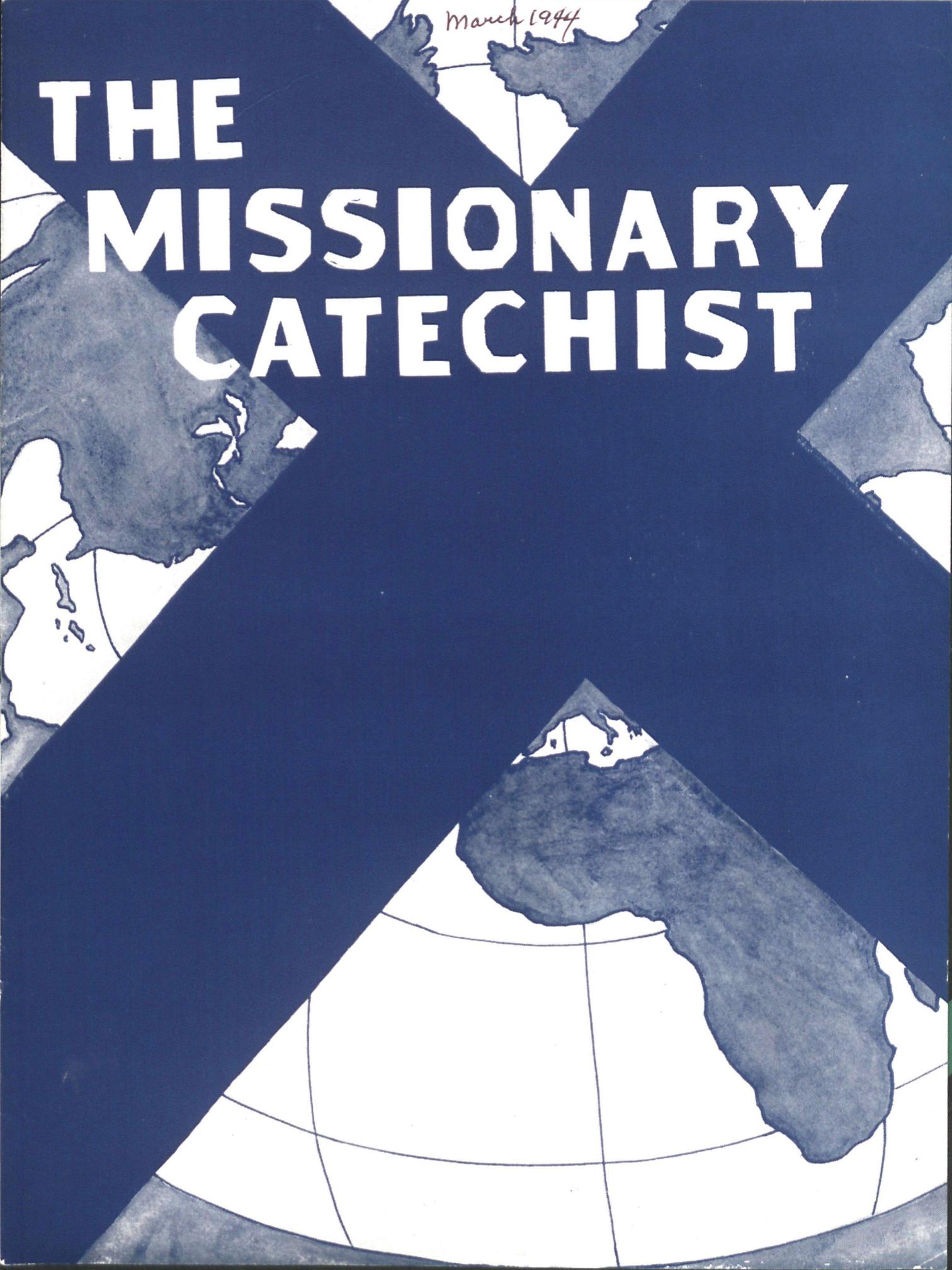


March 1944

THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST





THE ANNUNCIATION, March 25, is the principal Feast of the Confraternity of Mary, Queen of Hearts. Members are urged to renew their act of consecration and perform some special acts of devotion or penance in Mary's honor on the feast and in preparation for it.



