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The
**MISSIONARY
CATECHIST**



July, 1942

LIBRARY
CATECHIST

Passion of Christ.

Passion of Christ, comfort me!

Comfort me, for the day is long and weary;

**Comfort me as I fight my way up the path of life
safe to the haven of Thy Sacred Heart;**

Comfort me in sorrow, in pain, in sickness.

**Comfort me when temptation rages round me,
and every hope seems lost.**

**And when that last dread hour has sounded and
my eyes are closing on this world of sin,**

O, Passion of Christ! comfort me then,

**And lead me gently to Thy wounded Sacred Feet
above.**

by Fr. Willie Doyle, S.J.

The Missionary Catechist

Volume 18

July, 1942

Number 8

Prayer for Our Country

● Pray it as you read it.

RESTORE, protect and strengthen, O my God, the spiritual and temporal life of our beloved United States of America, so singularly and bountifully blessed by Thee since its foundation as an earthly refuge for all races, tongues and peoples.

MERCIFULLY preserve, Thou most tender Lawgiver, our Constitution, that instrument to which we are devoted chiefly because it guarantees us the right to worship Thee according to the dictates of our conscience without the interference of godless men.

DO Thou, O Almighty Father, guard all Thine American children, not only the faithful ones who have never forsaken Thee, but also Thy prodigal children who have abandoned Thee, and those many unfortunate ones who have never known Thee.

BE our shield, I beg of Thee, against present-day attacks launched from both within and without against our Na-

tion's temporal and moral integrity by the hateful doctrines of Nazism, Communism, and of other irreligious forces.

HEAVENLY Father, benignly induce all men the whole world over to recognize their need for penance, to humbly acknowledge their sins, especially such national sins as pride, greed and hate.

LET Thy pardon shine forth in a just and lasting peace, a peace solidly built upon Thy two great Commandments, the love of God and the love of neighbor.

Amen.

Imprimatur: ✠ John Francis Noll,
Bishop of Fort Wayne

Copies of this prayer may be obtained from OUR SUNDAY VISITOR, Huntington, Indiana. The postpaid prices are: 100 leaflets, 80 cents; 300, \$2.25; 500, \$3.50; 1000, \$5.00; 2000, \$7.75.

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Catholics Assisting the Enemy

by the Rev. Francis J. Remler, C.M.

THE world today is full of agencies whose very nature tends to destroy the Church and religion, and whose avowed purpose it often is to do this. For the success of their nefarious endeavors these agencies depend for support either on the box office receipts or on the subscription price as the case may be. And this monetary support without which they could not accomplish their anti-Christian object, is given them in only too many cases by Catholics of every class.

TAKE the movie as an example. It is in our large cities that the movies make immense profits. But it is also in our large cities that Catholics are very numerous. Thus the cities of New York, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Detroit, Newark contain nearly one third of the entire Catholic population of the United States. Since as a rule Catholics are regular movie goers very much like non-Catholics, it is easy to see that they contribute quite a large sum of money to the upkeep of the movies, and these in turn are able to display their degrading and often downright salacious productions, to the spiritual ruin of countless souls. This is a form of cooperation with the forces of evil that few have any qualms of conscience about. Yet they are actively aiding the enemies of Christianity to undermine and destroy it. This is one way of being "against Christ." A little thorough-going examination of conscience is in order.

THEN there are the literary productions of a certain type that are a positive menace to faith and morals. And they are very numerous at the present time. The NODL has some 450 on its list of magazines that are off color and dangerous. Many of these are well written, neatly made up, with excellent photography, all of which makes them very attractive. But they contain a concealed poison.

THERE are first of all, many articles which are written in the spirit of modern paganism. The supernatural is completely ignored, if not flatly denied. Hence the purely natural, which means, un-Christian and anti-Christian interpretation of human life prevails. As such it is directly opposed to, and arrayed against, the Christian interpretation of life. This crops out in many articles, sometimes openly and plainly, at other times in the disguise of shrewd arguments which the ordinary Catholic fails to recognize as dangerous and destructive of faith and morals. Such articles do a great deal of harm to

Catholic readers. When we meet with Catholics who have a thoroughly Protestant or neo-pagan mentality, we have a proof of our assertion. These Catholics are not "with Christ," therefore they are "against Him." Holding wrong views they are bound to act wrong.

THE reading of such magazines accustoms the mind to throw off the reverence which is due to the things of God. It also makes men "get used to" the progressive decline of morals that is going on in society. Many better intentioned people recognize this evil and yet they keep on buying magazines of this type and pass them on to their friends or get them to subscribe to them.

THEN there is the evil that is done by very many of the pictures that are found in the advertising section of even so-called high class magazines. These are sometimes positively indecent and salacious. And as they are usually accessible to the children in the home, much harm is often done to the little ones by their early acquaintance with things that awaken their curiosity especially in matters of sex.

Finally, there are the numerous magazines of a sensuous type (some three hundred of which have sprung up during the last ten years) which tend to nothing but the building up of a sensual morbidity in the reader's emotional life, which first leads directly to impurity and other vices, and then to the loss of spiritual perception and finally of faith itself. We lament the loss of faith, and the leakage from the Church that is going on around us, and yet we regularly pay our subscription money to help our enemies to undermine the Church and destroy the faith of her children. Can this be reconciled with loyalty to Christ?

IT is sad to think that because harmful books, magazines and papers are done up prettily or smartly or even sensationally, there will be thousands of Catholics, even such as pretend to be loyal children of the Church, who will regularly pay their dollars to help the purveyors of neo-paganism and of immorality to keep on serving mental food that is deadly poison to the soul. And in the long run destructive to the nation itself.

WITH every nickel, dime and quarter that a Catholic pays for such (so-called) literature, he is committing an act of treason against his Divine Savior. He is aiding His enemies in promoting the ruin of souls and the decay of society.

Mary Our Model

ALL Mary's acts, interior and exterior, were in perfect unison. The wonderful harmony of her being excelled that of Adam and Eve in their state of original justice. All her senses were subject to her will, her will to her understanding, and her understanding to divine inspiration and the law of God. The least intimation of her conscience, the slightest indication of God's good pleasure were obeyed so fully, that not by an iota did her obedience fall short of perfection. What modesty and reticence she observed in her manner! Her countenance, her walk, the tone of her voice expressed meekness, peace, charity. There was no pretension, no affectation, no dissimulation. Her bearing was noble, benign, straight forward, inspiring both veneration and awe. She was lovable without allure, dignified without constraint, attractive, yet reserved. Her attire and manner of working was orderly, neat, becoming, yet exquisitely simple.

