

THE

3-43

MISSIONARY
CATECHIST



Hail Mary



THE God Whom earth and sun and sky
Adore and laud and magnify,
Who o'er their threefold fabric reigns,
The Virgin's spotless womb contains.

THE God Whose Will by moon and sun,
And all things, in due course is done,
Is borne upon a Maiden's breast,
By fullest heavenly grace possessed.

HOW blest that Mother in whose shrine
The great Artificer divine,
Whose Hand contains the earth and sky,
Vouchsafed, as in His ark, to lie!

BLEST, in the message Gabriel brought;
Blest, by the work the Spirit wrought;
From whom the great Desire of Earth
Took human flesh and human birth.

ALL honor, laud, and glory be,
O Jesus, Virgin-born, to Thee!
All glory, as is ever meet,
To Father and to Paraclete.

Amen.

—From the Roman Breviary

THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST

Volume 19

March, 1943

Number 4

The Apostolate of Smiling

by the Reverend Rupert Glaid, O.F.M. Cap.

JUST a little smile on YOUR lips . . .

Cheers your heart
Keeps you in good humor
Preserves peace in your soul
Promotes your health
Beautifies your face
Induces kindly thoughts
Inspires kindly deeds

SMILE TO YOURSELF . . .

until you notice that your constant seriousness, or even severity, has vanished.

SMILE TO YOURSELF . . .

until you have warmed your own heart with the sunshine of your cheery countenance. Then . . .

GO out and radiate YOUR SMILE.

YOUR SMILE

has work to do—work to do for God.

You are an Apostle now, and your SMILE is your instrument for winning souls.

Sanctifying grace dwelling in your soul will give the special charm to your smile which will render it productive of much good.

SMILE on the lonely faces.

SMILE on the timid faces.

SMILE on the sorrowful faces.

SMILE on the sickly faces.

SMILE on the fresh young faces.

SMILE on the wrinkled old faces.

SMILE on the familiar faces of your family and friends. Let all enjoy the beauty and inspiring cheer of your smiling face.

Count . . .

if you will, the number of smiles your smile has drawn from others in one day. The number will rep-

resent how many times you have promoted contentment, joy, satisfaction, encouragement, or confidence in the hearts of others. These good dispositions always give birth to unselfish acts and noble deeds. The influence of your smile is spreading though you do not always see the wonders it is working.

YOUR SMILE . . .

can bring new life and hope and courage into the hearts of the weary, the overburdened, the discouraged, the tempted, the despairing.

YOUR SMILE . . .

can help to develop vocations, if you are a Priest, a Brother, or a Sister.

YOUR SMILE . . .

can be the beginning of conversions to the Faith.

YOUR SMILE . . .

can prepare the way for a sinner's return to God.

YOUR SMILE . . .

can win for you a host of devoted friends.

SMILE, TOO, AT GOD . . .

Smile at God in loving acceptance of whatever He sends into your life, and you will merit to have the radiantly smiling Face of Christ gaze on you with special love throughout eternity.

THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST is a monthly magazine published with ecclesiastical approbation by the Society of Missionary Catechists, Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana. Subscription rates: \$1 a year; \$2.50 for 3 years; \$4 for 5 years; \$25 for life, payable in monthly installments; \$1.50, Canada and Foreign. Entered as second class matter December 30, 1924, at the post office at Huntington, Indiana, under the act of March 3 1879.

O. B. L. V. PRESS VICTORY-NOLL, HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

Still Missionary

by Catechist Dorothy Schneider

June, 1868.—Hill and valley covered with luxuriant growth of filaree, clover, wild flowers of every hue, antelope and elk roaming at will over the plains; sunny skies, gentle breezes, lazy loveliness—Los Banos seventy-five years ago.

THEN came settlers, energetic, industrious, hospitable, kind, strong and virtuous as was the new land thrown open to settlement.

AND they say the naming of the place came about in this wise. In the heat of languid summer afternoons several Padres were wont to seek refreshment bathing in the pools at the Menjoulet Canyon and so named the place "Los Banos," a Spanish word meaning *The Baths*.

EARLY history records sheep raising as the principal industry. Succeeding dry years and low wool prices brought heavy losses. Men turned to the land. An irrigation project was inaugurated which, though not successfully operated until 1876, laid the foundation for future farming. Cattle raising began to assume more importance.

1889 brought the first railroad; 1890 a post office; and 1928 mention in THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST.

MANY of you have learned much about the Los Banos area from articles written by Catechists who have lived here. I remember with what great interest I listened to the first letter which came to Victory-Noll from Dos Palos where our convent for this district was first located.

THE pastor, in his kindly wish to please, had deferred the purchase of all necessary house furnishings until the Catechists' arrival. To this day they chuckle over making a wash tub serve as a stove, taking the back seat out of the automobile for chairs, and dining and sleeping (at least one night) in most primitive fashion.

IN those days extensive irrigation projects had converted arid desert into white miles of cotton. Pitifully inadequate huts and tents were thrown together to serve as shelter for the Mexican pickers. During the rainy season the families were flooded out. Living in crowded quarters, swamped with mud, unable because of the condition of the roads to purchase food, sickened from exposure and unsanitary living conditions, the



"Over in the corner stands that very barrel, I am sure . . ."

plight of these cotton pickers was often deplorable.

THE standard wage for picking cotton was \$1.25 a hundred pounds. In 1931, due to the depression, only seventy-five cents was paid. In that year there was great want, and the Catechists were called upon again and again for help.

THIS year the problem is reversed. Camps, as far as I can see, have been cleaned up. Better sanitary conditions prevail. But these camps are almost empty. Comparatively little cotton is being raised in this district, and even for this little, growers lament the lack of pickers. Two dollars and a half a hundred is being paid, but whitened rows of cotton stand exposed to the expected rains.

MUCH of the land formerly used for cotton is now being planted in grain and vegetables. Some of it will be planted—and that in the shortest possible time—in guayule. Some sixteen hundred acres have been leased and are now under preparation for this important war endeavor.

TWO years after our mission center was founded at Dos Palos, our convent was moved to Los Banos. From here the Dos Palos and Gustine parishes are now reached.

LOS BANOS and Gustine are dairy districts. The majority of ranches in all three districts are operated by industrious Portuguese and Italian people.

