

No. 10

Vol. XVI, 26th Year

Montreal, July - August 1948

THE RECURSOR



The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

CANADA

MOTHERHOUSE,
2900 St. Catherine Road,
Cote des Neiges, Montreal 26, P. Q.
(Founded in 1902)

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood.
Mission procure. Workroom for making
church vestments, embroidery, lace and
hand-painted items for the support of the
Motherhouse and Novitiate. Chinese catechist
training school. Sewing circles. Publica-
tion of a mission magazine, *The Precursor*.
Free missionary library.

NOVITIATE, Pont Viau, Montreal 9

OUTREMONT, Montreal 8, P. Q.

314 St. Catherine Road
Closed Retreats for ladies and misses.
Sewing circle. Kindergarten.

**CHINESE HOSPITAL
and DISPENSARY,**
112 Lagauchetiere West, Montreal 1
(Founded in 1918)

Religious instruction for Chinese.
The Sisters also visit Chinese patients
in Catholic or Protestant hospitals when
requested to do so.

NOMININGUE, P. Q. (Bethany)
(Founded in 1914)

Closed Retreats for ladies and misses.
Promotion of the Holy Childhood Work.

RIMOUSKI, St. Germain St.
(Founded in 1918)

Apostolic School for prospective mis-
sionaries. Diocesan Office of the Holy
Childhood. Workroom for making church
vestments. Mission workroom. Kinder-
garten. Private lessons in French, English,
music and painting.

JOLIETTE, 750 St. Louis St.
(Founded in 1919)

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood.
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Closed
Retreats for ladies and misses. Workroom
for making church vestments. Mission
workroom.

QUEBEC, 651 St. Cyrille St.
(Founded in 1919)

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

Recollection Days. Mission workroom.
Private lessons in painting. The Sisters also
visit Chinese patients in hospitals and in
their homes.

Religious instruction for Chinese children
and adults.

VANCOUVER, 236 Campbell St.
(Founded in 1921)

Oriental hospital. Chinese refuge and
dispensary. Private lessons in languages
and catechism for Chinese children and
adults. Home visits to Chinese.

THREE RIVERS, 466 Bonaventure St.
(Founded in 1926)

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood.
Mission workroom. Kindergarten.

GRANBY, 35 Dufferin St.
(Founded in 1930)

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood.
Closed Retreats for ladies and misses.
Hostel for girls. Mission workroom. School.
Kindergarten.

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

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood.
Closed Retreats for ladies and misses.
Mission workroom. Hostel for girls.

GRANBY, 279 Main St.
(Founded in 1931)

The Immaculate Conception Hostel for
girls. Kindergarten.

ST. MARIE, Beauce Co.
(Founded in 1932)

Closed Retreats for ladies and misses.

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

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

VANCOUVER, Mt. St. Joseph's Hospital,
3080 Prince Edward St.
(Founded in 1946)

(CONTINUED ON THIRD PAGE OF COVER)

The Precursor

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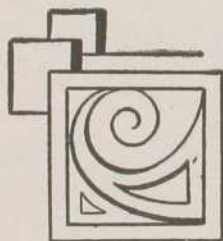
COVER PICTURE: *Tak Sin and Kai Tai, of the Canton Orphanage, Are Taking Things Seriously . . .*

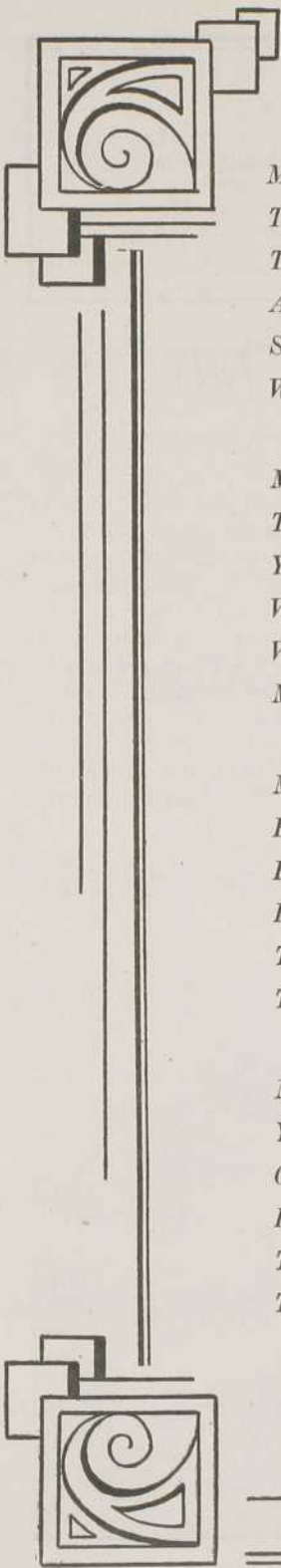


Mother of Mary

*Mother of Mary! Hymns of praise
We mortals sing on festal days
Will ne'er surpass this grace of God :
You guided one in splendor shod,
One little soul by sin unstained
To love and fear its God you trained.*

*Mother of Mary! 'Tis July
And blossoms blush, and mirth is high ;
The fairest, fondest after May,
Is Mary's Mother's month, we say,
We weave our garlands, waft our prayers
To Realms above, to one who cares.*





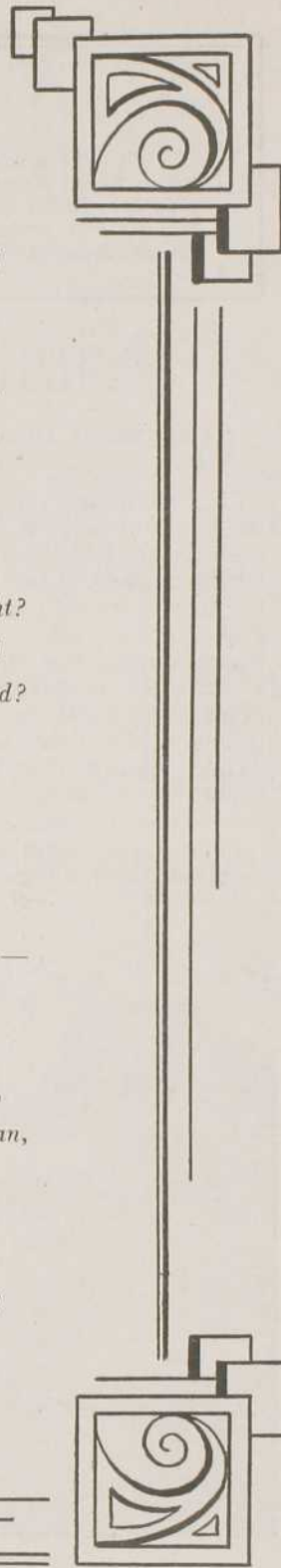
*Mother of Mary! Paradise,
The Angel hosts in loving wise,
The Saints of God in pomp arrayed
Are honoring the one who played
So great a role Redemption's time,
Who mothered once a Queen sublime.*

*Mother of Mary! Did you know
That simple soul of spotless snow
You guided once in paths aright
Would give to us the Life and Light?
Would tabernacle th' Incarnate Word
Made Flesh for us, Our Savior Lord?*

*Mother of Mary, hear our plea,
Exiles of earth for all we be.
Remember how we struggle oft,
Remind our hearts to raise aloft
Their gaze to where all bounties spring —
To count on Christ for everything.*

*Mother of Mary, Good Saint Anne,
You have your place in Heaven's plan,
Oh, help us conquer for the King!
From pole to pole may nations sing
The endless, deathless "Glory be"
To Heaven's Hallowed Holy Three!*

THE PRECURSOR



Congratulations

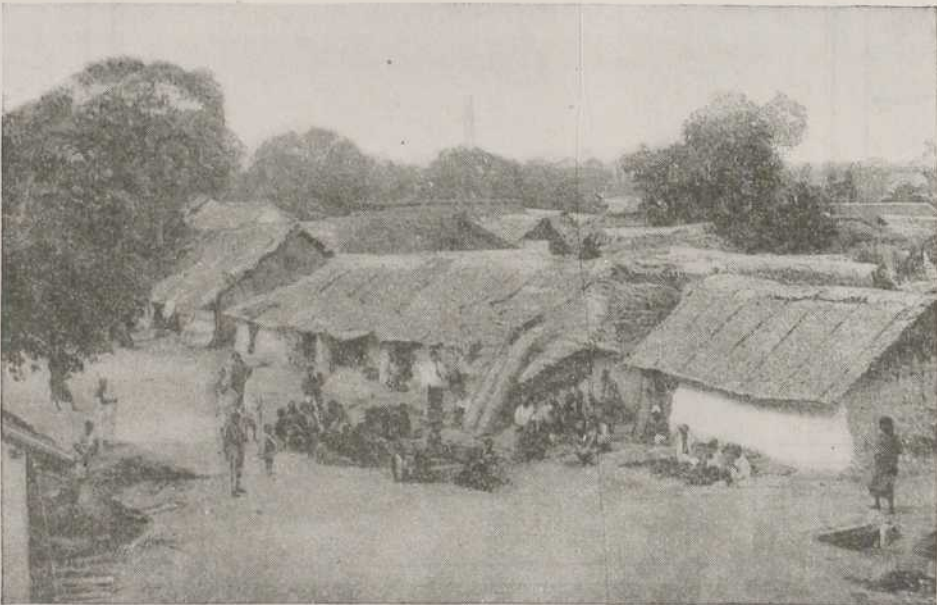
The Precursor is happy to offer its respectful congratulations and best wishes to His Excellency Most Rev. C. O. Garant, recently appointed by the Holy See, Titular Bishop of Zorolus and Auxiliary to His Excellency Most Rev. Maurice Roy, Archbishop of Quebec. May the episcopal career of the newly elected Prelate of Holy Church be fruitful and long!

Mission Intention for July

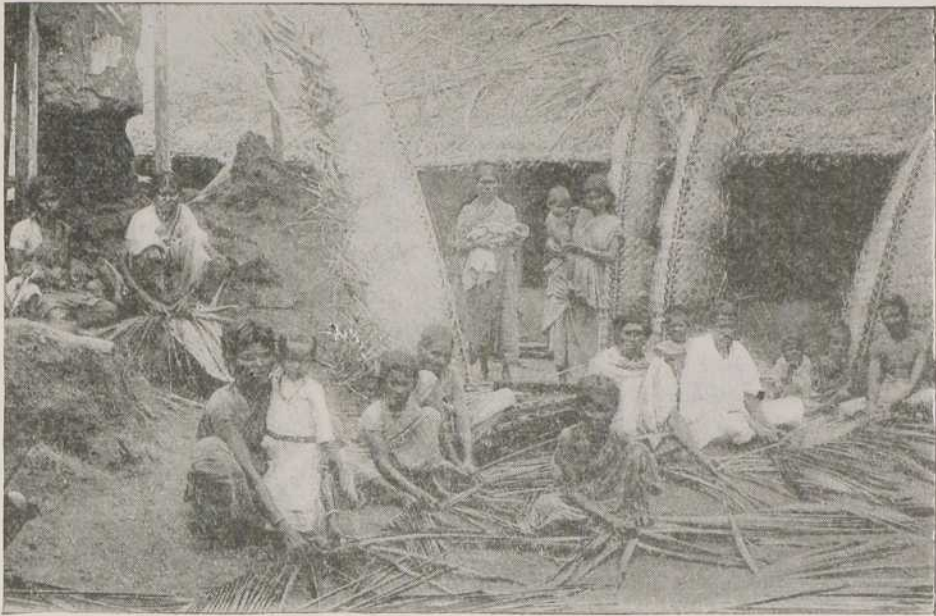
"That Social Questions in India May Be Solved in Accordance With Christian Principles"

Unless one is aware how closely religion is interwoven into the social lives of the people of India he may fail to understand the concern of the Holy See as expressed in the July Mission Intention. For this reason let us consider the explanation of Hinduism given in the Academia Mission Study prepared for The Society for the Propagation of the Faith for use in the major seminaries of the United States by Rev. Joseph J. Tennant and Mr. Stephen W. Johnson. According to their definition it constitutes "that traditional Indian way of life for every stratum of Indian society in all its ramifications — religious, social, economic and personal — which in practice is tacitly accepted by the Brahmin class and is practised by the people because of the Brahmin approval. Again, Mr. John S. O'Connor informs us that "Hindu society, whatever the shade of its belief, is stratified horizontally into hundreds and indeed thousands of castes and sub-castes, which cannot intermarry or even dine with one another."

This is truly a strange state of affairs to the western mind and yet this religious-social question has been of supreme concern for the Hindus for thousands of years.



A VILLAGE OF COIMBATORE, INDIA



WEAVING STRAW MATS, KUMBAKONAM, INDIA

Even the venerated Gandhi, now vested with the garments of sainthood, not only by his Indian followers but by many Occidentals as well, while pleading the cause of the untouchables, still adhered firmly to the tenets of Hinduism and considered it a great "sin" for one of his followers to embrace any other religion. He might institute movements to alleviate the condition of the pariahs but for them he believed "once a Hindu, always a Hindu," otherwise they were no longer loyal sons of India.

While there may be considerable newspaper controversy on the matter of subsidized educational and transportation facilities being extended to Catholic institutions of learning here in America, the average citizen, whether he admits it or not, is deeply cognizant of the absolute severance between church and state in these United States. For such citizens the conditions in India are inexplicable. In the latter country, however, the religious social question extends deep down into the lives of the humblest street sweeper as well as the richest potentate. The former may cause irreparable spiritual harm to a high caste Brahmin who would drink of the water from a well polluted by the lips of an untouchable; even the latter's shadow may lessen the possibilities of one of a higher caste to the right of entrance into a more elevated existence in his next reincarnation. Thus we are made to realize that every act, however trivial, is influenced by the rules of Hinduism.

Christianity, on the other hand, with its doctrines of the brotherhood of man through the Fatherhood of God, would constitute the answer to many of the problems which confront the people of India today, not only in their political struggle for independence but for their place in the Divine Plan of Redemption. It is for this reason that The Society for the Propagation of the Faith urges the people of America to remember in their prayers during the month of July the universal Mission Intention "that social questions in India may be solved in accordance with Christian principles."

MOST REV. THOMAS J. McDONNELL, D.D.
National Director
Society for the Propagation of the Faith, U.S.A.

Mission Intention for August

For the Catholic Bishops and Clergy in Japan

One of the outstanding events in mission history in the early part of the twentieth century was the vesting of the authority of Church affairs in Japan in the hands of the native bishops and priests of that nation little less than fifty years after freedom of worship had been declared, following the rescinding of an exclusion act concerning foreign missionaries which had lasted for two hundred years. Actually, however, this decision proved a most judicious move on the part of the Holy See and may well have saved Catholicity in Nippon during that trying period prior to and during the war.

A well-organized priesthood, an authoritative hierarchy, indigenous to the nation, were then in a position to take over Church matters when the clouds of war loomed on the horizon and forced into internment the bishops, priests, brothers and sisters who had come to help the Japanese people along the paths to Christianity. It must be remembered, however, that the number of native priests in a Japan only recently opened to Catholic endeavor necessarily must have been small. There can be little doubt also that their ranks will have to be augmented for years to come by missionaries from other lands. Nevertheless in this regard the war may prove to have been a blessing in disguise.

Had not militarism gone down in defeat would the acceptance of these "foreigners" have been acceptable before August 15th, 1947? Prior to that time the war lords had completely dominated the minds and the very lives of the Japanese people. They had infiltrated their war aims into those who ordinarily were ill disposed toward the radicalism of global warfare. However, even during that period the desire for knowledge was so strong among the young Nipponese that they continued to matriculate at the Catholic higher institutions of learning. True, the directors of such schools and colleges, who had been born in other lands, had been removed from their posts but they were still allowed to remain to help guide the native teachers and their pupils.

Now, the future of the Church in Japan faces a new awakening which carries with it, not only the promise of a second spring, but seems to assure a rich harvest of souls. The once proud nationalistic spirit is submerged beneath a cooperative willingness, which, while not subservient, creates an atmosphere of good will which activates towards mutual understanding and trust. "The ways of the gods" for the Japanese, having faded into oblivion, may become transformed into the "way to God" for the people now appreciate what Christianity can do in their lives.

To lead the 70 million Japanese, or to turn the footsteps of even one-tenth that number, along the road to truth, the Church must have a learned, as well as an understanding clergy and hierarchy. Despite the optimistic reports received here the road ahead for Catholicity in Nippon is still blocked by many obstacles. Many of the old rules concerning primary education under Catholic auspices remain unchanged, while the scholastic program voted by the Diet makes mandatory the use of history books which are openly hostile to the Church. Therefore the best that our mission societies can offer in the way of volunteers is none too good to answer the call for mission workers in Japan. The bishops, whether native or foreign, must be true shepherds, the priests fired by Christlike zeal for souls, while the brothers and sisters must become exemplars of that charity which "bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things." It is because the Holy See realizes the actual and pressing need for spiritual sustenance for the priests and bishops of Japan that the prayers of the faithful are asked during the month of August.

MOST REV. THOMAS J. McDONNELL, D. D.

National Director

Society for the Propagation of the Faith, U.S.A.

The World Will Recover Christ Through Mary



CONVINCED that the world which has lost Christ will find Him through His Blessed Mother, the members of the Association of Our Lady of Victory have launched a Marian Day movement in the parishes of Montreal. Every Sunday, one of the churches of the city becomes Mary's shrine, where, at the foot of an artistically wrought banner depicting Our Lady of Victory, Mary's sons and daughters kneel to pray.

The schedule of the Marian Days, which were begun on February 1, comprises the recitation of the Rosary once every hour, the singing of hymns to Mary and sermons. The various parochial organizations are invited to preside one or another of the Marian hours, from the last Mass until the church closing.

More than 36,000 Rosaries have been said in less than three months. Thousands more have since doubled that eloquent figure.

Last April, His Holiness Pope Pius XII granted a paternal blessing to the members of Our Lady of Victory. Strong with the encouragement of the Common Father of Christendom, the Mary-minded sponsors are now furthering with greater assurance and love the novel movement whereby the Mother of God, through the medium of her holy banner, pays maternal visits to all of her children scattered in the city.

Many clients of the Blessed Mother are coming to render homage to their Queen — but that is not enough: the whole city should be kneeling at Mary's feet. Breathes there the Christian who will refuse to rejoice at these Marian Days and fail to pool his spiritual wealth — prayers and sacrifices — with that of Our Lady's Crusaders, for the restoration of all things in Christ through His Mother?