Annunciation of the Savior

NOW in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And when the angel had come to her, he said:

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women."

WHEN she had seen him she was troubled at his word, and kept pondering what manner of greeting this might be.

AND the angel said to her, *"Do not be afraid, Mary, for thou hast found grace with God. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son; and thou shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he shall be king over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."*

BUT Mary said to the angel, *"How shall this happen, since I do not know man?"*

AND the angel answered and said to her, *"The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee; and therefore the Holy One to be born shall be called the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth thy kinswoman also has conceived a son in her old age, and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month; for nothing shall be impossible with God."*

BUT Mary said, *"Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word."*

And the angel departed from her.

THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST

Volume XX

March, 1944

Number 4

Lent and Its Demands

by the Most Rev. John F. Noll, D.D.

ALTHOUGH the Commandments of God and of His Church must be faithfully observed *at all times*, and the things of the soul must always command far more attention than the things of the body, and one's welfare in eternity must have precedence in one's thoughts over one's welfare in this life, people are expected to be far more spiritual-minded during the season of Lent.

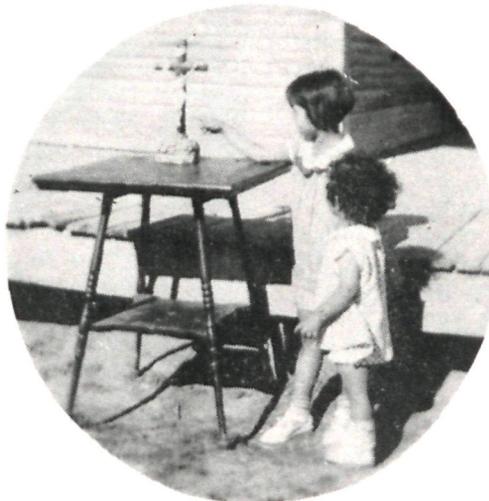
LENT is a season of forty days, during which the Church rallies all her people together to call them to their senses, to have them take an inventory of their accounts with God, to do penance for their past wrong-doings, and to form earnest resolutions of amendment.

FORTY days, and not a shorter or longer period of time, has been set aside for penance and prayer and alms-giving, and public exhortations, because our Divine Savior in preparation for His public ministry, went into the desert to fast and pray and meditate for forty days.

HOLY Scripture insists that everyone who has sinned, and ordinarily that means everyone who has passed the age of reason, must do penance or perish. The Church itself cannot dispense you from penance, although she has often dispensed you from particular forms of penance, such as abstinence or fasting. When she dispenses you from one form, she must insist that you practice another form, because penance is demanded by Almighty God Himself.

HOLY Scripture speaks of three kinds of penance, namely, fasting, prayer and alms-giving; and since very few Catholics actually do fast in strict conformity with the law, they should supply the omission by regular attendance at the public devotions of the Church on week-day nights. Public prayer is so much more powerful than private prayer. Then everyone, even the poor, can give a little in the way of alms by surrendering to a good cause some of the money which even they spend for unnecessary things.

THE most holy people in the world, the members of Religious Orders, the clergy who direct the people in parishes, the Sisters who are engaged altogether in God's work, all Bishops of the world, even the Holy Father, observe an annual retreat, during which time they study themselves in their present relationship to God, meditate on the eternal truths, and re-consecrate themselves to their King with new earnestness and fervor.



PRECISELY because it is not possible to gather the laity together for a retreat of such intensity, they are invited to attend week-day Mass throughout Lent, if possible, to attend the evening sermons and the Way of the Cross, to receive Holy Communion frequently—this, while they strive to prove their grief for past sins by fasting and by voluntary acts of self-denial.

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Our Blessed Lady of Victory Press, Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana



IT should be clear to you that outward works have spiritual value only when motivated by inward contrition and love. Where the heart is contrite external discipline and penance will follow most naturally without any exhortation from the pulpit. Christ's soul was "sorrowful even unto death" for your sins. You should often kneel or stand at the side of His cross during Lent and sorrow for your own sins, and assure the crucified Savior that His death will not have been in vain for you.