IN Los Banos, Gustine, Dos Palos and its out-mission, Firebaugh, our classes are conducted in the church or church hall. In two of the Los Banos out-missions the district school is avail-

able; and in each of the others, classes are taught at the ranch nearest the school.

AT one of these ranches I teach under the walnut trees in fair weather while my Catechist companion teaches on the porch. In wintry weather her little brood is invited indoors, while I, with my sturdier "gang" seek shelter in the frame garage which also serves as a storeroom for the miscellaneous what-nots found on a ranch. There I am always reminded of that charming picture drawn by Marie Hughes of a Catechist writing on a barrel. Over in a corner stands that very barrel, I am sure, and often I use it for my brief case and charts.

DURING the past month Burns' wee mouseie has ventured in upon our class via the rafters, and, most gratefully I record it, though he has returned on two successive occasions, he has always listened politely from above!

Vacation School Jottings

by Catechist M. Gertrude Rochel

DURING the summer we conduct vacation schools in places that we are unable to reach during the year. The past year we spent an interesting two weeks at Wendover. Wendover is a little town on the Nevada and Utah state line, in the Salt Lake Desert. While there we lived in a trailer which belonged to Father Smith, the pastor at Elko. It was given him by a generous friend in Kansas who had heard about Father's missionary work in Nevada and wished to have a share in it.

WE parked our trailer under a big shade tree near Hernandez' house. Our most frequent visitor was Mary Lou Hernandez, age three. Many times a day she would come and stand just outside our door, look in with longing eyes, and say: "My mama says I can't come in your house." We could not resist her pleading voice very long and so we asked her mother to permit the child to come in and visit with us.

THE children who attended the vacation school also thought the trailer quite a novelty. In the morning we had class in the school house and in the afternoon we had special classes in the trailer for the children preparing to receive their First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We told one child to come at two o'clock but she always came at one. After class we would urge her to run home so her mother wouldn't worry about her. She insisted that her mother knew where she was.

TWO Indian boys were enrolled in our classes. They came a few times and then missed. These boys had a hard life. Their mother was dead and their father worked on the railroad ten hours a day. The boys had to do the cooking, washing, ironing, cleaning, etc. One day we met them on the street and told them that we were going to visit their home some day soon and make arrangements for their continuing instructions. They said, "Let us know when you are coming so we can clean up the house."

AT our earliest opportunity we spoke to the father about the boys coming to vacation school. This is what he said, "I won't send my boys to class if you are only going to stay two weeks. They can't learn anything in two weeks. If you want my boys to come, you'll have to stay all the time!"

WE explained that the boys were sure to learn something which would help them on their way to heaven and which would, moreover, prove a foundation for subsequent instructions when another opportunity presented itself. At last he saw things our way and promised to let the boys come back to class.

ON the day vacation school ended, Father said Mass in the community hall. Two small girls received our dear Lord for the first time. After Mass the mothers served a lovely breakfast to Father and the children.

*Monument
of
Reconciliation*

THE ruins of the Sangre De Cristo Church in the community of Valencia, New Mexico, are a monument to another conquest of the hearts of sinners by the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. Approximately two hundred years ago this church was built, and since then, during these many years, it has preached its sermon of forgiveness and sincere repentance. The story of the church, told and retold for generations, could be summarized in a few simple sentences, but it speaks volumes about the ways of erring man and God's fatherly compassion and patience with His foolish children.

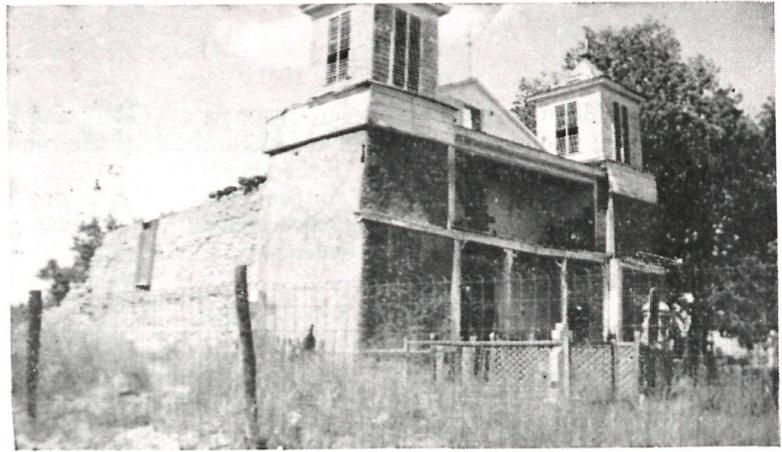
THE story has it that there lived two brothers in that community who developed a most unnatural hatred for each other. This passion grew with passing years until once, in an attempted fratricide, the blood of both brothers flowed freely. Parents, relatives and neighbors tried in every conceivable way to reconcile the two, but to no avail. At last they despaired of their own efforts and trusted entirely to the Precious Blood of Christ to end this scandal among them.

THE elder of the brothers, touched by the grace of God, finally came to his senses and realized the grievous state of his soul. He sought out his brother and by a miracle of God's mercy the two were reconciled. To make public reparation for the scandal

they had given, they agreed to build a church in honor of the Precious Blood of Christ which they had outraged by shedding their own in anger and hatred. The rejoicing community joined the brothers in this praiseworthy undertaking and the church became not only a tangible prayer of

1. Ruins of Sangre De Cristo Church, Valencia, N.M. 2. Catechist Vigil praying for the departed in the little cemetery in front of Sangre De Cristo Church. 3. Part of ruined wall showing width. It is six feet wide.

reparation but also one of joyous praise and thanksgiving to the loving, merciful Father in Heaven.



Saint Peter Goes A-Fishing

by Catechist Viola Wopperer

YOU wouldn't call Papa Carbinni poor—not to his face you wouldn't. He would tell you promptly that a proud father of eleven personable offspring can never honestly call himself poor. Be it so. Yet Papa Carbinni found it no mean struggle to keep his eleven treasures well fed, properly clothed and shod, and comfortably housed. His sole means of earning a livelihood for his family was a fishing net, for Papa Carbinni was a fisherman. He loved the sea and had ever cherished the hope of owning a boat. But the advent of one little Carbinni after another, though it broadened the smile on his jovial face, pushed his fond dream farther and farther into a secret recess of his heart. Some day, yes, a boat. For the present, thanks be to the good God for the net! It meant bread and butter—or rather spaghetti and ravioli for his beloved brood.