Six great general intentions are being added to the personal intentions of the Marian Day devotees:

- 1° Heed Our Blessed Lady's plea for the recitation of the Holy Rosary.
- 2° Heed the Holy Father's request for days of prayer for universal peace.
- 3° The conversion of Russia and the Communists.
- 4° The extension of the Marian Congress in Mary's City of Montreal.
- 5° Prayer for Catholic Action and the campaign of morality.
- 6° That the Mother of God may form a galaxy of Marian saints in Canada and the outside world.

Numerous favors have already fallen earthward from Mary's loving hands. Let us pray that the hour may be at hand for the coming of the Blessed Mother's Kingdom in all hearts, for thus will infallibly be prepared the coming of the Kingdom of Christ her Son. To Jesus through Mary will ever be the shortest and easiest way.

THERESE C.



Wanted on the Missions

CHRIST'S foreign mission ambassadors are woefully few. Gospel-bearers and life-bringers, priests and apostles of God, are lacking to present to waiting millions the Way, the Truth and the Life. Multitudes are turning their disillusioned eyes away from dead deities to us who have the fullness of Divinity to give. Sterling-souled missionaries, other Christs, other Marys, must sail the high seas to mark those wandering ones with the seal of salvation.

What good could I do? Many a young girl may be asking just that question. Joan or Margaret or Lucy, we have the answer for you, and our answer is that you, with God's dear grace to uphold you, can do a world of good, blazing trails for the Savior on the heathen front.

The Missions need teaching Sisters provided with diplomas, "tangible proofs of efficiency," to assume the conduct of primary and high schools where pagan youth may learn human sciences and the great science of the One True God.

The Missions need Sister catechists to prepare the young and old, from six to sixty and beyond, for baptism, and teach them the duties of those who at the baptismal font have become sons of God.

The Missions need nursing Sisters and experienced women physicians to open hospitals and operate clinics. There, as elsewhere, in caring for the body, God's ambassadors can reach the immortal soul. Even the most fanatical of pagans can not long resist to the tender ministrations and untiring devotedness of the selfless nun who soothes his suffering with motherly love and a sympathetic smile. The unenlightened soul shackled in the bonds of pagan slavery and superstition will understand the charity of Christ dispensed by human hands, and the Angels in Heaven will rejoice in the knowledge that for this wayward son of Adam, Christ is in truth the Savior.

The Missions need able seamstresses. The old at the refuge and the very young at the orphanage alike wear out their clothing. Someone must be there to patch and mend the ripped articles. Some cold morning you may open the door to a shivering native of the mountain district. If you can give a loincloth or a dress, you will have blessings called on your head. Give them raiment for their body and they will more readily accept the garment of Faith for their soul.

The Missions need A-1 housekeepers to teach the indigenous matrons of tomorrow to see to the ways of their household, and train in habits of order and thrift future wives and mothers who will be the honor of the Catholic Religion by their unblemished morals.



A FEW OF THE MANY TASKS THAT FILL A MISSIONARY SISTER'S DAY

The Missions need music teachers. Music hath charms for every race and clime, but the Orientals are singling themselves out as passionate lovers of harmony. If the missionary Sister has the talent to touch the sensitive chord in the hearts of the almond-eyed and the ebony-cheeked, the prospects are elating: someday many shall come from China and Africa to join the eternal *Sanctus* in Heaven's unending symphony.

The Missions need artists. Beauty for the eye, as well as beauty for the ear, can make for a good catch when you go fishing for souls.

Every talent and every trade can be used to eternal advantage on the Missions, provided that each bears the hallmark of charity. Christ's consecrated Bride must love her Divine Spouse and be wholly His, striving daily to become more and more like unto her Heavenly Exemplar. Without personal holiness, the loftiest genius will never save the soul of man; with holiness, the least little talent invested for the glory of the Almighty can bring forth a hundredfold.

So, Joan or Margaret or Lucy, should you be able to boast of no outstanding talent, don't let that obscure your mission vision. If your love for God and your desire of dedicating your life to the coming of His Kingdom be outstanding, you have the great number-one requisite. Think it over, pray it over, and remember that talents plus love — with the emphasis on the latter — is the formula for mission success.



The Assumption of Our Lady

These last years have witnessed a great revival of devotion to the doctrine of Mary's Assumption, so much so that all eyes are now looking Romeward for the final dogmatic proclamation of the Assumption of the body of the Blessed Virgin into Heaven.

Accordingly, His Holiness Pope Pius XII, in a letter dated May 1, 1946, has expressed his desire to know the devotion of clergy and faithful to the doctrine of Mary's bodily exaltation above the choir of angels.

The Archdiocese of Montreal, Mary's fair domain for over three hundred years, will give its personal answer on the morning of August 15. Religious authorities, upheld by civil leaders and laity, will voice their ardent wish to see this great jewel of the Assumption set securely into the crown of the Holy Mother of God.

In order to make of this important act a veritable Marian triumph, His Excellency our Most Reverend Archbishop has decided that Marian Days will be observed in Montreal on August 12, 13, 14, and 15. On this occasion, study sessions exposing the teachings of tradition and Theology on this prerogative of Mary will be held at the University of Montreal.

"May the Holy Ghost, who guides the Church in the proposition of all truths," says His Excellency's message, "fecundate the labors of our theologians, fulfill the desires of the Vicar of Christ, and reserve to the faithful the joys that acclaimed the definition of the Divine Maternity of Mary at the Council of Ephesus."

Lovest Thou Me?

There's a passage in the Gospel
I would stress for you today,
Dauntless youth and gentle maiden,
In a simple, friendly way.
How the Savior gladly pardoned
Peter's sad denial thrice,
While He only, only wanted
Love and trust as pardon's price.

There's a question in the Gospel
That is really up to date,
Still the query put to Peter
Christ is putting it of late.
Laughter-loving lassies hear it,
Pleasure-minded laddies too:
"Lovest thou thy Lord and Master
With a love sincere and true?"

There's an answer in the gospel
(Not the Gospel writ by John,
Nor by Mark or Luke or Matthew)
Penned your fleshy heart upon.
And the words are just as thrilling
As the answer of "The Rock":
"How I love You, Lord and Leader,
I will follow where You walk!"

Carry Christ, O sons and daughters,
To the Godless ones of earth,
Give them Life and Love and Mercy
Through the God-Redeemer's birth.
May the nations now and ever
Walk to Wisdom in the light
Of the teachings that you practice,
Of the gospel that you write!

The Precursor

Undertow

If breathing was at all possible in the suffocating city atmosphere, then indeed, Montrealers who had been looking forward to a refreshing weekend in the country, breathed a sigh of relief when chimed five o'clock that June Friday afternoon. All through the week the blazing sun had been inexorable, casting its fiery rays with particular force, it seemed, on the crowded business section.

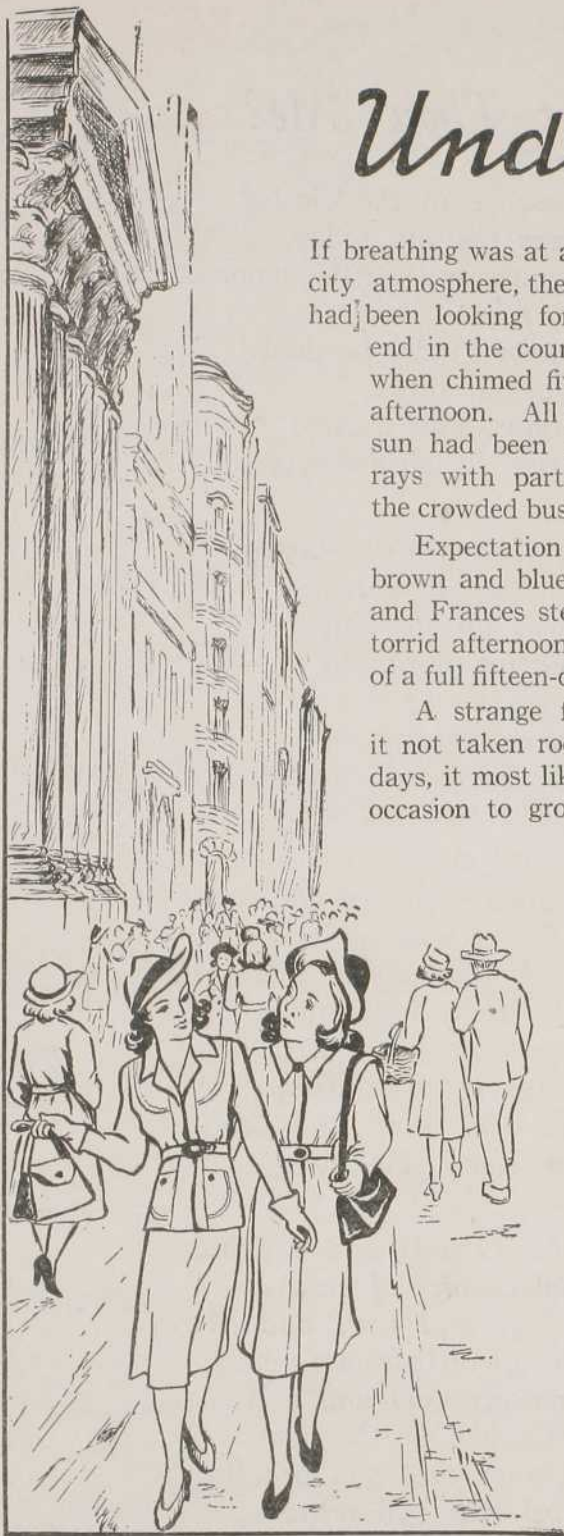
Expectation and joy shone in both brown and blue eyes as the typists Audrey and Frances stepped out of the office that torrid afternoon, with the exciting prospect of a full fifteen-day vacation.

A strange friendship was theirs. Had it not taken root in former convent school days, it most likely would never have found occasion to grow. Audrey was the ultra-

modern girl, with dyed platinum-blond hair and a beauty parlor complexion. The premature death of his wife having left him with this only child, Mr. Shillington adulated her, with the result that now she was spoiled almost beyond redemption. Why, hadn't her latest fancy been to work in an important office, for the weighty reason that it was stylish to kill time in this wise?

Not that Frances could be called a behind-the-timer, and yet, what a difference with her friend! A member of the Catholic Independent Youth Move-

ment, she gave most of her leisure time to works of charity, and made no mystery whatever as to her intention of joining the mission Sisters as soon as circumstances would allow.



"When Margaret will be ready to take over at the office," she often said, speaking of her younger sister, "then the missions and I will get acquainted!" Her wages were badly needed at home.

Just as opposite as their temperament and situation was their holiday programme. Audrey intended to spend her two weeks at a fashionable summer resort, on the beach, in the company of two of her snobbish friends, Alice and Monica. Frances was staying in the city and taking but a half-rest, having volunteered her services to help with the children at the parish playground during the afternoons. Upon hearing of her friend's intention, egocentric Audrey had shrugged her slim shoulders and scoffed: "Pleasant vacations, my dear! Why, should I get too bored at Palm Beach, I might even try your playground!"

The first week flashed by lightning-like. Amidst her tiny playground friends, Frances felt real happiness. They all loved her and thought there was no one like their big-sister friend to kiss bumps away, bring a smile and a laugh to the lips of shy little ones, and settle the quarrels that so often arose.

It was now Tuesday, late in the afternoon. All her small charges having evacuated the place, Frances was preparing to leave when she noticed at the park entrance a young lady who seemed to be looking for someone.

"Could it be . . . ?" The question in Frances' mind soon gave place to joyous certainty. "Audrey!"

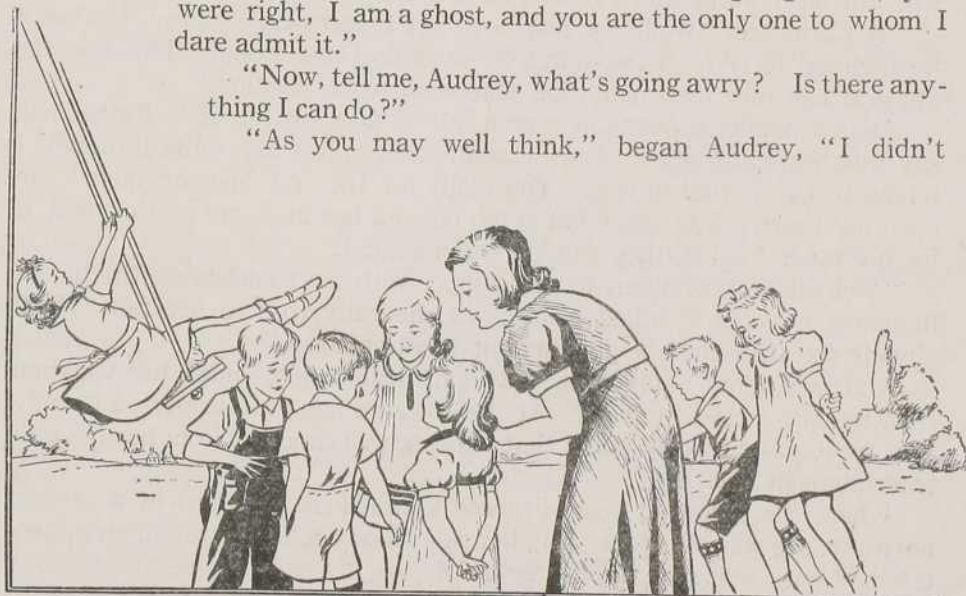
"Frances!"

"This is a surprise! But say, what's the matter with you?" queried Frances, observing Audrey's drawn features. Then she went on playfully: "Lucky I don't believe in ghosts. You would have given me the fright of my life. Don't tell me you're coming to join my boisterous youngsters?"

"For mercy's sake, Frances, don't tease," begged Audrey with a gravity Frances had never known her. "I don't feel like laughing. Yes, you were right, I am a ghost, and you are the only one to whom I dare admit it."

"Now, tell me, Audrey, what's going awry? Is there anything I can do?"

"As you may well think," began Audrey, "I didn't



THE JOYS OF FRIENDSHIP

come back without reason; I really was having a grand time over there. Poor Grannie, she nearly had a heart attack on seeing me home last night. I spared her the truth and assured her that it was terribly boring at the beach. Fortunately, Father was away on a fishing trip, so that saved a lot of explanations. You see, I nearly got drowned Sunday noon."

"Is that all?" laughed Frances, greatly relieved. "Well, you weren't drowned, were you? So there, why worry over something that didn't happen?"

"But something did happen — something very wrong," pursued Audrey with some uneasiness. "Frances, I hadn't heard Mass in the morning. I had danced all night. Alice and Monica were not going. Oh, I did hesitate a while, but I was so sleepy that nature got the better of me.

"Before dinner I went in for a bit of swimming. The wind was frolicking with the waves; black and threatening clouds scudded across the sky. There must have been a storm somewhere on the sea. But, being a good swimmer, nothing of this deterred me. I had covered some distance when I was suddenly caught in an undertow and, in spite of the struggle I put up, was carried away like a straw.

"I was told afterwards that a motorboat had immediately sped to my rescue. They had brought me on the shore and had to practice artificial respiration for some time before I came back to my senses. Frances, all day long I wept desperately. That evening I refused a date for a dance, from which my friends deduced that I was suffering from a nervous shock. A nervous shock indeed! A spiritual shock, I'd rather call it. The thought of the dreadful abyss into which my soul had been near falling for all eternity pursued me unceasingly. I promised to Our Lady that I'd never set foot on a dancing floor again. I am firmly convinced that it is she who prevented this horrible disaster, for I wore her medal. Oh, Frances, I am so disgusted with this ugly world that I almost have a mind to become a Carmelite."

"A Carmelite! Well, not just now. If I were you, Audrey, I'd begin by a closed retreat. It wouldn't be so radical and would afford you the physical rest and the orientation you seem to be needing."

Audrey pondered over this a moment. "A closed retreat! Father will say this beats any other of my eccentricities. Just the same, Frances, I intend to follow your advice. You really are the only one to whom I can open my heart. You see, Gran is too old, Father finds me perfect, and as for my other friends, they wouldn't understand."

"Well, then, how about having supper with me to celebrate the happy drowning accident?" asked Frances as she gaily rose to her feet. "It's already six; they must be growing impatient at home."

And so Audrey Shillington, the sophisticated deb, ended her vacation by attending a closed retreat. At the office no one ever suspected it, only later on it was curiously noted that dancing was canceled from her favorite entertainment list.

When, the following year, Frances knocked at the door of a certain novitiate, she was not alone. By her side stood the friend whom an undertow had once sent into the depths of the sea, there to secure the precious pearl of the missionary vocation.



Hidden Life Sublime

Lively chatter filled Mrs. Michael Ahern's drawing-room. The guests had just been apprized of the impending departure of Paul, Mrs. Ahern's only son, for the novitiate of Brookdale, to become a lay brother.

It was a lucky thing that the hero was not here today, to sustain the battery of questions fired by these good ladies. He had prudently pretexted a farewell visit to his grandfather's farm, in order to escape the ordeal of being present at this "at home" of his mother's.

"My dear, this is a perfectly awful blow. Who would think that an only son could be so inconsiderate of his mother's feelings!" and pompous Mrs. Brough brushed away an imaginary tear with a wisp of a lacy handkerchief. "I'm sure," she continued, when her emotions had been controlled, "that this departure upsets Mr. Ahern's plans for the future."

"And why should you think so, my dear? Michael, my husband, thanks be to God, is still hale and hearty and able to manage his own business alone and without help. And, suppose the time does come for him to retire, then God will provide. So why should we worry?"

Mrs. Ahern was a deeply religious woman, one who judged all things from the viewpoint of Faith.

"What a very peculiar idea Paul had," exclaimed frivolous little Mrs. Slater. "Entering a monastery when he could have cut such a brilliant figure in social circles. I'm sure he could easily enough have found some beautiful heiress as life partner."

"Paul is certainly not leaving the world because he was disappointed in love. He has heard the call to a higher form of living, and as a Catholic mother I am in duty bound to help him attain his end."

"Oh, of course, a vocation is a sacred thing," put in Mrs. Gardiner. "But I can hardly understand why Paul with his splendid education chooses to be a lay brother and not a priest. A priestly career is surely more useful to the world than that of an obscure lay brother."

"I cannot agree with you there, my dear, for the most useful life will always be that which is lived according to the demands of God's holy will. It surely would have been a great honor for Michael and myself to have had a priest in the family, but then we are equally proud to offer our only boy as a religious, a good and faithful servant who will emulate the hidden life of Jesus in Nazareth."

