its work of sanctification, by hindering the practice of religion, the recruitment of its ministers, the preaching of the Gospel and the Christian education of youth. He endeavours to exhaust as much as possible the sources of salvation, by inducing souls to neglect prayer, penance, the sanctification of Sundays, assistance at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the use of the Sacraments. He is so successful, especially at certain times, that, considering things only from a human point of view, one would be tempted to become discouraged and repeat the words of the Prophet: "It is the end!" But, from the point of view of faith, we must not lose confidence; for the greater the danger, the more precious the deliverance.



OUR DELIVERER

If the devil is most redoubtable, Mary, Our Protectress, is extraordinarily powerful in overthrowing him. She alone is terrible like an army in battle array. Satan dreads her as his most mortal enemy. He is not unaware of the fact that it is she who is to crush his head and

destroy his empire. He knows that what she keeps is well kept, what she protects is well protected, and what she defends is well defended. He knows that and he hates her with implacable hatred. One of his most cherished ruses is to discredit her or, at least, to diminish devotion to her.

Who can tell Mary's marvellous triumphs over the irreconcilable enemy of our salvation? She delivers us from all evils of body and soul. At every instant, on the whole surface of the globe, how many sufferers she cures, how many sinners she converts and confirms in virtue, how many afflicted she consoles, how many dying persons she assists in the last combat, obtaining for them the benefit of a happy death and the palm of eternal victory!

With what maternal vigilance, she watches over the Christian nations that are devoted to her! However, it is especially in behalf of the Church that the Blessed Virgin discharges her office of Deliverer and manifests her power. The devil seeks above all the ruin of the Church; every century, without tiring, he varies his artifices, invents new stratagems and renews his efforts to annihilate it. But Mary, the vigilant guardian, is there; she crushes the head of the serpent, that incessantly revives; she paralyses his efforts, baffles his enterprises and renders victorious the Society founded by Her Divine Son.

It is Mary who mined the very foundations of Satan's empire when, on the day of the Annunciation, she consented to become the Mother of the Saviour of the human race, of Jesus, the Conqueror of the prince of this world.

It is Mary who triumphed over the heretics, Arius, Nestorius, Eutyches, Luther and Calvin, and confounded their pernicious doctrines.

It is Mary who smote with irreparable defeat the infidels that wished to annihilate Christian civilization by force of arms, especially at Lepanto and Vienna.

It is Mary who vanquished the Revolution, by having the sacred temples reopened after too many years of impiety, and recalling to Rome the Sovereign Pontiff, violently taken away from the Eternal City and sequestered, so to say, far from the rest of the Christian world.

It is Mary who, when all will seem lost, on the last day, in the supreme struggle against Hell, personified by Antichrist, will give the final victory to the children of Christ and, on the threshold of Eternity, will overthrow Satan forever and definitively crush the head of that infernal serpent.

— Reverend C. ROLLAND.



Mary's victory over sin is complete; but against the sin that invades the lives of her children Mary's campaign is ceaseless. And we must strive to extend Our Blessed Mother's conquests until there are no more hearts to conquer, until Our Lady can look down from Heaven upon a land devoted to her and say "This land is truly dedicated to me."

— Rev. T. P. O'Connell.



To the Virgin Mother

*Sweet Virgin Mother, hail to thee!
To Jesus, thy dear Child,
The Prince of peace, of light, of love,
So very meek and mild!*

*How beautiful, O gracious Queen,
Within thine arms is He!
And when He takes His first wee steps
Thou smilest lovingly.*

*This little Child, fair lily-bud,
A-resting on thy knee,
Sees in thine eyes, reflected clear,
His wondrous purity.*

*I love to see the tender Babe
Reclining on thy breast;
O happy Mother, in thine arms
I long with Him to rest!*

*How I delight as there He lies
To draw near silently —
To kiss His cheeks, His lips so pure,
In love's own candid way!*

*When angels kneel — a happy host —
On pretty harps to play,
They lull the Infant soft asleep
With their sweet symphony.*

*Adoring Him, I linger nigh
As would a loving friend,
Soon two bright eyes will gaze at me. . .
What smile He'll give me then!*

*I whisper all the confidence
His goodness stirs in me,
His clemency, His royal might,
His ardent charity.*

*I lay before my helpful Friend,
My each and every need,
As He looks on my misery
His heart is touched indeed.*

*And why not tell Him everything?
'Tis God I have near me!
I beg His grace, for He has said,
"My grace sufficeth thee."*

*Great mystery! my God forgets
His glory and His throne,
He comes to earth to save my soul —
Was such love ever known?*

*Of thee, pure Virgin, He is born,
The God from realms above,
And from thine arms, He smiles to me
And begs for all my love.*

*All praise be thine, beloved Queen!
How fondly would I wreath
A garland of my roses gay,
And drop it at thy feet!*

*My Lady of the Rosary,
Thy lovely month has come!
My Aves all to roses change
And smile on everyone.*

*To crown thee with, this diadem
Is still too poor, I ween;
Please make each rose a precious gem
Most worthy of my Queen!*

— THE PRECURSOR.

The Marvels of the Cross



The Cross, under the form of trials, is in the Hand of God like a chisel in that of a sculptor.

It works wonders in souls that do not resist its influence, that not only let themselves be moulded by it, without murmuring or complaining, but, recognizing in the hand that strikes them, wounds them, cuts them, the Hand of a most tender Father, of an infinitely skilful Master, abandon themselves to His conduct with patience, love and confidence.

Our souls, precious in their nature but disfigured by sin and the inclination to sin, are like rough diamonds. God chisels each one of them, because nothing defiled can enter the Kingdom of Heaven, and He wishes that all be saved and shine forever as so many jewels of His mercy and love.

Unfortunately, a great many souls resist His Divine operations; such are the inveterate sinners. Others give them but half of their consent; such are the imperfect. Some, but in small

numbers, surrender themselves unreservedly to them; such are the perfect, who are a consolation to the Heart of Jesus here below and who will be extraordinarily brilliant in Heaven. According as they are carved by the Cross, these souls become adorned with virtues and marvellous merits.

St. Teresa of Avila understood so well the importance of the Cross in the realization of her great desires for holiness and apostolate, that she said to God with all the ardour of her soul: "*Either suffer or die!*"

St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, who abandoned herself to Our Heavenly Father with such tender love and filial confidence, acknowledged that she had *suffered a great deal* during her short existence.

The holy Curé d'Ars, who became a marvel of meekness and patience, had to suffer intensely. He spoke from experience when he said: "*Listen well: He who goes to meet the Cross walks in a direction contrary to that of crosses. He does meet them, perhaps, but he is glad to do so, for he loves them and bears them with courage. They unite him to Our Lord; they purify him; they detach him from this world; they remove all obstacles from his heart; and they help him to pass through life, like a bridge helps to cross water.*"

Christian Friends, we, like the Saints, have understood the nothingness of all that is passing and the value of immortal good. We endeavour to conform our lives to God's Law, but are we also attentive to profit by the crosses, small and great, which we encounter?

Let us see how we bear illness, lack of affection, oblivion, disdain, ingratitude, offences of all kinds, loss of fortune, difficulties and contradictions of every sort. If we revolt at their contact, if we murmur and complain, we profit little, indeed, or not at all, by our crosses; we lose therein precious occasions of merit and eternal glory.

Let us, then, often reflect upon the manner in which we bear our daily afflictions; we shall derive therefrom great advantages for our spiritual progress. When we shall have failed in patience and resignation, we shall then regret our weakness and endeavour to do better in the future. That will oblige us to self-denial, but it is the path in which all good Christians must follow their Master, Jesus Christ.

Then, as every true Christian should be an apostle, let us devote ourselves to the apostolate of the Cross. Let us make this instrument of Our Saviour's Passion, the Sign of our salvation, loved by our relatives and friends; let us propagate it in their homes. Let us have it recognized in trials, sufferings and renouncement, and have it gladly accepted, by revealing the consolations and immense good it contains, to those who are ignorant of them.

Let us not exclude from our zeal the multitude of pagans, that have no idea of the Cross and of Him Who has become by it the Redeemer of all men. Let us hasten the coming of this glorious Sign among those unfortunate souls, by our earnest prayers and our charity towards the Missionaries, who consecrate their lives to its extension.



When sorrows thicken and crush me with their burden, when I look in vain for comfort, let Thy dear words come from the tabernacle: "Come to Me all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will refresh you." Thy friendship, dearest Lord, henceforth shall be the dearest treasure I possess. It shall compensate for the treachery and ingratitude of men. It shall be my consolation when the wild flowers are growing over the best loved ones, and when all who hold a dear place in my heart are withered and gone! With Thy friendship the world shall never be dreary and life never without charm. Would that I could realize the pure happiness of possessing Thy sympathy! Would that I could feel — when I am crushed and humbled, when the hope I have lived for has withered, when sorrows and trials that I dare not reveal to any make my soul *sink well nigh unto death*, when I look *in vain* for some one to understand me, one who will enter into my miseries, make me then remember that there is *one on the altar* who knows every fiber of my heart, every sorrow, every pain special to my peculiar nature, and who deeply sympathizes with me. Compassionate Jesus! my heart craves for sympathy and to suffer seems nothing to the bitterness of suffering alone.

— Rt. Rev. N. H. Baker.

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 1941.....	\$14.27
Year 1940.....	406.50	May-June ".....	14.25
January-February 1941.....	96.00	July-August ".....	7.50

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.

Your Novena has certainly helped me very much. I hope St. Teresa will help my husband to find a position. Mrs. A. Y., **Crystal Falls**. — A thousand thanks for the favours from the Little Flower of Jesus. S. G., **Dundee, Que.** — Thanksgiving for a great favour received through the intercession of St. Teresa, the "Little Flower of Jesus". A. G. W., **St. Mary's, Ont.** — Thanksgiving to St. Teresa for a favour obtained. — Heartfelt thanks to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for favours received through her intercession. R. L. L., **Indian Orchard, Mass.** — Thanksgiving to St. Teresa for past favours. May she again intercede for me that I may receive other special favours. M. B. T., **Schenectady, N. Y.** — Thanksgiving to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for the success of an operation. Mrs. R. B., **Montreal**. — Heartfelt gratitude towards St. Teresa for a cure obtained. Mrs. G. S., **Montreal**. — Lively gratitude towards the Patroness of Missionaries for a cure obtained. A Subscriber, **Hochelaga**. — Thanksgiving to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for the cure of a violent headache. M. C. B., **St. Mark**. — Heartfelt thanks to the dear "Scatterer of Roses" through whose intercession my husband has obtained his cure and my son, a position. Mrs. O. P., **Beauharnois**. — Kindly publish my lively gratitude towards the "Little Flower of Carmel" for a grace received through her intercession. G. G., **Montreal**. — A thousand thanks to St. Teresa of Lisieux for the grace of a vocation and conversion obtained through her intercession. Mrs. O. Beaudry, **Ste. Anne du Lac**. — Heartfelt thanks to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for all the graces she has granted me. G. B., **Montreal**.

A Modern Martyr

Blessed Theophane Vénard

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

(Continued)

CHAPTER VII.

The Voyage — Antwerp to Hong-Kong.