THE usual Lenten requirements are briefly these: Everyone between the age of twenty-one and sixty is obliged to fast unless excused on account of sickness, or exempted on account of hard work. The law of fasting restricts the person to one full meal each day, at which meat may be had, except on the Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent, and on Holy Saturday. Of course, the spring Ember Saturday falls in the second week of Lent. In the morning the one who fasts is permitted only a couple of ounces of unbuttered bread with coffee or some other liquid. In the evening he is restricted to ten ounces of food, of which meat may not be a part.

THOSE who have reached the age of reason but are not yet 21, are not bound by the law of fasting, but they must abstain on the days appointed by the Church.

THOSE who are excused from fasting are also excused from abstinence. Those who are exempted from the general law of fasting in Lent and out of Lent, because of a special Indult in favor of the working man and his family, may have meat only at the principal meal on the Wednesdays of Lent and on all Ember Days and vigils throughout the year. They may not partake of meat at all on Ash Wednesday, the Wednesday and Saturday of Holy Week (up to noon) and the eve of Christmas.

EATING between meals naturally breaks the fast for anyone who is bound by the law. Liquids, with the exception of milk, do not break the fast when taken between meals.

IN THESE days when so many people are following a diet without meat; when so many are abstaining from starches in order to reduce their weight, the Lenten law should be easy to observe.

AT ANY rate, let all do more during Lent than at any other time; let all give to the cause of religion or of charity their savings of five cents, or ten cents or twenty-five cents a day, using part of it for a subscription to the diocesan paper and for a membership in the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, so richly indulged.

IT IS both foolish and fatal for anyone to remain complacent about his spiritual status, simply because he is not the worst of sinners or even as bad as the average. It would be far more foolish than to neglect one's health because many others do it, or unnecessarily to risk one's life because some others do it.

FOR anyone to run in a remote risk of losing a blessed eternity is the very height of folly. Indifference implies the abuse of grace, a steady retrogression, and hence must imperil one's salvation.

FOR everyone of us, for the best of us, the words of our Divine Savior are still in force, "unless you do penance, you will all likewise perish." (Luke XIII, 3) "Likewise" means that we shall perish as sinners before us always perished.

THEREFORE, do not, for one day during Lent, forget its lessons, viz., the heinousness of sin, the need of mortifying your passions and senses, the call to definite spiritual growth.

THE wicked, the lukewarm and the saintly approached John the Baptist acknowledging their guilt and performing penance in keeping with his preaching.

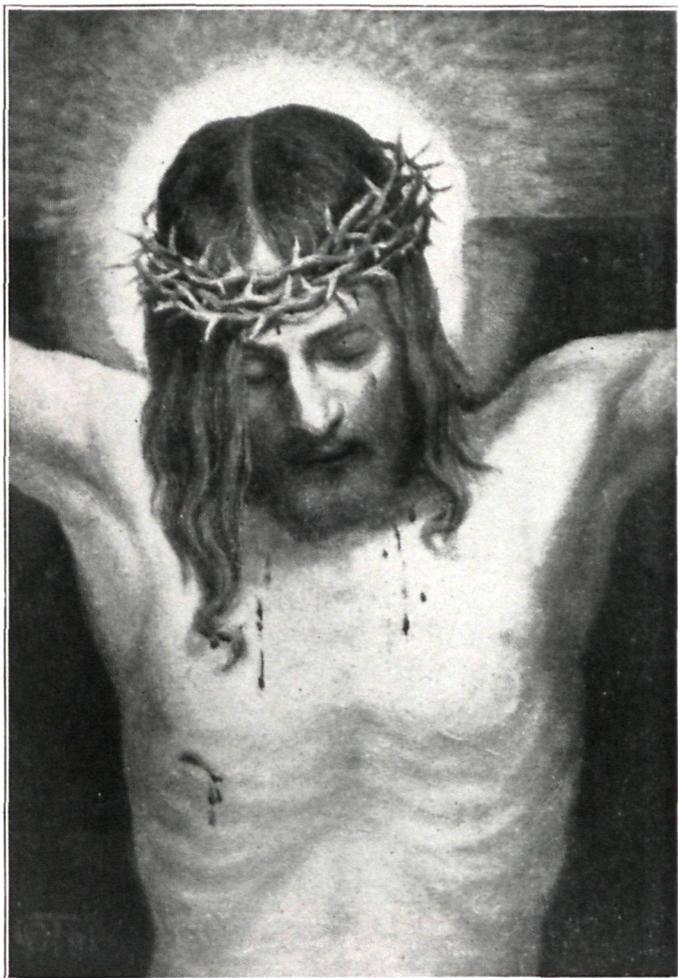
The Wicked: "Then went out to Him Jerusalem and all Judea, and all the country about the Jordan, confessing their sins." Among that throng were many wicked people, who were rebuked by John for not doing penance before seeking his baptism: "And seeing many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming, he said to them: 'Ye brood of vipers, who hath showed you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth, therefore, fruit worthy of penance.'" (Matt. III, 5-7.)