WHAT she did was done to time without haste or perturbation. Today's work was done today and not postponed. Tomorrow's work awaited tomorrow, unless it seemed better to anticipate it. When at any task she gave it her whole attention, yet with her mind absorbed in God. No one ever needed to supplement her endeavors; a task handed over to her was sure of prompt execution, a secret confided to her keeping was inviolate. Never could she be accused of hurry, abstraction of mind, forgetfulness. She never needed to revise her work, never to withdraw a statement or explain it. She never forgot or compromised herself.

NOTHING was too small, too lowly or too hard for her to undertake. Nothing appeared to her unexpected, or inopportune.



July 16 is the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Are you faithful in wearing your Scapular? Our Blessed Mother has promised precious favors to those who honor her in this way.

HER will was one with His, who is Lord of all; she allowed herself no thought opposed to the will of Him, who foreknows all happenings. Her plans and the divine, therefore, were never devious, her will was done even in the most untoward circumstances and her composure and peace were never disturbed.

NO one ever saw her discouraged, resourceless, depressed. Never did even her Angel hear her complain. She was never so tired as to refuse new labor when charity or duty required. No minute of the day saw her at leisure, yet she had time enough to help her neighbors in need. She belonged to all, sinners, the miserable, the just, because all belonged to God. She never gave pain, never refused to give when asked for God's sake. No one was ever hurt by an abrupt answer, or a reproachful look.

NO changeableness was ever noted in her, nor littlemindedness, nor inconstancy, nor lassitude, not even that holy change from good to better. The only alteration observed in her was the gradual unfolding of her exquisite perfection.

—Selected

O holy Virgin, more than all the angels and saints of heaven, I venerate you with all my heart as the spouse of the Holy Ghost. O my Mother, I give you my heart with all its affections and I beg of you to obtain for me from the Holy Trinity all necessary graces for my salvation.

C C D Progress

IN the autumn of 1941 the Missionary Catechists began the work of organizing and supervising the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico, under the able direction of Father George V. Rieffer, the Archdiocesan Director. Now, eight months later, it seems still too soon to make conclusive reports about the success or failure of this excellent project.

EVERY enterprise of lofty purpose is necessarily fraught with difficulties in its execution. Often successes and failures well-nigh counterbalance until the ultimate goal is reached. Though success rather than failure has attended the efforts of the Missionary Catechists in most of the mission places of the Archdiocese, and much spiritual good has already been achieved in individual parishes, the outcome of the project as a whole, under the Providence of God, is veiled in the future.

HIS excellency, the Most Reverend Rudolph A. Gerken, D.D., is well satisfied and pleased—a sound indication that his cherished plan is proving practicable and fruitful in spiritual good.

THE twelve Catechists appointed to this work are enthusiastic and confident. Their centers are at Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Las Vegas. They meet with hardships and disappointments, it is true, but the kind of hardships and disappointments that whet the zeal of missionaries and spur them on to greater things.

ONE of their principal problems was enlisting a sufficient number of suitable teachers. In many places this problem was solved satisfactorily when the public school teachers volunteered to teach catechism also, after school hours. Later, however, this led to another difficulty. Schools close early in New Mexico and so other religion teachers had to be found to replace those who left when their school term expired.

STATISTICS for this year's work will be available in a few weeks. Meanwhile, interested friends will welcome the following accounts from the Catechists' letters to Victory-Noll, giving as they do, glimpses of the thoroughly missionary life which the Catechists enjoy in this field of activity.

Traveling Missionaries

by Catechist Madelon LoRang

TRAVELING Missionaries is an appropriate title for us here in the Archdiocese of Santa

Fe. After receiving our schedule of work for a certain period from the Director, we pack our Chevrolet and are off to our destination which may be fifty or 250 miles distant. During the first seventeen days of this work, the four of us from Albuquerque traveled over 1000 miles, visiting seven parishes and their out missions.

OUR first duty upon arriving at the scheduled mission is to visit the pastor and find out where we are to live. Our living quarters vary according to the size and condition of the mission. Sometimes we have such elaborate rooms that we feel a bit too well taken care of for poor Religious. Then again we have ample opportunity to practice poverty according to the spirit of good St. Francis.

WE usually meet the people after Mass or at a special meeting called by the pastor. To all we explain the nature and object of the Confraternity and then ask for volunteers to help in this most necessary work of teaching children their holy religion. So far we have had an enthusiastic response from the laity. Some offer to instruct the children, others to bring them to holy Mass and the Sacraments . . .

THE next step is organizing the lay teachers. We instruct them and give them all the help possible in organizing their classes. We also visit the public schools and urge the children to attend catechism classes and Mass. Sometimes, if time permits, we give a short instruction. These visits to the schools are very interesting. In many places the children had never seen a Sister and know nothing of the life and work of Catholic Sisters, or even that they wear a distinctive habit. This seems incredible when we realize that thousands of Sisters spend their lives in schools and hospitals throughout the United States. When saying goodbye to our newly made friends at a certain village, one young woman said, "I have seen Sisters from afar but never so near, and this is the first time I have spoken to one."

CHILDREN and adults are happy to have us among them and beg us to stay longer. We promise to return after two or three months to see how their classes are progressing.

THE pastor of one poor mission was unable to supply us with wood at the time we arrived to organize the Confraternity. When the children gathered for catechism class we asked them to bring a few pieces of wood along the next day when they came for another instruction. Every child remembered. Three small boys arrived

very late for class. They had had difficulties with the wood. I watched them coming down the street, their red wagon piled high. The wood kept rolling off and as a result their progress was slow. But at last they arrived and triumphantly presented their gift, and it would have been hard to tell who was the happier, we who received or they who gave with such sincere generosity.

AS a direct result of the CCD work, five children in one parish are preparing for Baptism. In this parish we have a splendid group of Catholic public school teachers. Last September they enrolled as members of the Confraternity and arranged to teach catechism twice a week after school hours. The classes continued for several months with marked success. One day a young lad approached his teacher after dismissal and said that he and his brothers and sisters (one in high school) had never been baptized. The zealous teacher asked the president of the Confraternity to accompany him to the home of these children. They met with no opposition from the parents so they interviewed the pastor and now the five children are taking special instructions in preparation for Baptism.



Missionaries' Quarters

by Catechist M. Elvira Vigil

THE work of organizing the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in the many parishes of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, takes us to numerous missions in the mountainous regions of New Mexico. Most of the people in these isolated settlements are poor. They live in small, two-room adobe homes and so it is difficult for us to find a private place to stay. The sacristy of the mission chapel is usually our refuge.