Our travellers left Paris and the Seminary with full hearts. To Theophane, especially, the parting was very bitter, for he had become attached to the Seminary, and to everything in it, in a way which only clinging, loving natures like his can understand. The young missionaries managed to get together in the railway carriage, so that they might console one another; and after a time they became calm, — even joyous, so that Theophane wrote that they seemed “more like people going to a fête.” Arrived at Antwerp they lost no time in going on board their ship, the *Phylotaxe* (lover of order), an American clipper of 600 tons, and a good, fast sailer. As a day or two elapsed before the ship was ready for sea, they spent this time seeing the quaint old Belgian town, and admiring the simplicity and devotion of its inhabitants. The embarkation took place on the 23rd of September. Theophane wrote home, —

“We bade farewell to Antwerp with a salute of nine guns, which was answered from the citadel. I am rather inclined to dreaming, and were it not for the help of God my heart would fail me altogether. You were more than half my life, and I feel the separation terribly, especially from the fact that it may be so long before I shall have any letter or tidings of you all. At any rate you are anchored in my remembrance — you see I am already getting nautical in my expressions — and I feel as if your presence would be ever with me, to cheer and strengthen me. We have already passed two nights on board; how beautiful the nights are at sea! The moon throws such a soft light on the waves while we walk up and down the deck, singing some national air, and smoking our cigars. For now we are *ordered* to smoke; and a kind old gentleman at Antwerp gave me for the passage a thousand cigars, of a mild kind, which I can manage better than the stronger ones. I sleep like a little bird in its nest and as yet I have not been sick. The vessel is most comfortable, the wind favorable, the crew a picked one, the discipline admirable, and the captain like a father. In spite of the dispensation, we abstained on Friday, as is the universal Belgian custom. The captain never omits grace before and after meals, and the officers are faithful likewise. I am struck with the hard life of these sailors but I see that it has a certain charm. I like to hear their monotonous singing during work, and to watch them climb the ropes; but the wonderful expanse of water, and the thoughts which it suggests, occupy me almost exclusively. I wished good-bye to every village and steeple as we sailed past. Now we see nothing but ocean and sky. Good-bye, then, for many months.” He was able, however, to send a few pencil lines the next day, as follows: —

*"Sunday, September 26, by a fishing-smack,
seven leagues from Calais.*

MY DEAR ONES,— One more word to say that I am well, though rather seasick. We are all bright and cheery on board. Pray for us. Dearest Father, Mélanie, Henry, Eusebius, once more good-bye! A last farewell to France, and to you all."

According to all human probability these were, indeed, the last words he was to send them from Europe; but a further consolation was granted to his family through a violent gale, which obliged the ship to take refuge in Plymouth harbor, where it remained three days. Theophane gave his brother an amusing account of the storm and its consequences; and adds, "This evening I have been watching a beautiful sunset on the English coast while the moon rose on the French side of the Channel. I could not help thinking about England, this country where the Sun of Truth has so long been darkened, — and praying for her with all my heart. England could do so much for the good cause, if she would only make it her own! If she only saw the truth! She reigns over the seas; but she sows error wherever her flag floats. Let us pray that this state of things may not continue. It is, I fancy, a rare sight for English people to see a priest in his cassock; for when we went into the town, men, women, and children looked at us in amazement. Some of the little ones were fairly frightened and ran away; one of the men was curious enough to come and touch one of our cassocks and examine the buttons. Then they burst out laughing, and that so naively, that we laughed too. It seems to me that they are very like the Chinese in character — curious to the verge of incivility and with little sense in their mockery."

To his sister he wrote,—

"Plymouth.

DEAREST SISTER,— Peace and love and joy in our Lord Jesus Christ. Providence has willed that we should be detained here, to repair the damage done to our ship in the gale — at least, that is the reason the world gives; I believe it is to enable me once more to say good-bye at my ease to my friends. What do you think, dear little sister? Do you recollect how in old times, when the last of the holidays came, you and I used to take the longest road to the station, so as to prolong the time as much as possible and talk a little more? We never could agree as to which was to have the last word; we always had so much to say to each other. And now I am leaving you indeed, and probably forever! Ought we not, then, to have a good long talk? Ah, now comes the sorrow! I must have all the say to myself. There is no dear little Melanie to answer me; no gentle eyes to look at me; no soft hand to hold in mine, and to keep it back, and try to make me stay a few minutes longer! And our good father and brother, where are they? Ah, you are all together; and I? I am alone! Alone with God — alone forevermore! But I know how you have followed me in thought; and I like to think of this letter's arrival at our home, and the

welcome it will get! Am I not a real baby? But O my God, it is not wrong, is it, to love one's home, and one's father, and one's brothers, and one's sister? — to suffer terribly at being parted from them? — to feel one's loneliness? — to try to console one another? — to mingle our prayers and our tears, and also our hopes? For we have left all for Thee. We wish to work but for Thee; and we trust to be reunited one day in Thee forever and forever! You see, my darling sister, as usual, I cannot help opening my whole heart to you, who understand me so well. But let us look the thing bravely in the face. *All is over*, is it not so? An enormous distance is about to separate us. Never again shall we meet on this earth! But after all, why do we feel it so dreadfully? A little sooner or a little later we shall be together again in Heaven. How short will our separation appear to us in eternity! Mother, friends, the SAINTS, are all gone home before us. *Au revoir!* they said. So it is our business to follow them and to go to them. People who are taking a journey often go by different roads; the only question is, which shall arrive first at the place of destination. Well, I am going by this road; you by that. Let the one who reaches home first encourage the other.

"Mélanie, my sister, I leave you a precious charge — that of our dear old father! You must help him to pass from this world to a better. You must be his angel of consolation and soothe his last days on earth. Watch over our brothers, too; try to make yourself one with them as you have been with me; and link yourself with them in the bonds of the tenderest affection. Three are stronger than one; help one another onwards and upwards in the rugged path of life. Above all, let nothing separate your interests or your affections. True love cannot be snapped asunder; it spreads and widens, but never diminishes. Love never dies; for it is stronger than death. God Himself has said so. The strength and increase of love is in prayer. We are little and weak and miserable but He who sustains us is strong and mighty. His arms are ever stretched out towards us; let us lift ours to meet Him.

"Life has many bitter, sad, and weary hours; often it can scarcely be called existence. The little rivulets, as well as the great rivers, all empty themselves into one source — the sea. God is an ocean of love and mercy; in Him alone is the fulness of joy. Patience and courage, then! A little while and we shall be with Him. He has promised it and He never belies His word. When the little river is dried up, the heavens give rain, and the river gaily continues its course. When our life is arid and we are ill at ease, let us ask for the dew and the refreshing rain and the food from God. Our Father who is in Heaven knows our wants, and feels for our weariness; and He sends His ministers to supply our need. 'Ask and ye shall receive.' Well, then, it is an understood thing, that each of us is to help and strengthen the other, and to make a start upwards. Short is the way and short the time. Courage, dearest sister! my thoughts press and tumble one upon the other; but you understand even half a word; and you will make the others enter into my feelings. I can speak freely only to you; but if I write confusedly you will unravel it.

(To be continued.)

Mission Intention

for the Month of October 1941

FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE JEWS

Among Catholics there is always an element of mystery as to why after over nineteen centuries, there are relatively few conversions to Catholicism among the Jews. It is to hasten the acknowledgement of Jesus Christ as the Messiah promised by the great Jehovah to "His chosen people" that the prayers of the faithful are requested during the month of October for that intention.

Actually there should be little difficulty for the really sincere and well-intentioned Jew to make such a step since every phase of Christ's life had been foretold to the people of Israel and His advent was expected by the Romans and peoples of other lands. Thus it would seem that the reasons given by Hugh Angress for his own conversion from Judaism should apply to others as well. "I am a Catholic because I am a Jew", he writes. "To me, from Christ to the Catholic Church is like from Judaism to Christ. I accept Christ because I am a Jew, and I accept the Church because I accept Christ".

THE DANGERS OF INDIFFERENCE

Unfortunately during the past centuries, particularly the 20th, a spirit of indifference toward religion has developed among the Jewish people, especially the younger generation. In many instances the religious exercises carefully followed by their parents and grandparents have deteriorated into affairs of indifference to them. They have replaced the teachings of Judaism with beliefs of pseudo-scientific sophists who from the depths of their agnosticism and atheism tear down the structure of both the Mosaic and Christian laws.

THE HOUR HAS STRUCK

With the present war conditions there is reason to believe that the hour for conversions has struck for those who still adhere to Judaism. We have the consolation of knowing that when these conversions occur they will be marked by a deep faith, sincerity of purpose and zeal for their fellowmen. Hence the desire of the Holy See and the plea of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for prayers during the month of October "for the conversion of the Jews".

— *Right Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell.*

An earthly monarch would never humble himself to such an extent as to ask for the love of his subject. But God, the infinite goodness, the Lord of all, the all-mighty and all-wise; God, Who merits an infinite love for having enriched us with such spiritual and temporal gifts, does not disdain to ask for our love. He even exhorts and commands us to love Him, and yet He often fails to win our affection.



CHINA

*Apostolate of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception
at Tak Sun School, Hong Kong.*

At the opening of the school year in September last, three hundred and fifty pupils were registered at Tak Sun School. It was already too large a number if we consider the little space at their disposal; consequently, those who came after that to be inscribed had to be refused.

A harvest of three hundred and fifty souls the majority of whom were pagan — what a beautiful field of action!... Humble workers invited to toil in the Master's service, we scattered the seed in the fertile furrows and the Divine Sun hastened its germination and maturity. What beautiful ears have we gleaned!...

And it is not only within our walls that wonderful transformations have been wrought. Situated as it is in the centre of a population mostly pagan, and thanks to the beneficent influence of its Christian pupils and the zeal of its catechists, Tak Sun School has spread the light of our Holy Faith: several times during the year, we have had the consolation of witnessing touching conversions in the Chinese families that surround us. It was interesting and encouraging to observe the action of Divine Providence in these souls fortuitously called from the darkness of paganism to the light of the Gospel.

Towards the end of the summer, 1939, Mrs. Tso, a distinguished Chinese lady, a widow for a number of years, on hearing one of her Portuguese friends speak of our Holy Religion conceived an ardent desire to be instructed in the Catholic Doctrine. Conducted to Reverend Father Orlando by her charitable friend, she was advised to come to our school as it is the establishment nearest her home; here she would be able to take lessons regularly. So one day she came with her little nine-year-old girl, and after taking lessons during a few months, both were baptized on December 23, 1939. On Christmas Day, the Divine Babe deigned for the first time to visit their souls still resplendent with Baptismal purity.

Miss Kwan Ting, young girl twenty years of age, cousin of Mrs. Tso and privileged witness of her happiness, followed her example and, after being

instructed in the truths of our Holy Faith, received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist on March 31, 1940.

Mrs. Wouge, a kind woman of sixty-one, was among those baptized on December 23, 1939. Although she had some knowledge of the Catholic Religion, this person always manifested much indifference. One day, her grandson having fallen seriously ill, a young relative, fervent Catholic, suggested that she have him baptized in the hope of obtaining thereby a speedy recovery. The offer was accepted; however, the privileged child hastened to take his flight to Heaven.

Without being disconcerted, the courageous apostle spoke so persuasively of the joys of Heaven and the possibility for parents to rejoin their dear



VERY REVEREND MOTHER MARIE DE LA PROVIDENCE, SUPERIOR GENERAL, VISITING THE MISSION OF HONG KONG, CHINA.
MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
AND TEACHERS OF TAK SUN SCHOOL.

child in a better world, that the grandmother was converted. Shortly afterwards her daughter-in-law and one of her old friends, a woman of eighty-five, followed her example.