THERE is no forgiveness for the wicked, even through the Sacrament of Penance, until they will have resolved to forsake their wickedness by removing the occasion of it. They must "chastise their bodies, and bring them into subjection." If they will, before God, truly repent and "bring forth fruit worthy of penance," their

souls will be completely cleansed, reunited with God and started anew on the road to bliss eternal.

THAT the *average Catholic*, who is more or less indifferent, has reason to fear is clear from Christ's words: "From the days of John the Baptist . . . the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, and only the violent bear it away," which means that Heaven is won by doing violence to oneself, by conquering the impulses of passions, by subduing pride and self-will, by resisting the devil's temptations. St. Paul taught and followed this gospel teaching: "I chastise my body and bring it into subjection, lest while I preach to others, I myself might become a castaway." (I Cor. IX, 27)

STRANGELY it is the Catholic known to be considerably holier than the average—who is therefore less obligated to do penance—that usually best observes the spirit and letter of the Lenten law. He not only is anxious to escape Purgatory, but craves to be more worthy of God's love.



JOHAN the Baptist himself was a saint, yet listen to what the gospel says about him: "And the same John had his garment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle about his loins, and his meat was locusts and wild honey." (Matt. III, 4)

YES, and Christ Himself went out to the desert to listen to John the Baptist and then to approach him, as did the sinner, for the Baptism of Penance.

WHO, among all people, fasted as much as the innocent Christ? Who prayed as much and as fervently to the Heavenly Father as He? Who lived a life as mortified? Who did so much in atonement for sin, even though He had no sins for which to do penance?

WE are hearing on all sides that American children are raised "soft"; that they are not trained by their parents to practice self-denial—and nothing is more true. Children, almost from infancy, are permitted to do what they feel inclined to do, and are given nearly everything which they demand if it be in the power of the parents to grant their wishes. Evidently it is very difficult to build a spiritual life on a foundation so weak. That explains why Catholic children, despite the far greater amount of religious knowledge they have, live quite like other children who, because wholly uninstructed in the laws of God and deprived of the Sacraments of the Church, should not be expected to live as religiously as Catholics.

THEN experience proves that the most truly religious are also the most happy people on earth. They not only are not tormented by remorse of conscience, but they are filled with the consciousness that they are close to God, that they merit for Heaven by every little act they perform, by every self-denial they make for the love of God and the good of their souls.

FOR the enjoyment of spiritual health we must follow the same principle which everyone must follow to have strong physical health. We must, on the one hand, nourish our souls with good spiritual food as we must nourish our bodies with wholesome material food. In addition we must avoid everything which injures the spiritual health as people must avoid the things which injure their physical health.

PRESIDENT Roosevelt told the nation that one-half of the first million boys examined for military service were physically unfit. It is likely that more than fifty per cent of all youths are spiritually unfit for the Kingdom of Heaven, precisely because they habitually violate the spiritual laws. To become spiritually fit they must repent of past sins, do penance for the same, and resolve in the future to regulate their lives by the laws of the spiritual life.