THE Blessed Sacrament is seldom reserved in these mission chapels. Mass is celebrated there once a month or so. Each chapel has a room built on which is called a sacristy but which also serves as the missionary priest's living quarters during his infrequent visits. This "sacristy" is not furnished with vesting cases,

etc. It is considered well furnished if it boasts of a bed, a table, a chair, and a trunk.

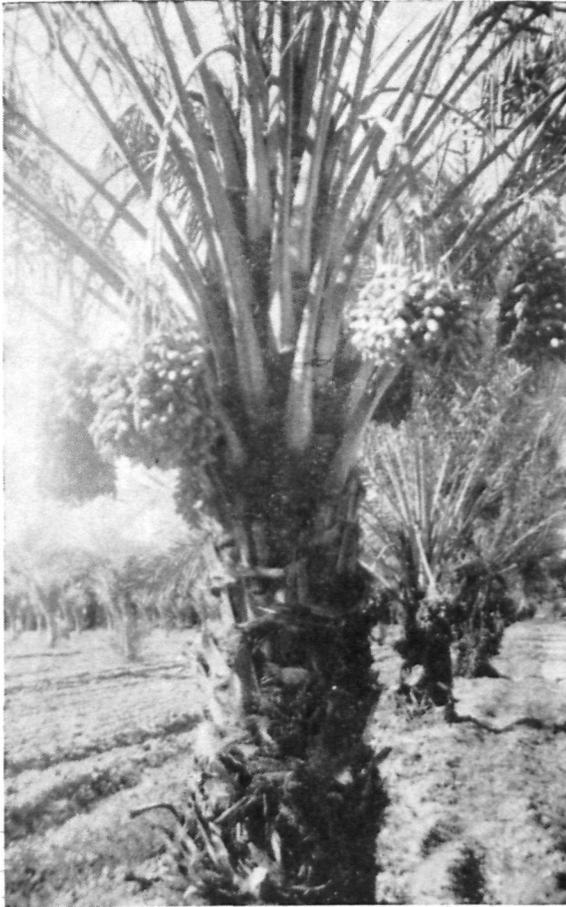
BESIDES books and class paraphernalia, our equipment includes army cots, blankets, food stuffs and cooking utensils. We are well prepared for emergencies.

GETTING settled for our brief stay is always an adventure, especially to the children of the mission. They help us unpack, bring fresh drinking water and wood. Since the sacristy is not used often, it is necessary to do a bit of cleaning before we set up our cots; the sand storms have left their traces.

Generous Service

by Catechist Mary Whitfield

IN traveling through the Red River Canyon, one of the most beautiful scenic spots of New Mexico, one comes upon a small mining town. The
(Turn page please)



Closeup of a date palm tree.—Coachella, Calif.

CCD PROGRESS

(Continued from page 7)

people who live here are employed in the molybdenum mines. Among them are a few of our Spanish Americans. For the most part, they have had very little instruction in Catholic doctrine. Our purpose in organizing the CCD in this mining town was to assure religious instruction for the children at least once a week.

TWO young women volunteered to assume the responsibility of lay-teachers. One was a fine young woman who worked in the miners' hotel. The other was devoting her life to the care of an invalid mother and sister. Since neither teacher could be away from her duties an hour at a time during the day, they decided to devote a half-hour period twice weekly to teaching catechism.

THE invalids would not be left out of the CCD work. They said that their part would be to offer their sufferings and special prayers for the success of the Confraternity in the Archdiocese.

INCIDENTS such as these encourage us greatly and surely must draw down the blessing of the Sacred Heart and make fruitful the generous efforts of our lay-catechists.

One Day More

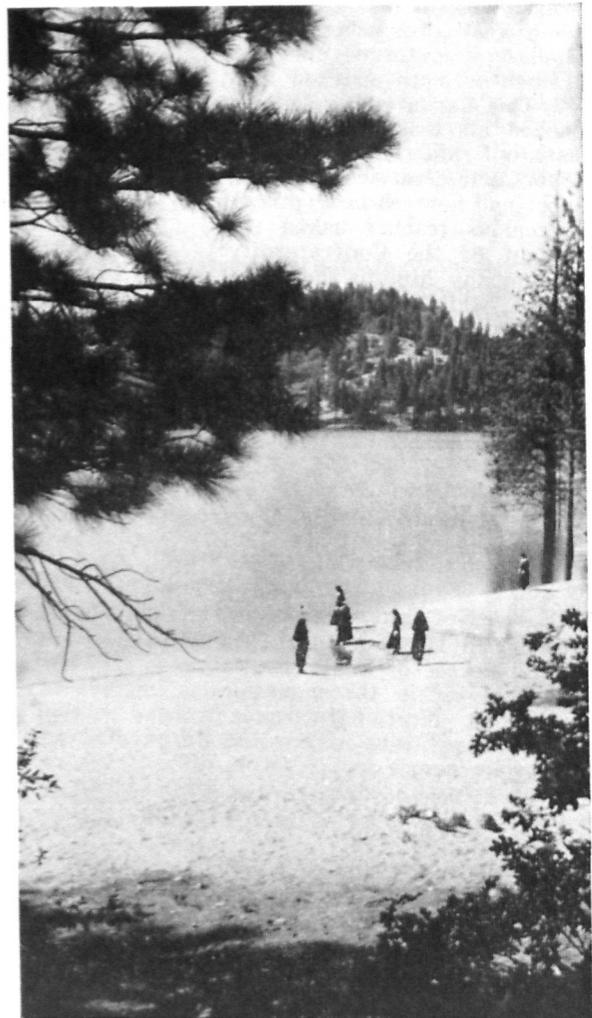
by E. P. Martin

Oh, Lord of Life, grant me, I pray
Another year, or twenty,
To do the things I overlooked
When I had years a-plenty.

To do the gracious little things,
Like chatting with my neighbors,
And sympathizing in their ills,
And sharing in their labors.

Like pausing in the street to cheer
A boy or girl who's crying,
Or stopping—oh, so briefly—at
A home where someone's dying.

A little time for laughter, Lord,
And understanding sorrow,
And if You cannot grant a year,
I'll gladly take tomorrow!



Lake Gregory in the San Bernardino Mountains.

We Followed the Wah-ah-ah

by Catechist Margaret Brosnan

"WAH-AH-AH" was the lusty greeting we received as we approached the 300 block on Beneau Street. It didn't take long to trace the sound, and soon we were cognizant of the fact that a new family had moved into our mission. The former renters of the place from which the sound issued were an elderly couple living alone.

OUR destination was several blocks farther up the street to the home of a young couple who had promised—I forget how many times—to go and have a talk with Father about getting their marriage validated and their baby baptized. The Wah-ah-ah was irresistible, however.