A few days later, Paul Ahern left for the novitiate and set to work in earnest to become a saintly religious. He knew and understood all the loftiness of the priesthood, but he did not feel drawn towards it. Its responsibilities were so tremendous that he did not feel equal to shouldering them. The more humble calling of the lay brother held untold attractions for him. Next to the priesthood, there is no more exalted vocation than that of the religious. The three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience add a double merit to all his actions, even the most insignificant in the eyes of the world.

The months of spiritual training passed by swiftly enough and Paul Ahern pronounced his holy vows, taking the name of Brother Alphonsus. His first assignment was that of doorkeeper in one of the colleges conducted by the Fathers of his Congregation. Brother Alphonsus thought of that humble Jesuit lay brother who had attained the glorious heights of sanctity while answering the doorbell at the Convent of Segovia, during forty uneventful years. His namesake he was, and firmly resolved to imitate his



THE FOLKS AT HOME

prayerful, powerful life of hidden apostolate. And then, nearer to our own times, there was that other porter sublime, Brother Andre, who had been in God's hands the humble, docile instrument of wonderful achievements.

With the passing years, Brother Alphonsus' happiness in his vocation went on increasing. Then, one day, sounded the call to the mission field afar, and he had the joy of becoming in truth the missionary's auxiliary in the harvest of souls.

While the missionary Father teaches and preaches and administers the Sacraments, he seeks out the straying sheep and leads them into safe pastures. His to teach the lambs of the flock the rudiments of religion and science; his to keep spotless the missionary's humble dwelling and prepare his meals; his to clean and adorn the sanctuary. Thus his life of complete devotedness wins souls to Christ.

Back in the home country, his father and mother are happy to know they have given the Master of the harvest one apostle, whose hidden mission resembles that of the celestial messengers who noiselessly go about the Father's business in a frivolous, noisy world.



Random Writings

From Our Sisters Afield

Shek Lung Leprosarium, China

What is a flood? Now I know by the firsthand knowledge of experience what a flood can mean in China.

Our leper people of Shek Lung were commenting on the good rice-harvest prospects when it began to happen. Night and day the floodgates of heaven released their pent-up tide and the Pearl River rose appallingly fast. Rumor had it that a flood was in the offing. So the best thing was to move to safer quarters. All that was under the houses — domestic animals, small Chinese stoves, boxes, etc. — precious belongings of the ill, was taken up to the large balconies facing the rooms. The continual drumming of the tam-tams in the surrounding villages warned us that here and there the protective dikes of the rice paddies were giving way. Soon, with a deafening roar, ours gave up the struggle. In the twinkling of an eye the ground was all flooded. The rising tide all around us flowed inside our convent and filled the ground floor to a depth of six inches. The veteran missionaries say this flood beats all previous editions.

Please remember in your prayers to Our Heavenly Mother the dear leper men and women of Shek Lung, that all may soon know and love her and her Divine Son. Our Work is beautiful and here, as elsewhere, the laborers are pitifully few to cope with the needs. May we depend on our nephews and nieces to take up where we shall have to leave?

Sister Marie du Cenacle, M.I.C.

Marie Gerin, Coaticook, P.Q.

* * *

Tsungming, China, January 28, 1948

Our Island is a regular mission land and the Islanders are people wedded to the time-honored traditions of old China. The Middle Kingdom swarms with the tide of humanity. The pagans still awaiting the Glad Tidings are legion, which means we have no time to rest on our oars if we want to make their eternity secure. It is over a hundred years since the French Jesuits first cast the seed of Faith in the district. They have established a flourishing



Christian community, but the baptized souls are very few when compared with those as yet untouched by the workings of grace.

We are living in the midst of a farming population, as the amply-irrigated land is extraordinarily productive. For years upon years good old Mother Earth has let her breast be furrowed and seeded twice a year, with never a whimper. In December we ate lettuce and vegetables grown from the seed packages brought from Canada.

The houses are sometimes built with bricks covered with a coating of lime, or with bamboo stalks intertwined. Generally the home has only two rooms, but lodges enough human beings for several

times that number. Not many are favored from the material standpoint, but all hold on to the little they have. If only they could all be given the riches of belief in God, what spiritual millions they could hoard for their eternal welfare!

So many babies are received daily at the Foundling Home that we are furnished full evidence that our neighborhood is deeply embedded in pagan practices. Here we are in a position to appreciate the Holy Childhood Work. How many little babies will eternally love God because of it! The disowned infants have each a sad story to tell. They are sent to the Home wrapped in a rag or a bit of cotton wool if in winter, and it is even sadder when the little bodies still wear the silk shirt indicating that poverty couldn't have motivated their rejection. Every day the Heaven-bound airplane gives to several waiting tots the long lift up to God's arms. I could go on infinitely telling you about these "angels" we love all the more dearly since they have no one else to love them.

Sister Marie Lucie, M.I.C.
Marguerite Gagnon, Quebec

* * *

Canton, March 19, 1948

February 15 marked the beginning of the second school term. I had fifty-three pupils registered, and since then, the daily attendance averages fifty-one. The boarders are also under my care. In my beloved little flock are charming damsels of twelve and thirteen, older girls, and a young colored girl whose mother, of Hawaiian origin, was killed by the Japanese in the mountain of Hong Kong. Her father, of British birth, lost his life in the war. Upon advice of a priest, the aunt who had taken the child into her home committed her to our care.

I am writing from the veranda of my class. Lifting my eyes, I see our white Madonna of the grotto. The Marian shrine has been completely transformed and looks attractive in its white and yellow adornings. Not very far away, the boarders are busy at play, with my Black girl in the lead.

It has been my happiness to administer Baptism twice. The first candidate was a sick baby I had the joy of christening on the street, and the other was an old man, the grandfather of one of my pupils, who accepted to be made a child of God before breathing his last. May he be happy forevermore!

Sister St. Jean de l'Eucharistie, M.I.C.
Jeanne Moquin, Eastman, P.Q.

* * *

Wakamatsu, Japan, March 14, 1948

Our kindergarteners left yesterday, equipped with the yearned-for diploma that will open the door of the Elementary School. The "graduation" was a solemn affair. Indeed a seven-year-old must have a very lofty IQ to be handed a diploma so early.

Sister Therese d'Avila(1) has twenty-one musicians in the making; Sister du St. Nom de Marie(2) and Sister St. Come(3), about seventy English pupils; and Sister de l'Enfant Jesus(4), from sixty to seventy catechism scholars. Home and hospital visits also figure on our programme. I have had the happiness of baptizing a dying leper, John Francis Regis. Sister du St. Nom de Marie christened a dear old grannie, giving her the name Mary Anna. I have treated a kindergarten pupil whose hands were badly chapped. Poor child! the sore on her little finger was so deep that I was afraid it would have to be amputated. It was very painful at first, but now her daily visits are helping her recover fully. She has a grateful smile for us, because she knows she may expect some sweets from the Sisters.

Sister Marie Leonise, M.I.C.
Rachel Gerin, Coaticook, P.Q.

1. Therese SAUVE, St. Scholastique.
3. Therese LALIBERTE, Lotbiniere.

2. Rita BLAIS, Thetford Mines.
4. Florentine D'ANSEUREAU, Vercheres.

Our Lady of Providence, Canton

In keeping with my promise, I am sending you true-to-life accounts of happenings at Our Lady of Providence. Here we see sights that would move you to tears could you only be present. I can truthfully say that our mission magazines at home do not exaggerate the situation when they stress the hardships, superstitious beliefs and peculiar customs of the great Chinese Empire we do love in spite of everything.

Words fail me to describe the emotion that welled up within me when I gave my first baptism to a poor child. The mother who brought her to Our Lady of Providence was climbing the high stone stairs of our house just as we entered. As you see, God did not take long in affording me the happiness of opening the gateway to eternal life to a soul that will enjoy a blissful unending future. Since then, I have baptized about fifty babies, and Sister Marie Auguste(1) has had a like privilege. I really believe that one would search long before finding a more appropriate title than Our Lady of Providence for this Home which proves an open sesame to the Golden Gates and beyond.

*Sister St. Alphonse du Redempteur, M.I.C.
Antoinette Couvrette, St. Dorothee*

* * *

*Chinese Mission, Manila,
February, 1948*

I can hardly believe myself in Manila. I have not been here long enough to be able to say volumes on our Mission, but this much I can tell you, that the city is yet in a very pitiable condition. Everywhere ruins and rubble sadden our gaze. Really, one can have doubts that the war ended so far back as three years ago.

Our convent cannot pride itself on having exceptionally good looks, but here Sister Marie Aristide(2) and I have found loving Sisters to greet us with open-arm affection. We spent last Sunday with our Sisters of Juan Luna and certainly enjoyed it. Please tell our kind friends of Montreal and the United States that I often think of them and would like a remembrance in their good prayers, that my apostolate in behalf of the little Chinese children of Manila may be successful in every way.

*Sister St. Patricia, M.I.C.
Patricia Blanchet, Southbridge, Mass.*



*Sister St. Patricia and Sister Marie Aristide
on the GENERAL MEIGS*

1. Blanche GERIN, Coaticook, P. Q.
2. Alice CARRIER, Worcester, Mass.

Mission Quiz

DID YOU KNOW THAT

Archbishop Mar Ivanios was formerly a Schismatic bishop and was received into the Catholic Church in 1930? . . . India has received its first native Christian governor with the appointment of Sir Maharaj Singh as Governor of Bombay province? . . . The year 1952 will mark the 19th centenary of the establishment of Christianity in India by St. Thomas the Apostle? . . . The statement has been made that one in every 970 Irish Catholics is a foreign missionary? . . . The White Sisters have trained and continue to supervise the native community known as

the Daughters of Mary, who have some 850 members working in Central Africa? . . . A chromo illustrating Abraham's sacrifice is commonly found in Mohammedan homes; it is the only holy picture their religion permits? . . . Each year, on the occasion of the Feast of the Resurrection, the Bey of Tunis sends an all white lamb to the White Sisters at Carthage? . . . An Eskimo baby is usually given the names of several of its recently departed relatives? . . . The present population of Africa is between one hundred eighty and two hundred millions? . . . The principal racial divisions of Africa are the Negro, the Bushman, the Hamite and the Semite? . . . Native Catholics in India dance in honor of Our Lady. By appropriate and graceful movements they describe the meaning of the words and melody of the Gregorian *Salve Regina*? . . . The first Maori priest was ordained after 106 years of mission work among the Maoris? . . . The Church was established in Malta by St. Paul? . . . By the 12th century the Moslems were masters of all western Asia, all northern Africa, and several islands of the Mediterranean and Spain? . . . An advice that St. Francis Xavier found so useful that he employed it wherever he went, was the putting of Christian doctrine into rhymed verse? . . . Christianity in Indo-China is almost 300 years old and the native Sisterhood of the "Lovers of the Cross" was established at an early date? . . . Pope Pius XI once wrote that Indo-China was the oldest daughter of the Church in the East? . . . No people on earth face death with more stoic calm than the Chinese? . . . For the Chinese the greatest of all virtues is filial piety? . . . The first Chinese Jesuits were ordained in 1688? . . . The first Chinese bishop was the Dominican Father Gregory Lo (1616-1690)? . . . When Jesuit Bishop Walter Fitzgerald's Eskimo Catholics wish to show their filial respect, they touch their nose to his episcopal ring? . . .



The Propagation of the Faith in 1947

In spite of the high cost of living, political insecurity and economic difficulties, during the past year the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith has collected the sum of \$617,000.00 in the Eastern sector of Canada, which amount represents an increase of \$40,000.00 over the previous year, when Propagation funds totalled \$557,000.00.

The above-quoted figures were presented to the diocesan directors of the mission-aid Society by Msgr. J. A. Chamberland, D. P., national director, at the annual general assembly held in Quebec on April 7. Fourteen directors were present at the meeting.

Eighteen dioceses have recorded increases ranging from \$90.00 to \$12,000.00. Conspicuous among these is that of Montreal, whose aggregate of last year, \$126,000.00, has been raised to \$138,000.00. The diocese of St. Hyacinthe has climbed from \$39,000.00 to \$44,000.00; the diocese of Chicoutimi, from \$39,000.00 to \$42,000.00; that of Quebec, from \$110,000.00 to \$112,000.00; and St. Johns, Quebec, from \$11,000.00 to \$18,000.00.

The diocese of Nicolet, as always, holds first rank for *per capita* contributions, with 0.292. Then follow the dioceses of St. Hyacinthe, Moncton, Chicoutimi, and St. Johns, Quebec. In the realm of mission propaganda, the National Secretariate raised the number of annals from 252,000 to 321,000. Moreover, ninety talks prepared by missionaries were presented to the "Missions on the Air" programmes, and its information department furnished over 300 news items to newspapers.

The general assembly has voiced the hope that this wave of generosity among our mission-minded Canadians be sustained by increased publicity, more particularly in these sad days when the struggling mission-Church has a pressing need of missionaries and financial aid.

L'Action Catholique

The Martyr of Futuna

Blessed Peter Chanel

Prepared from the French by Florence Gilmore

(By kind permission of the Maryknoll Fathers, Maryknoll P. O., New York)

(Continued)



Blessed Peter Louis Marie Chanel

His patience was put to its hardest test when, for the good of two troublesome boys, one listless and lazy, the other turbulent and heedless, the prefect placed Peter between them. He had unceasingly to stimulate the laziness of one and put up with the restlessness of the other. The latter besieged him with questions, pushed him, and in various ways interfered with his work. Peter never became impatient with his tormentor, and at last shamed him into letting him alone; he did even better: he made him work hard enough to attain a fairly creditable place in his classes. It would be a mistake to imagine that his victory was easily won. By nature Peter had

neither patience nor humility; such virtues are the flower of real effort and constant prayer.

At one time two lads were received at Meximieux who were naturally lazy and had been pampered at home. They heartily disliked the close study, discipline and simple fare they found at the college; and having misbehaved, the punishment that followed added to their discontent. At last they determined to run away. It chanced that Peter met them at the door when they were slipping out and he stopped them, saying pleasantly, "Halt, friends! Your passports are not in order!" Then, more seriously, he added, "You poor boys! If you run away you will be publicly expelled. What a disgrace! And what a grief to your families! When I was a boy I, too, tried to run away; but, thank God, I was stopped in time. I should have regretted it all my life. Come back with me and try again." The boys began to cry and returned meekly. Peter did not forget them, but made it his duty to see them from time to time and say a kind, encouraging word. Twelve years later those boys were ordained and they made excellent priests.

Coming, though he did, from a family of illiterate peasants, Peter's politeness was exquisite. It sprang from the gentleness of his soul. None would have suspected his humble parentage, but he took care that all should know that he was the son of a hard working countryman, had been

a shepherd in his childhood, and could never have aspired to a thorough education but for the bounty of Father Trompier.

It was during this last year at Meximieux that he became intimate with two classmates who were destined to be his closest friends to the end: Claude Bret and Denis Joseph Maitrepierre. The three were congenial in many ways, but their strongest bond was their love for the Foreign Missions and the desire to consecrate their lives to them. Father Loras, consumed with the same longing, was quick to discover their secret, and did all in his power to encourage and stimulate them. He hoped, indeed, that one day they would become his associates in some distant land, but this was not to be. When they left Meximieux he advised them to go slowly, and to leave the future to the direction of God's providence, praying constantly and with confidence.

The summer of 1823 saw Peter finish his course at Meximieux. For his philosophy he was obliged to go to the diocesan seminary of Belley. Although his two friends went with him it grieved him to leave the college which had been his home for four happy years. At once, however, he fell in love with his new surroundings. "We have excellent teachers, and our superior is a saint," he wrote enthusiastically. "The house is beautiful and conveniently arranged, and the surrounding country unusually lovely." From the first Peter and his friends were appreciated at Belley; he, in particular, arousing lively interest and deep affection. To his new studies he applied himself with all his old diligence, always holding high rank in class, although not remarkably gifted intellectually.

He had long hoped to become a priest and had thought that God was calling him. The moment had come when he must decide. His prayers were lengthened, his visits to the Blessed Sacrament became more frequent, he imposed certain penances upon himself, weighed before God the dispositions of his soul, and consulted his confessor, who bade him unhesitatingly prepare to enter the Seminary. With his whole heart Peter thanked God. By increased fervor he tried to make himself less unworthy to take God's place among men and at the Altar of Sacrifice.

CHAPTER IV

The Seminary

The diocese of Belley was re-established in 1819, and Bishop Devie consecrated in 1822. His first care was to provide a suitable seminary for his students, which he found in an old Augustinian convent, adjoining the beautiful church of Our Lady of Brou. Classes were opened in 1823, and the following autumn Peter sought and obtained admission.

He said to Father Bourdin, a friend and his first biographer, "I could never express the feelings that filled my heart when I put on ecclesiastical dress to go to Brou. My emotion was even greater when I crossed the threshold of the Seminary. I found there a number of my old schoolmates. All had received tonsure and Minor Orders. I seemed at once close to

ordination; I saw the priesthood so near at hand that I felt in the depths of my soul not only joy and confidence, but fear. Then our retreat! Ah, this is my chance, I said to myself, to lay the foundations of my sanctification. This is the proper time; later, it will be too late."

The other seminarians were deeply impressed by the new student. They admired his regularity, his amiability, his piety. "Scarcely had Peter Chanel taken his place among us," wrote one of them, "than I was attracted by his angelic mien and longed to seek his company. Of all the students of his class he was the only one whom I knew intimately. I passed two years with him at Brou, and he helped me greatly by word and example." Father Perrodin, the superior, said, "Though it had seemed to those who knew him at Meximieux and Belley that his faith could not become more lively, his piety more tender, his charity more active, his love of study more ardent, his character more amiable, at Brou we all admired the still higher development of his qualities and virtues."

Peter found life very sweet at the Seminary. "What could be easier," he wrote to a friend, "than rest, and to consecrate the first fruits of the day to prayer and the hearing of Mass; afterward, to give some time to the study of dogma, moral theology, and Holy Scripture; to devote a few minutes to the examination of conscience, to receive the best of advice, to take our meals and our recreations at fixed hours? — in one word, to follow the regulation of the house? To urge us on they use neither constraint nor threats; they have need only to inspire in us a deep love of Jesus Christ. And what abundance of grace comes to our aid! God grant that I may be faithful!"

At prayer his whole attitude betrayed intense fervor and close union with God. One day, following a custom of the Seminary, the director asked him to give an account of his morning meditation. Peter responded simply and candidly, explaining the method he followed, and revealing his faults, as well as his colloquies and resolutions. It did not occur to him that his account showed how far he had advanced in the way of perfection. His spirit of prayer and love of meditation had their source in an absorbing love of the Blessed Sacrament. An angelic devotion marked him at Mass and Holy Communion. Not that for him prayer was always easy. It was work, most important and often difficult; and recollection of spirit was a treasure to be jealously guarded. "Who can comprehend," he said one day to an intimate friend, "all that slight curiosity, a little raillery, an uncharitable word, a yielding to self love can produce of opposition to grace and weakening of fervor, of distractions at prayer and distaste for it?"