Outdoor Stations At Victory-Noll

Catholics should strive to make the Stations of the Way of the Cross daily during Lent.

A plenary indulgence can be gained every time the Stations are made before properly erected stations. All that is necessary is to walk from station to station and meditate on the Passion of Christ.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.



The Big Blue Bus

by Catechist Dorothy Schneider

"I NEVER went to church when I was little. We lived on a ranch. My father and mother were always too busy to take us to church. They worked hard every day, and often late at night. And then the Catechists came, and the BIG BLUE BUS!"

SHE stopped a moment to look across the table and to smile at me in happy reminiscence.

WE WERE calling upon her to see if she would permit us to use her home as a teaching center in that district. The public school was about half a mile away, and hers was the nearest Catholic home, and our only hope, really, of recommencing classes for the children attending the school. Some years ago an attempt had been made to conduct classes across the road from the school, but the obstacles and objections had been so numerous that after a time the project had been abandoned. Now we were going to try again.

"I WAS about fourteen years old then," she continued, "and had never received Holy Communion. I knew that the bus was my only chance of going to church. By that time I had to help with the ranch work, but on Sunday mornings I would put a big apron over my best dress and hurry to the barn. How I ran out to the road when I heard Catechist honk the bus horn at the nearest corner! She always gave me a little extra warning because she knew I had to help with the work. And how I cried when I missed the bus!"

"BUT I made my First Communion that year, and was confirmed later. Now that I have my own home and family I try to take the children to Mass every Sunday.

"I AM so grateful," she concluded, "to the Catechists who helped me know God better

that you'll be most welcome in our home. My husband and I will arrange a place for your religion classes."

SPIRITUAL values are so intangible! Day after day we strive, with the help of Jesus and Mary, to impart to the children in our classes a knowledge of religion and how to live it. And full often we wonder what we are accomplishing. We cannot at any given moment measure and label our results and stand aside to say, "That's fine!" On days when we feel positive that we have succeeded in impressing vividly and clearly a certain lesson, we are most apt to find—upon testing—that the lesson had not been so deeply impressed after all. Current movies, and popular thought, and secular subjects have pushed it back farther and farther until it is jumbled up in the brain's waste basket, to be rescued only after laborious repetition. Brought to light once more, it finally wins from the children the cry of recognition: "Catechist, now I remember. You told us that before."

OCCASIONALLY, when meeting non-Catholics, I have marveled at some who had quite decisively told me, "Yes, I'm saved." I have often wished that I could say as decisively of the children whom I've taught that their spiritual values are clear and that they are steering straight forward to their eternal haven!

INVIGORATINGLY encouraging, then, is it to see, manifested in the lives of the parents whose children we are now instructing, results of the Catechists' work begun in Dos Palos in 1928. The old blue bus they used then is now defunct. It has served its purpose and gone the way of all things. But may God bless those who made that old blue bus a possibility!





Catechist Michels gives a religious instruction to adults on Sunday afternoon in a private home of the Mexican colony near our mission center in Paulding, Ohio.

Surprise Mexican Colony

by Catechist Susanna Michels

"BUENAS Tardes, Madrecitas! Pasen, Madrecitas."

SPANISH! We were both surprised and delighted to hear it spoken. Surprised because we had not expected to find Mexicans in Ohio, and delighted because we had learned to love

these good people in the Southwest, and we were happy to be among them again.

YEARS ago a colony of Mexicans had come here to work in the beet fields. Although very few beets are raised now, the people remain to work on the railroad, and—in season—in the

tomatoes.

While visiting the families we ask if they wish to return to their native country, and their answers are invariably in the negative. They are contented here even though their living conditions are not what they should be. Most of the families live in only one room, and consequently find it difficult to keep clean. If given an opportunity, however, they strive to attain American standards. For example, a certain family, discouraged with trying to make a home for growing children out of one room, rented a house in the country. We were delighted in the transformation in the family and their surroundings when we visited them soon after they were settled in the country.