CAUTIOUSLY we approached the house until we were in front of the buggy, which stood beside the door step, and in full view of the little human dynamo. One look at us and the child gave forth such a fearful, heartbreaking Wa-ah that it brought the mother to the door. There was no need to inquire if these newcomers were Catholic. A glance at the woman was enough to convince us that our presence was about as welcome to her as to her infant.

WE broke the ice by talking admiringly about the baby, and we soon learned many things: The woman was Pentecostal. Her husband was Catholic (formerly). They had not been married by the priest. Prior to their marriage she had taken a few instructions from a priest but just could not believe all the things that Catholics are expected to believe. And so a court marriage resulted. The two older children had been baptized Catholic, but the two younger Pentecostal. The three older children, six, eight, and eleven years of age, were all attending the Pentecostal services and enjoyed them very much. The daughter had the privilege of playing the piano for various services.

"DO you really believe that Jesus Christ is in that little piece of bread you have in your churches, and that your priests can take your sins away?" Our new acquaintance could not refrain from asking this question at last. We answered briefly in a simple explanation of our belief on these points. We also gave her a booklet on the Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist which she said she would read. Thanks to the Holy Ghost who had inspired us to include that particular piece of reading matter in our packet!

A HALF hour passed by and we were still standing on the front door step, talking and getting acquainted. When we left the woman was quite thawed out, even smiled, and actually said she was sorry she had left us standing outside!

NOW, seventeen months later, after much prayer and frequent visits, it is with deep happiness and fervent gratitude to God that we approach the Bartl Home on Beneau Street where we are always assured a joyous welcome from the entire family, especially from little Pat who first welcomed us from his baby buggy. At parting there is always a chorus of "Come back soon, Catechists."

THREE of the children are now among our most faithful pupils, attending regularly our catechism classes. Two received their First Holy Communion six months ago and the third one, Leo, will receive his soon. Leo studies diligently. A few weeks ago he was reciting the ten commandments. He said them word perfect until he came to the fifth. "Thou shalt not . . . not . . . not . . . commit adultery . . .?" came out doubtfully. He knew that wasn't correct. "Catechist, I can't remember which one comes next." I helped him by saying: "It has just one word after 'Thou shalt not.'" He puckered his brow and then a broad smile covered his freckled face as he triumphantly exclaimed: "Thou shalt not shoot!"

THE two little Pentecostals—Leo was one of them—are now baptized Catholics, as is also their new two-months'-old brother. Mr. and Mrs. Bartl had their marriage blessed five months ago. We believe that the prayers of their children had much to do with it. We had them praying earnestly for this grace, though they did not know it for we called it a very special intention of ours. There is every reason to believe that Mrs. Bartl will become a Catholic before another year passes because she now has five loyal, lovable and exemplary little Catholics in her home.

WE appreciate the prompt renewal of your subscription to THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST. It means time and money saved for our missions.

In The Home Field

CATECHIST was trying to explain that missionaries carry the Gospel of Christ and establish the Catholic Church in all parts of the world. Richard added his bit of wisdom: "I know that is true, Catechist, because there is even a Catholic church in Missouri."

THE class was learning the Apostles Creed, or rather, un-learning parts of it. Some of the children kept saying "Creator of Heaven 'n nurse." Hoping to get the correct word, Catechist asked, "Where do we live? On the sun? On the moon? On the stars? Where?" One sleepy looking lad answered, "We live in de shade."

Robert: Every day I thank God for living in my heart.

Catechist: That must make Him very happy to be there.

Robert: Yes, because He says, 'You're welcome'."

Betty, age four: God loved me always, even before I came from the hospital.

"Catechist, Mama said I'm 'sposed to bring Jimmie's casket home."

"Jimmie's casket! Are you sure that is what your mother said, Ramona?"

"Sure. Don't you know, Catechist? The casket Jimmy wears when he's an altar boy. Mama wants to mend it."

DURING cotton picking time, when many people from South Texas are in this vicinity, the Catechists may be called upon to do almost anything. Instructions for First Communion

Rosa is trying to make Tony show Catechist the "tooth that hurts."



of some who wish to be married are not infrequent. At times the priest requests help in taking information for baptisms. As many as thirteen babies were baptized on one day.

Catechist M. Margaret Gutierrez

Anita is a Filipino child of three. Recently she visited our convent and I showed her the chapel, telling her simply that Jesus lived in the Tabernacle and was glad to have her visit Him. I then left her for a short while and when I returned she had roamed over to the Sacred Heart Statue on the stairway.

"Who is that?" she asked.

"That is a statue of Jesus."

The word statue meant nothing to her. She looked at me inquiringly and pointed to the chapel saying, "Did He get out?"

THE prayer class was studying about the creation and fall of the angels. Catechist asked, "What did God do with the bad angels?"

"He made hell and put them in it. Now they are devils."

"What did God do with the good angels?"

With beaming countenance a little one exclaimed, "He made them Catechists."

Embarrassing moments!



BILLY was absorbed in the account Catechist was giving of the Passion of Our Lord. Looking up at the crucifix in her hand he said reverently: "Gosh, Catechist, He sure could take it!"



Twins?

WE were strangers then, in Elkhart, and many children felt a little safer when we kept our distance. On this particular morning four of us were visiting in the same district, two on one street and two on another. It was almost noon, time for Catechist Hall and me to meet the other two Catechists and go to lunch. As we crossed the street to make one last visit, we met two small boys about four and six years of age. The six-year-old looked us over and asked, "Say, is you two kids twins?"

"Well, not exactly. Why?"

"Your suits are both alike."

They watched us suspiciously as we rang the next door bell. After our visit we found them still keeping guard like two little detectives. Suddenly one of them spied the other two Catechists coming to meet us. That was too much! The little one cried out, "Look, Timmie, two more!"

Timmie's only answer was a "Gee whiz" of amazement—and action. Their steps were long ones, and fast, until they reached the safety of their own back yard.

Catechist M. Martha Killian

What is the A.C.M.?

THOUGH traveling will be much curtailed this year, yet we know from experience that our Associate Catechists of Mary will be taking advantage of every opportunity to make the mission work of our Society known to their "vacation" friends. The following questionnaire gives briefly the organization and purpose of our lay auxiliary, the A.C.M., an indispensable help to us in our mission work.

WHAT is the A.C.M.?

A.C.M.—Associate Catechists of Mary—is an organization of mission clubs both small and large. These groups of women and young ladies get together regularly, or occasionally, for the benefit of the Missionary Catechist whom they have personally adopted.

WHY is the A.C.M.?