THEN one bright California day, tragedy descended upon the Carbinni household. We learned of it as a matter of course. Jean and Joan, the twins, presented themselves at our door with doleful faces. There were no preliminaries. "Papa lost our net," they declared as if announcing the day of doom.

EXPLANATIONS were really unnecessary. I realized what a calamity this was to their family.

"Now it isn't as hopeless as you think," I said cheerfully as I ushered them into our waiting room. "Remember about Saint Peter, the Apostle who was a fisherman? He must know how it feels to lose a net. Let's ask him to find it. Here is a medal of Saint Peter. Take it to your mother and tell her to pray—to have you all pray—to him to help your father find his net."

THE twins grasped the medal eagerly. Smiles had returned to their faces and they rushed out of the room, joyously repeating their thanks.

PAPA Carbinni had many friends among the fishermen and they all joined him in the

search for the net. As they rode the waters, hard at their accustomed labor, they were ever on the alert for a vagrant net. One day, another day, seven days passed. It seemed futile to hope that a net lost so long would ever be salvaged from the greedy sea. Papa Carbinni and his family despaired in their own efforts—but there was Saint Peter!

THE week which had been such a long and sad one to the Carbinnies had passed quickly for us in the whirl of mission activity. Eight days after the twins had reported to us the loss of their father's net, they again presented themselves at our convent door. Again there were no preliminaries but their faces told a different tale.

"Saint Peter found the net!" they cried in unison when I appeared.

"And it had lot's of fish in it!" added Jean.

"And Papa sold them for ten dollars!" exclaimed Joan.

I SMILED. This incident again confirmed my suspicion that good Saint Peter still goes a-fishing with our simple fisherfolk.

THE twins did not pause for comments from me. They had more to say; this time in unison.

"Our mother sent this fish for the Catechists' dinner. It is to thank Saint Peter."

BEFORE I could express my pleasure the girls hurried away to spread the story of the net among their little friends.

THE Carbinnies are not going to be outdone in generosity by good Saint Peter. Not if they can help it, they aren't. Twice a week, and often-er, one—or more—of the eleven Carbinnies comes to our door with fish for our dinner. We know "it is to thank Saint Peter"—an expression of never-ending gratitude.



The Missionary Catechists

WHO are the Missionary Catechists?

The Missionary Catechists are a religious community of women in the Church devoted to active missionary works.

WHEN was the Society of Missionary Catechists founded and by whom?

The Society of Missionary Catechists was founded in 1921 by the Reverend John J. Sigstein. Soon after its inception the new community attained the sponsorship of the Most Reverend John F. Noll, D.D., Bishop of Fort Wayne and editor of Our Sunday Visitor.

WHAT is the purpose of the Society of Missionary Catechists?

The purpose of the Society, after the personal sanctification of its members, is the religious instruction and Christian training of public school children.

DO the Missionary Catechists live a community life?

Yes, the Catechists live a community life at Victory-Noll, the Motherhouse, and in the missions.

DO the Missionary Catechists take vows?

Yes, upon the completion of their novitiate and training, the Missionary Catechists take temporary vows of poverty, chastity and obedience for six years. Then perpetual vows are made.

WHERE do the Missionary Catechists make their novitiate?

The Missionary Catechists make their novitiate at Victory-Noll, the Motherhouse and Novitiate of the Society, situated a mile west of Huntington, Indiana.

WHAT is the length of the novitiate?

After their postulancy, the Catechists enter upon a two-year novitiate which includes the canonical year.

DO the Missionary Catechists teach schools or conduct hospitals?

No, the Missionary Catechists do not teach schools, conduct hospitals, or engage in any institutional work.



Professed Missionary Catechist

DO the Missionary Catechists labor only in the United States?

According to their rule the Catechists may have foreign foundations. At present their work is confined to the United States.

DO the Missionary Catechists say Office?

The Catechists pray only the little Sodality Office of the Immaculate Conception.

DOES the work of the Missionary Catechist consist simply in catechizing the children?

No. In order to insure the success of their religious instruction of the children, the Catechists' program embraces the entire family of those under their care. The Catechists devote much time each day to intensive home visiting, instructing adults, relieving the wants of the poor and the sick, and giving every possible spiritual and material help so that souls may be converted or brought closer to God and His Church.

The Catechists also train choirs, organize sodalities, look after poor mission sanctuaries and assist the missionary priests.

DOES every member of the Society of Missionary Catechists do active missionary work?

Since the Catechists take the vow of obedience they serve the community in whatever work and place are assigned them by their superiors, according to the members' ability and natural talent. Not only teachers and social workers but also cooks, seamstresses, clerical workers and others are required for the success of the Society's missionary enterprises.

WHAT are the educational and other requirements?

Candidates must have a fair education, a knowledge of Christian Doctrine, possess sound judgment, and be of irreproachable character. Certificates of baptism and confirmation as well as a letter of recommendation from some priest to whom the applicant is personally known, are required.

WHAT are the health requirements?

It is imperatively necessary that the applicant have good health. A thorough examination is to be undergone and our health questionnaire filled out by both the doctor and the applicant.

AT what age are applicants accepted?

Applicants must be at least eighteen years of age and not over thirty years.

IS a dowry required?

No, the Society of Missionary Catechists does not require a dowry. Candidates are, however, required to furnish specified personal articles.

MAY one visit Victory-Noll?

Yes, a cordial invitation is extended to Catholic young women to visit Victory-Noll with reference to their vocation. A letter of inquiry addressed to the Superior General will receive prompt consideration. Information will be forwarded upon request.

Address:

Society of Missionary Catechists
Victory-Noll,
Huntington, Indiana.

Please notify us of your change of address.

March, 1943

WAR-TIME PROBLEM

OUT here in Nevada we must travel long distances to instruct a few children—the future “Church Militant” in Nevada. However, with the necessity of conserving tires and gas, we must curtail some of our traveling and send our instructions via correspondence. The question arises, what to do with the extra time that was formerly spent traveling from sun-up to sun-down?