SOME of the Mexicans here attend Mass faithfully. The younger folk all speak English; but most of the older people do not, and so they cannot profit by the Sunday sermons in church. We suggested a religion study club in Spanish for Sunday afternoons. They were pleased and have been faithful in attending.

ONE gray haired lady almost always falls asleep during instruction but she wouldn't miss for anything. Her daughter came for her one afternoon during class because certain persons wished to see her at once. "Tell them I'm in school and I can't come," was her definite reply. Nor would she leave until finally convinced that the callers' business was urgent.

A small boy of eight years, insists on coming regularly, although the instructions are for adults. No one objects to his presence. Rather, all welcome him, pleased with his deportment. Like a little gentleman he comes in, sits down, and will not leave until the class is dismissed.

ON the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe we had a bunco party instead of the regular class. It was the first time any of the members had played bunco, and they certainly enjoyed it. Our blind pupil was as delighted as the others and took her turn, the others gayly counting for her. When I asked how it happened that she always turned up the right numbers she said earnestly, "Dios me ayuda; Dios me ayuda. God helps me; God helps me!"

TONY BAPTIZES THE BABY

by Catechist Evelyn Benton

"I'M GOING to baptize a baby, Catechist," Tony proudly stated.

A few years before Catechist would have explained immediately that only in case of necessity may a lay person baptize, etc| etc. Now she knew better. Tony meant he had been asked to be a god-father.

The last time this young man—a former pupil

—had come to the convent to ask for a medal, he told Catechist that he had been in jail for fighting. He gloried in his reputation of "tough guy." Naturally, Catechist was somewhat surprised to see him so proud of his new role of sponsor. When she smiled and congratulated him, Tony continued a little sheepishly:

"I know what you are thinking, Catechist, I haven't been to confession in three years. But I remember the Act of Contrition and I'm going on Saturday. I just came to ask you to help me find out where the Madrina (god-mother) lives. I have to invite her and I can't remember if her name is Sofia or Celia. The baby's father said her last name is Chavez."

Of course, Catechist knew where Celia lived; but it was not in the part of town with which Tony was familiar. The Chavez family was one of the finest in town.

"Celia is one of my choir girls and she lives on the other side of the tracks. We are going over to the High School now so just follow our car and I'll show you Celia's home."

Celia graciously consented to be Madrina, and went to see the baby's parents. The date was settled, and then the nineteen-year-old god-father had another difficulty. Back to the convent he went. "Catechist, I've forgotten some of the Credo. Will you lend me a catechism so I can learn it good for Sunday. And er—er—I just wanted to ask, er—DO I HAVE TO HOLD THE BABY?"

TOO COSTLY KINDNESS

by Catechist Margaret Miller

ALBERTO was attending a non-Catholic Sunday School, although he came from a good Catholic family. We wondered why, and soon learned the reason.

Stricken with Infantile Paralysis in early childhood, Alberto had been left without the use of his legs. A non-Catholic religious worker was instrumental in having him taken to a hospital for treatment. After several months he was able to walk with the aid of braces. Overjoyed, the family thanked the worker who, in turn, told them that they should prove their gratitude by sending Alberto to the Sunday School which she specified. There seemed to be nothing the family could do but acquiesce. We lost no time in informing them that Alberto had been the beneficiary of a state fund, and so their indebtedness to the worker was not so great as they imagined; certainly, not great enough to warrant jeopardizing the child's salvation!

The following Sunday, the car which usually conveyed Alberto to Sunday School, drove away without him.

In The Home Field



Catechist Rauschenback and a few of her dark treasures.—Indiana Harbor, Ind.

MISSION TIDBITS

A PROSPECTIVE duck purchaser came to the home at which we were teaching catechism. He could speak only English and the lady of the house could speak only Portuguese. In an effort to be helpful to both persons, we translated the English into Spanish which the Portuguese usually understand. To our dismay we found that we did not know the Spanish word for *duck*. What did we do? You guessed it. We said, "quack, quack." Everyone laughed and the transaction was closed satisfactorily.