The Society of Missionary Catechists is a religious community whose members devote their lives to the religious instruction of public school children, and to the various social welfare activities among the poor in the mission districts of our country. To accomplish their purpose, the Catechists need the financial assistance of the A.C.M. Bands.

WHO may be members of the A.C.M.?

You, and You, and YOU—all who are interested in home mission work; all who wish to use this means of gaining a treasure of merit in Heaven for themselves and their loved ones.

HOW can I start an A.C.M. Band?

It is by no means as difficult as it may at first seem. Get together a small group, say four or five, likely to be interested in a mission club. Then write to the Supervisor of A.C.M. at Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana. She will be ever at your service, ready with information, ideas, mission literature, or whatever help you may wish.

CAN an A.C.M. Band plan its own program?

Most assuredly. Each mission club adopts its own program of activity, according to the convenience and wishes of the Promoter and her members. For example:

Little Flower Band, Chicago, holds a monthly card party; "paying guests" are invited, and the members volunteer to be hostess on the day that it is convenient for them to do so.

Charitina Club, Illinois, holds a monthly meeting; only members attend. Cards are played, and each one gives a regular donation to the Promoter to be sent to Victory-Noll for their Catechist's Burse.

St. Anne's Band, Ohio, holds no meetings. The members simply save self-denial "mites" during the year in a little box



which they requested from Victory-Noll for that purpose. At the end of Lent the Promoter collects these donations and sends the amount to Victory-Noll for St. Anne's Burse.

St. Elizabeth Band, Michigan, holds a monthly social meeting. "Outsiders" are invited to join in the fun—and help swell the funds for their Burse. Several times a year a larger dance and card party is held in a member's home.

AND so it goes. Every club is different, but all members agree that active interest in the A.C.M. does not interfere with home duties or work. It enlivens social hours, brightens an otherwise ordinary life, and brings the satisfaction of doing something worthwhile for God and the salvation of souls.

WHAT will membership in the A.C.M. mean to me?

It entitles you to share rich spiritual benefits: EVERY DAY a remembrance in the Perpetual Novena to Our Blessed Lady of Victory; EVERY WEEK remembrance in Holy Mass; EVERY MONTH remembrance in the First Friday Mass offered for A.C.M.; EVERY YEAR remembrance in the Thanksgiving Day Mass. Deceased Associates are likewise remembered perpetually.

Membership likewise entitles you to receive THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST at half the regular subscription rate, or fifty cents for a year's subscription.

A. C. M. Band Donations

April 28 to May 17

Annunciata Band, St. Louis, Miss Gertrude Byrne	\$ 4.50
Annunciata Band, St. Louis, Miss Margaret Breheny	5.00
Archbishop Stritch Band, Chicago, Miss Helen Gaethke	10.00
Charitina Club II, Paris, Illinois, Miss Mary C. Gibbons	9.00
Holy Family Band, Chicago, Mrs. Wm. J. Murphy	10.00
Little Flower Band, Chicago, Mrs. Helen Garrity	29.00
Srillians, Cheviot, Ohio, Miss Rita Busche	1.00
St. Anthony Band, Los Angeles, Calif., Mrs. Anna Meng	3.00
St. Joseph Band I, Chicago, Mrs. M. McNamara	50.00
St. Justin Martyr Band, Chicago, Mrs. Fred Kiefer	33.45
St. Katherine Band, Chicago, Mrs. Katherine Hammer	5.00
St. Mary's Sodality, Detroit, Mrs. Peter Pink	5.00
St. Mel Band, Chicago, Mrs. L. E. Lopez	50.00

Carrollton, Ky.

LOYAL friends of the Missionary Catechists are the members of **Good Will Mission Circle**, Mrs. John Kuhlman, president. The following letter received recently from their secretary, Mrs. Casper Hill, brought cheer to our hearts in these times:

"I didn't realize until today that I missed sending our donation in January, and so we are sending a double amount this month. I hope you will forgive and pardon my mistake. It is such a pleasure to send this little and to hear from you. We have been quite interested in our work and now in these distressing times we feel we must do all we can.

"We are interested too in our boys in the service, and send cards of cheer, cookies and candy. Weekly we contribute to the **Defenders of the Faith** for the distribution of the 'Why' Leaflets to the camps. I visited my son at camp last month. It was so good to see him again. In going through the States I realized how scattered and how few Catholic Churches are, and how very much good home missionaries are doing. May God bless you in all your undertakings and guide and protect you."

Chicago, Ill.

THE latest letter from Miss Kathleen Joyce, treasurer of **Our Lady of Sorrows Band**, of which Miss Bertha Collins is president, brought a double gift for our mission work. The first was a substantial amount for the Burse of their missionary, Catechist Lawler. The second was a money-order to cover a year's subscription for each of the members. Miss Joyce wrote, "All are anxious to receive the magazine, as we are always interested in news of your mission work."

Omaha, Nebr.

CONTRIBUTIONS continue to come regularly from **Our Lady of Victory Guild** through Mrs. E. H. Kenny, promoter, for the two Burses they are sponsoring. Two Omaha missionaries, Catechist

Leutenegger and Catechist Shields, are their representatives in the home mission field. This, however, is not the extent of their activities. Mrs. Kenny writes, "We have nearly finished the First Holy Communion dresses for children in a needy mission. There are eight or more, and a number of boys' outfits also." God bless your work for us, and for His needy Colored Mission in your own city.

Dayton, Ohio

ST. Helen's Band, Miss Margaret Karas, promoter, has always been among the leaders when it comes to originality of ideas and variety of activities. Their faith-

ful work helps greatly to build the Burse of their missionary, Catechist Cogan.

Not satisfied with praying for the missionaries themselves, the members have embraced a spiritual program which makes them "missionaries" in their own right. Miss Florence Bucher, secretary, told us about it. "The girls have decided to offer their work and prayer on one day a week for fallen-away Catholics, as was suggested in **THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST**." This is an excellent practice, and we feel confident that their enthusiasm for it will encourage others to adopt it as well.



Mrs. Mary Murphy's home at Briggs Lake, Illinois, is the scene of many an A.C.M. meeting during the hot summer months. This picture was taken when members of St. Jude Thaddeus Band enjoyed a day there last year. Back row: Mrs. Schlasky, Mrs. McBride, Mrs. Attwood, Mrs. Loeb, Mrs. Downes, Mrs. Schuhman,

and Mrs. Haughey; middle row: Mrs. Nell Mathieu, Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Bertha Mathieu; in front, Mrs. C. J. Fiala, promoter. Other members are Mrs. Barrett, Mrs. Bean, Mrs. Jautz and Miss Klotz; Mrs. Vedder, Mrs. O'Connor and Mrs. O'Connell.