Here is the touching story of another worker of the eleventh hour. When on her way to church for a Visit to the Blessed Sacrament one afternoon, our catechist noticed a white-haired woman making ever so many prostrations before the grotto of Lourdes. "What are you doing there?" she asked with kindness. — "This is such a beautiful Buddha," replied the respectable grandmother, "that since I have found her, I come every day to pay her homage." — "This statue is not a god," explained the catechist, it is an image of the Blessed Mother of Jesus. We love her very much but we do not adore her. Come with me to the church and I will show you whom you must adore." Amazed at the wonderful mysteries revealed to her, the good octogenarian could scarcely believe her ears. She then continued her religious instruction and received Holy Baptism. Happy beyond words the fervent neophyte did not cease proclaiming her joy. "I feel



THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AT HONG KONG
DURING THE VISIT OF THEIR REVEREND MOTHER SUPERIOR GENERAL.

revived," would she say, "never would I have thought it possible to enjoy so much happiness here below!" These ineffable consolations were for her the beginning of eternal felicity, for a few months later the Lord called to Himself this soul purified in the Baptismal Streams.

Before dying, the venerable old woman had the joy of seeing her son, a man of fifty, renounce idolatry and become initiated in the practices of the Christian Religion.

On the 50th of November last, Antonina Cheung, a young girl of sixteen, was receiving Solemn Baptism in our humble chapel. After Mass, the happy neophyte was invited to a modest repast with her godmother, our faithful and ever-devoted Veronica Lee. In the forenoon a little entertainment had been organized in her honour by her school-companions who shared or envied her happiness. Although she lived far from our Convent, she wished to return in the afternoon to kneel at the foot of the altar where she had tasted her first joys as a child of God, and express her gratitude to her Heavenly Father.

On Christmas eve, fourteen catechumens, six of whom were our pupils, also received Baptism in the church of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus.

What thanks we render to God Who deigns to make use of us as humble instruments in the conquest of souls!

The loving Master has called one of the recent converts to the inestimable honour of the Divine Espousals. Prompted by the grace of God and wishing to live for Him alone Whose infinite charms had ravished her soul, Carolina Chow, baptized in our chapel a year and a half ago, entered the Carmelite Monastery at the end of December. Before her departure, she wished to come a last time to the humble sanctuary where she had made

her Promises of Baptism, in order to thank God for this grace of predilection He had bestowed upon her, and to assure her teachers of her grateful remembrance.

A new field of action has been opened to us in 1940. Since the month of August we have, each in turn, been training as nurses and done four hours of active service in the Hospital every day during a month. This experience may prove very practical in time of war. Besides accomplishing a work



THE VERY REVEREND MOTHER SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, SISTER MARIE DE LOYOLA (ORPHISE BOULAY, COATICOOK), SISTER ST. ETIENNE (AURORE PLOUFFE, MONTREAL) AND THE FIRST ORPHANS RECEIVED AT THE MISSION, HONG KONG.

of mercy very pleasing to God, we had the happiness of baptizing seventy moribunds — children and adults. Our hearts overflowing with gratitude, we placed this sheaf at the feet of our Immaculate Mother, begging her to offer it herself to our loving Saviour.

A Painful Loss

We have received the sad news of the death of Sister Marie de Loyola (Orphise Boulay, Coaticook), Superior at our mission of Hong Kong, who was called to God on the thirteenth of June. The beloved deceased was fifty-nine years of age.

Our community sustains a grievous loss in the passing of this ardent missionary. Her religious virtues, her long experience of mission life, her deep loyalty to our Institute, rendered her able to contribute efficaciously to the advancement of the different works of apostolate.

From the eternal Home of repose, may she now intercede for her companions remaining on the field of labour!

Good Sister Superior who has special compassion for the outcasts of this world, had for a long time been seeking the means of opening an orphanage. The enterprise was difficult, for space and funds were lacking; however, St. Joseph helped to accomplish it. On the day of his feast, March 19th, seven orphans were received in our school. Sister Superior had one end of a corridor transformed into a refectory and two very small rooms served for dormitories which somewhat resembled steamer cabins. The poor children, some of whom had but the streets for a home, were proud to be so well lodged. You should have heard their joyous exclamations as they visited their new domain: a bed for each one of them, a mosquito-net, a basin, a piece of soap! . . . How consoling it is to relieve the unfortunate and how we wish we could receive all the poor abandoned children who die of hunger and misery in war-torn China! . . .

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*Extracts from letters of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
in Fong Chuen, to their Sisters at the Mother House*

Fong Chuen, December 31, 1940.

DEAR SISTERS,

How many things we have to tell you! . . . Life is never monotonous in a family where there are four hundred to look after! Our grown-up children have innumerable ways and means of interesting us; it is true we have had to record sad deficiencies, the result of their pitiful malady, but we also have many a consoling fact to relate.

Since our arrival at the Asylum in October 1938, we have registered an average of 13,937 days in the hospital, 560 dressings and 700 injections a month. Is it not a consolation to be able to carry on the corporal works of mercy on such a high scale?

And what are we doing for souls? It is on them especially that we concentrate our missionary zeal. Without stopping to point out the good spirit that reigns in general among the different classes of our inmates, we shall say that the latter vie with one another in learning Catechism and the prayers of our Holy Religion. Many of them have sufficient understanding to prepare seriously for Baptism; we already have had the happiness of baptizing, at the point of death, 231 patients who after being taught the principal truths of our Holy Faith, evinced deep sorrow for their past infidelities and a sincere desire to save their soul.

At the supreme moment, a ray of intelligence ordinarily gleams over the minds of these poor insane persons; we take advantage of these lucid intervals to expose the eternal truths. How many touching scenes we then witness!

Every day affords us beautiful and consoling conversions of adults, or Baptisms of children picked up here and there and brought to our Mission. We have no foundling-home, but how can we fail to open our hearts and our doors to all these little brothers of Jesus? What would have become of the

four hundred and eighty-five little ones whose souls have been purified by Baptism, if we had not received them?

Wong Yim, the first among our patients to be solemnly baptized, peacefully passed away on the twenty-first of July. His life as a Christian was very short, for he had become a child of God only on the sixth of March, but his great fervour made up for the number of years. How many Aves has he not recited in our chapel, when kneeling before the beautiful statue of Our Lady of the Assumption! . . . He was a "gentleman of the old school" and had the habit of giving one or two conferences each day in his garden, without being hindered a bit by the inclemency of the weather. We took advantage of his readiness of speech to invite him to consecrate the last months of his life to preaching the doctrine of salvation.

On the fifteenth of August, a great missionary joy was granted us. We were able to offer our Divine Master, by the hands of our Immaculate Mother, a sheaf of choice blooms: after several months of serious study, the doctor at the Asylum and the head Infirmarian were baptized at the Cathedral and made their First Communion. Two former patients also had the same happiness.

Doctor Wong was brought to Fong Chuen, by a merciful design of God, shortly after our arrival in that place. The Chinese government having withheld the subsidies which sustained the Asylum, both infirmarians and doctors had abandoned their post, leaving the poor inmates without any help whatever. Our first care was to re-establish order and cleanliness among these forsaken folks, and to procure them the food necessary to repair their faltering energies, as the majority were dying of hunger. Then we had to see for a doctor. We were just wondering where to find one when Mr. Wong came to the Hospital. He brought his wife who had gone out of her mind during the Japanese invasion. When we learned he was a doctor, we asked him to care for our patients, and he readily accepted. Thus it was that this upright soul came in contact with the sublime mysteries of our Holy Faith, which soon captivated his admiration. "Never shall I

forget the ringing of the bells on the day of my Baptism," he often told us; "their sound has moved the very depths of my soul, and will re-echo in my ears to the last day of my life." Our good neophyte is most fervent, and has offered to God his remaining days in reparation for a past he purifies in the tears of sincere contrition. His great ambition is to win at least a hundred souls



DOCTOR PAUL WONG PRAYING IN HIS ROOM
ON THE DAY OF HIS BAPTISM.

to God whom, as Saint Augustine, he has too late known and loved. In remembrance of the beautiful day when he was born to the Faith, Mr. Wong wears a golden ring enriched with the blessing of His Excellency Bishop Fourquet of Canton. On it are engraved the words "Jesus-Paul-Wong". He also hung a large crucifix in his bedroom and every day the pious doctor lays before it his most fervent prayers and a bouquet of flowers. Even before he became a Christian, Mr. Wong used to make spiritual communions; he now hears Mass and receives Holy Communion every morning.



THE VERY REVEREND MOTHER SUPERIOR GENERAL AND THE MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION DIRECTING THE INSANE ASYLUM OF FONG CHUEN: SISTER MARIE DE L'ESPERANCE (AUREA VANNARD, MONTREAL), SISTER MARIE CELINA (GRACIA BLANCHET, DRUMMOND-VILLE), SISTER MARGUERITE MARIE (MARGUERITE LATOUR, MONTREAL).

In mid-September, he had the misfortune of losing his wife, who had returned to Shanghai in the hope of obtaining a prompter cure; but the dreaded malady led her to the grave. We have every reason to believe that, at the moment of her death, God inspired her to renew the desire she had so often expressed of receiving Baptism. She left two young children who have been adopted by relatives; it is the ardent wish of the father that his little ones become Catholic.

Madam Soung, the head Nurse, also baptized on the 15th of August, is the mother of six children; her husband did her the affront of buying himself another wife. We need not say what patience, kindness and tact the newly-baptized woman has to exercise in this pagan neighbourhood. The trials each day brings her cannot be counted, and yet this brave woman's courage never fails her. Her generous efforts will, we hope, obtain the grace of Baptism for her family.

This ceremony of Baptism on Assumption Day has deeply moved several souls that seemed most firmly anchored in paganism. Five infirmarians and ten patients have expressed the wish to be inscribed as catechumens.

One day a little boy of five, left on the streets by his parents, was brought here by the police. The unfortunate lad was very thin; he did not even



VERY REVEREND MOTHER MARIE DE LA PROVIDENCE, SUPERIOR GENERAL, SISTER MARIE IMMACULEE (ALICE VANCHESTEIN, ST. MICHEL DE NAPIERVILLE), SISTER MARIE CELINA (GRACIA BLANCHET, DRUMMONDVILLE), THE CHAPLAIN OF FONG CHUEN ASYLUM AND THE CHINESE WHO WERE BAPTIZED ON CHRISTMAS DAY, 1941.

know his name; all he remembered was that he had often been ill-treated by his mother. He was immediately served a good bowl of rice which did not last him long. Then he looked up at us, his eyes beaming with gratitude and satisfaction. A few days later, he was administered Solemn Baptism and given the name of Andrew. He has been placed under the special care of Doctor Wong who had acted as his godfather.

On Christmas Day ten persons — two infirmarians, two employees and six patients — became Christians. Two dying patients were also baptized a few days later. One of these, Wong Loung Cheung, a soldier, was here when we assumed the direction of the Asylum. He had gone out of his mind during the bombarding raids. When he had grown better again, his family had refused to receive him, because he had enrolled in the army against his father's will. He left the Asylum in the month of May, and had soon spent the little sum of money we had given him. Not knowing what to do, he became a travelling salesman but this profession was more or less successful. The unhappy man came back here a few weeks ago, ill and covered with sores, and begged us to take care of him. He had studied the Catholic Doctrine while he was porter at the Hospital, and he manifested very favourable dispositions as soon as we spoke to him of Baptism. God has indeed shown him a love of predilection, sending him back to us to obtain the key of Paradise. The privileged young man has received the name of John; we are confident that the beloved disciple, the guardian of Mary, has introduced him close to Our Lord and His Blessed Mother.