DIANE looked on wistfully as the "Topix" were being sold after class. Finally she said, "Catechist, may I have a paper and pay for it next week?" I handed her a paper while I asked teasingly, "Can I trust you to remember till then?" Seriously Diane considered; then a triumphant smile lighted up her face as she ex-



Carefree Mexican Lads of San Bernardino, Calif.

claimed, "Catechist, I know I can trust YOU to remember."

LITTLE Joan wanted to know: If our body is made of dirt, how come it doesn't wash away when we take a bath?

IN THE course of our visit at Bobby's home, we asked him if he said his prayers every night. "Yes," he answered, "I say them every night except when Mother is gone. Then I can't say them because Daddy doesn't know his prayers yet."

FROM the moment we entered the home little Ann was all interest, studying us from head to toe. At the close of our visit, while bidding goodbye to Ann's mother, I felt a slight tugging at the hem of my habit. Looking down I spied Ann, on all fours, earnestly trying to find out just how far up those big black shoes of mine went.

THE class was discussing the Sacrament of Extreme Unction, preparations for it in the sick room, and how it is administered. One of the boys who had been very ill not long before did not agree with all we said. "It didn't happen to me like that," he argued. I explained that perhaps he had not been seriously ill, and so had not been given the last Sacrament. Indignantly he declared, "But I really was sick. Why, I was sick enough to receive this Sacrament of—of—Matrimony."

Catechist M. Katherine Dean

Here is Robert, my five-year-old Navajo Indian boy. He speaks Spanish, English and Navajo. When he first came to religion class I wondered how much he would learn. One day, soon after classes began, I met him and asked, "What is the first thing you do when you open your little eyes in the morning?" Without hesitation came the answer: "I say, 'All fo' Jesus froo Ma'wy!'"—St. John, Ariz.

Catechist Emma Sigfried

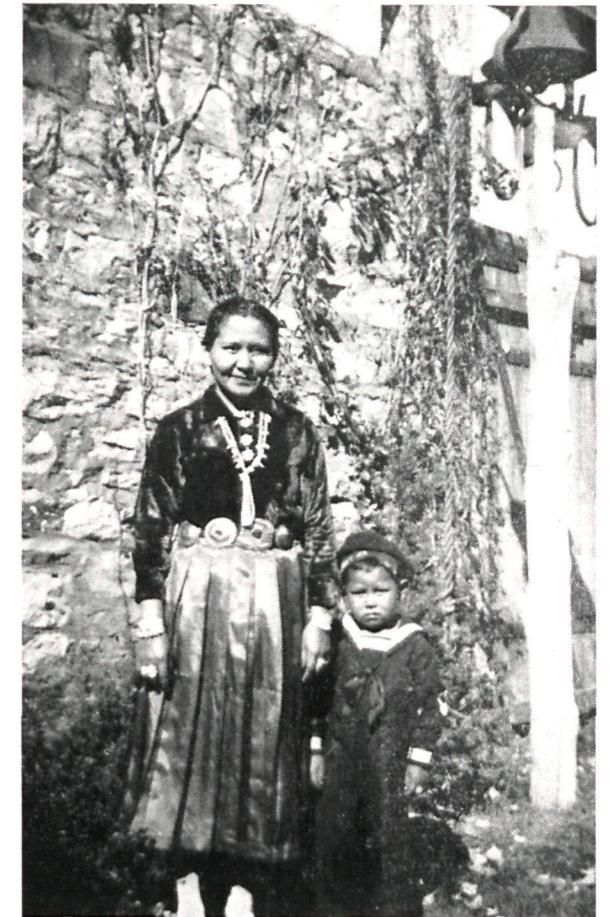
BUDDING SAINTS

AFTER instruction each day my class says the little prayer, "Jesus, I love You because You are Jesus." Then I dismiss the children who run to make a private visit to the Blessed Sacrament before going home.

ONE day I stepped into the church after dismissal and was surprised to hear voices praying aloud. There in the last pew knelt



"Catechist, show us Jesus on your rosario"



four or five of my boys, their eyes fixed on the altar. One bright little fellow was leading the prayers; the others responded. They finished the Hail Mary and the invocations, "Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Our Blessed Lady of Victory, pray for us." A slight pause followed, and then the leader's clear, reverent voice rang out, "God, I love You because You are God." The others repeated the ejaculation.