Chicago, Ill.

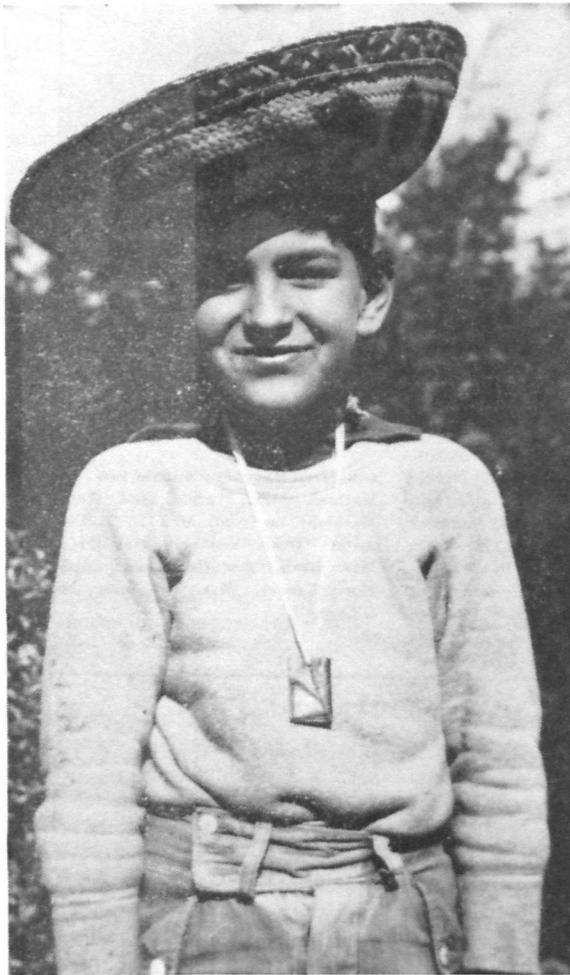
PROUD of their missionary, and happy to share in her work are the members of **Dolores Band I**, Mrs. Anna Klingel, promoter. The contributions which are a result of their monthly meetings are applied towards the Burse of Catechist Hazel Sullivan, who is in Elko, Nevada. When writing of her members' intention to attend the A.C.M. Reception held recently in

Chicago, Mrs. Klingel said: "A few of the members have never seen a Catechist, and so are glad for an opportunity to do so at the Reception. I am sure that afterwards they will be more anxious than ever to work for the missions, for they will understand better what the Catechists are doing and what our efforts really mean to them. Our part of the work is nothing compared with what missionaries must sacrifice."

Another Prodigal

by Catechist Josephine Vins

WE passed one oil well after another, stopping only to take the census at the few homes scattered throughout this area of oil wells. Through the glass pane in the door of one home at which we stopped we could see a man, seemingly asleep, lying on a davenport. Receiving no response to our knocking, we concluded that the



That isn't a medal around this lad's neck, it is a war identification tag.—Azusa, Calif.

man must be a day-sleeper, although there was no notice in evidence confirming this fact.

Usually when the men here work nights, there is a sign on the door which reads, "Do not disturb, day-sleeper," or something similar.

ON to the next house we went. The lady here informed us that she was not a Catholic, "but," she said, "the man next door is. He lives alone and has been very sick." We thanked the good woman for this information and retraced our steps quickly. "Perhaps we can do something for the sick man," my companion said. "He might need to see Father."

SOON we were knocking again at the door of the quiet little house. It was useless to knock because no answer was forthcoming, so we tried the door and found it unlocked. Hesitating only a moment, we opened the door and walked in. At the sound of our footsteps the man on the davenport turned his face toward us and we could see that he was very ill. We greeted him and excused ourselves for entering unbidden. Before more could be said, a woman and two small children came into the room. This was their grandfather, the woman explained, and he had suffered a severe heart attack. Before long we learned that he had not received the Sacraments in many years.

"WOULD you like Father to visit you?" Catechist asked the patient. "Oh, I'll be up in a few days," he answered, "I've been like this before." We had our doubts about his getting up soon.

Before saying goodbye we offered him a Sacred Heart badge which he accepted without a word, and began to examine closely. Not satisfied with his scrutiny he called out to the woman, "Minnie, bring me my glasses." She brought the glasses and he adjusted them with trembling hands. Then he looked at the Sacred Heart Badge for some time, turning it over and over as though he were trying to recall something. I offered to pin it on him and he let me.

"The Sacred Heart will take care of you," I said as Catechist finished taking the census and we said goodbye.

LATER we saw our Pastor and mentioned the case to him. The following Sunday Father told us that he had visited the sick man, had heard his confession and administered the Last Sacraments. The patient was in the hospital now, Father said. When we visited him again, he was so sick that he could not speak. A few days later he was removed to a rest home. Though we may never see him again, we are confident that he is ready, should Our Lord call him to his eternal rest.

You and Our Missions

by Catechist Marguerite Srill

WAR time means hard times for the missions, but time also, to show our trust in the good God who never fails us, and our reliance upon your cooperation.

A BRIEF "look in" on some of the conditions we find in our home visiting may give you,



The family goat is a prize to our poor Mexicans, and the kid is the youngsters pet.

who are so distant from the scenes of our activity, some idea of how you work hand in hand with us through your prayers and material offerings.

IN a recent home visit we found a father, mother and year-old baby without a bit of food in the house. The couple, discouraged and disheartened, were quarreling when we arrived. The one room, which they call home, had a large window minus glass. Great holes in the adobe walls invited the wind and dust to play havoc with the few pieces of furniture. There was nothing with which to build a fire which would have dispelled some of the gloom. The wee baby was the only bright spot on the scene. She laughed and made friends with us at once.

IT was supper time when we returned to our convent with the story of this family. The stores are closed at that hour so part of our evening meal had to suffice for the present. Several cans of milk from San Jose Clinic, which is below our convent, were tucked in for the baby. The following day further relief was given in the form of food and clothing. Now the mother and baby are receiving necessary care at the clinic which they visit regularly. The man will soon have employment. Slowly but surely the general conditions in this home are being improved. We helped directly; you helped indirectly with the material aid you sent us.

AND spiritually? How much we do count on your prayers and sacrifices! In a poor room of a house several miles from the city limits of El Paso, a twenty year old boy is dying of tuberculosis. He and his nineteen year old brother are orphans. The one room is furnished with a cot, a table, several chairs, two cheap suitcases containing their few belongings, several nails to hold articles of clothing, which articles serve as covering for the night.