IN our out-missions, whenever we had a little time, we gave instructions to the mothers. They enjoyed the classes and looked forward to our regular visits. Why wouldn't the women of Winnemucca feel the same way? Many of them have told us how much they would like to be children again so that they might receive the regular religious instructions which the children are now getting. They had never had such an opportunity. A busy priest, who had a very limited time to spend in each of the many places he had to cover, gave them instructions. One woman said, “It is only the grace of God that helps us to persevere as practical Catholics. Most of our information we had to gather from books we were fortunate to obtain.”

IN addition to the religious instruction for the women in Winnemucca we hope to interest them in sewing and doing embroidery work to help fill a “hope chest” that will be raffled off for the benefit of the parish. While the women sew we intend to discuss with them the subject of our instruction, and to devote five or ten minutes to spiritual reading.

Catechist Catherine Durkin



Every noble work is at first impossible.



Getting Ready for Service

DYNAMITE

"OH, won't you come in, Sisters?" she said as she opened the door wide. We went in and she maneuvered us to the best chairs in her comfortable home. Then we talked about how windy it was, about her house plants, and about many other things when suddenly she broke off and exclaimed:

"You know, everytime I see you I get a lump in my throat!"

WE must have blinked hard and looked astonished because she went on to explain immediately.

"You know I was brought up in a convent school, and I loved it. The Sisters were so good to me! My mother died when I was a little girl, but the Sisters were real mothers to me. They gave me excellent training. Then when I was seventeen I went forth to see the world."

A STRANGE light came into her eyes as she recalled those memorable days, but she also looked as though she were swallowing something bitter. She continued:

"I was pretty, but I was dynamite personified, and so I tried Broadway and made the stage. That was in the late nineties. Being on the stage was considered a disgrace by my family and so they disowned me. I didn't care. I was dynamite and I went on and on. But I still loved the Sisters and was grateful for all they had done for me. If only I had followed their counsels! But I didn't. I married once, then I married again. Now here I am—old and worn out."

AT this point she brought out a number of religious articles to verify the fact that she still clung to remnants of her faith.

In The Home Field

Before our visit was over she admitted being dreadfully sorry for the way she had "bungled her life."

"I'm coming back some day, I am!" were her parting words.

WE are praying that she will come back too, but soon. If only she would use some of that dynamite which is still in her, to stage a humble and contrite come-back into the arms of the gently Good Shepherd, then it would not be in vain that she "gets a lump in her throat every time she sees us."

Catechist Gabrielle Skupien

COLORFUL TRANSFORMATION

WE were told that Nina, a baby in one of our camps, was sick and so we stopped to visit the mother and to inquire if there were anything we could do. The mother welcomed us, and in answer to our inquiries about her child, pointed to a far corner of the room saying: "There she is."

THE lighting in the room was very dim, nevertheless, it was sufficient for us to see that there was no child in the room. Seeing that we made no movement forward, the mother walked over to what appeared to be a heap of rags. She pulled aside some old clothes and revealed the tiny infant fast asleep.

WHILE visiting another home that same afternoon our eyes, ever on the alert for anything that would be useful for our poor, chanced upon a cradle. We asked our hostess if we might have it. She was reluctant to part with it because of the many dear memories hovering about it. Yet, she wished to help us get a cradle and so she volunteered the information that a family, two doors away, had one which they might be pleased to give us.

NOT a bit daunted by one refusal, we started out for the home designated. Yes, the good woman told us, she would be glad to give us their cradle. But when we saw it our spirits sank. It was thoroughly UNpainted, bottomless, and minus rockers and a few side boards. Even so, it was better than none and we accepted it with gratitude.

AT home we found some strong burlap which became a secure bottom for the cradle. We left off the rockers, converting the thing into a bed rather than a cradle; but we fitted it with clean, though patched, bedding and took it to camp. A few days later we visited little Nina again and could hardly repress a smile when we saw her peacefully sleeping in her contraption of a "cradle" which had since been painted a vivid orchid.

Catechist Loretta Srill

FIVE MINUTES LATE

"YOU'RE exactly five minutes late," said the patient as Catechist entered the hospital room.

VERY much puzzled Catechist waited. The sick girl turned from the window and gasped when she saw her unknown visitor. "I was expecting my sister," she explained and then expressed surprise that Catechist should visit her, a fallen away Catholic. Catechist smiled pleasantly and soon they were talking confidentially about things nearest to both their hearts. The patient found relief in recounting her neglect of religious duties, and her anxiety for the future. Catechist consoled her and outlined briefly the duties of a baptized Catholic.

WHEN at last the expected knock did come, the patient thanked Catechist, adding: "Please come again next Sunday and help me so that I won't keep on being a late Catholic."

Catechist Rosella Lengerich



"Snap it, Catechist."

JUNIOR POSES

"IS you ready, Catechis'? Cuz Kitty and me is." And Junior smiles sunnily into the camera.

Two Catechists teach at Junior's home each week. The little fellow began attending classes as a baby on his mother's knee. He is happy, now, to sit up straight and tall "like the big boys," and learn all about Jesus.

Catechist is Junior's best friend. She always proves a willing listener to small-boy confidences.

"I'm gonna buy a cow," declares Junior very seriously.

"And what will you feed your cow?"

"Bread and coffee," says Junior, watching Catechist closely.

"Then be sure to buy a bakery shop too," smiles Catechist as she joins in Junior's delighted laughter.

Junior is always glad when Catechist asks him to pray for her intentions. He is praying for "something big" at present; the conversion of his mother who is already interested in our holy religion.

Junior's father needs prayers, too. Catechist is hoping that through the little one's childish pleadings, the old, old story of God's grace touching and transforming hearts will be repeated, and once again "a little child shall lead them."

Catechist M. Alice James



Daddy is convalescing after a serious illness so he takes care of the little one while Mother goes to work. Neither seems to enjoy the situation.

After 1900 years there still remain millions who have never heard the story of the Redemption. For these Mary's maternal Heart yearns. We can help to satisfy her desire by aiding in the mission apostolate of the Church.—Fr. DeBarry.

Our Associates



In Chicago, Ill.

Juanita Club. Miss Marie Cummings, secretary, forwarded to us in October the proceeds of the members' annual mission benefit party. "We would like to feel," she wrote, "that it is a combination Thanksgiving and Christmas gift. We all felt that you could use it before time." For this and their many kindnesses throughout years of mission club activities, we are deeply grateful.