We are now at the last hours of 1940. What thanksgivings we send up

to God Who has visibly afforded us so many missionary consolations throughout the year just elapsed! To-morrow, a new year will be given us to continue the work Divine Providence has entrusted to us. Oh! how vast the work yet remaining to be done! . . . What misery reigns in the city of Canton and especially at Fong Chuen! . . . Let us beseech God to shower His blessings on the Asylum, He, the Sovereign Dispenser of all good, the Eternal Light, the Great Spirit! . . .

YOUR HUMBLE SISTERS OF FONG CHUEN.

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Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters in Sùchow

Wednesday, December 18, 1940

With what scenes of misery, suffering and hardships are we not confronted when visiting the sick and the poor! . . . Last Saturday, we called on a family whose home is nothing but a miserable hovel. We found the mother, half clad and shivering, stretched on the bare earth without any covering whatever to protect her from the cold. Her husband cast a pitying glance on her, "She has been unconscious for nine days," he explained.



SISTER ST. AMEDEE (EMILIENNE VEZINA, QUEBEC) ACCOMPANYING A PATIENT BROUGHT IN A WHEELBARROW BY HER PARENTS TO THE DISPENSARY OF SÜCHOW, FROM A DISTANCE OF SEVENTY LI.

"As I am a jinricksha-man and have nobody to give my wife proper care, I am obliged to leave her alone in the house all day; in the morning I take the three children — one of whom is but a month old — to charitable neighbours; at night I bring them back, and then I try to give my wife a bit of relief."

After a few words of encouragement to lighten the poor man's distress, we proceeded to minister to the invalid. Thanks to the assistance of our Heavenly Advocate, the medicine administered proved quite efficacious.

Her husband is overjoyed for she has had long moments of full consciousness these last two days; we have every reason to hope that devoted care will completely restore her to health.

When leaving our good woman to-day, we were asked to visit two sick persons. The first was a dying man whose hours were apparently numbered. His wife and children at his bedside implored us with tears to spare nothing to save him. The patient, yet fully conscious, addressed us the same prayer with a look of supplication. It was impossible to prolong his life on earth, but we were able to procure him a right to a blessed Eternity. We spoke to him of the consoling truths of our Holy Faith; and our humble sowing being fecundated by Divine Grace, we had the happiness of pouring the Waters of Regeneration on his brow, thus making of him an heir to Paradise.

Not far from there we were able to baptize a little child and give it a pair of white wings to take its flight to the Kingdom of the Blessed.

Tuesday, December 31

It was with joy that we recorded on the last page of this year's Register the entry of a little girl into the True Church. This eight-year-old child had been at our Patronage for some time but, as she was suffering from serious heart disease, she had been unable to come to the Mission for a month or so. What a great sacrifice it was for the little one to see the joyous group of her companions on their way to the Patronage!

In her hours of great suffering, the poor child would seek to distract and encourage herself by singing the *Ave Maria*. May we not believe it was this prayer so dear to the Heart of Our Heavenly Queen that merited for her the grace of Baptism? As she had often expressed the desire of seeing the *Sieou Mou* (Sisters) again, her parents brought her here this morning. To her great joy, Baptism was administered to her, and she now bears the name of her 'Mamma in Heaven' as she calls the Blessed Virgin. From the Heavenly Abode which will soon become her everlasting home, we hope little Mary will constitute herself the Guardian Angel of our fold and shield it from the ravening wolves ever seeking to prey upon it.

Thursday, January 2, 1941

The New Year holiday was continued to-day. We took advantage of the occasion to afford our little girls an agreeable excursion to the Dragon Mountain. After having left behind the noisy streets of the town, we entered in the calm solitude of the country, and were soon in a truly picturesque vale. Tourists may climb the giant peak by several paths; one of these is a stairway of fifty-three steps which takes them directly to the first temple of the pagoda. Pilgrims often go up this steep stairway on their knees. However, "devotion" did not inspire us to perform this heroic act; we therefore chose the common path, which is an easy ascent. Stoas have been erected at regular intervals. . . they are said to be the doors of the heavenly abode. Here and there, small kiosks invite travellers to rest; tables and stone-benches are even ready for those who feel like having

a cup of tea. Everywhere, the eye is attracted by masterpieces of pagan art and ornamentation; and yet, how despicable these appear in presence of the strokes of ecstatic beauty with which the Divine Hand has splashed this corner of the universe! As we advanced, leaving behind us the noise and bustle of the town, we could see on each side fields of grain occasionally broken up by a winding stream or rivulet. At a turn of the path we were allowed a magnificent view of the state-ly mounts thrusting their summits into the grey sky. All these are scenes which would inspire more than one artist. To the mighty Maker of these beauty spots our spirits ascend in sentiments of love and admiration, and we exclaim: "If such is the splendour of man's dwelling on earth, what must not be the grandeur of the Immortal Kingdom that the Lord reserves for him in Eternity?"

Deeply impressed by these considerations, we reached the first temple which is dedicated to children. It contains an immense statue of Buddha holding a babe in his arms. Seats were courteously offered in case we wished to rest a few moments, but we chose to continue our ascension.

Finally the summit was reached. A sentinel guards the first entry where is a profound well; it is held sacred, for here a stork is said to have slaked its thirst. This bird, regarded as a divinity, is supposed to have directed its flight towards the West, the only point not limited by mountains, and to have never returned. We then arrived at the principal temple, an immense excavation in the cliff. Its god, sculptured in the rock, measures over thirty feet. At first sight we fancy that a veil covers the gigantic statue, but on considering it more attentively in the semi-darkness, we can perfectly distinguish its head, and what had seemed a veil is nothing but its chest which is painted in yellow. On either side, gods of lesser dimensions have been cut in the rock. The entire furnishings are a table bearing incense-burners and sticks, a bell, drums, and a few cushions scattered about on the floor. In an adjoining house are eighteen gods of great celebrity, we are told, in all pagan districts. They are seated around the room and so disfigured by the years that their features can no longer be distinguished. We were taken to the dormitory and the refectory of the bonzes; after that, on expressing our desire to hear them pray, immediately an enormous bell summoned them to don their prayer apparel, even though



ONE OF THE NUMEROUS STOAS ERECTED
ON THE SLOPES OF THE DRAGON
MOUNTAIN.

the habitual hour of prayer had not yet come. They entered in Indian file and made numerous prostrations; after that the eldest intoned a sort of psalmody sometimes slow sometimes rapid — according to the beat of the drum.

Noticing that the day was far spent, we declared ourselves satisfied with our visit and descended the solitary pathways all the while piously reciting the Rosary. Was it not perhaps the very first time that praises to God and His Immaculate Mother were arising from this enchanting oasis?

Thursday, January 9

An old woman of eighty-four comes regularly to the dispensary to receive injections. She is always accompanied by her daughter whose tenderness and devotion are a touching example of filial piety. The venerable octogenarian still has all her faculties and, except for frequent rheumatic spells, enjoys good health. Desiring to maintain herself in this happy state and to prolong her earthly days, she requests our medical ministrations. She says that she is growing younger since she has recourse to our treatments, and she even cherishes the hope of reaching her glorious centennial!... May this wish be fully realized. It would speak well for our dispensary!...

Monday, January 20

How great must have been the joy of the Guardian Angel of a little four-month-old babe who received this morning his passport for Heaven! The father brought us his child suffering from a severe attack of *tch'eu fong*, which is ordinarily fatal in China. Our first care was to pour the Waters of Baptism on this little brow. As we turned aside to prepare a remedy, a pagan patient who was awaiting his turn told the father of a Chinese medicine said to be greatly efficacious. Thereupon the latter, to our astonishment, rushed out with his wee cherub. Poor father! you may well do so now, it matters little, for the soul of your dear babe is ready to wing its flight to the Heavenly regions!...



A GOOD OLD GRANDMOTHER AND HER DAUGHTER. SUCHOW.

Thursday, February 18

Seven bonzes were hired to-day to recite prayers over the grave of one of our patients. Their languorous psalmody, in perfect rhythm with the drums and bells, began at eight o'clock this morning and will be continued till midnight. The salary exacted by these Buddhistic ministers is far from being small: in addition to the sum of seventy dollars, they require varied and minutely-prepared dishes. Time must also be given them to take their bath.

What a contrast between the self-interested zeal of these priests and that of our Catholic Missionaries! Only the religion of Christ has under its Standard bands of valiant apostles whose untiring devotion withstands every labour, every pain and every privation, when immortal souls are at stake. It is to the touching examples of abnegation and charity given by the Missionaries that may be attributed the present movement towards Catholicism.

Monday, February 21

We have been visiting the poor families of the surroundings, in quest of new recruits for our Patronage. As our limited space prevented us from



BONZES IN PRAYER APPAREL

accommodating more than thirty girls, we chose those of the most destitute families, and from these, those most apt to profit by the lessons that will be given them in hygiene, sewing, singing, etc.

Our little girls are supremely happy to-day for they began their first piece of manual work; it is a lovely blue or pink handkerchief which they began by hemming; it has yet to be embellished with a flower, a cat, or some other embroidered design.

How we wish study figured among the items on the program! . . . but this would make of the Patronage a regular school and would require a governmental authorization extremely difficult to obtain. The aim of our work is nevertheless attained: to make known and esteemed the Catholic Mission, while exercising charity on behalf of the outcasts of this world.

Saturday, March 29

Yesterday we administered conditional Baptism to a patient dangerously ill. When returning to his home to-day, we were stupefied to see him aided by his brothers, coming to meet us. We insisted on his remaining in bed, but the family replied that it was impolite to receive the "doctor"

lying down. Notwithstanding our protestations, they persisted in having him remain seated. Then, at the grandmother's request, a thorough house-cleaning began: brooms, feather-brooms and dusters were set in operation. The patient's bed was displaced — it consisted simply in a heap of straw placed on the ground; his bed-clothes were well shaken, and soon a cloud of dust filled the house. Different countries, different rules of etiquette.

And different customs also: a few minutes ago a mother armed with a whip was busy administering her ten-year-old child a worthwhile correction. A woman was holding the hands of the lad, and a man, his feet, thus making all resistance impossible during the execution of the sentence. Our eyes



THE MISERABLE DWELLINGS OF SÜCHOW CONSTRUCTED WITH SORGHUM STALKS AND COVERED WITH STRAW.

certainly did not dwell long on that scene, but the cries of the boy echoed in our ears, giving us to conclude that the blows followed each other in quick succession.

Here, everything is done in public. Very often people eat sitting on the doorstep, conversing with their neighbour. They sleep on the roadside as on the softest bed, and when disagreements occur, instead of settling the affair at home, the quarrelling is done outside. The respective rights are withheld at the price of tears, yells and blows; and this with the sole aim of saving the situation! Yes, what a preponderant role human respect plays in pagan China!