After Peter's martyrdom Father Pernet, who had been his professor of dogmatic theology, noted down what he remembered of him as a student. Parts of his account are of great interest. "He adopted all the practices of devotion in use in the house. Not satisfied with scrupulously obeying the rules, he sought out other means of advancing in the way of the Lord. There was no devotional exercise, public or private, at which he was not first to appear; there was no pious association among the students in which he did not take part, of which he was not the very soul. Above all, he was

distinguished by his tender love for our Blessed Mother. Many times each day he was to be seen kneeling before her altar, and no one who knew him was surprised when he entered a Society bearing her name. His piety was cheerful and perfectly natural. A face always smiling, affable manners, and an eagerness to oblige made him beloved by all.

"In his second year at the Seminary he was given charge of the chapel and sacristy. He responded zealously and devotedly to the confidence thus shown him, and found in his work as sacristan not only new duties to perform but new food for his piety. At any time he might be seen in the chapel decorating the altars or making the necessary preparations for Mass or Benediction, always with a devout air that testified to his lively faith. His eye and hand were everywhere, but with no sign of haste or nervousness. He moved about, but his heart rested quietly with his Lord.

"But in adorning his soul M. Chanel did not neglect the cultivation of his mind. Though not brilliant, his power of application, never weary, never discouraged, enabled him to do well in his classes."

Early in May, 1825, Peter had the joy of learning that within a few weeks he would receive tonsure and Minor Orders. About to take the Lord for his portion forever, he fervently prepared for the great day. And when the vacations came, he said to himself, "I am now an ecclesiastic, so I must give good example at home, in the parish — everywhere!" So he said, and so he did.

Father Tromprier was delighted to have his old pupils gather at his house, Sunday after Sunday, during their vacations. They discussed with him their studies, their hopes and their plans, and he talked to them of the Sacred Ministry and all its joys and consolations. Peter missed none of these reunions, for he deeply loved the old priest who had done so much for him; he revered his goodness and appreciated to the full the value of his long experience. What he was learning in theory at Brou, he saw practiced at Cras.

Peter's second and third years at the Seminary saw his piety deepen. He grew to be most delicately thoughtful for others. More than one of his old school fellows told in after years how when he first crossed the threshold of the Seminary, he found a young student, full of sweetness, who received him like an old friend, took him to the Chapel for the customary Adoration, and did not leave him until he was comfortably installed in his own room. Peter singled out by preference those who were most timid, seeming to do so by chance. Several students owed to him their perseverance in their vocation. "But for Peter Chanel," one said, "it is probable that I should not now be a priest. The first week I spent at the Seminary was a real nightmare; I was so sad, so bored, that I resolved to go away and return no more. Before I had a chance to carry out my resolution I happened to meet Peter Chanel in the corridor. He seemed to understand my state of mind. We walked up and down for a time, talking earnestly, and so wonderfully did he encourage me that I never again had a temptation of the sort."

(To be continued)

With Our Sisters in Fields Afar



CANTON, CHINA

WALKING IN THE BROTHERHOOD OF CHRIST

Words more thrilling have hardly ever fallen on a missionary Sister's ear: "Sister, could I believe this too?" Thus the hundredth stray lamb agrees to be hemmed within the protective pale of Christendom.

But the great Conqueror remains always the Good Shepherd, while we, His human instruments, do our human little, which little becomes mighty, when uplifted by His grace.

Our Shameen School is always bustling with activity, even if the number of its pupils is nothing remarkable: thirty-eight follow the regular classes and a few others take private lessons.

It is a great consolation for us to be able to teach Christ to those who come. Our "cenacle" has nothing beyond a table, a few chairs, sacred pictures on the wall and a small-scale mission library, but the grace of God is at work there. In that very ordinary and simple-looking nook the student typists, while waiting for their daily lessons, leaf over the attractive doctrine books on the table. Some striking line pierces home; the student is eager for the morrow's session in the study-the-doctrine nook; finally, he asks Sister the soul-lifting query: "May I believe?"

Daily, at the appointed hour, the catechumens come for the necessary explanations and the recitation of their lesson in Catholic lore. It sometimes happens that the large table has no empty place, so many are those that thirst after the Truth. When at last they have found that for which they sought, others take their places around the table and set to studying the outlines of the Faith. The contagion of their good example spreads often beyond our ken.



NEWLY BAPTIZED AND FIRST COMMUNICANTS OF SHAMEEN SCHOOL, DECEMBER 8, 1947,
WITH THREE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN CHARGE OF THE SCHOOL:
SISTER MARIE DE L'ESPERANCE (AUREA VANNARD, MONTREAL), SISTER ST. JEAN BAPTISTE (IRENE PELLAND,
WEST GLOVER, VT.), AND SISTER MARIE DE LA RECOUVRANCE (FLORINA GAUDET, ST. GABRIEL DE BRANDON).

Mary's Immaculate Conception Feast brought the unspeakable joy of Baptism to twelve adults and one child, and that equally above the passing joys of earth to five First Communicants. The ceremony was held in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Shameen.

Angel hands, we trust, have already penned the story of these privileged ones in heavenly registers, telling how they found their Savior in the purifying stream or in the breaking of bread. For the pleasure and edification of our readers, we will try to sketch their history, or at least the chapter entitled "Conversion."

Andrew had been a student with us for six months. When several of his chums were baptized on the Feast of the Assumption or in November, he could only look on with envy, as his memory, not so retentive as theirs, had not enabled him to master very much of the doctrine he loved and longed to pattern his life along. One of the Sisters inquired as to the determining force that inclined him toward embracing the True Faith. "Because God is good and I love Him," came the touching reply.

Michael, tall, distinguished-looking, a fond friend of books, is nineteen. His parents would hear nothing of a son of theirs becoming a Catholic. Dauntless as his Patron the great Archangel, and convinced that no one could save his soul for him without his personal cooperation, the young man made up his mind to cross the threshold of belief in Christ without the consent of his father and mother.

Then there was Peter. He came to us one day, altogether unaware

that a typewriter would have a role to play in leading him to God. Eagerly he perused the doctrine books purposely laid on the table, and before long asked to join the catechumens. His path to the True Church was not more rose-strewn than Michael's. Peter's father intended that his boy should submit to the usual superstitious practices at his other son's forthcoming marriage. Many a time we found Peter lost in thought, discussing his weighty problem with his Lord. He did the right thing, with the help of grace.

A happy-go-lucky fellow is David. He would repeatedly say he was solidly grounded in his new beliefs, but more than once we asked ourselves with anxiety whether he would persevere to the end. Great was our joy when he accepted Baptism on the radiant feast of the Immaculate One.

Now we must introduce the young women. Betty was accompanied here one morning by her brother, a Catholic student at the University and a former pupil of ours.

"You will take good care of her, won't you?" he asked with big-brother concern.

"Is she a Catholic?" Sister's answer was another question.

"Not yet, but I have high hopes."

Betty, a young lady of eighteen, although taught in a Protestant school, had always refused to embrace that creed. The doctrine lessons captivated her and she set seriously to the task of conversion. Ten days later she brought her friend Cecilia, who had had a first initiation in things Catholic in Hong Kong. Both lived in the same house and encouraged each other in the attainment of their noble ideals. Side by side they received the Sacrament which makes one a Christian and knelt at the Banquet of Angels. Cecilia's husband-to-be is now taking instructions.

Mrs. Fong, another of the converts, is married and the mother of four. In her early youth she had wanted to become a Catholic, but her parents willed otherwise and chose a pagan husband for their daughter. He passed over to Protestantism later on, but she never flinched from her old resolve: she would call a priest and be baptized in her last illness. Years came and went. One day Mr. Fong arrived home with a catechism given him by the missionary priest. Its perusal brought forth the happiest of fruits: soon the Fongs were regular Sunday church-goers. Last summer, when he was preparing to leave for Kongmoon, he asked us to see to the religious training of his loved ones. The children and their mother are now baptized.

Among the First Communicants of December 8 was Philip, six-year-old son of the Vice-Consul of France. Philip is very bright for his young years, and found an honorable way out of the intricate problems Father called upon him to solve at the catechism exam.

Another First Communicant, Noel, is the adopted son of a Filipino doctor. The tot is not yet six and can pride himself on having an extraordinary life history behind him. A month-old infant, he was found on a Hong Kong battlefield alongside a dead soldier, presumably his father. The European child was taken to the Holy Childhood Foundling Home in



Picture Taken on the Occasion of the First Closed Retreat Held at Canton in July, 1947.

Rev. Father Donnelly, S.J., Preacher. Right, Sister Agathe de Jesus (Gabrielle Morisset, Quebec), Superior of the Canton Convent; Left, Sister Therese de l'Enfant Jesus (Yvonne Gerin, Coaticook).

Hong Kong and cared for by the Sisters, who later confided him to Mr. and Mrs. Bagalowis, good Christians who are treating him like their own son.

Lily belongs to a wealthy Chinese household whose heads are not yet baptized. The lass was baptized in Macao when an infant. She lives in Shameen, under the guardianship of one of her two big sisters who are Catholics. Lily is a queen who has everything she wants and who is always attended by a maid, even at school.

Alice is the daughter of a Chinese Christian. Her Protestant mother abjured a few months ago, so now the family is entirely Catholic.

Last, but not least, we must introduce Charles, nine-year-old son of Mr. J. Tchang, a Catholic, and secretary at the French consulate. Charles' mother has yet to be baptized, but she promises to take instructions shortly. "You need not worry," she tells us, "I am sincere."

Fervently the catechumens and their predecessors in the Father's House, the little First Communicants, took their places in the front pew decorated with white and greenery. Three priests administered the Sacrament of Baptism; then, later on during Holy Mass, those who were to partake of the Eucharistic Banquet walked up to the altar rail. When the darkness of night fell upon our chapel we prayed to Mary Immaculate for the newly baptized and the five who had become bearers of Christ. May the Spotless Lady of Heaven keep their souls in unsoiled whiteness.

BERNADETTE

Bernadette, an orphan girl of fifteen, left us for a Better Land on October 12, 1947.

Our Divine Savior must have been greatly pleased with this dear child who was ready to give her young life for love of Him. Her sacrifice was offered with most perfect intentions: it was God's will, it could atone for her sins, it could say "thank You" for the great grace of Baptism.

All the Sisters and Bernadette's companions everyone marvelled at the wonders wrought in her by divine grace. It was hardly believable that Bernadette, so mild and prayer-loving, should have had to be exorcised some years previously.

She had been brought to the orphanage when but a few days old. A tiny bed was her cradle, and so was it for many wee sisters-in-misery who chose to wing their way to Heaven where children are happy for ever and ever. Bernadette decided to get acquainted with the earth instead. Her jet-black eyes gazed in rapt wonder at all the things that babies revel in. Thus she crept out of the babyhood stage and became a little lady. We didn't worry about her — that is, not until the war began in 1937.



Sister Agathe de Jesus (Gabrielle Morisset, Quebec), Sister St. Jean du Calvaire (Doris Hague, Montreal), Sister St. Philippe (Annette Beaudoin, Champlain), Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, With the Little Orphan Singers of Canton.

To shelter our charges from the blast of bombs we had transferred them to Shek Lung, where our Sisters at the Leprosarium gave them a real maternal welcome. Bernadette, big enough to observe the rules and regulations, submitted with a right good will, only, she refused to pray. When the orphans began some spiritual exercise or other, this particular child's behavior was nothing angelic. She pouted and cried and between sobs would say: "I don't want to pray! I don't want to!" The Sister in charge tried to obtain explanations, but to no avail. Over and over the tragic scene was enacted.

Strange to say, however, the child deeply longed to make her First Communion. "You can't," we would tell her, "since you don't want to pray to Little Jesus." Still she cherished her desire of Communion, but no prayer. Not knowing how to clear up the enigmatic contradiction, Sister began to think that the devil might be having his say in the matter and brought the case to the attention of a priest. The problem was studied and it was deemed advisable to practice exorcism. The prayers of the Church rose towards Heaven for the girl who refused to pray, and not in vain did they rise. Never after did Bernadette put on a defiant front when came prayer time. The Evil One had been ousted. Our orphan made her First Communion in due time.

Bernadette's greatest pleasure was to show herself helpful. Gifted with a poor memory, she had been unable to complete her primary studies, and these last two years had busied herself with several manual trades at the orphanage. One week before her death she developed a high fever and had to stay in bed. Rapidly the dear girl grew weaker and weaker, leaving no hope of recovery. If kind attentions had been enough to effect a cure, however, Bernadette would never have gone to her grave; day and night her companions were at her beck and call, ready with sympathy, loving services and fervent prayers. She received the last Sacraments with great faith and piety. She had generously offered her sacrifice and was now peacefully awaiting the Angel of Death, the while placing her sufferings in the hands of the Blessed Mother, to be borne before the throne of the God of Love. She died at seven in the evening. Her coffin was garlanded with blossoms and greenery. Bernadette's young friends, faithful beyond death, prayed their Rosary for her beloved soul until came the hour for burial. May the earth lie softly over her and may her beautiful soul rest in the arms of the Heavenly Father!

THE DISPENSARY

Our dispensary, opened last October 25, enables us to make life a bit more livable for the sick and the poor.

Once Sister Philomene de Jesus⁽¹⁾, opening the door on the White Rice alley, was surprised to see a young man of about twenty, clothed with a bag, lying on the bare ground. Painfully he struggled to his feet and walked

1. Azella PARIS, St. Philomene de Fortierville.



DESTITUTE PEOPLE CUTTING BANANA LEAVES TO SERVE AS FUEL. SEEN ON RAK MAI HONG STREET, CANTON

over to her, begging for medicine. The nursing Sister having diagnosed congestion of the lungs, the poor fellow looked beseechingly at her, as much as if to say: "You alone can save me!" First aid was given him. He returned in the afternoon and again the following days, until his cure was complete. He is now with his family. We trust that the remembrance of his calls at the dispensary of the Catholic missionaries will help him on his way to the Truth.

STATISTICS OF THE CANTON MISSION FOR THE YEAR 1947 :

Dying persons christened		
on the street.....	74	Pupils at Holy Ghost School 609
Baptisms at Shameen School....	28	Pupils at Shameen School.... 45
Orphans.....	115	English Course pupils..... 75

REPORT OF THE DISPENSARY OPENED ON OCTOBER 25

Treatments.....	108	Dressings.....	236
Injectons.....	30	Teeth extracted.....	10
Medications.....	155		

RELIGIOUS VOWS IN CANTON

Our Lady of Lourdes had a specially fond smile this year for Sister Marie Lucia (Lucia Ho, Canton), first Chinese Sister to join our missionary Community.

Sister, who now ranks with those of "last vows," made her final profession in presence of Rev. Father LeBaron, His Excellency the Bishop of Canton having been unable to attend. Several priests and religious, as well as loving relatives and sympathetic friends, witnessed the impressive consecration.

Our thrice-happy companion was given her crown of lilies at supper time by Sister du St. Coeur de Marie⁽¹⁾, who is at present making the official visitation of our Far Eastern missions.

Enthusiastic and brimming over with zeal, Sister Marie Lucia is daily striving to win her own kinsmen to the tender Savior who has become her Bridegroom for all eternity.

OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE (TO KOM HANT)

OUR ORPHANS

At the present writing we are harboring one hundred and twenty orphan girls. The dear little ones follow a common rule of life: they pray, study, play and sleep at regular hours; each one, however, preserves her own distinctive wee personality.

Some time ago, forty-seven of our charges received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Cathedral. One of them, very original and a trifle

1. Agnes LAVALLEE, Winnipeg.

spoiled for her seven years, provoked a wave of mirth among the attendants of the officiating Prelate, His Excellency Bishop Fourquet, when she lifted her chubby hand to return the slight blow given her on the cheek. She didn't know it had its liturgical purpose.

On one occasion, Sister Superior from Canton brought us a new recruit for the orphanage. With true sisterly affection the newcomer was admitted into the family circle by our small people. By the morrow they were already fast friends, so much so that the new arrival found that morrow terribly long, when her wonderful companions had to assist at a religious ceremony, and bubbled over with joy when they returned.

Another newcomer is Joan. She is a bonny, winsome child, "a gem of purest ray serene," to put it poetically. Now it so happened that Miss Joan had a dress that had become too small for her. Sister Superior judged that a good opportunity was at hand to test the generosity of her charge. Joan was sent for and Sister Superior asked her whether she would be willing to give her dress to a small girl.

"You are free, Joan; you may or you may not offer that big sacrifice to Jesus, to prepare your heart for His first coming on Christmas. You are free."



SISTER DU ST. COEUR DE MARIE (AGNES LAVALLEE, WINNIPEG), WHILE ON HER OFFICIAL VISITATION OF OUR ORIENTAL MISSIONS, STOPS AT OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE FOUNDLING HOME, CANTON.

Joan drew back a few steps, hugged the stairpost, turned and twisted around the said stairpost a dozen times or so, as silent as if someone had stolen her tongue. That was a hard battle for a girl to fight! Her big eyes filled with tears that threatened to run their telltale way down her cheeks. Meantime Sister Superior stood in as silent expectation. Gently she reminded the dear child that she could do as she pleased.

At last the victory was final. "Yes, I'll give it!" In one bound Joan had joined her playmates in their games so as to be absent when her precious treasure would be given to another.

SUFFER THE LITTLEST ONES

The number of babies sheltered at the Foundling Home varies between sixty and eighty. It may be said, however, that we receive close to two hundred and fifty each month, but the greater number of the abandoned mites die shortly after their arrival. Often enough it would seem that they had just been delaying long enough here below to obtain their right of entry in heavenly nurseries.

According to arrangements entered with the directresses of the Tong Koum Foundling Home, not far from Canton, baskets laden with forsaken infants are frequently brought in. None of the Sisters, neither the latest arrivals nor the experienced veterans, can become used to the sight of the poor babes given or sold like animals. Oh, if only our nephews and nieces, if only the spoiled and pampered Canadian boys and girls could see what we see, they would certainly be ready to make any and every sacrifice to help the dying babies reach joy in the Heavenly Home, and those that survive to secure the benefit of a good Christian education.

* * *

KOWLOON, HONG KONG

Prospects are not so gloomy now. Time was, not so very long ago, when the whirlwind of war compelled us to close our convent and be resigned to see ourselves listed among the repatriates. Today with serene eye we face the future — hopefully.