St. George Band. It was in the late fall that we likewise had the pleasure of welcoming the latest generous gift from the members of this mission group. They have made the raffling of a turkey an annual event during the season set aside for giving thanks to God. Miss Lucille Dea, promoter, wrote in the name of the club and also sent the names of three new members who wish to enroll as our Associates—ever a sign of active interest and progress. May the spiritual benefits which both new members and old receive daily prove a rich return for their loyal charity to us in our mission work.

St. Thomas Aquinas Band. This is another of our A.C.M. Bands in Chicago who have kept up their mission spirit throughout years of activities for the support of their missionary, Catechist McBride. In a recent letter Mrs. M. B. McDonald, promoter, wrote: "Enclosed you will find the proceeds of card parties given by members of St. Thomas Aquinas Band. We wish you all happiness in the new year. May God bless you all." From our hearts we echo this prayer, as gratefully we include each members' intentions in our daily community prayers.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Band. Every letter from Mrs. Fred Ahner, promoter, is certain to contain a donation to support a Catechist for at least two months, sometimes longer, so you can readily see how generous their contributions are. In December we received their latest gift, the proceeds of parties sponsored by Mrs. Ahner, Mrs. M. Luetkenhus, and Mrs. J. Schmitz. Mrs. Ahner writes that for the success of these parties given for the benefit

of our Society she depends a great deal upon the cooperation of friends and women of the parish, and wishes to express her gratitude for the help given her. We likewise appreciate their kindness in aiding our mission cause, and assure them that they are not forgotten where a remembrance counts most, before the altar of God.

Mary Band. Miss Helen Pidgeon, promoter, tells us that her members are valiantly striving to get together each month in spite of the new transportation difficulties. Like them many of our Associates are carrying on their work for the missions at the cost of double sacrifice. Surely this will make their charity doubly meritorious for Eternity.

Mary Widman, a member of Mary Band, gave us these interesting notes when she sent their contribution recently:

"You will be pleased, I know, to learn that one of our members, Mrs. Tye, is the mother of twins. Another, Dr. Hildegard Schorsch, has entered the novitiate of the Medical Missionary Sisters." To both congratulations, and to all our grateful thanks.

First Communion Time

MANY of our A.C.M. Bands spend the time of their meetings in project work, making articles that are a real aid to our Catechists in the field. They like especially to help in the preparations for First Communion time, and a letter from Catherine Lippert, promoter of Little Flower Mission Circle, Pittsburgh, contains two suggestions for such a box.

PURSES or rosary cases can be made for the girls, and leather folders to hold rosary and medal for the boys, out of the good leather in cast-off purses. Catechist Perl writes from her mission in Brawley, California, that mounted medals, holy pictures and Sacred Heart badges are always especially needed. Another Catechist suggests that the medal might be strung on a crocheted chain made from strong crochet or embroidery thread. This is a good way to ensure its being used by the child.

Getting Ready

OF the late Marshall Foch it is said that when still a boy in military school he caused some anxiety to his superiors when, night after night, they discovered his cot empty. Search at last revealed him sleeping on the hard floor beneath.

"Why are you doing that?" they asked him.

"I'm getting ready for the next war," was his reply.

WHEN "getting ready for the next game," many a father has marveled at his athlete son who, for the sake of his college team, will abstain heroically from things to which before he seemed hopelessly enslaved.

A lifetime has been given to us as our preparation-time for eternity. Surely the efforts which the glory of a country and the glory of a school can inspire should be surpassed immeasurably with such a motive as the greater glory of God. Every sacrifice made for love of Him "gets us ready" for an eternity with Him; and among the most precious of these acts are the sacrifices made for His mission cause.



WHEN new year resolutions have been set aside and forgotten, the Church brings us the time of Lent to inspire new courage for a fresh start. This year, when the rightful claims of a country at war might cause us to forget the needs of Christ's missionary soldiers who are seeking to bring peace to souls, we invite our Associates to renew their spirit of mission interest and zeal. If you have not already done so, might we suggest that you plan a definite program for Lent and the three following months; a program that will prove a profitable one for the missions, to carry your Catechist

through the summer months when A.C.M. activities are fewer. It will make you feel that, when you suspend meetings until the fall, yours is a well-earned and well-deserved vacation.

More than this, your sacrifices, though greater than ever during these troubled times, will be rewarded a hundredfold by the Master who is never outdone in generosity however much we give, provided that it be given for His sake.

In Detroit, Mich.

THERE are ways and ways of raising mission funds, and many of our A.C.M. Bands have exercised their ingenuity with willing cheerfulness to make the best of circumstances. One such group is St. Mary's Sodality Band. Mrs. Peter Pink, promoter of their mission activities, tells us the story of their work.

"We are only a small group and have little hope of expanding since our church is in the downtown business section with practically no parish left. Therefore we are a little handicapped, but there is nothing lacking in our enthusiasm where supporting Catechist Badway, our missionary, is concerned. We've hit on the idea of "piggy" banks. They cost a nickel at the 5 and 10 and are made of glass in the shape of a comely wee pig. Since none of the members are too-overburdened with worldly goods, our motto is: 'A penny a day for our Catechist Badway.'

"Regularly we issue a call to empty the banks. Though the sum is far smaller than we should have liked to send, such as it is we are happy in giving it."

A.C.M. BAND DONATIONS

January 7 to January 29

Archbishop Stritch Ban, Chicago, Miss Helen Gaethke	\$10.00
Charitina Club II, Paris, Ill., Miss Mary C. Gibbons	2.50
Ellen Lemm Circle, Chicago, Mrs. Johanna Schweiss	10.00
Good Will Mission Circle, Carrollton, Ky.,	
Miss Bertha Glauber	3.00
Holy Family Band, Chicago, Mrs. Wm. J. Murphy	10.30
Immaculate Conception Band, Detroit, Miss Lillian Dunn ..	10.00
Marians, Chicago, Miss Margaret Daniels	10.00
Mother and Daughter Club, Chicago, Mrs. M. Leutkenhus ..	5.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe Band, Dayton, Ohio,	
Miss Rose Marie Heier	2.50
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Band, Evanston, Ill.,	
Miss Celia Henrich	18.00
Queen of Angels Band, Los Angeles, Mrs. C. J. Sauthier ..	5.00
Queen of Poor Souls Band, Los Angeles, Mrs. Anna Meng ..	5.00
Srillians of Our Lady of Sorrows, Cheviot, O.,	
Miss Marie Gadzinski	1.00
St. Agnes Band, Martinsburg, W. Va.,	
Miss Gertrude Atkinson	3.00
St. Anne Band, Fort Wayne, Ind., Miss Ann Brink	5.00
St. Anthony Band, Chicago, Mrs. A. F. Beck	5.00
St. Helen Band, Dayton, O., Miss Margaret M. Karas	4.00
St. Justin Martyr Band, Chicago, Mrs. Fred Kiefer	6.00
St. Katherine Band, Chicago, Mrs. Katherine Hammer ..	10.00
St. Philomena Band, Lombard, Ill., Miss Mary Schaefer ..	15.00
St. Raymond Nonatus Band, Chicago,	
Mrs. Kathryn Quinlan	4.25