Report of the Dispensary of Süchow for the year 1940:

Baptisms.....	469	Patients.....	31,926
Treatments.....	59,393	Dressings.....	7,458
Teeth extracted.....	94	Homes visited.....	283
Injections.....	7,533	Consultations.....	6,337

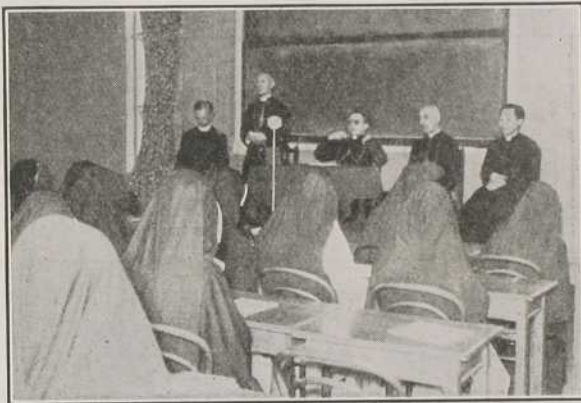
JAPAN

Gleanings from the Diary of our Sisters in Wakamatsu

Tuesday, July 23, 1940

Sister Marie de la Redemption⁽¹⁾ and Sister de l'Enfant Jesus⁽²⁾ returned this afternoon from Tokyo, where they had been taking special lessons in Christian Doctrine at the convent of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

This course, which opened on the 15th, was followed by a hundred and fifty Sisters of thirty-three different Communities established in Japan for ten, twenty, and even forty years or more; this reunion, the first of its kind in the history of the Church in Japan, will not fail to convince the pagans of the strength of the tie that unites in one faith so many different nationalities. The speakers, Reverend Father Taguchi, a Japanese priest, Private Secretary to His Excellency Monsignor Marella, Apostolic Delegate, and Reverend Father Heuvers, German Jesuit, Rector of the Catholic University of Tokyo, deeply interested their auditors by pointing out to them the means whereby they might labour efficaciously in the present critical situation of the Church in Japan.



DURING AN ALLOCUTION OF HIS EXCELLENCY
MGR. DOI, ARCHBISHOP OF TOKYO, AT A RE-
UNION OF THE DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS COM-
MUNITIES IN JAPAN.

These memorable days were brought to a close in presence of their Excellencies Msgrs. Marella, Apostolic Delegate, Doi, Archbishop of Tokyo, and Chambon, Bishop of Yokohama, who deigned grant the members of the reunion their most paternal blessing.

All the missionary Communities in Japan having been drawn closer to one another by this reunion, their united efforts for the defence of Catholicism will, we are certain, produce most favourable results.

Thursday, August 1

We had the pleasure of opening our doors to a group of forty women and girls, who wished to pass three days of recollection in our little home in the

1. Basillise MAILLET, West-Bathurst, N. B.

2. Florentine DANSEREAU, Verchères, Que.



JAPANESE LADIES AND YOUNG GIRLS WHO HAVE FOLLOWED THE CLOSED RETREAT OF 1940 AT THE CONVENT OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF WAKAMATSU. WE SEE HERE SISTER ST. ANGELE DE MERICI (MARIE JEANNE L'HEUREUX, LORETTEVILLE), SISTER DE L'ENFANT JESUS (FLORENTINE DANSEREAU, VERCHERES), SISTER ST. FRANÇOIS DE SALES (GEORGINE LATOUR, MONTREAL) AND SISTER SAINTE JUSTINE (CLEONA ROBITAILLE, GLENADA, ST. MAURICE CO.).



A EUROPEAN COOKING LESSON GIVEN TO JAPANESE LADIES BY THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

mountains, far from the noise and distraction of the world. Some of them came from quite a distance, having had to travel six or eight hours by train.

So as to give some comfort to our retreatants in spite of our meagre means and the limited space of our home, we transformed into a dormitory the second floor which comprises two large rooms. Fresh straw-mats and spacious cupboards constituted all the furnishings of these rooms.

A large verandah allows contemplative souls to let their gaze rest on the magnificent panorama of the Aizu Mountains, while a refreshing breeze drives away all feelings of weariness.

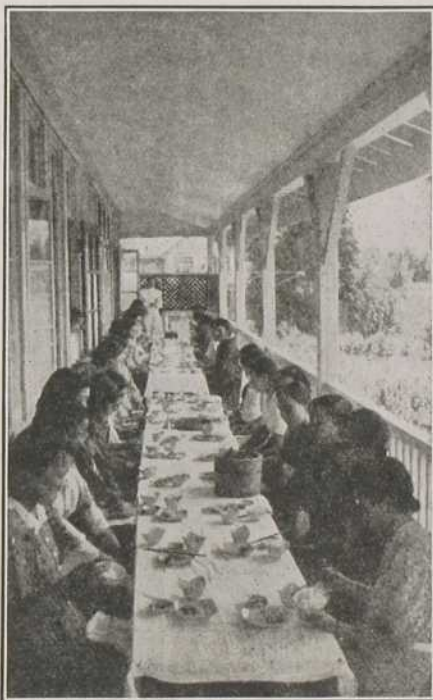
The porch which has been transformed into a refectory, is very attractive with the little chairs of our Kindergarten and the tables covered with white table-cloths. When we set them with the tiny dishes demanded by Japanese etiquette, we have the illusion of being at play as in childhood days. The retreat is to be preached by Reverend Father Sawade who, with the skill of an experienced director of souls, will lead them to the Feet of the Master, and there point out to them the lessons to be learned from His Most Sacred Heart. Besides assisting at four sermons and at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the retreatants will recite the Rosary and sing the mysteries; evening prayers will close up each day. The third part of the Rosary will be recited at the grotto of Lourdes recently erected close to the parish church. After singing the *Salve Regina*, the retreatants will be free to prolong their pious colloquies at the Grotto or in the garden, till it is time to retire.

Monday, August 5

A touching ceremony brought to a close the exercises of the retreat. At seven thirty, the retreatants bearing lighted tapers, wended their way to the grotto of Lourdes, to renew their Baptismal Promises and the Act of Consecration to the Blessed Virgin.

After having sung to their Heavenly Queen the pious strains of several hymns and of the touching *Salve Regina*, the group returned to the Convent, scattering Aves on their way. The profound darkness rendered the multi-coloured lights more brilliant, and in the silence of the night, the voices of these good women and girls rose clear and suppliant. Tears of emotion glistened in more than one eye, and we feel confident that all will keep a lasting remembrance of this beautiful evening.

Our retreatants had but one voice to express the happiness that filled their hearts after these hours of silence



THE RETREATANTS OF WAKAMATSU LISTEN TO THE SPIRITUAL READING WHILE THEY TAKE THEIR DINNER ON THE GALLERY.

and prayer. All thanked us most cordially and promised to return next year. May our Immaculate Mother keep them as fervent as they now are, and make of them all valiant apostles!



THE RETREATANTS AT CHAPEL DURING BENEDICTION
OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Before leaving for their respective homes, they went for a pleasant outing to Higashi Yama, famed for its thermal waters. One of the five retreatants from Tokyo promised as a testimony of gratitude, to send us some bread, for we can no longer buy any here. Another said she would send us sugar which is likewise very rare in Japan. A third thought she could do nothing better than give Reverend Father Sawade an offering for a Mass to be said for our intentions. These tokens of gratitude are not without touching us very deeply.



BEFORE RETURNING HOME, THE RETREATANTS PROPOSE TO GO
FOR A WALK IN THE COUNTRY.

Thursday, August 15

The feast of the Assumption will be a red-letter day in the history of

Wakamatsu Mission. His Excellency Archbishop Doi of Tokyo celebrated Holy Mass in the parish church where a vast crowd of Christians had congregated. During the ceremony six little children whom His Excellency had baptized six years ago, received Holy Communion for the first time.

After Mass, His Excellency and all the Christians gathered, as is the custom here, for a family repast. This meal taken in common possesses a savour all its own. Before doing honour to the traditional rose-coloured rice, Reverend Father Kainuma addressed a few words of welcome to our distinguished visitor, and expressed on behalf of his parishioners, the great joy his presence had brought them.

Mr. Tanaka, catechist, enumerated briefly the works His Excellency had begun while at Wakamatsu in the interests of the Mission, and the solicitude he continues to bear his former Christians. A word, as interesting as it was gracious, was then addressed by a little girl whose eyes still reflected the happiness of her First Communion.

His Excellency Archbishop Doi replied with that tone of paternal kindness which is his wont to these proofs of filial respect, and expressed the desire that the Works of the Mission become more and more flourishing. After dinner His Excellency, sitting on his heels in Japanese fashion, conversed for a long while with the Christians, who were delighted to hear him.

We admired the benevolence and touching simplicity of the revered Pastor, which make us think of the ineffable condescension of the Divine Master towards his fellow-men in ancient Palestine.

The joy of the day was also augmented by the return of a stray sheep to the fold: a poor old man who had almost died in the spring, and had refused to be reconciled with God. The fervent prayers offered up for his conversion have finally won this unfortunate person to the Faith. With effusion we thanked our Heavenly Mother for having brought him back on her feast-day.

Monday, September 2

The joyous babble of our Kindergarten pupils re-echoes once again through the class-rooms. How happy we are to see them return so full of life! A few among them are still continuing their holidays in the country, but they will soon be back with us. We have also registered several new pupils.

A good old grandmother who was bringing her little granddaughter to school for the first time, discreetly slipped into our hand a precious *yen*. "It is not meant as an alms," she explained, "nor is it intended to buy sweets for the children, but I want to give it for God!" We acquiesced to the desire of the generous giver, and we feel sure that our sweet Saviour



HIS EXCELLENCY ARCHBISHOP DOI OF TOKYO ON A VISIT AT WAKAMATSU, AND REVEREND FATHER KAINUMA, PASTOR OF THE MISSION.

will be pleased to accept the spontaneous homage of this loving soul and reward it most liberally.

Friday, September 13

Miss Sato, who is taking lessons in embroidery, confided to us her impressions as a catechumen. "The feast of Easter has been a veritable resurrection for me," she said. "The farther I advance in the study of catechism, the more I find the Catholic Religion beautiful; it is Divine and responds so well to the aspirations of the soul." After having been a fervent Protestant, this young girl will, we hope, be an exemplary and zealous Catholic. Her great ambition is to have her family share the happiness she herself has found in the true faith. We are at a loss to express our praise to God for the ineffable grace bestowed on this soul; she is a conquest of His Divine Goodness.

Monday, September 23

The entire country is celebrating the autumnal equinox. We take advantage of the holiday to work in the garden, sowing lettuce, onions, spinach and cabbage which will have grown to full maturity by spring. This method of autumnal sowing seems rather strange at first sight, but we are becoming more and more convinced of the wisdom of such a procedure. Our Japanese farmer is an old hand at gardening and he takes advantage of everything with truly admirable skill. If he is a stranger to the art of canning provisions for the winter, he certainly possesses that other art, just as precious, of having fresh vegetables in his garden all the year round.

Tuesday, October 1

The military exercises beginning to-day, our Christians were unable to assemble in the church for the recitation of the Rosary; all, however, were invited by their Pastor to recite these prayers at home. We acquitted ourselves of this duty with the greatest possible fervour, for more than ever, in these difficult times, do we feel the necessity of the powerful assistance of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary.

She it was who granted us to-day the opportunity of sowing the seed of Divine Truth in several souls. The ladies and young girls who are following lessons in European cooking were invited, before the close of the course, to visit our convent, beginning by the chapel. Our Heavenly Mother must have been rejoiced on seeing these persons, pagans for the most part, bow to her respectfully. All know her, or her name at least — *Maria Sama*.

After visiting the chapel, all proceeded to the kitchen, and from there to the second floor which is really attractive with its bright spacious rooms covered with pretty Japanese mats. Our devoted teacher then took the girls to the grotto of Lourdes, while, at her request, the mother of one of our pupils accompanied us to church. This woman has manifested the desire of studying the Holy Doctrine and we hope she will be a fervent Christian in the near future.