THE boys are all in all to each other, and the younger has hoped against hope that his brother would recover. Last week we had to perform the sad duty of telling him that the end is very near. He broke down completely. Sitting at the table, face buried in his hands, shoulders shaking with the sobs he could not control, he had to face one more great sorrow in his young life. It meant much to us to be able to say that we and others were asking for him the courage and strength he needs at this time, as well as the grace of a happy death for his beloved brother.

CASES similar to these could be multiplied indefinitely. From them you get some idea of what your prayers and offerings mean to our mission poor.



Dear Loyal Helpers,

Kermess Day! Is there a happier, more exciting one for the children of the poor in our catechism classes wherever it is held? Usually Kermess Day in the missions comes at the gift-giving time which heralds the Birthday of Christ our King. In El Paso, Texas, though, it is held several times during the year. The final one closes the catechism classes for the summer months.

Knowing as you do that we are mostly among Spanish and Mexican people of the Southwest, perhaps you think that "kermess" is a Spanish word. I did too, until someone explained it to me. A look in the dictionary gives still further details about this interesting "bazaar-like" affair. In and near the Low countries of Europe, such as the Netherlands and Belgium, an outdoor festival or fair is held which is called a "kermis," or "kermess." In the United States the festival is held indoors as well as outside.

A PROBLEM which loomed large in the early days of our mission work brought about the custom of Kermess Day. There are no "catechism truant officers" in the missions to go after the children who are missing from class. Many of the children's parents are Catholic in name only, and so are indifferent about the practice of their Religion. Many of the children come just the same, of their own ac-



Making "raspada" at the Kermess. Can you find the "teddy bear"?

cord. But ways and means had to be planned to encourage the others to follow their good example. "Kermess Day" not only does this, but it is also a reward for those who make the sacrifice to come faithfully.

YOU have all attended a parish bazaar, and so you can easily picture to yourselves what a Kermess is like. Booths are erected, gaily decorated with colored crepe-paper and balloons. On the counters may be seen religious articles, especially holy pictures, little statues, and rosaries; toys of all kinds—mostly used, of course, for they come to the Catechists in mission boxes sent by friends from every corner of America. There are booths for second-hand clothing too, also sent by friends near and far, and household articles. The candy booth is a popular one, and sometimes there are foodstuffs purchased by the Catechists or given to them by Catholic charities.

THERE is one thing that makes this childrens' Kermess different from a bazaar, or the Kermess held as a parish affair. Prizes are not won at the "turn of a wheel," nor are nickels and pennies needed here. Instead, each article is "priced" at a certain number of *boletas* (tickets), two, five, ten or more, according to its value. The tickets can not be purchased with money, and it is too late for the boys and girls who have not as many as they should like. They

A Soldier's Letter

have missed their chance, for tickets are given out at each catechism class during the year to all who attend. The children who have been most faithful have the largest number of tickets, and so can "buy" the nicest things. The others must be satisfied with smaller articles, and they firmly resolve to do better next time.

WRITING about the El Paso Kermess a few years ago, Catechist Wathen said, "It is one of the big events of the year for the children. When the day of the Kermess is announced, excitement reigns supreme. They go from booth to booth, carefully noting how many tickets are needed to buy the articles they want." Another Catechist said, "They are real little shoppers, and do not spend their tickets until they have seen everything and are certain of getting the best bargain for their 'money'."

PERHAPS you are wondering why we have clothing, household articles, and foodstuffs at a children's Kermess. You will be surprised then to know that many of the children make their way to these counters first of all. They come from desperately poor homes, and often we see the children of one family put their tickets together in order to buy something "big," a practical gift for home, or for mother. It is not an uncommon sight to catch a glimpse of a boy or girl tenderly protecting in the jostling, pushing crowd, an object which obviously has not been chosen for themselves. When asked about it, they usually admit it is for a baby sister or brother who is too little to come to class, and so does not have "boletas" for the Kermess.

"I ASKED one of my girls yesterday what she bought at the Kermess," one of the Catechists told us. "She said that she and her brother went together and bought a rosary in a little box and a Sacred Heart statue in a shrine. They gave the rosary to their sister who is soon to be married, and the Sacred Heart statue is for their mother. I asked how their mother liked it, and she said, 'Oh, she hasn't seen it yet. Mother's birthday is Saturday and we are going to surprise her with it.'"

A POPULAR treat on Kermess Day is "raspada." A glance at the smiling faces on the

Dear Catechist,

We Catholics of the battery are really fighting on two fronts now. We have our war on "Mass-missing" Sundays too. Our army chaplain happens to be Evangelical, and while he is very conscientious he is stationed quite some distance from us. We have a chapel on this post but no priest has been assigned to us as yet. Until now we have been fortunate enough to have two air corps' padres every Sunday.

Unfortunately their units have been transferred. Last Sunday we were supplied by a secular Father from the hospital. Then for a little while it seemed that at last we would have to miss Mass—I should have made that "alas!" However we went to the chapel anyway, determined to have some sort of religious observance, e.g. the rosary, litany or prayers of some kind. When we arrived the portable altar was pushed back and no apparent preparations for Mass had been made. Then, joyous sight! A rotund, black-clad figure hurried up the aisle with a suitcase in his hand.

The faces of the soldiers lit up and I volunteered my assistance to Father. I pulled out the altar, got the cloths and spread them over it. Then we placed the stone, candles and all the accoutrement while Father spent a good forty-five minutes hearing Confessions.

Then he asked me to serve his Mass and told me (in a pleasant brogue!) that his name was Father Brenman. He had never before said a Mass for soldiers and it was quite an experience for him. He told me it was a coincidence that he happened to be a dental patient at our hospital, and was prevailed upon to say Mass for us. It looks as if God is sort of looking after us.

Sincerely,

Sgt.

(A chaplain has since been assigned to the battery, and so the "war" on Mass-missing Sundays has ended in victory. God grant as speedy a Victory in the other!)

picture proves how much it is liked by our Mexican boys and girls, simple concoction though it is. "Raspada" has its counterpart in the "popsicles" that American boys and girls find refreshing on a hot summer's day. But "popsicles" are eaten "off a stick," while "raspada" is really only a glassful of chipped ice over which sweet fruit juice has been poured.

AFTER such an event in the missions a Catechist could truthfully write, "The big day is over, and the children who attended the Kermess are ready to testify that it was a perfect day!"

LOYAL Helpers, keep up your good work through the weeks of summer when there are so many opportunities to earn extra pennies for your Sunshine Bag. You will be blessed for each little sacrifice—and will help us bring many a Kermess Day to our mission boys and girls.