Classes on the Reservation

by Catechist Josephine Cima

ON the outskirts of Ely, Nevada, are a number of humble dwellings occupied by very interesting people—our beloved Indians. The fact that they are destitute of material possessions makes them all the more precious to us as spiritual treasures.

AT first we found it not a little difficult to gain an entrance into their hearts. They regarded us as they regard all outsiders, with suspicion. Because of their unfortunate lot and their lack of sympathetic touch with other people, they could not believe in the sincerity of our purpose.

WE continued our visiting and our little acts of kindness, and before long the Indians began to respond to our efforts. Then we organized religion classes at the reservation which we planned to teach every Saturday afternoon.

OUR funds being limited, we could not procure suitable classrooms and so we had to conduct our classes in abandoned shacks or on the very doorsteps of their humble homes. We soon discovered that poverty brings with it a wealth of spiritual riches. The difficulties under which we labored established a kinship between us and the Indians which mere words or much money never could have brought about. In a short time all the children were attending our classes except one little boy whose mother was away.

EVERYTHING was moving along smoothly when a new religious sect began having services in the Reservation every Thursday evening. Some of the people attended but they told us afterwards that they firmly believe "the Catholic is the best."

WE looked forward with pleasure to Saturday afternoon and our classes for the Indian children. One afternoon when we arrived at the Reservation, the first to see us was Willard, one of our smallest and most faithful pupils. His face

registered a look of complete surprise at our appearance. Apparently he had forgotten about the catechism class for he was busily engaged in making fancy mud-pastries. We called to him and were shocked when instead of coming toward us he leaped to his feet and made a dash for his home. Nor did he stop until he reached the kitchen door. Then looking back he called, "Me come back pretty quick."

WE doubted that he would return, for he was all covered with the mud-dough, but we were wrong. In a few minutes he came out, this time running toward us. What a picture he was—a complete transformation of his former self. He had run into the house to get washed and to change his clothes, for although we teach almost on the doorstep of his home, he regards catechism classes with a sort of reverent awe and consequently wants to look his best when he attends.

RECENTLY a new family moved into the Reservation. Their children showed a keen desire to come to our classes, and so we went to visit the mother to get her consent. We found the family—parents and four children living in one room the size of a small kitchen. The mother told us that she was happy to have her children come to our classes and learn something about God. She herself had never had any religious instruction and could not help her little ones. We told her that we were using the book "Jesus and I" with the small children and asked her to read it to her own every night. She did not realize, of course, that in giving her the book, we had in mind her spiritual welfare as well as that of her family. It has happened often that in giving reading matter to the children, or to the mother for her children, the parents have become interested and happy results followed. For instance, a certain mother told us that in reading a primary booklet she learned for the first time that God is a spirit. This same woman is now taking convert instructions. We hope and pray that we will have the same success among our adult Indian people.



Prayer for Peace

O GOD, Who hast dominion over all realms and kings, Who by striking healest, and by pardoning savest; stretch out over us Thy mercy so that by Thy power we may enjoy peace and tranquility and use them for our healing and amendment. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.

—From the Mass in Time of War.

Then and Now

by Catechist M. Ruth Lindenschmitt

FOR the Petrini's the Armistice of 1918 meant the termination of bloodshed but not the end of the struggle for existence caused by the low wages of post-war days. When it became evident that a drastic change must be made if the family were to survive, eighteen-year-old Lorenzo made the suggestion which Mrs. Petrini's motherly heart had restrained her from making months before when the thought had first presented itself to her mind.

"Let me go to America," pleaded Lorenzo. "In the States I will be able to make enough to take care of myself and help you, too."

HOPING that conditions in Italy would soon improve and make possible the lad's return, his parents consented.

IN spite of days filled with homesickness, Lorenzo did not regret his sacrifice. Finding employment was not difficult. He was soon making seventy cents a day which seemed a fortune in comparison with the twenty cents his father was earning for a longer and harder day's work. His boyish heart exalted as he considered what his wages would mean to his family.

AFTER several increases in salary, Lorenzo felt that he was in a position to return to Italy. His first and only sweet-heart, Angela, was impatiently awaiting his return. And so



when Lorenzo made his second voyage to America he was accompanied by his young bride. Together they ventured farther inland, to a small railroad town in Nevada. Here he was employed as a section-hand. Though the young couple were happy in their new home, there was one void in their hearts. Was there a Catholic church in America? There was a Mormon church, a Methodist and even a Community church in their small town, but no Catholic church. Where were the Catholics? True, a missionary, worn out by a hundred-mile trip, came on horseback at irregular intervals, when the condition of the roads permitted, to say Mass. It was by this kind, self-sacrificing priest that Lorenzo's children, Bruno and Julia, were baptized.

BY the time Bruno was eleven, Lorenzo had come to the conclusion that the boy could never be prepared for his First Holy Communion in Nevada.

"We got to take that kid to Italy so he can make his Communion," he said earnestly to his wife. Angela agreed and began preparations for a six-month stay in the loved land of their birth.

LORENZO'S description of conditions in the States convinced the priest who instructed Bruno in Italy that the children should not be permitted to return to their home without being confirmed. Today, as evidence, Angela proudly displays a life-size portrait of three-and-a-half year-old Julia in ankle length white dress, veil and gloves, holding the prayer book which was a Confirmation gift from her sponsor.