Thursday, October 24

Dear Sister Superior⁽¹⁾ brought happiness to our devoted woman-gardener who has been ill for some time. What a joy it is to give when the gift is accepted with gratitude similar to that of this poor woman! She did not know how to thank us for the warm clothing we brought her for the children. In her extreme poverty, she had one thing to offer — her own unstinted toil. As a testimony of gratitude, she promised to come and help us as often as possible. The Miraculous Medal that was given her was also received with much pleasure. May the Blessed Virgin prepare for her Son the way into this family yet pagan, but so favourably disposed. The mother decided to-day to send her two little daughters to Sunday-School.

Tuesday, December 3

We celebrated to-day the feast of the great Apostle of India and Japan. Ardent prayers arose from our souls in favour of the Japanese people whom St. Francis Xavier held in singular esteem and in whose welfare he undoubtedly is most interested even to this day. Our confidence in this powerful protector becomes greater when we consider the present distress and the critical situation of the Catholic Church here.

Therefore, relying on him, the great Patron of Missionaries, we venture on a new line of work: a workroom for the Christian ladies; they will first busy themselves in making church vestments for two young men of the parish who will soon be ordained; then they will make clothes for needy families. The enthusiastic response of the workers to our appeal is a precious stimulant to spare no pains for the success of the organization.

Monday, December 30

We spent part of the afternoon in visiting the poor; we are so happy to share with the unfortunate the gifts God bestows upon us through the charity of our kind friends! Along with material aid, words of comfort and encouragement were dispensed to these poor souls who do not have the consolations of the Faith to alleviate their sufferings.

The exceptionally mild weather we have had this winter is a great benefit for which, unfortunately, the poor Japanese do not think of thanking its Giver. We know full well to what extent they suffer when the cold is rigorous, for very often, their only heating system consists in a few red coals placed in earthen vases! . . .

Thursday, January 2, 1941

We paid a visit to Mrs. Mori of whose illness we had just heard. We were received by this good Christian family with great kindness and requested to do honour to the sweets presented to us, while warming our feet under the heavy comforter which covers the *brasero*.

We visited the pretty garden that surrounds the house and that has just been prepared for the rigours of the winter season. Each tree has

1. Sister SAINTE ANGELE DE MERICI (Marie-Jeanne L'Heureux, Loretteville, Que.)

been given minute care so that the abundant snowfalls may not damage the branches. A long rod, exceeding by several feet the top of each fragile and artistically trimmed pine, has been fixed to its trunk. Strings fashioned from straw have then been drawn from the end of these rods to the extremity of each branch. The snow will thus be able to gather on the branches without damaging in any way the majestic trees. Bamboo boughs placed in the shape of Indian tepees and covered with straw are protecting the cedars.

These methods calling for weeks of labour may seem ridiculous in Western countries, but in Japan where the beauty of the garden contributes largely to the happiness of a family, these methods are indispensable.

In gratitude for the visit we paid her, Mrs. Mori offered us *Mochi*, cakes made with mashed rice; these are specials for the New Year.

Monday, January 13

Last Saturday while we were gathering daisies in full bloom, we thought spring had surely come, and quite ahead of time, but to-day winter is here again! The ground is covered with two feet of snow, and the air is still teeming with myriads of white flakes. True to the Canadian spirit, we accepted the brisk transition very cheerfully. However pretty may be the January daisies, they are not so fascinating as the snowbanks, the glistening icicles hanging from the roofs, or the song of the breeze through the bare trees. Our Japanese compatriots do not sing in the same manner the charms of winter, for a warm spring breeze is more welcome in their unheated houses with paper doors and windows. But what we admire above all is their energetic endurance: young mothers bareheaded and barefooted with only a shawl to protect them from the cold, bring their little ones to school every morning.

Death Visits Canton

News from Canton has just reached us informing us that our dear Sister de la Nativité de Jésus (Cécile Paquette, St. Elzéar, Laval Co.), Superior of the Mission, was called to her eternal reward on the Feast of Our Lady of the Snow, Tuesday, August 5th.

This ardent and devoted religious had been in the Missions for two years only. She succumbed to a grievous disease at the very outset of her apostolic career. Unsearchable, but adorable are the ways of God!

There is a song that anyone can sing. It is a song the loftiness of the thoughts of which it is impossible fittingly to describe. It is a song that echoes throughout the vaults of Heaven delighting the inhabitants of the celestial regions. It is a song that is ever so dear to the heart of our Heavenly Queen. This song is the song of the Rosary. And the Eternal King loves that song too because He is Mary's Son.



EXTRACTS FROM THE NOVITIATE CHRONICLES DEDICATED TO OUR DEAR PARENTS

Thursday, May 1

All voices united to praise the Queen of Heaven whose beautiful month has returned. Yes, how welcome sweet May always is!

In order to augment the tribute of homage which the Catholic world will present to Mary during these days consecrated to her, each of us has resolved to offer her a fragrant bouquet of generous deeds every day.

Sunday, May 4

We celebrated by a merry *Deo Gratias* the feast of the Patronage of Saint Joseph. The glorious sun had concealed its brilliant rays and the weather was unsettled all day, but that mattered little, for the sun of joy radiated everywhere within the Novitiate walls.

However, if this solemnity predominated over our Monthly Recollection, we could not think of omitting the procession with which we greet each new month. Consequently, this afternoon we wended our way to the oratories where statues of our Immaculate Mother and of our patron, Saint Joseph, have been placed for the summer season. Pious litanies were sung, proclaiming the manifold titles of our august Queen.

A few impertinent raindrops did tease us a little as if to test the sincerity of our devotion, but they only served to amplify our *Magnificat* to our Heavenly Father Who dispenses heat and rain to the earth in His own good time and gives the increase where man has sown.

Tuesday, May 5

This evening all were invited to join in a weeding bee; it was the first convocation of its kind this season, but we know in advance that similar invitations will be many a time on the program throughout the summer months. A catching enthusiasm seized the band of pillagers who declared a merciless war against the enemies of field and garden. Sisters inexperienced in horticulture were informed that the very roots of the weeds had to be pulled out, or else the cockle would reappear among the grain. This process is not without a certain symbolism. "It is in like manner that we must eradicate the injurious plants that seek to get a firm hold in our souls," spoke Mother Mistress, in imitation of Our Lord Who gathered His parables from nature. After having had to summon aid to root out a very stubborn weed, "that one certainly represents pride," she continued, "it is a defect more difficult to extirpate than all the others. But let us

call Mary to our aid in this arduous task of our sanctification, for with her assistance victory is ours."

Sunday, May 11

Our sanctuary is beautifully decorated with flowers and lamps of Marian colours to welcome two First Communicants, a little girl and her brother.



IN THE GROVE ON A RETREAT DAY.

At the beginning of Mass an appropriate hymn, " 'Tis the Great Day " was sung by the choir. In another hymn immediately before Communion we begged Mary to come and adore Jesus in their pure hearts and share their happiness. Yes, what joy must fill these little souls receiving for the first time the embrace of the God of Love Who has said, "Suffer little children to come unto Me!" Great also was the joy of their beloved parents, brothers and sisters present at the ceremony. After Communion the hymn "Be Faithful" invited the privileged children to imitate the Blessed Virgin, assuring them of her maternal love and protection.

In the evening after the renewal of Baptismal Promises, the First Communicants advanced to the altar of the Blessed Virgin, where they recited an Act of Consecration; then the little girl deposited her wreath of flowers, and the boy his white lily --- touching symbols of their souls on this blessed day. This short ceremony, so impressive despite its simplicity, recalled to us the great Promises which every Christian has made and should often renew during life.

We wish we were able to go the world over and gather all these white flowerets, the delight of the Heart of Jesus, and bring them to Him for His joy and consolation.

More than once, our hearts and thoughts took a homeward trend to-day, for it was that incomparable feast — Mother's Day. What a blessed inspiration it was that prompted filial love to choose at least one day in the year to honour in a special manner our dear mothers!

Our first homage was for the Queen of mothers, the Immaculate Mother of God. After having presented her our wishes and praises, we begged this gracious Queen to gather sheaves of flowers from the Celestial gardens for our dear mothers at home as well as for the mothers we have found in Religion; we entreated her to assure the former that, if we have left them to serve God more perfectly, our affection has not diminished, but grows stronger day by day.

During evening recreation, a beautiful play was executed by a group of novices; its title, *Memorare*, was a pious invitation to "remember" our Mother in Heaven, whose favours exceed our finite understanding, to "remember" the mothers we have found in this peaceful haven, and to "remember" our own beloved mother whose very name evokes the sweetest and best of memories. A song appropriate to the occasion brought the pleasant evening to a close.

Thursday, May 22, Ascension Day

With the Catholic Church we sang the glory of the Ascension of Christ into Heaven. This mystery raised our thoughts and hearts on high, and our souls were filled with hope as we remembered the Divine promises: "I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am, you also may be" (John, XIV, 2-3). What a consoling assurance is here given us and how stimulating it is!

We spent evening recreation in the grove where, as philosophers in quest of truth, we listened avidly to counsels our venerable Mother Foundress had formerly given to her daughters, and which Mother Mistress read to us. May they be deeply engraved in our hearts and make us progress in the acquisition of the true spirit of our vocation!

Sunday, June 1

For the Apostles of our Lord, the first Pentecost was the climax of their preparation for the mission they had to fulfill; for us, Missionaries, Pentecost must not be a commemoration only, but another descent of the Holy Ghost with the superabundance of His Gifts and graces. It was animated with this desire that we prepared for the solemnity by a fervent Novena, of which the last three days were entirely consecrated to silence and retreat.

Pentecost being also the patronal feast of our venerable Mother Foundress, it was the appropriate day to send her the expression of our gratitude and our wishes, and to rejoice with our dear Sisters at the Mother House. If we had not the privilege of assisting at that intimate reunion, we certainly were present in spirit; a group of professed Sisters were there to interpret our filial wishes. In union with them we besought our Lady of the Holy Ghost to fecundate the many obscure sacrifices which our dear Mother makes on her bed of suffering.

Tuesday, June 3

This date is the first in our Institute to have been marked with the seal of gratitude, for it recalls the memorable day on which our venerable Mother Foundress laid down the foundation of our Community, thirty-nine years ago.

When we consider the marvelous development of our comparatively young Institute, the visible assistance which Divine Providence has bestowed upon it, and the good it has been able to accomplish, we see that it is a duty for us to send up to God an incessant hymn of gratitude for His bounteous blessings.

A joyful *Deo Gratias* helped to fitly celebrate this beautiful anniversary. Our Mothers and elder Sisters had a pleasant surprise in store for us: the evening meal was to be taken in the open, under the maternal vigilance of the Queen of our Oratory, our hearts attuned to Nature's orchestra: the murmur of the waves and the warbling of the little birds.

Sunday, June 15

News from Hong Kong, announcing the death of dear Sister Marie de Loyola⁽¹⁾, reached the Mother House yesterday. As we were immediately informed, we at once offered for her the suffrages requested by our Rule. How we are eager to learn the details of the last moments of this valiant Missionary! But we will have to wait patiently for several weeks may elapse before they reach us; China is so far away!...