We were only four Sisters to begin over from the ground up. War guns were hushed and the calendar marked January 9, 1947.

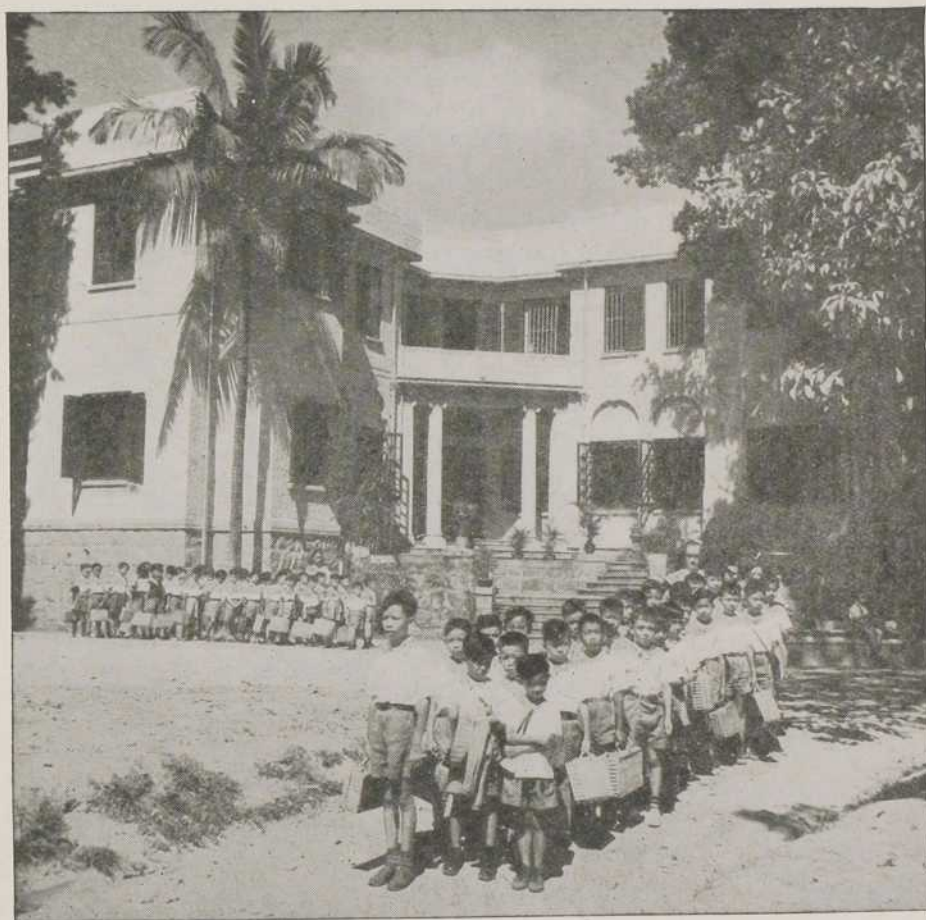
The terrific blast had scattered and shattered what belongings we had left behind when came the order for concentration. Our first concern, therefore, was to attempt to recover what had fortunately escaped bombing and plunder. Miss Tsang, a former Chinese teacher, had made several items secure in various places. We owe a great debt of thanks to this charitable and devoted person, for having been able to retrieve several objects it would have been hard to do without. The Reverend Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres and the Canossian Sisterhood had kept intact most of

our library books and church vestments. The sacred vessels had remained in the Cathedral.

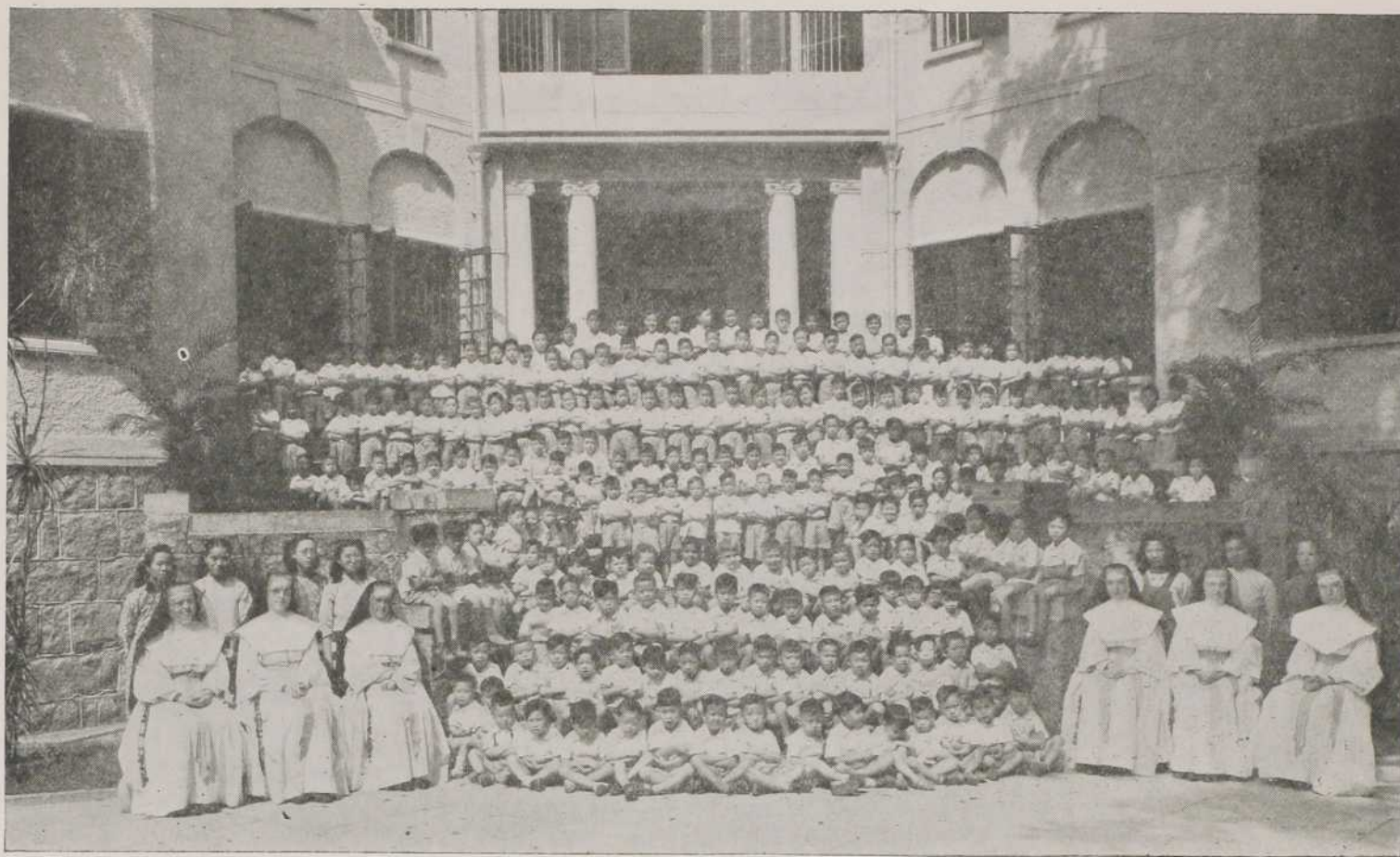
Old Faithfuls were all our dear Chinese friends, helping us all they could and always ready to offer their services without thought of reward.

The conditions of life presented a gigantic problem, with tumbled-down houses and destitute people on all sides. The Sisters of St. Teresa's Hospital had the great kindness of giving us an abode until Holy Tuesday, April 8, when we took full possession of our house. Our dwelling had only the bare essentials of a home: four walls and a roof. For a while we had to solve the lighting problem in the primitive way, there being no electricity as yet. However, little by little, thanks to the paternal solicitude of the Pastor, Rev. Father Di Angelis, and the kind helpfulness of his curate, Rev. Father Chow, a Chinese priest, our home conditions improved somewhat.

On July 2, Feast of the Visitation, Mass was said for the first time in



*Sister St. Pierre Apotre (Leocadie Landry, St. Jean l'Evangeliste),
Missionary Sister of the Immaculate Conception, Hong Kong, China,
Is Here Shown With a Lay Teacher, Leading Two Groups of Youngsters on a Picnic.*



School Conducted by the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Hong Kong. Sisters, left to right: Sister Therese du St. Sacrement (Therese Guenette, Orignal, Ont.), Sister Marie Florida (Clara Leblanc, Glen Robertson, Ont.), Sister St. Pierre Apotre (Leocadie Landry, St. Jean l'Evangeliste), Sister Marie Philippe (Juliette Chouinard, Montreal), Sister St. Philippe (Annette Beaudoin, Champlain), Sister St. Etienne (Aurore Plouffe, Montreal).



SISTER THERESE DU ST. SACREMENT (THERESE GUENETTE, ORIGNAL, ONT.),
MISSIONARY SISTER OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, HONG KONG, AND SOME OF HER PUPILS

our new "kingdom," and Our Divine Savior became our resident Guest. On that same day the building was blessed.

By November, three hundred pupils were already attending our school. The Inspector of the Department of Education expressed his satisfaction from the point of hygienic conditions. The government doctors and nurses congratulated our school on having the majority of its students in good health. The Chinese Inspectors also have showed themselves pleased with the good work being done, and the parents are glad to entrust their children to the Sisters. The students themselves are appreciative of their good fortune. On school days all receive from the government, without a cent to pay, a bottle of Soya-bean milk and vitamin biscuits made especially for them. Those who give a yearly contribution of \$5.00 are entitled moreover to benefit by a medical examination and clinic treatments.



To strive continually for progress in the love of God is the only thing necessary for every human being.

WEST INDIES

ROCHE-A-BATEAU, HAITI

A WORD ABOUT OUR MISSION

Spreading the Good News of Redemption brings us many joys and consolations which we would like to share with our well-wishing friends and zealous benefactors.

To begin with, a word about the field of action assigned to us in the Master's Vineyard. Roche-a-Bateau is in the southern section of Haiti and belongs to the Diocese of Les Cayes. The matchless Caribbean unrolls its azure ribbon at its feet and daily the magnificent waves have a new song to sing.

So brilliant is the sun overhead, which the clouds seldom hide from view, that it would be altogether impossible for any vegetation to thrive were it not for the rainy season that comes to slake the thirst of nature and produce food for the needs of man.

Our school, which is dedicated in a special way to St. Joseph, opened its doors to two hundred and forty-seven pupils last October. The six classes are veritable beehives of unceasing activity. In keeping with a decision of the school authorities, a Haitian professor is teaching the social sciences. We have thirty-five Eucharistic Crusaders.

Early in February, His Excellency Most Rev. J. L. Collignon honored the parish with a pastoral visitation. Everywhere the Haitians welcomed him as children their father, and the prudent counsels he freely distributed to those of his little flock gave comfort and enlightenment.

Three great obstacles prove drawbacks in the fulfillment of the missionaries' ideals: Protestantism, superstition and concubinage. His Excellency had the joy of blessing eighty-six marriages and of thus regulating the situation in as many Christian homes.

One Sunday afternoon, eighty-nine adults and one hundred and forty-three pupils were made soldiers of Christ in Confirmation. May they always stand up fearless defenders of the Faith that is in them.

All the dispensary patients are happy to be the beneficiaries of the nursing Sister's⁽¹⁾ ministrations. In his own personal way each one tries to express his gratefulness. Ti-Riri, to cite only one, believes that deeds say thank you more efficiently than the most eloquent of words. The poor child, who is suffering from rickets, arrived one morning with a heaped-over basket of lemons, asking us to accept her fruits. She had not yet been made a member of God's family in Holy Baptism. Her calls at the dispensary afforded her more than bodily relief, for she was taught the doctrinal outlines of our Religion, and in God's books her name now reads Mary Ruth.

1. SISTER ST. ALPHONSE DE LIGUORI (Simonne Lebœuf, Fortierville).



BENIGNA

Beneath the glorious canopy of Cuban skies Benigna first smiled to the day. The only daughter of a distinguished family and gifted with a charming, cheerful character, Benigna could have believed that life's day would be for her as sunny as its morning. Unfortunately her home education had been based on Protestant beliefs. But God's Providence was on the alert and in the Heavenly Court plans were afoot to lead her to the fullness of Faith.

She had been studying a few years in Cuba when a sudden untoward event obliged her to leave her native land with her mother. Benigna came to live at Roche-a-Bateau. In her new surroundings the child enjoyed the attractive beauty of the Caribbean, whose blue waves delighted her appreciative eye.

In obedience to maternal biddings, she followed the Sunday services in the Protestant church, but it was plain to see that her heart was elsewhere. Something, she knew not what, drew her magnet-like towards the Catholic church her grandmother attended. Her heart was thrilled day after day as she passed in front of the House of God, but somehow she sensed that it was forbidden ground. Came one September afternoon when the church bells began to peal out so invitingly that Benigna couldn't resist to the temptation. With smiling face she followed Jesus' little guests in and sat with them in one of the front pews. Presently the priest knelt before the altar, said a few invocations, and announced that catechism lessons would be given regularly in preparation for Holy Communion. The lass didn't even try to argue with the temptation; grace cooperating, she heard all the instructions and faithfully registered every word in her memory. The priest enjoyed asking questions to so well-disposed a catechism student. But his manifold duties and the child's daily contact with the Protestant religion delayed for some time her entry into the True Fold.

Then wonderful news spread like wildfire. Missionary Sisters, so the secret was on every tongue, were coming to stay in the parish and they



ON THE BANKS OF THE CARIBBEAN

would teach the little ones about dear Jesus and His Blessed Mother, and so many other things too. Benigna wondered whether it was not all a dream too good to be true. But no; volunteers were being mustered to carry stones, lime, sand, and so on for the projected building. Benigna admitted to herself that the right thing to do would be to join the goodwill brigade.

As soon as we reached Roche-a-Bateau, Benigna had us enroll her as a pupil. A Protestant notwithstanding, she was accepted. Her favorite subject was catechism, but in every subject she always managed to get an honorable standing.

Then it was time for the preparatory examinations. Benigna hungered for the Bread of Life, and was meeting so far with no maternal opposition; still the priest hesitated. Difficulties surged up and tales went the rounds on the girl's account that left him perplexed. Silently and sadly the poor child waited. Instead of plotting revenge she showed great kindness even towards her detractors. Her conduct in class was such as deserved no reproach, but some were found to accuse her. Long before Benigna, Jesus had suffered His reputation to be attacked, and doubtless He willed that His disciple of a day should partake of the bitterness of His chalice.

Alone with her teacher, the dear one many times revealed her heart-deep sorrow and the difficulty she found in remaining faithful and brave.



SISTER MARIE THEODORE (LUCIENNE GABOURY, ST. ELISABETH),
MISSIONARY SISTER OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, ROCHE-A-BATEAU,
WITH TWO DARK-SKINNED FRIENDS.

At last fervent prayer brought out the truth with shining evidence. Radiantly happy, Benigna listened to the comforting decision: she would make her First Communion the following Easter.

Her face bright with the sunshine of anticipation, she went back to her beloved books. Then, as she was about to pass her primary certificate exams, fresh complications set in. Benigna, although only seventeen, was compelled to give up her studies to obey her mother. Courageously she accepted and agreed to marry a Catholic young man of the parish. Care-free schooldays, farewell forevermore!

In prayer and submission the young lady prepared for the future mission marked out for her by God's finger. On November 22, 1947, Rev. Father A. Ouellet, O.M.I., blessed her marriage in the little church of Roche-a-Bateau. God bless the one who has suffered much for His sake!

REPORT OF THE ROCHE-A-BATEAU DISPENSARY FOR THE YEAR 1947:

Patients.....	12,230	Dressings.....	6,766
Injections.....	8,258	Teeth extracted.....	214
Consultations.....	7,518	Home Visits.....	707
Children christened.....		4	

* * *

In Journeys Often

FROM LES COTEAUX TO LES CAYES

It is true that the mishaps of the great Apostle of the Gentiles would provide more thrilling literary material for the adventure enthusiast; still, all things considered, the journey from one to the other of the above-mentioned posts does possess a distinct "apostolic" flavor, especially when the missionaries take to the trail. Only when the trip is an indispensable must do we sally forth, with the banner of patience and cheerfulness flying aloft. There are compensations, of course: the landscape is so entrancing that the eye never wearies travelling over the beautiful expanse of verdant hills and fertile valleys; besides, at journey's end, or better, on the way, beloved Sisters at our Community's three Haitian stations make us forget the unpleasant jolts of the trip.

Came one October morning when two Sisters decided to start — which is a far cry to arrive. Regular as clockwork, the truck rattled in at eight. "Mother, the truck's here!" Our *mounes* (helpers) were trying to be helpful. With impeccable courtesy the chauffeur motioned us to the front seats, the others being already occupied. Not a soul but had turned out to see us off; even the little ones playing in front of the school stopped their games to bid us good speed and prompt return.

Even at that early hour it was necessary for us to wear our straw sombreros to keep the burning sunrays at respectable distance. Every



now and then, while we watched the snowy waves of the Caribbean lapping the shore, we had to accept the not-so-benign caresses of boughs that stretched inquisitively right over our path, which was narrow — even at its widest.

The wheels were all four on active service when, on the way to Roche-a-Bateau, a puddle boldly claimed their attention, and in a moment had unnerved them so that they plunged in axle-deep. But the driver was not so faint-hearted. At the top of his voice he shouted for help. From every shady nook out popped compatriots of his to marshall their energies to get the four-wheeled one in moving trim again. Then on we rode, the sea at our elbow. The goodly folk we saw politely inquired where we were going.

At a pond, a bevy of washerwomen, comfortably seated in the water, were doing their laundry family style. Old Sol has his share of the bleaching to do here, after the clothes have been laid out on the rocks. He knows he may dally a bit, especially when by the common run he is given the example of leisurely living and working.

Roche-a-Bateau at long last. While the chauffeur was loading a supply of coffee, we hastened over to our dear Sisters'. In front of their convent, a considerable lineup of clinic prospects were awaiting their turn. All the school pupils were studiously poring over their text books. A five-minute call on the Sacramental Guest was also wedged in. St. Michael the Archangel being the appointed Patron of the parish, a statue of that Giant of God surmounts the altar. The doors to the Kindest Place on earth were wide open, and, when from the inside we peered outside, we had the impression of having put out to sea, for the blue of the waves and the azure of the sky were beautifully welded into one expanse of exquisiteness.