IT was thus that God-fearing parents provided for the religious instruction of their youngsters in Nevada's desert lands in the early thirties. Today, thanks to Jesus and Mary, a trip to the Old Country is not a necessary means to obtain the preparation for receiving one's First Holy Communion. Lorenzo himself testified to that. He did so, and expressed his gratitude to His Excellency, the Most Reverend Thomas K. Gorman, Bishop of Reno, on the latter's first visit to that far-away railroad town.

"Today," said Lorenzo, "everything is good. You bring the Catechists. Now we got a church. Yes, everything is different now. My kids be good Catholics."



**A Mission Interest Department
For Boys and Girls**

The Mission Story

Chapter 2

WELL, Mary, it's about time that you and I got together again to take up the thread of our Mission Story, don't you think? I received your letter and comments on the first chapter which I had sent you weeks ago. My grateful thanks. You would never guess how glad I was to learn that my poor explanations didn't in the least dampen your ardent interest in Catholic Missions, or lessen your desire to hear more about their history.

You have already learned that the Founder of our Church, Jesus Himself, was the first and greatest Missionary. Now we will talk about the lowly, earnest men whom He selected to walk in His footsteps and carry on His work.

IN number they were twelve, twelve men who on a solemn occasion were called by Christ to a special mission. The noble title which He gave them, humble fishermen though they were, was "Apostle"—one who is sent forth, entrusted with a foreign mission. He gave them very definite instructions, for they were to carry on the establishment of His kingdom on earth—the Catholic Church. But He didn't give them an order and then leave them to carry it out as best they could, as the general of a nation's army might do. He gave them great gifts and powers by His Holy Spirit—even that of working miracles, especially of healing the sick, the crippled and the blind.

After their Lord had returned to His Father in heaven the Apostles did indeed carry out His instructions "with all their might and strength." As His missionaries they traveled into country after country, baptizing and teaching and making Christian converts in every land:

*Peter in Jerusalem, Antioch, Rome
James the Less throughout Palestine*

*James the Elder, first Apostle Martyr, in Jerusalem
John, youngest of the Apostles, in Judea, Samaria, Asia Minor
Andrew in Cappadocia, Galatia, Greece
Philip in Scythia, Phrygia
Bartholomew in India, Assyria, Persia, Armenia
Thomas in Persia, Bactria, as far as India
Matthew in Syria, Ethiopia
Jude in Arabia, Great Armenia
Simon in Egypt, Lybia, even in Britain
Matthias in Judea, Ethiopia*

LIKE their Master, the Apostles too selected the noblest and best among the converts to share their missionary apostolate and to carry on after they had given their lives gloriously as martyrs for the love of Christ.

In the Fourth Century

OUTSIDE the Roman Empire missionaries first carried the Gospel into Persia. A letter written by Constantine the Great to King Sapor II, pleading with him to stop his bitter persecution of the Christians, reveals to us what rapid progress Christianity made in this pagan country.

The Armenians were the first who, as a nation, entered the Catholic Church. St. Gregory, son of a royal race, was the great missionary who converted and baptized their king, and then spread the faith throughout the whole country.

March Seventeenth

ON this date we celebrate the feast of one who is perhaps the best known and most popular of all the missionaries of Christ. There is no need to tell you that I am speaking of St. Patrick, the beloved Apostle of Ireland. Of all the countries in the West outside the Roman Empire, Ireland was the first to be converted to Christ. After

God she owes this blessing entirely to St. Patrick who was appointed to this mission in 432 by Pope Celestine I.

Perhaps, Mary, you have already heard the story of Patrick's boyhood, when he was taken as a captive into Ireland and there forced to act as a shepherd. When with the help of God he was later set free, Patrick made up his mind to give his life entirely to His service. Day and night he was haunted by the memory of the pagan country where for six years he had lived as a slave. By diligent study he prepared himself for his missionary career at the famous school of St. Martin at Tours. Then, after ordination as a priest of God he was consecrated a bishop by the Pope, and immediately set out for the country which he longed to bring to the knowledge and love of our Lord.

BEFORE St. Patrick's arrival in Ireland the people had been pagans, worshipping the sun and stars. Hills and mountains were the places of their religious services. A chief named Dicho was the Saint's first convert. To prove how sincere he was and how grateful for the Catholic Faith, Dicho built a church in Down. Patrick then went to Tara where he preached in the evening of Holy Saturday. Many of the Druids, lords and courtiers, asked for baptism. Among these converts were the daughters and a brother of the king. Though the king himself did not become a Christian, he favored the missionaries in every way and helped them in their work.

With untiring zeal Patrick traveled over the whole island, visiting every province. So won-



"Go, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

derful was his success that the conversions were soon numbered by tens of thousands. He founded his metropolitan see at Armagh in 455, and thus laid the foundation for a strong church in all Ireland. Patrick was truly a missionary. No one has enjoyed such extraordinary success as he. A whole nation, men and women, rulers and princes, was converted to Christianity during the course of fifty years without the shedding of a single drop of blood. It is not to be wondered at that Ireland soon became known as the "Island of Saints."

To be Continued



For Mary's Little Tots



WEE brother seemed to be in trouble when the Catechists stopped at Black Mama Brown's hut one day in sunny California. Sister "Topsy" just wouldn't give her big doll to him even for a minute. Catechist coax-



ed big sister to let her wee black brother have his turn with Miss Dolly too. Now it looks as if he might be saying, "Won't you have this dance with me?"



Signs of Grace

A laugh can lighten the heaviest load,
A laugh can shorten the longest road;
Eyes serene and a sunny face
Are always and ever signs of grace.
The trusting heart that laughs and sings
Soars like a bird that has found its wings.