Even if we have not had the happiness of being acquainted with the dear departed one, we know that the greater part of her thirty-two years of Religious life has been spent in active apostolate in mission lands; we know also that hundreds of unfortunate little waifs have obtained through her kind ministrations, their passport for a Happier Home. How confident one must be on returning to God with such a beautiful sheaf of souls, and how glad one must be of having responded to the Divine invitation!

The welcome which, we trust, Jesus has given His Spouse and Apostle, alleviates the sadness occasioned by her sudden departure.

Tuesday, June 24

We greeted our National feast with more piety and enthusiasm than we did before our entry, precisely because we shall one day be called to leave our beloved country to go and work for God and souls in pagan lands; but, for all that, our homeland will not be less dear to our Canadian hearts.

High Mass was sung in the morning; the sanctuary decorations, where predominated the maple leaf, praised in their own way with us the God Who has created our fair Canada, and Who ever remains its merciful Providence. Suppliant strains were also addressed to the holy Precursor, the Patron of our nation. May his intercession preserve us from the distress and misery which reign in so many countries, and obtain to all French-Canadians peace and happiness, and an increase of charity.

1. Orphise BOULAY, Coaticook.

Sunday, June 29

His Excellency Bishop Prud'homme deigned to enhance the solemnity of the feast of St. John the Baptist, by singing High Mass in our chapel this morning.

A musical entertainment was given in the evening by the professed Sisters and several novices; the program opened by the fifth symphony of Beethoven; then pious accents and sacred melodies alternated with pieces of piano or violin.

For a moment we could have thought ourselves in the Heavenly courts; at least, these harmonious strains had the secret of raising thither our thoughts and hearts. The recreative program was closed by the singing of "O Canada" and the *Magnificat*.

Wednesday, July 2

The three months which the Blessed Virgin passed with her cousin Elizabeth were for the latter a source of blessings and graces, as well as of ineffable happiness.

When we stop to consider what a great privilege it is to be Mary's children and to dwell in a convent especially dedicated to her, we feel ourselves as fortunate as Saint Elizabeth. Persuaded it would not be amiss to exteriorize our joy on this feast, we greeted with enthusiasm the *Deo Gratias* which was granted us for the whole day, and moreover, we took our supper out in the open.

Provided with all that was necessary to appease a whole army of young appetites we set out for the fresh shady haunts; it took a few minutes to settle down, but soon we were ready to enjoy the fresh and tasty sandwiches. Need we say that they went down like honey? We regaled our minds and hearts with sublime pages written on the glorious prerogatives of our Immaculate Mother, while the birds filled the air with their gracious melodies.

We then said grace after meals and re-echoed our gratitude by a fervent *Magnificat* which found in our souls deeper accents, for this feast commemorates the origin of the beautiful hymn of thanksgiving.

Friday, July 4

Benedicite sacerdotes Domini Domino! Such was our hymn of gratitude to-day. Reverend Father L.-P. Laurin, of the White Fathers, brother of a novice, did us the honour of coming to celebrate one of his first Masses in our chapel.

To the hymns of gratitude, we added humble supplications in favour of the newly ordained priest, imploring for him the plenitude of graces God reserves for His minister; we prayed for his family also, asking joy and blessings proportionate to their generous sacrifices.

After Mass, Reverend Father Laurin said a few words to the Community, gave his blessing, and — this is not the least — a beautiful Missionary holiday.

Along with our happy Sister, we asked the Queen of Missionaries to grant to this valiant apostle soon to leave for Africa, a fruitful apostolate and her constant protection.



The Children's Page

DEAR CHILDREN,

Vacation days have already fled, and with them the beautiful sights, perfumes, songs and smiles of summer have disappeared; the merry strolls in woods and fields, the long hours of good, healthy fun or of sweet relaxation are over. Your actions, both good and bad, have been borne into Eternity, leaving you the certainty of a reward for the first and of a punishment for the last. Now you are returning to another year of work and study.

PHYSICAL AND INTELLECTUAL WORK

Everything on earth has to pay tribute to the great law of labour. Look at nature: each day the sky varies its tints, the ocean moves its deep waters, the earth produces more wealth. And the animals... do they work! The ant runs here and there, carrying heavy burdens with which to build itself a home; the bee is busy gathering honey from the flowers; the bird has to fashion a nest for its little ones, and besides, it has to get them food; the squirrel gathers an ample provision of nuts that will last him through the long days of cold and snow.

Man also must work, God has even commanded him to do so, when He said to Adam: "Cursed is the earth in thy work; with labour and toil shalt thou eat thereof all the days of thy life" (Gen. 3-19). From their very first years, children must therefore be trained to work, physically as well as intellectually. So that is why schools are opening again after the summer holidays; they are as so many hives in



Look at nature...

full activity, towards which you boys and girls have swarmed like industrious bees.

The first days of school have undoubtedly seemed long and wearisome; you have perhaps regretted that your pleasant holidays had so quickly slipped away. If this is the case, you must endeavour to master these sentiments of discouragement, and by a sheer effort of the will, face your duty bravely, remembering these words of Our Lord "No man putting his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9-62).

Since God wills that you should go to school, He desires you to put all your heart in your studies; that is what He expects of you at the present moment. Therefore, go to your duty with ardour and seriousness. Ardour supposes a generous effort of the will, and seriousness, the care to direct this effort in the most profitable manner. Seriousness also supposes reflection, and reflection calls for silence; that is why silence is requested in class. A child who does not govern his tongue and observe silence when he is expected to do so, is said to be giddy. This child will never do anything great.

You know the old saying, "Speech is silver, silence is gold." The ancient philosophers held silence in so great esteem that their Academy in Athens was called the "Silent Academy", for silence was scrupulously observed there. It is in silence and quiet that high resolves, grand and holy ambitions, fervent aspirations and beautiful thoughts spring up in the heart and that moral energies are renewed. It is amid the silence of creatures, especially, that the Holy Ghost speaks to the soul and only then does the soul hear His voice. More than ever the world seems to need silence, for less and less does it think within itself.

THINKING IN ONE'S HEART

Do you know what that means? It means to retire into ourselves and examine our conduct and to regulate it wisely, in accordance with the laws of God, of our conscience and of sound reason. They alone are truly wise who thus "think within their heart."

Do you desire to rank all through your life with the small number of the wise? If you do, then take the habit of "thinking in your heart" at least once a day, preferably during evening prayers, when all about you is calm and quiet. You will recollect how you have accomplished the day's duties, if you have done your actions only to please God, if you have been faithful to grace when it cost you a little sacrifice, if you have obeyed your parents and teachers in everything, if you have loved your neighbour as yourself, doing to him as you would have him do to you. If you have been remiss see how you can make up for your shortcomings, and resolve to do better the next day. Remember, however, that if you want these moments of reflection to be fruitful, it is of primal importance that you begin by invoking the Holy Ghost and the Blessed Virgin by short aspirations such as, "Come Holy Ghost, fill my heart," and "Mother dear, enlighten

me, strengthen me, guide me," or by other like prayers. I know of someone else who would be only too glad to help you in these moments of reflection, he is . . .

YOUR GUARDIAN ANGEL

God has placed near each one of us a Prince of His Court to guard us and help us to lead a holy life. At our birth, this Angel hastened to our cradle, watched over our first steps and since then has never left us, for God wants him to be our inseparable companion and steadfast friend. Only when we are in Heaven shall we know from how many dangers this kind Angel has shielded us — dangers of body as well as of soul. Burning with zeal for the glory of God and our sanctification, he suggests us good thoughts and incites us to accomplish acts of virtue, reminds us of our duty, especially when the devil tempts us to do something that would displease God. Our good actions rejoice our Guardian Angel but, on the other hand, our naughtiness grieves him. He presents our prayers to God, and intercedes for us whenever we ask him.



He watched over your first steps . . .

Dear Guardian Angel of my soul,
What comfort 'tis to know
That you shall be my faithful friend
In pleasure and in woe!

Sweet spirit of God's chosen Court,
And keeper of my days,
Direct my wayward steps aright,
Guide me in all my ways.

When luring voices beckon me
And strength is ebbing low,
Defend me, brother of my soul,
And crush the dreaded foe.

Just grant that to the call of grace
Responsive I may be;
Suggest good acts and noble thoughts,
Your wisdom lend to me.

Lead me along the path of life,
Shield me from every harm,
Preserve my faith, my love, my hope,
Of virtue teach the charm.

Dear Guardian Angel of my soul,
Above the azure skies
Grant that in everlasting bliss
I share your Paradise!

As I bid you good-bye, my dear Children, I beg your Guardian Angels to watch closely over you and to make of every one of you good Christian boys and girls so that hereafter you may share with them the eternal felicity of Paradise.

Your Great Friend,

THE PRECURSOR.

Thanksgivings to the Blessed Virgin

for favours obtained



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

BL. HENRY SUZO.

Thanksgiving for favour received. Mrs. O. D., **Montreal** — I have obtained a very great favour. My most heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. A. G. M., **McKague, Sask.** — I am feeling much better, I have found a doctor who is helping me and doing me good. Please keep on praying for a perfect recovery. Mrs. A. D., **Jackman, Me.** — I am much better in my health! S. K. — Heartfelt thanks to Mary! My son has found a position. Please pray, that my brother may return to us and that my husband may have better health. Mrs. G. C., **Brunswick, Me.** — My health has greatly improved and I would like you to make another novena so that it might continue. My husband is having a great deal of trouble with his knee, please pray that his condition may improve, as it does interfere with his work. Mrs. R. D., **Millbury, Mass.** — Thanksgiving for favours received. Kindly pray to the Blessed Virgin that she may give me opportunity of working. One who has faith in Mary. **Dundee, Que.** — Thanksgiving for a favour obtained. Mrs. H. J. M. — Lively gratitude for a favour received. Please pray that I may obtain the favour of which I stand in need. One who has faith in St. Teresa. Miss J. P., **Anthony, R. I.** — My heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin for a favour obtained. Mrs. A. B., **Pittsfield, Mass.** — Kindly publish my thanksgiving to Mary for a cure obtained, and please continue praying for another intention of mine. Mrs. W. L. Ryan, **Worcester, Mass.** — Would you please publish in THE PRECURSOR, thanksgiving for a cure obtained through Blessed Margaret, Virgin Martyr. We do feel thankful to her. Miss Catherine A. Moodie, **Aubrey, Que.** — Lively gratitude towards the Blessed Virgin for a favour obtained. A lady on St. Urbain Street, **Montreal.** — Thanksgiving for success in studies. Mrs. Ed. B., **Montreal.** — Thanksgiving for the success of a lawsuit. Mrs. J. A. G., **Montreal.** — Heartfelt thanks for a favour obtained. A Friend, **Ste. Dorothée.** — Homage of gratitude to the Blessed Virgin for a favour received. Mrs. Joseph Morel, **Viauville.** — Thanksgiving to Our Heavenly Mother for a grace obtained. Mrs. C. F. — Heartfelt thanks for a great favour obtained through the intercession of Mary Immaculate. Mrs. H. P., **Montreal.** — My husband has not been obliged to undergo the operation deemed necessary after his acute attack of appendicitis. Most heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin! Mrs. O. G., **Hochelaga.** — Thanksgiving for a favour obtained. Mrs. J. M., **Ste. Agathe des Monts.** — I am pleased to acquit myself of a promise in thanksgiving for a favour received. A Friend. — Sincere thanks for the cure of my little girl's leg. Anonymous, **Rapide l'Orignal.** — Thanksgiving for a cure obtained. Mrs. G. G., **St. Alban.** — Lively gratitude towards Our Heavenly Mother for a grace obtained through her intercession. A Subscriber, **Montreal.** — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a cure obtained. Mrs. O. Robert, **Long Point.** — I thank Our Lady for the great favour she has just obtained for me and I solicit her constant protection. M. D. — Heartfelt thanks to our Heavenly Mother for the success of an operation and recovery of health. A Subscriber, **Taschereau, Abitibi.** — Kindly help me to thank the Blessed Virgin for a grace received through her intercession. Mrs. J. C., **Montreal.** — Thanksgiving for the success of an operation. Mrs. R. B., **Montreal.** — I wish to express my lively gratitude towards Mary Immaculate for the cure of my children. Mrs. A. Perrier, **Domaine Esterel, Quebec.** — Thanksgiving for a favour obtained. Mrs. M. G., **Montmagny.** — Sincere thanks for the sale of a property. Mrs. D. R., **Montreal.** — Lively gratitude to our Heavenly Mother for a position obtained. Mrs. T. Panneton, **Hochelaga.** — Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Perpetual Help for a favour obtained. L. M., **Montreal.** — My son has obtained a position. I sincerely thank Our Heavenly Mother. Mrs. A. G., **Montreal.** — Lively gratitude towards the Immaculate Virgin for a change of position. R. L., **Fall River, Mass.** — I obtained the favour I was requesting. A thousand thanks! Mrs. H. R., **Brownsburg.** — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a grace received! Miss C. D., **Tecumseh, Ont.** — Homage of gratitude for a cure obtained. A Subscriber to THE PRECURSOR. — Thanksgiving for a favour obtained. Mrs. I. G. — I thank the Blessed Virgin for a grace received through her intercession. Mrs. R. M., **Ste. Dorothée.** — A thousand thanks for a favour obtained! Mrs. Q. D., **St. Jean de Dieu.** — I am coming to thank the Blessed Virgin for a favour obtained. Mr. D. Legreley, **Newton Falls, N. Y.** — Heartfelt thanks for a grace received! Miss B. Lavergne, **Grand'Mère.** — I made a promise in honour of the Immaculate Conception to obtain work. I am pleased to acquit myself of it since my request has been granted. A. T. — Thanksgiving for a favour obtained; I request other graces. Mrs. R. B., **Verdun.** — We thank the Blessed Virgin for her protection and we beg her to continue assisting us. Mrs. A. S., **Charny.** — Homage of gratitude for a favour received. I implore Our Lady's