Catechist Schneider

Father Serra's Cause Revived

ST. JOSEPH'S Fraternity of the Third Order of St. Francis, in Los Angeles, has revived the movement to further the Cause of the beatification and canonization of Fray Junipero Serra, O.F.M., founder of California's 21 Franciscan Missions. Father Serra has been a candidate for beatification since 1934.

THE Fraternity has undertaken the ambitious program of enlightening the entire American Catholic world as to the work of this great eighteenth century missionary. The medium they are using in this educational program is a beautiful 40-page booklet called "The Pathway of the Padres." It is profusely illustrated with recent photographs of the California Missions and contains a foreword by Rev. Fr. Eric O'Brien, O.F.M., Vice Postulator for the Cause of Fray Serra as well as a brief history of his life by Rev. Fr. Maynard Geiger, O.F.M., historian for the Cause. The prayer for private devotion as approved by His Excellency, the Archbishop of Los Angeles, may also be found in the book. Distribution of the book will be made through Fraternities of the Third Order throughout the entire country.

IT is sincerely hoped that every Catholic in the United States will avail himself of this opportunity to help in the Cause of Fray Junipero Serra, who, in 1769 first brought Christianity to Western America, and that a universal prayer for his Cause may rise from the hearts of American Catholics.

COPIES of the book, "The Pathway of the Padres" may be secured from members of the Third Order of St. Francis in your community or by sending 25c in coin to the Third Order of St. Francis, 337 West 56th Street, Los Angeles, California. All profit which may accrue will be placed in a Serra Fund, to be used in furthering his Cause.

IN MEMORIAM

Rev. John Adrian, St. Louis, Mo.
Miss Rose Herbst, Detroit, Mich.
Nicholas Hack, Lafayette, Ind.
Elizabeth Vermaehen, Queens Village, N. Y.
Mrs. B. Mercil, Chicago, Ill.
Miss Mary Brinkmeyer, San Diego, Calif.
Catherine Norton, Fargo, North Dakota.
Mrs. Catherine Dietrich, A.C.M., Fort Wayne, Indiana.
Mrs. Lucia Blum, Canton, Ohio
Mrs. James Egan, Louisville, Ky.
Josephine Regan, A.C.M., Chicago
Mrs. Wm. Bernhardt, A.C.M., Fort Wayne
Mrs. Catherine Haffner, A.C.M., Fort Wayne
Mrs. Mary Danaher, Chicago
Mrs. Barbara Brant, St. Joseph, Mich.
Margaret Conmey, Chicago



Features and Countenance

YOU know, brethren, the difference between the features of your face and your countenance. God made your features, but you made your countenance. Your features were His work, and He gives to every man his own natural face—all different from each other, and yet all of one type. But the countenance of man are far more diverse even than their features. Some men have a lofty countenance, some have a lowering countenance, or a worldly or ostentatious, vain-glorious countenance, or a scornful countenance, or a cunning and dissembling countenance. We know men by their look. We read men by looking at their faces—not at their features, their eyes or lips, because God made these; but at a certain cast and motion, and shape and expression, which their features have acquired. It is this that we call the countenance. And what makes this countenance? The inward and mental habits; the constant pressure of the mind; the perpetual repetitions of its acts.

—Cardinal Manning

Are you moving?
Please notify us. Send us your old and your new address. Thank you.

Mission Intention for July

by the Right Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell

For Native Clergy in Oceania

WHEN our fighting forces return to their homeland there will be many and weird tales to tell concerning the strange peoples encountered during war activities on the islands of the Pacific. The quaking of the earth resulting from the pounding of many castanetted feet—the twisting, gleaming bodies of dark skinned natives engaged in their traditional war dances. This is one side of the story of the islanders, a story which would seem to preclude the possibility of hope for the formation of a native clergy for Oceania. Yet that hope is not part of a visionary's dream. It has become a reality which unfortunately this present war may retard but cannot destroy.

IT must be remembered the faith was late in coming to these islands. Hardly more than a century ago the name of Christ was unknown among the natives, many of whom were ferocious cannibals. Scores of missionaries were killed by the islanders who revelled in their devil worship, their witch doctors, their belief in charms and spells. Yet if one wishes to find the ideal in mission achievement he must turn to Oceania where the inhabitants of Wallis and Futuna are one hundred per cent Catholic. True the district was watered by the blood of that most successful of Christian failures, Blessed Peter Chanel, but the faith he brought has stood the test of time and there have been no defections during the intervening years.

ANOTHER example of Oceanic perseverance may be found in Niuatoputabu, the lonely island some 200 miles northwards from Vavau. Its 800 inhabitants are under the jurisdiction of the Vicar Apostolic of the Tonga islands, but because of the in-

accessibility of Niuatoputabu and the scarcity of missionaries, these good people were deprived of the ministrations of a priest. In the absence of the latter two South Sea islanders, the school teacher, Tevita Tavake, and the catechist, Paul Selui, have kept alight the torch of faith. In 1935 the school teacher's son, Patelo Naka, was ordained and appointed the first resident priest of his native island and the catechist's daughter, Maila Pisilia, has become a religious.

ON July 24, 1938, a solemn service climaxed years of effort on the part of missionaries in the Vicariate of Papua, New Guinea. Upon the summit of Mt. Albert Edward, the loftiest peak in the mountain range that traverses the interior of Papua, a statue of Christ with His arms outstretched on the Cross was erected. This Cross, standing at 13,230 feet above sea level, is without doubt the highest now existing in the Oceanic islands, a testimonial of unflagging courage and charity on the part of missionaries of the Catholic Church.

NOW around the cross they wish to augment yearly the number of islanders who, becoming "other Christs" for their countrymen will implant the faith deeply in the hearts of the thousands of inhabitants of these remote islands. Today the battle of the Pacific is being fought in great part among the coral reefs which constitute the greater part of Oceania, but there must be no lessening in the battle of the missionaries for the training and formation of a truly zealous native clergy in the islands. Hence the request of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith for the prayers of the faithful in behalf of the native clergy in Oceania.

*Vacation at home this year =
That's patriotic*

**Spend your vacation money on defense bonds and
the MISSIONS—**

That's one way of working for God and for Country



Each year some of our friends sacrifice a little of their vacation pleasure and send an offering of \$5.00 to Victory-Noll for the Catechists' mission work. They call this "Vacationing With the Catechists."

There will be little talk of vacationing this year, but the missions need your help more than ever.

You are promoting the glory of God and the welfare of our beloved Country when you help bring Christ to spiritually poor Americans. Send a vacation offering to the Catechists for their Home Mission work.



For God and For Country

Victory-Noll
Huntington, Indiana

Dear Catechist,

Enclosed is part of my "vacation money." Use it where the need is greatest.

Name

Address