Addresses of Our Mission Centers

WHEN you send offerings or mission boxes directly to the Catechists in the missions please address **THE MISSIONARY CATECHISTS** and add one of the addresses listed below:

1. Refuge of Sinners Mission, 512 Soldono Avenue, Azusa, California.
2. Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, Box 1356, Brawley, California.
3. Good Shepherd Mission, Box 336, Coachella, California.
4. Little Flower Mission, 1143 Fifth Street, Los Banos, California.
4. Infant of Prague Mission, 2321 Opal Street, Los Angeles, California.
6. Mary Star of the Sea Mission, 598 Laine Street, Monterey, California.
7. Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission, 537 East G Street, Ontario, California.
8. Queen of the Missions, Box 46, Redlands, California.
9. St. Peter the Apostle Mission, 563 O'Farrell Street, San Pedro, California.
10. St. Joseph Mission, 120 South F Street, Tulare, California.
11. Precious Blood Mission, 222 South Eighth Street, Santa Paula, California.
12. Mount Carmel Mission, 3868 Block Avenue, East Chicago, Indiana.
13. Sacred Heart Mission, 4860 Olcott Avenue, East Chicago, Indiana.
14. St. John the Baptist Mission, 1401 W. Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne, Indiana.
15. Holy Ghost Mission, 416 S. Third Street, Goshen, Indiana.
16. All Saints Mission, San Pierre, Indiana.
17. St. Anne Mission, 1009 Dayton Street, South Bend, Indiana.
18. Holy Trinity Mission, Ida, Michigan.
19. Our Lady of Lourdes Mission, Box 671, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
20. St. Coletta's Mission, Grants, New Mexico.
21. Blessed De Montfort Mission, 514 Valencia Street, Las Vegas, New Mexico.
22. Our Lady of Victory Mission, 435 Guadalupe Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico.
23. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mission, 704 Court Street, Elko, Nevada.
24. Ave Maria Mission, 551 Murray Street, Ely, Nevada.
25. Our Lady of the Snows Mission, Box 172, Winnemucca, Nevada.
26. Immaculate Conception Mission, 1001 East San Antonio Street, El Paso, Texas.
27. Holy Family Mission, Box 1317, Lubbock, Texas.
28. Queen of Angels Mission, 27 West Avenue North, P. O. Box 1125, San Angelo, Texas.
29. Holy Rosary Mission, Box 209, Bingham Canyon, Utah.
30. Mary, Queen of Peace Mission, 524 West Fourth South, Salt Lake City, Utah.



The Angelus

OUR COVER picture was snapped as a Postulant, an ardent devotee of St. Joseph, placed a tiny floral offering at his feet in one of the small out-door shrines of the woodland around Victory-Noll.

THE APOSTOLATE OF SMILING which appears on page three of this issue of **THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST** may be obtained in leaflet form. Order directly from St. Joseph's Protectory Print, Pittsburgh, Pa.

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

YES, we are glad to get cancelled stamps. Please send them to Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana.

Sanctuary of Peace

THE Peace of God is God Himself, who is always calm and unchangeable—the first and sovereign principle of all other peace. God has an unspeakable horror of all discord and dissension. He has sent the Prince of Peace, that is, His Son, into this world to quench all enmities in His Blood, to reconcile us to His Father, to reunite us with one another and with ourselves, and to be Himself our peace by destroying sin, which is the sole source of discord, and by pacifying all things in Heaven and on earth.

“Making peace through the Blood of His Cross, both as to the things on earth and the things that are in Heaven.”—Col. 1, 20.

SUCH is the peace of God which, according to St. Denis, is called the *Silence of God*. Now, this adorable peace has impressed its likeness on the Heart of the Mother of Peace in a most perfect manner. For, in the first place, sin, which is the sole enemy of peace and the one cause of all trouble, has never in the smallest degree touched that most pure heart.

DIVINE grace which always reigned supreme in the Heart of the Mother of Grace, ever kept all her passions, senses, and other faculties of her soul and body, under the control of reason and the laws of God.

THE profound humility of the Heart of Mary made her to be so passionately in love with contempt and humiliations that they in no way disturbed her peace.

HER very special affection for holy poverty made her endure calmly all the suffering and inconvenience it entailed.

THE ardent love for the Cross which inflamed her heart caused her to find her repose in labours and sufferings.

THE invincible patience with which she was ever armed in the midst of the troubles, changes and storms of this miserable life, preserved her always in a state of profound peace.

THE inconceivable charity with which her kindly and benevolent Heart was filled in man's regard, not only prevented her entertaining the smallest resentment, aversion or coldness, even towards those who betrayed, sold and

crucified her beloved Son, but caused her to offer Him anew in sacrifice to the Eternal Father in expiation of their crimes and to obtain the re-establishment of peace between God and man. On this account the Holy Spirit makes her say that she has found the precious treasure of that peace which man had lost by sin: “I am become in His presence as one finding peace” (Cant. VIII. 10)

MARY'S virginal Heart having never had any other will but God's, she always possessed the peace of God in a supereminent degree. In fact, that divine virtue so permeated and filled her tranquil heart as to make it an asylum of peace, and a source of serenity and repose for all who, being agitated and disturbed by the tempests of affliction, the tumult of their passions, or the storms of temptation, have recourse with humility and confidence to her incomparable goodness for the help they need.

THE richest treasure we can possibly have on earth is peace of heart. It is a treasure brought us from Heaven by the King of Peace, an inheritance which He purchased for us by His Blood, the gift bequeathed us by His last testament when about to depart for Heaven: “My peace I leave you, My peace I give you,” (John XIV. 27)

DO you wish to possess this precious treasure in your heart? Do you want to taste the ineffable sweetness of true peace? Then, at once, without delay, give yourself unreservedly to God, and devote yourself to the practice of the following points for love of Him.

1. Banish entirely from your soul the sworn enemy of peace, which is sin.

2. Strive in good earnest to mortify and exterminate in yourself all the allies of that dread monster, which are your self-love, your own judgment, your self-will, your unmortified senses and unruly passions, particularly those which most usually deprive you of your peace of mind.

3. Never suffer in your heart the smallest aversion, or the slightest coldness in regard to your neighbor, but diligently use all the means in your power to live in peace with everyone, in obedience to that heavenly injunction: “If it be possible, as much as is in you, have peace with all men.” (Rom. XII, 18)

From THE MOST PURE HEART OF MARY by St. John Eudes

Dear Saint Joseph,



Pray for us.

DURING the month of March—Saint Joseph's month—send your offerings to the Missionary Catechists in honor of this beloved Saint. He who was the faithful provider for the Holy Family will look favorably upon you for helping supply the needs of our missions. He will obtain special graces and blessings for you and your dear ones if you honor him by your charity to the poor and by your self-sacrificing generosity in furthering Christ's Kingdom upon earth.

We are happy to pray to good Saint Joseph for your temporal and spiritual needs. Send your petitions as well as your offerings to:

Society of Missionary Catechists
Victory-Noll, Box 109
Huntington, Indiana