protection for my son who is in the army. Mrs. P. R., **Lacolle**. — I am acquitting myself of a promise in thanksgiving for a favour received. Mrs. A. C., **Montreal**. — The Blessed Virgin has answered my prayers; I am therefore pleased to fulfil my promise. Mrs. H. B., **Timmins, Ont.** — Thanksgiving to the Immaculate Conception for a favour obtained. Mrs. B. L., **Verdun**. — I thank the Blessed Virgin for a favour received through her intercession and I request her help for my husband who drinks. Anonymous. — Thanksgiving for a grace obtained. Mrs. P. L., **Casselman, Ont.** — I sincerely thank the Blessed Virgin for having granted my son the grace of a position. Mrs. E. P., **Montreal**. — I have obtained the cure of my grandson. I am happy to publish my gratitude towards the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. A. J., **Providence, R. I.** — Thanksgiving for a favour obtained. I request the protection of the Blessed Virgin over my numerous family. Anonymous. — Gratitude for a favour obtained. Mrs. J. B., **Bristol, Conn.** — Lively gratitude to the Sacred Heart for a cure obtained. Anonymous, **Beloeil Station**. — Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and good St. Ann for the success of an operation. Miss E. L., **Windsor, Ont.** — Most lively gratitude towards the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph for a cure obtained. J. A. L. — Thanksgiving for a favour obtained through the intercession of Gérard Raymond. Mrs. C. C., **Arvida**.

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

Petitions

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

Will you kindly pray for my mother's health in order that she may be able to care for my father who has been seriously ill in bed for over a year. Miss C. McD., **Greenfield, Ont.** — Would you please make a Novena in honour of the Blessed Virgin for me. Kindly pray for my mother also, who is ill. A Subscriber, **Lowell, Mass.** — Will you make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin, that I may obtain a special favour in my work soon. E. A. — May I ask the prayers of all the Community and a Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal for a special grace. Miss M. M. A. O'R., **St. Sauveur des Monts, Que.** — Will you kindly pray for a friend who is in danger of losing his position, that he may be able to keep it. Also that he may have better health and for his conversion. I have a very special favour to ask for myself, and would like you to pray for my health and success in business. Mrs. O. D., **Montreal**. — Please pray for me. Mrs. P. G., **Arnprior, Ont.** — Would you please have a Novena started for me to Our Blessed Mother, that my sister will get to like her work and that her throat may be better. Please pray for health for all my family and that I may find some way or means to pay off long standing bills. Mrs. K. G., **Montreal**. — Will you please pray for me, I should say make a Novena for me as I am out of work and would like very much to find a position as I need one very badly. Miss M. G., **Windsor, Ont.** — I would like you to pray for a very special favour. Mrs. F. B., **Rumford, Me.** — Please remember me in your prayers, that I may obtain health if it is God's will. Mrs. M. A. H., **Springfield, Mass.** — Kindly remember all my intentions at the foot of the altar of our Lady. M. R., **Arnprior**. — Please pray to the Blessed Virgin for my son. Mrs. A. D., **Stony Point, Ont.** — I am in poor health, please pray to Our Blessed Mother for me. Mrs. C. A., **Merlin, Ont.** — Please pray for my little son and myself, that we may have better health. Mrs. J. R., **Barry's Bay, Ont.** — Kindly remember me in your prayers. Mrs. J. S., **Tecumseh, Ont.** — Please pray that I may recover my health without another operation, that my brother may be restored to health, that we may get a good home near the church and for the sale of a property. Please ask Our Lady of Perpetual Help to intercede for us. Miss A. B. — Please pray, that my husband may have faith and courage and ask Our Blessed Lady for the conversion of my son and two sisters. A Subscriber, **Bristol, Conn.** — I need your prayers for I can hardly see with my right eye. Mrs. P. V., **Montreal**. — Kindly pray for me, that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin I may obtain a special favour. B. R. G., **Barnaby River, N. B.** — Would you please say a few prayers for my husband that his elbow may get well. I too would appreciate a few prayers if possible as my health is not perfect yet. Mrs. E. C., **Detroit, Mich.** — Please make a novena to Our Blessed Lady that my health may be restored and for another special intention. Mrs. H. R., **Noranda, Que.** — Kindly burn candles at the feet of the Virgin Mary and make a Novena that my hearing may be restored to me and that my knees and face may be better. Mrs. J. C. C., **Leeds Junction, Me.** — I am coming to ask the help of your prayers as I have been sick since last November. Mrs. A. DeB., **Jackman, Me.** —

Kindly remember my dear mother in your prayers, also pray for my other intentions especially for a friend who is growing blind. Miss G. A. C., **Lewiston, Me.** — Kindly pray for my intentions and for my husband's health which has not been very good lately. Mrs. J. B. D., **North Malden, Ont.** — Will you please pray for my son who is very ill in the hospital. Mrs. F. D., **Windsor, Ont.** — Will you please pray for all my intentions. Mrs. M. M., **Maisonneuve.** — Kindly make a novena to our Blessed Mother for my very special intentions. Mrs. C. C., **Goderich, Ont.** — I have been suffering with rheumatism since last December and have not been able to do any work at all. I recommend myself to your prayers, hoping the Blessed Virgin will grant me my favour. Mrs. J. P., **Loretteville, Que.** — Please pray that my health may improve and that my husband may be permitted to continue his work. Mrs. R. D., **Millbury, Mass.** — Please pray that our family be blessed with good health and that we have success in our new business. Mr. and Mrs. F. C., **Caribou, Me.** — Kindly pray, that my sister's operation may be a success. Mrs. A. L., **Millbury, Mass.** — I would like you to make a Novena for me, that I may regain my health. Will you also pray for my son that Our dear Lord may watch over and protect him. Mrs. L. DeB., **Blenheim, Ont.** — Will you kindly remember me in your prayers for a special intention. Miss M. V. — I trust you will pray for me, that I may obtain a good position soon. Miss M. T., **Montreal.** — Will you please make a novena that I may obtain a cure and also that my eczema which I have had for years may disappear. Please pray for my intentions in general. A Subscriber. — Please say a little prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary for a boy, that he will pass his exams and for good health. E. J. H., **Linwood, Ont.** — Please remember me in your prayers. A Subscriber to THE PRECURSOR. — Please pray for a special intention. Miss J. P., **Anthony, R. I.** — Would you kindly make a special Novena to St. Teresa for my intentions. A Friend, **Alexandria, Ont.** — We would like you to pray to St. Teresa with us for the recovery of our father. Mr. and Mrs. C. L., **Southbridge, Mass.** — Kindly pray to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for my intentions. M. B. T., **Schenectady, N. Y.** — Kindly pray to the "Little Flower of Jesus" for me and my little children. Mrs. A. Y., **Crystal Falls, Ont.** — I would like you to make a novena and burn a few candles to the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin Mary for good health for me and my aged mother, that we may sell our farm and also for another special favour. Mrs. E. V., **Linwood, 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

Very Reverend Father Michel Roberge, C. S. V., **Joliette**; Reverend Father J. J. M. Tremblay, **Everett, Mass.**; Mrs. Ferdinand Lamy, **Three Rivers**, mother of our Sister Marie de la Foi; Mrs. Phydime Laganière, **Grondines**, mother of our Sister Marie de Toutes Graces; Mr. Pierre Goulet, **St. Gervais**, father of our Sister St. Sébastien; Mrs. Jean-Baptiste Laforest, **St. Arsene de Temiscouata**, step-mother of our Sister Madeleine de Jesus; Mrs. Paul Charpentier, **Drummondville**, mother of our Sister St. Paul de Damas, novice; Mr. Alphy Blais, **Thetford Mines**, brother of our Sister du St. Nom de Marie; Mrs. William Dutremblay, **Giffard**, grandmother of our Sister Coulombe, postulant; Mrs. Henry Kallman, **Bridgeport, Conn.**; Mr. J. B. Higgins, **Montreal**; Mr. Walter Norris, **Derby Line, Vt.**; Mr. William Mullavey, **Newport, Vt.**; Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Oakes, **Jewett City, Conn.**; Mr. William Oakes, **Jewett City, Conn.**; Mrs. Gracia Ledoux, **Dunham, Que.**; Mr. Frank Laurin, **Pittsfield, Mass.**; Mr. Henry Foster, **Montreal**; Mr. Joseph Davis, **Montreal**; Mrs. P. Meloche, **Montreal**; Mrs. Joseph Larose, **Montreal**; Mr. Adrien Snyder, **Hochelaga**; Mrs. George Snyder, **Hochelaga**; Mrs. David Boucher, **Salem, Mass.**; Mrs. John Barrette, **Ottawa**; Mr. Patrick Britt, **Maniwaki**; Mr. Hiram Kelly, **Grand Remous.**

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of the

Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

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

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

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

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

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

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

Privileges Granted to Benefactors

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

Besides, Benefactors are entitled to the following spiritual advantages:

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. — Two Masses are celebrated every week in the chapel of the Novitiate of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception for the intentions of the Subscribers to THE PRECURSOR and all their Benefactors, living and deceased.