By this time the last bag of coffee had found itself a place, so Lelio broadcasted the information that it was time to begin the home stretch. At

one o'clock we were at Port Salut. The Sisters there greeted us with radiant smiles and an appetizing luncheon. Their convent is ideally located, the ventilation is number-one — all in all, it's the kind of place you'd like to be missioned to when you need a few weeks of rest. Those who get that assignment consider themselves lucky, and their going up the grade is a sweet atonement for a *felix culpa*. There you can feast your eyes all they want on the splendors of the Caribbean, and tune your tympanum to catch its peerless symphonies. To the right, the old church sheds its protective shadow upon the Sisters' home; in the rear, a stone sidewalk leads to the ageing temple of the ageless God. Everyone was overbusy at the school. The Sisters assert as a fact that their charges say Hail Marys more fervently, when they are standing in front of the small statue of the Blessed Mother hinged on to a palm tree.

Back on the road, we hoped there would be no more stops before the grand finale. Alas and alack! Port Salut Bay was alive with boats, with a steamer loading bananas — a sight too good to be missed. So we all stopped to have a looksee.

The roads are more practicable in this district, there having been no rainy season; but the ruts are so deep that ever and anon we had to resort to alighting and walking as being the best policy. Once the Briere Bluff death-trap safely behind us, we regained our bearings, thanking all the angels that the Haitian chauffeurs are masters at the wheel. On the very hilltop stands a small restaurant with coffee, rice and refreshing drinks for the way-worn.

In the distance, it was a relief to detect the plain of Les Cayes, after which we had sighed a few hours during. Night was falling as we turned in at our Sisters'. Patience is the major need of missionaries in Haiti. It felt like oiling the panting machine of self-conquest to bask awhile in the sunshine (after sunset, aye) of sisterly affection. Behold how sweet and how pleasant it is for Sisters, miles from Mother's house and the Mother-house, to dwell together in unity, that through their common effort many souls may enter into the great family of God's children.

* * *

VANCOUVER

ST. JOSEPH'S ORIENTAL HOSPITAL

Since the opening of our Hospital, back in 1946, we have had the consolation of unlatching the Pearly Gates to many a soul, and also of seeing a number of our other patients return to their homes with renewed physical energy and some notion of the great eternal truths.

A few months ago, medical care avowed itself powerless to save a certain Mr. Woo, who had been admitted at St. Joseph's some ten days previously. Taken with a chill in the process of a blood transfusion, the patient was led to the last extremity within the space of one hour. In spite of a rising



SISTER ST. JEAN DU REDEMPTEUR (MARCELLE ST. ARNAUD, AHUNTIC),
SUPERIOR OF MOUNT ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL, VANCOUVER, OFFERS A FEASTDAY TRAY TO A CHINESE PATIENT

temperature of 107° and 108°, he nevertheless kept his lucidity to the end, thanking the Sisters for the slightest service rendered him.

It was impossible not to be struck by his spirit of gratitude and by the strength and solace he found in the prayers that were recited in his native tongue. In anguished moments of agitation, prayer unfailingly brought him calm and serenity; he would then fold his hands and repeat the suggested invocations with great fervor. Gladly he welcomed the priceless grace of Baptism and was regenerated in the purifying Sacrament, exchanging his name for the Christian one of Joseph. Strange coincidence: upon his arrival, Mr. Woo had appeared preoccupied about some banquet at which he had been requested to act as master of ceremonies; and now, on the very day of the celebration so much in his mind, the Lord of Heaven was inviting him to His Banquet of everlasting love.

A young man came to us one evening with a large-size tumor behind his left knee. Though he was undoubtedly suffering excruciating pain, he refused proffered help to climb into his bed, preferring to help himself with his sound leg. The fact is that he had seen much worse in his short life. At the early age of fourteen he had been kidnapped by bandits, who had cut off one of his ears and sent it to his family, claiming a high ransom for the delivery of the boy. His poor parents had seen themselves in the

obligation of collecting the requisite sum among friends and acquaintances.

When told that his injured leg would probably have to be amputated, the young man feared a renewal of the bloody experience of his boyhood. However, without a single complaint and with a brave smile upon his lips, he courageously agreed to all that would be deemed necessary for his greater good. We hope that some day not too far distant the great boon of Faith will perfect the natural qualities of this highly gifted soul.

In the night of December 22, another of our Chinese patients was granted his immigration visa for the Homeland above. In the space of five years, this man of thirty or so had undergone twelve surgical operations, each of which had proved ineffectual. A thirteenth, set for December 6, only occasioned additional sufferings, which he bore with edifying resignation and astounding self-mastery.

From the very first days, he told the nursing Sister: "Sister, you wouldn't believe how good it feels, when we are sick, to have someone near us who cares and sympathizes!" Then, grasping the Sister's crucifix, he added: "Please let me kiss it, for I know that it is for His sake that you are so kind to me!"

During the whole of his stay at the hospital, his perfect submission to the nurses never flagged. "You know what I need better than I do," he



SISTER ST. JULIE (BEATRICE TESSIER, WOONSOCKET, R.I.), MISSIONARY SISTER OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, VANCOUVER, VISITING A PATIENT AT MOUNT ST. JOSEPH'S ORIENTAL HOSPITAL

often said. One day, as his pain was proving almost unbearable, Sister advised him to implore the assistance of Our Lord. "But I don't know how to pray," he answered. "Please teach me." Needless to say, the invitation was at once complied with and from that time onward, every night, patient and nurse would recite together acts of faith and of love and invocations to the Blessed Virgin. A picture representing Our Lord knocking at a door, that was hung in his room attracted his attention, and one day he confided to the nursing Sister: "I like this picture and would like to have it before my eyes on my deathbed."

Was he really thinking of death? He certainly did not dream it so near, for almost to his dying day he never dismissed altogether the thought that he should recover his health. This rendered most difficult any opening concerning the question of Baptism. But, on the other hand, the fervent prayers addressed to God for that intention, joined with the sufferings he had so nobly borne, weighed much in the divine scales.

As Christmas was drawing near, we asked him: "What would you say if God invited you to spend Christmas in Heaven?" Turning already dimmed eyes in the direction of the nursing Sister, he replied: "I wouldn't mind, Sister. You see, it's a long time since I've given up everything."

On the evening of December 21, he felt worse and asked for an injection. "There is something else I would rather give you," Sister gently told him. "And what is it?" he questioned. "Baptism, that would cleanse your soul and make you a child of God." — "I accept," he said simply; "baptize me."

After a brief instruction, our happy Sister poured the blessed waters upon his livid forehead, placing him under the protection of Good St. Joseph and St. John. The moribund then murmured a few invocations, pressed to his lips the crucifix of a happy death and repeated the acts of love that were suggested. That same night this newly purified soul was slipping "under the wire" of Heaven's portals.

While visiting Chinatown in the beginning of February, Sister Therese de la Providence⁽¹⁾ and Sister Therese, catechist virgin, came upon a wretched man who lived in a cellar in a state of unspeakable misery. This good old man had once been hospitalized at St. Joseph's and had been baptized. Unfortunately, he had lost the use of speech as a result of a cerebral congestion, and so it had been impossible for us to ascertain whether he was sufficiently instructed to be admitted to Holy Communion. However, the attitude of this poor outcast leaves no doubt as to his good dispositions towards the True Faith.

Another of our ex-patients, ill with paralysis, is condemned to lie on a board which serves him as bed, without other succor than the meagre dole which a friend brings him every morning. And the cases we have mentioned are not the only ones. In the face of such dire misery and helplessness, how deeply we deplore our incapacity to give shelter and assistance to all the suffering members of Christ's Mystical Body!

1. Therese SMITH, Southbridge, Mass.

Africa Bound

Excerpts From the Diary of Our Four Missionary Sisters

En Route to Katete, Nyasaland

New York, March 12, 1948

We left Misericordia Hospital at nine this morning, thanking God's ever watchful Providence for the kindly haven opened to us, and set out for the port. For the last time we crossed the busy streets of New York the Great and a few minutes later were already setting up residential quarters in the diminutive cabin, two and a half yards by three, reserved for the four of us on the "Queen Elizabeth." Two hours later we left America. Our eyes looked lingeringly back at the New York skyscrapers, but our hearts were with all our dear Sisters at the Motherhouse and our beloved relatives.

Saturday, March 13

We were disappointed to learn there is no Catholic priest on board. Along came the Chief Purser courteously to offer us to wend our way to one of the first-class lounging rooms, where, according to his expression, we would be very well for our "ceremonies." We followed his advice and really found ourselves in a quiet place, but the said lounge being at the far end of the "Queen Elizabeth," and the "Queen Elizabeth" being eight hundred feet in length, it was something of a pilgrimage to be undertaken each time. Our S.S. is very luxurious: everywhere we see marble, sculptured woodwork, silk hangings, and so on. The perfume of natural flowers is always hovering in the air. Luckily we are only here in passing, for all this display makes us appreciate the simplicity of our own religious convents. The personnel of the ship totals twelve hundred employees and approximately sixteen hundred passengers.

Sunday, March 14

No Sunday Mass on board! In thought we knelt with our Sisters in the Motherhouse chapel. Time and time again passengers would inquire when Mass would be said, till at last one of the officers concluded he should invite the Sisters to celebrate it! Poor fellow, the Catholic liturgy is all Greek to him.

We are beginning to feel that life on firm land is more balanced than life on the capricious main. Rain, snow, hail, wind, etc., we are experiencing the whole gamut of the various kinds of weather.

Wednesday, March 17

At noontime we entered the Channel. On its twin banks stand stark and sad the ruins of the buildings bombed during the war. Four hours later we were at Southampton. As the passengers of the tourist class were to cross the gangplank of the "Queen Elizabeth" only after supper, we judged it preferable to spend the night on board, so as not to cross London during the night, and thus arrive at an unearthly hour at the White Sisters who were to give us hospitality.

Thursday, March 18

At eight o'clock sharp we were at the Customs Office. From Southampton to London is a distance of about two hours by rail. Sunny springtime enhances the natural beauties of England: the trees are leafing and others are in full bloom; here and there tulips are smiling to the day and the meadows are mantled with emerald green. What struck us was the uniformity of the buildings and the endless number of chimneys. In the smaller towns on our way, all the private homes are built on a uniform model and topped with five, six and even more chimneys. The reason is that no central heating system is functioning, and the chimneys must accordingly be as numerous as the heaters.

It was our good fortune to meet in the British Capital two White Sisters of Africa coming to greet our little mission band. Mother Superior is French, and her companion, Sister St. Albert, Canadian-born. First salutations over: "Your Mother Foundress must be rejoicing in Heaven to see her Daughters turning towards Africa!" said Sister St. Albert. The kind nun was at Levis in 1905, when our venerated Mother spent some time in their Community to be initiated in the missionary life. Twenty-two years later, she met our revered Foundress in Quebec and heard her express the hope to see her Community established in the Dark Continent before passing on to God. Meeting people from home is certainly heart-warming, we all agreed and thanked Providence for the treat. The Sisters' Convent is at Heston, a village some twenty miles from London.

Friday, March 26

Our last Mass on American soil was heard on March 12, last day of the Novena of Grace; our first after the long Eucharistic fast on the ocean was on the Feast of St. Joseph. In acknowledgment of our debt of thanks to our kind Father for his visible protection, we spoke to him in prayer of all the intentions dear to our religious family.

We have made the last arrangements for the long voyage to Africa. The "Llanstephen Castle" sails on April 2. When going to London we always take the undergrounds, fast-going cars that won't allow us to admire the scenery all around. Traffic regulations are exactly the opposite of those in Canada. Everywhere one reads: "Keep left!" which gives us the peculiar unshakable impression that a collision will happen every next minute. In groceries, restaurants, bread shops, etc., as many customers are allowed in at a time as there are clerks to answer: "What can I do for you?" The others stand patiently waiting in Indian file.

With the White Sisters we formed the parish choir for the Holy Week celebrations. Heston has about four hundred Catholics. We were edified at the spirit of prayer that pervaded the atmosphere of that little church, but were saddened on thinking that all the beautiful spacious churches we see and that were Catholic before the Reformation of Henry VIII, are now Protestant temples.

Early this week we visited the Ken Gardens, magnificent parks where are cultivated rare trees, plants and flowers. Two shrubs especially caught our eye. One, the "Magnolia Soulangeana," seems laden with regal lilies and emits a rose fragrance; the other, the "Camelia Japonica," is formed of roses disposed in tiny bells. These parks contain greenhouses where plants and tropical trees grow, and a pool for the satisfaction of the wading instinct of the different families of ducks.

Truly sisterly hospitality is ours at the White Sisters. Every day the favorite topic of conversation is the desired and desirable African continent, and the detailed information on many things we are able to gather here will serve us in good stead when we set foot in our Promised Land. Please God, it won't be very long now before we do so!



The Pope's Plea

In 1889 a priest named Father Ferdinand Terrien, who had labored as a member of the African Mission Society of Lyons on the dread African Slave Coast, was sent to America. Pope Leo XIII granted him a private audience during which he spoke these memorable words:

"Go, my son, to that distant region, to this people of ardent faith and generous heart. Tell them that *it is the Pope himself who sends you*. The Pope blesses all those who will receive you and answer your call."

Almost identical is the plea made by His Holiness Pope Pius XII today. Our Holy Father who keeps in his heart all the worries of the Church struggling for life among the heathen, makes himself a beggar for Christ. His august hand is raised in blessing over all who, by prayer and almsgiving, take an active part in the apostolate of the Missions.

The Cross of Calvary still casts its shadow on the earth but the Blood of Him Who died thereon will fail of its full effect unless you aid in applying Christ's boundless merits (of that mighty sacrifice) to the millions still "seated in the darkness of paganism". Your prayers are the mighty links of the great cable of salvation which are forged by the zealous hands of missionaries maintained by your generosity. At home and abroad they are laboring tirelessly. America's vast priestless areas need their immediate and continued apostolate; the Far East is only beginning to know the real meaning of charity as exemplified by valiant priests and nuns; the Dark Continent feels the stirrings of the life-giving spirit which presages a second spring (of hope); Oceania, rousing herself from the lethargy of centuries, heeds the call of faith; the Near East must "return to its Father's House". All these may be helped by the combined co-operation of the Catholics of America.

The Boston Pilot

The Mission World

The Rajahs of India and Liberty of Apostolate

ROME — (A.I.F.) In December last, Mr. Sardar Patel, Vice President of the Supreme Council of Delhi, convoked the representatives of fourteen lesser semi-independent States in Nagpur and made the following statement: "Individuals from the exterior have provoked the people to revolt in several States. It was necessary for those States to appeal to the Government of Delhi to re-establish order in the interior. Similar disturbances will happen elsewhere and it is impossible for Delhi to be continually coming to your aid." The speaker ended by declaring openly that the only means of preserving order and assuring progress was the resignation of the Rajahs; these, he added, should cede their authority to the Central Government of Delhi. On January 1 the independence of the fourteen States mentioned had ceased to be a recognized fact.

Important consequences will follow this decision as far as the Catholic apostolate is concerned. As a matter of fact, the opposition of certain Rajahs, who refused to the missions the right to purchase lands, open schools and build chapels, will no longer place obstacles in the way. Such was the case, for instance, of the Udaipur State, where missionaries had never been able to secure a foothold and were allowed but four forty-eight-hour stays yearly. Today a missionary has already settled definitively in the midst of the ten thousand Catholics, who until then were priestless. And this movement of conversions will not be long before spreading in adjoining States henceforth freed from the domination of the Rajahs.

These details were given by a Belgian Jesuit of Chota-Nagpur, a flourishing Mission once evangelized by Father Lievens. On the territory of this Mission, which numbers three hundred thousand Catholics, existed several minor semi-independent States.

(Fides)

Catholics Total 1,112,500 in Lands Arabs Rule

CINCINNATI — A timely map with accompanying statistics showing the numerical position of the Church in the Middle Eastern countries, Arab stronghold and a center of world interest in view of the recent United Nations decision to partition Palestine, has been released here at the Catholic Student Mission Crusade headquarters.

The statistics disclose that in ten countries, six of which are under control of the Arab League, there is a total population of 69,384,881, including a total of 1,112,500 Catholics.

The CSMC breaks down the population figures as follows: Egypt, total 17,423,000, Catholics 227,100; Iran, 15,055,115, Catholics 12,000; Iraq, 3,560,456, Catholics 68,900; Lebanon, 1,025,000, Catholics 540,000; Palestine, 1,500,000, Catholics 125,000; Saudi-Arabia, 5,250,000, number of Catholics unknown; Syria, 2,800,000, Catholics 110,000; Trans-Jordan, 300,000, Catholics 10,000; Turkey, 18,971,300, Catholics 17,500; and Yemen, 3,500,000, number of Catholics unknown.

The map lists the following countries as under control of the Arab League: Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Trans-Jordan, Saudi-Arabia and Yemen.

A legend of the map lists as the needs of the Church in the Middle East: prayer for the success of mission work among dissident Christians; social service work among Moslems to prove the charity of the Christian Gospel; schools for Moslem children, and prayer for the guidance of the people's leaders.

The Catholic News

Statistics of Catholic Missions in Japan

ROME — (A.I.F.) For the 15 Missions of Japan (1 archdiocese, 5 dioceses, 2 vicariates and 7 prefectures apostolic), 1947 statistics present a total of 109,285 baptized persons and 10,788 catechumens.

There are, in Japan, 2,781 priests, Brothers and Sisters, of whom 1,947 are Japanese: 164 priests, 187 Brothers and 1,596 Sisters. Missionaries from abroad number 834: 314 priests, 85 Brothers and 435 Sisters.

Religious societies of men (taking into account the scholastics who pursue their studies in Japan) may be numbered as follows: 1° *By nationality*: 1 Croat, 1 Dutch, 1 Hungarian, 1 Lithuanian, 1 citizen of Vatican City, 1 citizen of Luxembourg, 3 Czechs, 4 Swiss, 5 Austrians, 7 Belgians, 17 Poles, 22 Spaniards, 33 Americans, 45 Canadians, 56 Italians, 79 French and 138 Germans. 2° *By Institute*: 2 Benedictines, 2 Trappists, 3 Christian Brothers, 4 Sulpicians, 6 Fathers of the Society of St. Paul, 14 Conventuals, 17 Maryknollers, 33 Dominicans, 35 Marianists, 43 Franciscans, 52 S.V.D. Fathers, 53 Fathers of the Paris Foreign Mission Society, 61 Salesians, 90 Jesuits.

Thus the missionaries in Japan belong to 17 nations and 15 different religious societies.

There are also 43 religious institutes of women: 11 are Japanese, 32 foreign.

Truly the apostolate in Japan may be said to be carried on under the sign of Catholicity.

(Fides)

Four Million Catholics in the Belgian Congo

ROME — (A.I.F.) The 28 vicariates and prefectures apostolic of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi have registered, during the year 1947, an increase of 81 priests: 71 foreign and 10 native. This brings the total to 1,702 priests.

The 5 major regional seminaries have an enrollment of 354 students in philosophy and theology. This spells an increase of 32 over the preceding year.

There are 4,010,721 Catholics and catechumens on a total population of 14,000,000 inhabitants. Christians belonging to various Protestant sects overreach the half million.

(Fides)

Communists Resent Even Buddhist Pagodas

ROME — The Chinese Press has made known that in November last the Communists entirely and methodically destroyed all the Buddhist monasteries and lamaseries of Wutai, in Shansi province, sacred land of Chinese Buddhism.

The pilgrims innumerable who usually made the pilgrimage to Wutai, there to worship the numerous statues of the gods, will no longer find any. The Communists have battered and broken all such representations of deities, and thus were able to make a net profit of the 300 tons of scrap iron sold. The ancient, sacred scrolls have also been sent to the scrap heap: 200 tons of old paper. The 5,000 liturgical vestments have equally been looted by Communist bands.

This act of religious intolerance and cultural vandalism has been unanimously reproved by the Chinese Buddhists.

(Fides)

Importance of Christianity in India

TRICHINOPOLY (India) — Gandhi's ashes were to be strewn and mingled with the waters of every sacred river in India, including the Cauvery, in the south of the peninsula. The ceremony was to be held near Trichinopoly, at a place where the river meanders about the island of Sri Rangam, where stands a famous temple.

The urn containing the ashes destined to southern India, was flown to Madras. In this city it was placed in a magnificently decorated train compartment. All

along the way, the train stopped at every station to allow the people to tender a last homage to the remains of the famous national hero. At Trichinopoly, the urn was laid under a beautiful canopy, and all night long the throng came and went, while the cadets of the Military School kept a guard of honor. On February 12, early in the morning, the procession set out. It took six long hours winding its way to the river, in spite of its nearness to the city. The urn had been deposited on a richly decked processional car, around which the people gathered to recite the *mantrams* (prayers). About 300,000 persons waded knee-deep and many even waist-deep into the sacred river, as the ashes were strewn in its waters.

In the afternoon, the students of all the schools in Trichinopoly organized a funeral procession around the city. The Catholic pupils also took part, as the organization had no religious character.

One may be surprised to hear Hindus panegyricizing Gandhi in the sense of comparing him to Christ. Gandhi, in fact, has been called the greatest apostle of peace and non-violence since Jesus Christ. Mrs. Naidu, Bengali Brahmani and a collaborator of the great Mahatma, after comparing her master to Jesus, who rose on the third day from the dead, adds: "Gandhi is not really dead, for his spirit abides with us and guides us still." Many have even asserted that the Mahatma was the greatest Christian of all history. Such comparisons should not scandalize us; they simply prove that, even from the Hindu viewpoint, the teachings of the Gospel are the most sublime on earth.

(Fides)

African Deacons

THREE AFRICAN STUDENTS of the Seminary of Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More were recently ordained deacons in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. There was a sermon at the ordination in which the preacher made an appeal to parents to realize the privilege it is to have a son or daughter in the service of God as a priest or sister.

The ceremony took place at an altar built by the Brothers of the Monte Cassino Mission and very tastefully decorated by the Sisters of the Precious Blood, in the open air in a peaceful and shady setting between jacaranda trees. After the ordination, Solemn Benediction took place. When Rev. Simon Turo carried the monstrance to the throne, many of the six hundred Africans in attendance stood up as though to make quite sure that they could believe their eyes. It came as a surprised shock to them to see one of their own race expose and carry the Blessed Sacrament.

This, more than anything else, makes them realize that Catholicity is not European.

Catholic Missions, Australia

Winning the Lushais Over to Christ

FULFILLMENT of one of the most cherished ideals of the Most Reverend A. LePailleur, C.S.C., Bishop of Chittagong, Bengal, has been realized in the opening of the Lushai Hills to missionaries. This territory, part of Assam, was formerly forbidden ground to any Catholic missionary. The Lushais are eager to embrace the Faith and a great future in the Catholic Church is expected among these sturdy people of the hills.

The Catholic Mission Digest

Spreading the Faith in Indonesia

NINETY-ONE DUTCH MISSIONARIES, including 13 Jesuits, recently arrived in Indonesia. There are now 121 Jesuits, 81 of them Dutch and 40 Javanese, in the vicariate apostolic of Batavia and Samarang.

The Catholic Mission Digest

Give Us Priests!

WHAT A WOEFUL SHORTAGE of clergy and Brothers and Sisters exists today in Latin America! In the great area from Mexico to Argentina and Chile, there are less than 25,000 priests serving 130,000,000 souls. Even allowing an average of 2,000 Catholics per priest, Latin America would have enough clergy for 50,000,000 who need priests; at the rate of one priest to every 2,000 people, Latin America stands in need of 40,000 more priests.

In Brazil, a mighty nation of 45,000,000 people, there are only 5,000 priests; some 30,000,000 people live without adequately organized parish life. In Peru, a nation of 7,000,000, there are only 1,500 priests; over half the inhabitants are practically without clergy. In Panama, a nation of two-thirds of a million people, there are only 80 priests; Guatemala, with 3,000,000 people, has but 125 priests. Paraguay, with over 1,000,000 people, has barely 100 priests.

Maryknoll

Our Lady of Fatima in Africa

A NATIONAL SHRINE to Our Lady of Fatima is the plan of the Basutos of Africa. This shrine will mark the fulfillment of the vow of thanksgiving of the Oblate Fathers in this mission. In answer to their prayers, in 1946, government disbursements were changed and soon all Oblate schools, instead of half of them, will receive total support.

The Catholic Mission Digest

Grannie's Confession

On the eve of Palm Sunday we had heard confessions outdoors from two to six in the afternoon. After a brief intermission we went back to it till late in the night. We were there, two Belgian missionaries and a Hindu priest. The fourth, also a Hindu, was momentarily disabled on account of fever. Yet there would have been work for the four of us! Just think: 4,000 Christians from the neighboring villages had camped around the church. Their conscience at peace again, they intended to sleep in the open before heading back home the next morning.

But I want to tell you about my last penitent. She was a kind little old lady who had patiently stood in the lineup for her turn. I glanced at my watch — one hour after midnight! At four-thirty I was to begin another day. Then High Mass, thousands of communions, the procession of the Triumphal Entrance in Jerusalem and about twenty baptisms!

"Now, grandmother, tell me your sins."

"But, Father, I'm just an old woman."

We were at Hamirpur, in the semi-independent state of Gangpur, and my penitent was speaking *sadri*, a dialect common among the natives.

"Tell me your sins anyway."

"*Mohe kono dantman nakke!* But I have no more teeth!"

Vainly did I insist for some matter for absolution. She would always repeat:

"*Kaisan pap karbon?* How can I make any sins?"

For so many years she had been just a toothless old grannie, how could she remember having committed any sins?

Now for that "secret of confession" I told you about. Our Mission of Ranchi counts more than 350,000 Catholics, and Catholics who live their Faith, if you please! We are only, only 140 priests! Yes, 140 priests and that is including the 40 Hindu secular priests, the young and the aged, and those who are engaged in teaching in schools and seminaries. So that the bulk of the work comes back to those between forty and fifty, that is to say, to 20 when we should be at least 400!

Youth of Europe and America, we are dying at the task! "To you from failing hands we throw the torch!" Will you heed our call?

(Fides)



The Children's Share

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS,

Likely this *Precursor* will find most of you in some delightful nook of our Canadian wonderland where I fancy there must be a thrilling lake to swim in, steep mountains to climb in true alpinist fashion, dark, mysterious woods to explore, and, of course, sunny beaches where one may acquire that healthy suntan every vacationist feels entitled to. No, I am not going to tell you to enjoy the million and one marvels Mother Nature offers you during the glorious summer season. You are already doing that very conscientiously. Mother Nature, did I say? To be sure, she has the leading role in the great movie of holiday life, but we all know who the Great Manager is, don't we? So let us smile up at Him, often during the day, and thank Him for lake and mountain and forest and beach. So many boys and girls forget their good manners when it comes to acknowledging God's gifts.

Even if a bit of reading wasn't included on your holiday programme — which I hope isn't the case — here is a short story you can read while waiting for that snubby fish to bite or "slow-motion" Junior to put his swimming-suit on. Coming along? Were going to

CLEARVIEW

If the postman had expected to rest his tired feet a while on the Browns' shady veranda that sultry June morning, he certainly was disappointed. No sooner had Marybelle, a ten-year-old damsel with golden locks, seen him turn round the corner than, swift as the hummingbird, she ran up to him, gave him her brightest smile and in return was handed a large, sweetly-scented envelope which she excitedly brought to her mother.

"Mummie, Mummie, a letter for you! Bet it's from Aunt Agnes! "

"Thank you, dear. Why, yes, it is from your Aunt Agnes."

"Aunt Agnes! Ooooh!" The exclamation and the sigh came from Billy Boy, who for the moment forgot his breakfast to smile at the charming vision that had just flashed across his mind.

His mother smiled too, for she guessed what captivating film was unfolding in her boy's imagination: Clearview with its fields of green and gold that seemed to reach around the earth; Clearview with its blooming orchards and purling brooks, and the pine-canopied lane that leads from the road to the pretty farmhouse; Clearview, the summer home of a loved uncle and auntie, where three fun-loving cousins, Lou, eight, Helen, seven, Baby Claire, three, and Ralph, a regular sunbeam catcher and Billy's best pal, spend their vacations. In Billy's imagination, Clearview came very near to Paradise.

But after all, this was only a dream, while that juicy pear in his plate, a sweet reality, so Billy wisely resumed his breakfast.

Glancing over the letter from her sister-in-law, Mrs. Brown was agreeably surprised to find it to be an invitation for Marybelle and her brother to share their cousins' holidays at the farm.

Upon hearing the great news, Billy almost choked over his pear, while Marybelle began to dance and caper around her mother until both Mummie and girlie were dizzy.



THE RIVER WHERE YOU CATCH THE BIGGEST FISH



FLOWERS, A SMILE, AND TWO DANCING EYES

When Dad came home from the office that evening, Mrs. Brown had a few words with him, after which she told her eager youngsters:

"Fortunately, Dad has some business to attend to in a village near Clearview, so we'll drive you up there tomorrow morning."

"O Mummie, that'll be grand!" exclaimed Marybelle, clapping her hands with delight. As for Billy Boy, he found nothing better to express his overflowing joy than to perform a series of breath-taking somersaults right there in the middle of the living-room.

"Yes, the country air will do you good," said Dad, adding with an amused twinkle in his grey eyes, "and I guess we won't have time to miss you very much, seeing that we intend to drive over every weekend."

"Is that right, Mummie?" Billy wanted to know before slipping into bed. "Just this one night and then we leave for Clearview?"

"Why, Billy," stated Marybelle with importance, "of course, since we are starting off tomorrow. The idea!"

Seven o'clock the next morning found the two children sitting on the porch, all dressed up, having had breakfast and wishing they could drive a car.

Soon the whole family was speeding on its way to Clearview.

Though hilly and winding, the road seemed smooth enough to the eager youngsters, while in the turquoise sky above the merry sun cast rays of joy all over the glittering landscape. On either side of the road stretched large fields spangled with pretty flowers swaying gently in the breeze, while on overhanging branches or on the stakes of fences, as on a theatre stand, gay birdies rehearsed summer songs.

Slowly the car crawled up the last hill. From the summit, the red-gabled roof of Uncle Leo's farmhouse could already be seen as it peek-a-boomed through the trees.

"O Dad, look!" cried Billy, his voice exultant, "look, the flag at Uncle's is raised!"

"Yes," echoed Marybelle, "and is it ever windy up there! See how it flaps and waves!"

"It's very kind of your uncle and aunt to greet us so cordially," remarked Dad.

"One is always welcome at Clearview," Mother added, a warm note in her voice.

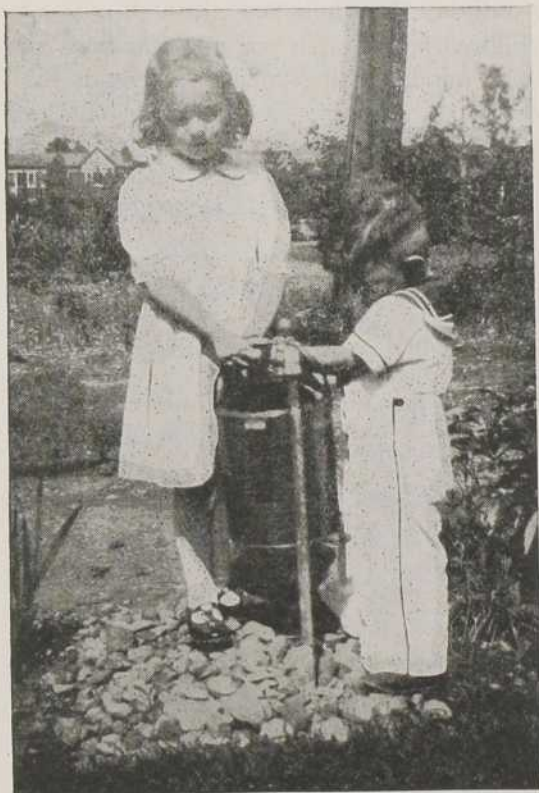
Now, the river where Lou delights to go a-fishing and then — at last — Clearview!

Turning into the lane of fragrant evergreens, the car soon came upon a

most ravishing scene. Baby Claire, her chubby arms clasping a bouquet of golden flowers and her sun-kissed little face aglow with health and joy, stood there, in the middle of the path, smiling the warmest of welcomes to her Mummie's guests!

At her cousin's cheerful invitation, Claire hopped in the car for the remaining minute drive. Another welcome — Claire style — was awaiting the Browns upon their arrival at the house.

While the grownups passed into the living-room, Billy and his "other self" — I mean Ralph — disappeared in the direction of the granaries, and the womenfolk went up into the pink guest-room that was to be Marybelle's, to discuss important feminine matters.



Filling the Sprinkler With Clear Cool Water

Mr. Brown soon left for the village where he was expected. When he came back, at supper-time, Uncle Leo called his attention to Marybelle and her brother watering the flower beds on the side of the house.

"As you can see," he laughed, "those sunny-faced children of yours don't intend to lose any time around here. Would you believe it, they already have something on the programme for tomorrow."

"Indeed? And may I know just what is that something?"

"A regular strawberry picking, plus a picnic in the woods, if you please."

"Wish I could join the party."

So swiftly flew the days at Clearview, it all seemed a wonderful dream. On the very first day Aunt Agnes had suggested that her young people engage in a love contest to help win to the Child Jesus, through prayers, alms and sacrifices, as many pagan children as possible. And so every day was strewn with small deeds of virtue and brave self-denials which gladdened Jesus and afforded Him real holidays in the hearts of His merry five.

Yes, His merry five, 'cause don't you go and imagine that love contest was a funkiller. Why, I wish you had been there to hear all that Bill and Marybelle had to tell their Dad and Mom when shivery September brought them home! For when the sun shines within your soul — and it always does when you have been loyal to Jesus — then, whether it rains or thunders outside, there really can't be any dull day the whole year through.

Such holidays as the Brown children had, I wish you all, dear boys and girls. Holidays that relax body and mind, making you faster friends than ever with Jesus, our Divine Savior.

Lovingly,

THE PRECURSOR

Parable of the Acorn

Have you ever heard the Parable of the Acorn? I plucked an acorn from the green sward and held it to my ear, and it seemed to say:

"By and by, birds will come and make their nests in me; I shall be fuel and warmth for many homes; I shall protect cattle from the blazing sun, and provide ribs for the seafaring ships, so that the storms of the Atlantic will beat against their sides in vain."

"What? You poor, weak, insignificant little thing!" said I. "Shall you be able to do this?"

"Yes," said the Acorn. "God and I."

I took a little child and held it against my heart, and it seemed to say:

"By and by, I shall grow strong and big, and I will love the Christ and give help to missionaries, or go myself and teach the heathen of a Saviour's love, and many shall be brought into the Kingdom."

"What? You poor, weak, frail little creature!" said I. "Shall you be able to do this?"

"Yes," and the child smiled into my eyes. "Christ and I."

The Boston Pilot

RAYS FROM MARY'S HANDS



Thanksgiving for guidance from Our Blessed Mother. Mrs. S. H. — Thanksgiving for a favor received. Please pray for a great favor. Mrs. J. M., **Cornwall, Ont.** — I have obtained a favor. Many thanks. Mrs. N. LaF., **West Springfield, Mass.** — Enclosed is an offering I had promised to Our Blessed Mother to cure me of a cold. Mrs. A. B., **Skowhegan, Me.** — Enclosed please find an offering in thanksgiving for a favor received. Mrs. L. L., **Ludlow, Mass.** — Thanks to our kind Heavenly Mother for a favor received. M. E. P. — Sincere thanks for a favor received. Mrs. E. B. — Thanks for a favor I have obtained through the intercession of Our Heavenly Mother. Mrs. B. — Grateful thanks to Our Heavenly Mother for the favors she has obtained for me. A subscriber. — Thanks to Mary, Queen of Our Hearts, for a grace obtained after promising to publish. Mrs. V., **Montreal.** — I am very thankful that my daughter has fully recovered. Mrs. L., **Montreal.** — Thanks for a favor received. Mrs. A. B., **Ville Emard.** — Sincere thanks for a favor received. Miss L. D. — Please join me in thanking Our Blessed Mother for a favor received. Anonymous. — All my thanks to our dear Blessed Mother for a favor received through her intercession. I am asking for a complete recovery. Mrs. W. B. — I wish to thank Our Blessed Mother for favors received. Mrs. F. D., **St. Vincent de Paul.** — Homage of thanksgiving for a conversion. Mrs. M., **Montreal.** — Grateful thanks for a favor received. Would you please have prayers said for the conversion of a young girl. Anonymous. — Please help me thank Our Blessed Mother for a favor received. I am asking my cure, also that of a person dear to me. Miss G. L. — Thanks for a cure obtained. Mrs. O. A. — Our Heavenly Mother has obtained several favors for me. May she keep on protecting me. A. M. — Heartfelt thanks to Mary Immaculate for her protection. G. G. — Homage of gratitude for a favor received. Mrs. A. O. — I am coming to fulfill a promise made in honor of Our Blessed Mother to thank her for a favor received. M. A. R. — A favor has been obtained. Mrs. O. M. — Sincere thanks for a cure obtained for my son. Mrs. C. B. — I am coming to pay a debt of thanks I owe our dear Heavenly Mother. Mrs. M. M., **Northampton, Mass.** — This is to acknowledge a debt of thanks to Our Blessed Lady for my cure which I have obtained. Mrs. M. M., **West Warwick, R. I.** — Homage of gratitude for a favor received. Mrs. J. A. T. — Thanks for a favor. Mrs. E. F. — The favor I was hoping for has been granted me; please thank Our Blessed Lady with me. Mrs. L. A. L., **Montreal.** — Heartfelt thanks to Mary Immaculate for her protection. Mrs. A. S. — Please help me thank Our Lord and His Blessed Mother for a great favor I have obtained. Anonymous, **Montreal.** — I am very grateful for success in my undertakings. Mrs. V. P. — Best thanks for a favor received. Anonymous.

GENERAL THANKSGIVINGS

I have obtained a great favor. Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Jude have helped me a great deal. Miss K., **Westmount.** — Will you please make a novena for two special intentions. I have received many favors from the Infant Jesus of Prague. Mrs. S., **Lawrence, Mass.** — All my thanks to Our Blessed Mother and St. Catherine for a favor received. G. A., **St. Eustache.** — Thanks to St. Therese of the Child Jesus for a great favor received through her intercession. Mrs. R., **Waterbury, Conn.** — Best thanks to Blessed Maria Goretti for three favors received on the same day. Mrs. O. D., **Montreal.** — Sincere thanks to Our Blessed Mother and Bishop Laval for a favor received through their intercession. Mrs. J. M. B., **Rosemont.**

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



REMEMBER

Please say a little prayer for my family to our kind Heavenly Mother to have peace in our home. Anonymous. — Please make a novena for my daughter that she will meet some good Catholic man very soon. A mother. — Will you please say a prayer for my mother who has a sore heel that keeps draining. Mr. O. C. — I would appreciate it if you would make a novena that I will hear from my son and that we will be reunited together. Please pray for other intentions; also that I may be able to walk. Mrs. M., **Montreal**. — Will you please make a novena for our son who seems to have lost interest in his religion; also for another intention. Mrs. X., **Verdun**. — Would you please make a novena to Our Blessed Mother, that my daughter may find a house very soon. Mrs. B., **Granby, P. Q.** — Please find enclosed an offering for a favor I would like from Our Lady. M. C., **St. Andrews East, P. Q.** — Will you please accept an offering to provide an altar for Katete's chapel. I am asking a favor for my health, and the souls of my departed parents. Please pray that I may have strength to carry my cross of sickness. Kindly make a special prayer to Our Blessed Mother, Queen of the Holy Rosary, that she may aid me with her divine help. A subscriber. — Please have lamps burn to the Immaculate Mother for the recovery of my little baby who is in the Montreal Victoria Hospital; also for myself that I shall recover from a nervous breakdown, and for my dying father. Mrs. X. — Please pray for special intentions. Mrs. M., **Cornwall, Ont.**

— I hope you will remember me in your prayers for improvement in my health and other special intentions. My brother was operated on with much success, thanks to your prayers. Mrs. M., **Riverside, Ont.** — Would you please start a novena to the Blessed Mother so that I will have a successful operation. May God grant me strength and courage. Mrs. A. B., **Lowell, Mass.** — Please pray for my husband who is quite sick. Mrs. F. G. — I would like to obtain a very special favor. M. L. H., **Millbury, Mass.** — Please pray for my health, so I may be able to keep working. Mrs. V. C., **Jewett City, Conn.** — Please pray for my dear children and me. Mrs. L. D., **Milwaukee, Wis.** — Will you kindly pray for a very special favor with regard to present difficulties. Please offer prayers for my son to pass his seventh standard examination for the year 1948, in the month of October. I trust the Blessed Virgin will grant me the following favors: better position for my daughter about to marry; a conversion and an increase of faith for persons dear to me; also personal favor. J. A., **Gold Coast, West Africa.**

Prayers are also requested for the following intentions: conversions, 8; cures, 23; positions, 6; special intentions, 75.

GENERAL PETITIONS

Please pray to the Infant Jesus that I may have my own home by Christmas Eve. B.P., **Montreal**. — Please make two special novenas to St. Joseph and St. Anne for my intentions. R. A., **Westmount**. — I am asking for a novena to Our Blessed Mother and St. Therese of the Child Jesus for a special intention. M. M., **Quebec**. — Would you please burn a candle and ask Our Blessed Mother, Good St. Anne and St. Anthony for two special favors. Mrs. B., **Granby, P. Q.** — Kindly remember me in your prayers and have two low Masses offered for the Holy Souls in Purgatory for special intentions. Mrs. W., **Kenogami, P. Q.** — May I please ask the dear Sisters to make a novena to St. Joseph for my special intention. Please pray for me. Mrs. G. S., **Baie Comeau, P. Q.** — Please make a novena to Our Blessed Mother and St. Anthony of Padua that my husband may regain his health. Mrs. J. S., **Thompsonville, Conn.** — Please pray for my husband and family. Mrs. H. B., **Baltic, Conn.**

The Glories of Mary are for the sake of her Son.

Cardinal Newman



Our Dear Departed

(From notifications received before May 17)

Rev. Father F. J. Singleton, St. Michael's Parish, **Montreal**; Rev. Father Patrice Lafreniere, **Hornepayne, Ont.**; our Sister St. Joseph du Sacre Coeur (Marie Louise Chevrete, St. Majoric de Grantham), Missionary in **Canton, China**; Mrs. Joseph Menard, **St. Elisabeth**, mother of our Sister St. Elisabeth; Mrs. Alfred Desrosiers, **Fall River, Mass.**, mother of our Sister St. Jean de la Croix; Mrs. Alpee Martin, **St. Francois d'Assise, Bonaventure County**, mother of our Sister Marguerite de Jesus; Mr. Leo Letourneau, **Mont Louis, Gaspe**, brother of our Sister Marie du Calvaire; Mrs. Clement Filiatrault, **La Sarre**, sister of our Sister Jeanne de Jesus; Miss Claire DeSerres, **St. Melanie**, sister of our Sister Dominique du Rosaire; Mr. James Curran, Mrs. Fred DeVanney, Mrs. Rose Farmer-Valois, **Montreal**; Mrs. A. E. Hewitt, **Outremont**; Mr. Henry Arsenault, **Wellington, P.E.I.**; Miss Laurence Legrand, Mr. Nap. Geoffroy, Mrs. A. Demers, Mr. Moise Roussel, Mr. Michel Amorosa, Mr. Ernest Boivin, Mrs. Alfred Harvey, Mrs. Hormisdas Lavoie, Mr. Leon Pare, Mrs. Alcide Masse, Mrs. Emile Bois, Mr. Herve Lalonde, Mrs. P. Lecompte, Mr. P. Beaudoin, Mr. J. O. Venne, Mr. Antoine Grise, Miss Alexina Arpin, Mrs. Modeste Viau, Mrs. Leon Langlois, Mr. Etienne Gaulin, Mr. Wilfrid Drouin, Mrs. Walter Dolan, Mrs. J. B. Masse, Mr. Uldege Denis, Mrs. Emile Caya, Mrs. Joseph Comtois, Mr. Ayila Laurendeau, Mr. Armand Tetreault, Mr. and Mrs. Andre Glenne, Mr. P. H. Sabourin, Mrs. H. Giguere, Mrs. Zephirin Legault, Mr. Hector Robert, Mrs. Ferdinand Martel, Mrs. F. U. Lavallee, Mrs. Louise Laurin, Mr. Narcisse Dupuis, Mr. Louis Gravel, Mrs. Alphonse Arcand, Mrs. Elisee Boucher, Mrs. D. Girardeau, Mr. Arthur Asselin, Mrs. A. Trudeau, Mr. Alpee Barabe, Mr. J. A. Rouse, Mrs. O. Houle, Mrs. G. Malouin, Mr. L. Thibault, Mrs. Louis Brunelle, Mr. Louis Alphonse Desrochers, Mr. Ludger Labreche, Mr. Pierre Maillet, Mrs. Ulric Tessier, Mr. Emile Bernier, Mr. A. Courtois, Mrs. Eugene Longval, Mrs. Theotime Massicotte, Mrs. Jos. Hebert, Mrs. A. J. Simays, Miss Therese Pelletier, Mr. Joseph Desrosiers, Mr. Jean Marie Latour, Miss A. Major, Mr. Philippe Vezina, Mr. L. A. Bouchard, Mrs. M. Audette, Mr. Jean Marie Savignac, Mrs. A. Testenide, Mr. Henri Jules Dandurand, Mrs. T. Carbonneau, Mr. W. H. Winslow, Mr. Pierre Betournay, Mrs. Joseph Reid, Mrs. Alexandre Filion, Mrs. Z. Maisonneuve, Mrs. Joseph Drolet, Mrs. Lucien Labelle, **Montreal**; Mrs. Onesime Demers, Mrs. Jos. Therrien, Mrs. J. P. Therrien, Mr. William Shanks, **Cote St. Paul**; Mr. Roch Brunet, Notary, **Outremont**; Mr. Jacques Bourbonnais, Mrs. A. E. Morin, **Ville Emard**; Mrs. P. Pronovost, **Westmount**; Mr. Theophile Lecavalier, Mrs. Aristide Corbeil, Mrs. C. St. Jacques, Mr. Albert Bergeron, **Rosemont**; Mr. L. G. O. Page, **Knowlton**; Mr. Oscar Payette, **Varenes**; Mr. Joseph Langevin, Mrs. Hormisdas Laprairie, **Vercheres**; Mr. Nazaire Bertrand, Mr. Pierre Lalonde, **St. Anne de Bellevue**; Mrs. Eugene Beausejour, **Piedmont**; Mr. Joseph Gauron, **Longueuil West**; Mr. Patrick Brunet, **St. Agathe**; Mr. Charles Gervais, **St. Barthelemi**; Mr. Clement Gaudet, **Joliette**; Miss Louisa Contant, **St. Jacques de l'Achigan**; Mr. and Mrs. Edouard Grenier, **St. Emile de Montcalm**; Mr. Aime Prefontaine, **St. Hyacinthe**; Mrs. Daniel Piette, **Frelighsburg**; Mrs. Joseph Laflamme, **St. Valerien de Shefford**; Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Tetreault, **St. Jean Baptiste de Rouville**; Mrs. Fortin, **Henryville**; Mr. Ernest Brissette, **St. Cyrille de Wendover**; Mr. Adolphe Houde, **Bagotville**; Mrs. Louis Couture Chabot, **St. Leon de Standon**; Mr. Pierre Desnoyers, **Angeline, Rouville County**; Mr. Joseph Bellerose, **Three Rivers**; Mrs. G. S. Marceau, Miss Marie Turcotte, Mr. Joseph Vezina, **Quebec**; Mr. Louis Cote, **St. Flavien**; Mr. and Mrs. Edouard Cayen, **St. Ubald**; Mrs. David Fortin, **St. Come, Beauce County**; Mrs. Philippe Berube, **St. Valerien de Rimouski**; Mr. Wilfrid Boulanger, **St. Blandine**; Mrs. Fortunat Paquette, **Rimouski**; Mrs. J. A. Tremblay, **Les Eboulements**; Mrs. Salomon Gagne, **St. Fabien**; Mr. Edmour Simard, Miss Aline Lapointe, **Chicoutimi**; Mrs. Louis Desgagnes, **La Baleine**; Mrs. Treffe Simard, **St. Fulgence**; Mr. Eugene Perron, **Grande Baie**; Mr. J. A. Dumas, **Jonquiere**; Mrs. Oliva Rivard, **St. Felicien**; Mrs. Joseph Lavoie, **Hebertville Station**; Mrs. Joseph Girouard, **Marlboro, Mass.**; Mr. Joseph Girard, **Biddeford, Me.**; Mr. Adelard Cloutier, **Brunswick, Me.**; Mrs. Joseph Roy, **Putnam, Conn.**; Mrs. David Dion, **Woonsocket, R. I.**

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

The Community of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

Foundation. — The Community of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, destined to foreign mission apostolate, was founded by Very Rev. Mother Marie du St. Esprit (Delia Tetreault, Marieville, Rouville County), June 3, 1902, at Notre Dame des Neiges, Montreal, under the benevolent patronage of His Excellency Archbishop Bruchesi and the direction of Rev. Father Gustave Bourassa.

May 1, 1903, the nascent Community took up quarters at 27 St. Catherine Road, Outremont.

December 7, 1904, His Excellency the Archbishop of Montreal, being in Rome for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, submitted to His Holiness Pope Pius X the projected missionary Community. "Proceed with the foundation, Your Excellency," answered the august Pontiff, "and all the blessings of Heaven will descend upon the new Institute, to which you will give the name 'Society of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.'"

August 8, 1905, anniversary of his episcopal consecration, His Excellency Archbishop Bruchesi received the religious vows of the first two Sisters and gave the Holy Habit to three postulants.

In response to an appeal from His Excellency Bishop Merel, Vicar Apostolic of Kouang-Tong, the Community opened its first mission in Canton, China, in 1909. Four years later, it was entrusted with the management of the Shek Lung Leprosarium. In 1916, the Chinese government gave it the direction of a foundling home in Tong Shan, near Canton.

Aim of the Community. — The aim of the Community of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception is the propagation of the Faith among infidel nations, in a spirit of thanksgiving. Consequently, each Sister on taking her vows in the Community consecrates her whole life to the extension of the Kingdom of Christ and His Immaculate Mother, as a holocaust of perpetual thanksgiving, in her own name as in that of all mankind.

Spirit of the Community. — The virtues which should characterize the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception are: gratitude, humility, obedience, charity, spiritual joy, love of work and of a hidden life, a spirit of faith and prayer, zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Works in infidel countries. — The practice of all spiritual and corporal works of mercy: the education and instruction of native children, catechumens and neophytes; the training of native religious and virgin catechists; assistance to dying pagans and Christians; orphanages, workrooms, dispensaries, leprosaria, industrial schools, training schools for nurses, etc.

Works in Christian countries. — The diffusion of the Holy Childhood Association and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, as well as of publications whose aim it is to make the mission cause more widely known.

The erection of apostolic schools and houses for the recruiting of aspirant missionaries.

Procures where donations in money and kind are received.

Schools for pagan children residing in this country; the conduct of special courses for pagan adults; the religious instruction of catechumens and assistance to the dying Chinese, Negroes, etc.

Leagues of prayer and sacrifice for the suppression of anti-religious societies.

Closed retreats for women and girls.

Spiritual exercises. — Convinced that charity and zeal spring from a deep spirit of piety, and that without this spirit they will be unable to fulfill their missionary vocation, the Sisters unite to the office of Martha the holy occupations of Mary. Spiritual exercises are as follows:

Holy Mass, morning and afternoon meditations, spiritual readings, recitation of the Rosary in common, Way of the Cross in common, monthly and annual retreats, hours of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar.

On Sundays and Fridays, as well as on every Feast of Our Lord and the Blessed Virgin, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed after Mass until 5 P. M. It is also exposed daily where the Ordinary of the diocese so desires.

Main Feasts. — Pentecost and the Immaculate Conception.

Conditions for admission to the Novitiate. — First among the qualities required from aspirants to the Novitiate is an ardent desire of devoting themselves to the missions. They should also possess certain natural qualities, such as, sound judgment, straightforwardness, simplicity, generosity and strength of character.

The Community consisting of but one category of members, all must be able to render themselves useful by some special aptitudes. Young persons who have not completed their studies are admitted, provided they possess at least elementary instruction and aptitudes for domestic economy, cooking, sewing, etc., or a knowledge of either music or painting.

Aspirants are also required to present Baptism and Confirmation certificates, recommendations from their Pastor or spiritual adviser, as also a certificate from the doctor, and the written consent of the parents, if the subject is not of age.

After six months of postulancy, the aspirants pass on to the Novitiate, which lasts for a period of two years.

During their Novitiate, the Novices study the religious life, apply themselves to the practice of virtue, become impregnated with the spirit of the Institute, learn the Rules and customs and prepare for the apostolic life to which they will later be more directly called.

Annual vows are taken for the first three years following first vows.

During annual vows, the newly professed Sisters prepare in a more direct manner for mission life.

When the three years of annual vows are expired, the Professed Sister consecrates herself irrevocably to God by final vows.

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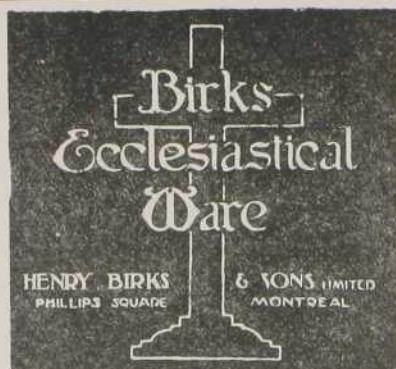
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PAMIENTCHENG, Catholic Mission

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(Founded in 1930)

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Benefactors of the Society

of the

Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

1. — **Founders**, those who donate \$1,000.00 or more.
2. — **Protectors**, those who provide the dowry and trousseau for a needy Novice (\$500.00). Parishes, communities, families or individual persons may have a right to this title, provided they give in the required amount.

Diplomas will be forwarded in acknowledgment of the above-mentioned donations.

3. — **Subscribers**, those who give an annual offering of \$25.00.
4. — **Associates**, those who give an annual offering of \$2.00.



Spiritual Treasury Open to Benefactors

The Society also considers as Benefactors all persons who in any way help its Canadian or foreign establishments.

While commending their Benefactors to the Master Missionary, that He Himself may reward their generous support a hundredfold, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception assure them as large a share as possible in the spiritual value of their apostolic labors, as also in the prayers and sufferings of the destitute members of Christ confided to their care.

Benefactors are also entitled to the following spiritual advantages:

1. — All the Sisters have a special intention for them in their Masses and Holy Communions.
2. — A Mass is said once a month for their intentions.
3. — The Sisters offer for the same intentions their hours of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the chapel of the Motherhouse every Friday and Sunday of the year. The names of Founders and Protectors are placed on the Altar of Exposition.
4. — Benefactors are likewise remembered by the members of the Community in the daily Guard of Honor to Mary, which consists in the uninterrupted recitation of the Rosary before the altar of the Blessed Mother. This Guard of Honor is also made at the Shek Lung Leprosarium, China, where the poor lepers in groups of fifteen continually recite the Rosary for the intentions of our Benefactors.
5. — A solemn Mass of requiem is sung once a year for deceased Benefactors.
6. — Deceased Benefactors share in the indulgences of the Stations of the Cross made each day by the Sisters.
7. — Holy Mass is offered twice a week in the chapel of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception for all Subscribers to **The Precursor** and all living and deceased Benefactors.