THOROUGHLY pleased, I slipped out of the church. They met me outside a little later and exclaimed, smiling broadly, "Catechist, we make finish our prayers." Then came the familiar question, "Catechist, show us Jesus on your rosario."

THEY fingered the crucifix and rosary lovingly, and kissed it. After that, one by one skipped away with the parting cry, "Goodbye, Catechist; see you tomorrow in class." Real boys—Catholic boys—to whom Our Lord already means much.

Catechist M. Agatha Gerlits



Associate Catechists

CHARITY BEGETS CHARITY

That one act of charity may kindle in the hearts of many, a spark of love for God's poor, was brought home to us forcibly on one of our errands of mercy.

A new family had moved into our district. Before we had an opportunity to call upon them we were informed that the mother was ill. We immediately went to see what could be done, and when we walked into the room and saw the emaciated, almost lifeless body lying there, we feared we had come too late. However, when we reached the bed, the tired eyes opened, and the woman tried to smile a welcome. There was no sheet on the bed; no pillow under her weary head. A thin spread was her only cover. Beside her on a pillow—without a pillow slip, lay a week-old baby. In the next room watching us with big, round eyes, were five small children, all pitifully thin.

In a failing voice the patient told her story—a story we hear so often: The husband had been ill and consequently unable to work and provide for his family. They had arrived just a little more than a week ago and did not know where to turn for assistance. There was very little food in the house, a fact we had guessed as soon as we saw those five little thin bodies in the next room. No, she had no pain, the mother informed us, but she was tired, so tired, and too weak to move. We knew that something must be done immediately, and with a promise that we would return, we left.

Our first visit was to the doctor who had taken

care of her. He told us that what she needed was nourishing food, and a good tonic to build her up. He kindly gave us a prescription for the tonic. We then proceeded to the drug store to obtain the medicine. When the proprietor learned that we were purchasing the medicine for a poor person, he refused to accept our money.

From the drug store we went to the dairy. We ordered a quart of milk to be sent each day for a period of time. When the dairyman heard our story, he likewise refused to accept any money. Our next visit was to the grocery store to procure groceries and fresh vegetables, and at last back to the house again with the necessary provisions.

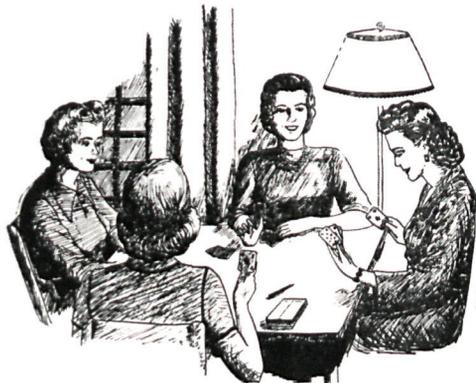
We then started our search for bedding. Some of our friends, upon hearing the sorry plight of this poor family, immediately brought us covering, sheets and pillow slips. These good people who helped us (the doctor and druggist both were non-Catholic) were touched by the sufferings of this woman and her family and only needed to learn of their need in order to be moved to relieve it.

When you do your share for the missions, you too, may be the inspiration for others to perform some worthy deed and you will be placing another jewel in your crown. Therefore, talk about your activities—you are doing a noble work—be proud of it. By telling others what you are doing you may get them to follow your example.

ANY WRAP-IN-WAX COUPONS?

Even wax paper is helping the mission cause along. Some of our Band members and other friends have been saving WRAP-IN-WAX coupons and sending them to us, and we have already received several dollars for these coupons. If all our friends would save them for us we could realize a worthwhile sum on them. If you are packing lunches, would you like to save your coupons for us?

of Mary



From *Brooklyn*, New York, came a grand surprise and a real Christmas gift in the form of a large donation from *Our Lady of Victory Band* of which Miss Catherine Binz is the promoter. This band is always on the alert for new ways of making money to swell their treasury and they are very successful. Miss Mary A. Madden, the treasurer, when sending the check, tells us: "The enclosed check for \$160 is our contribution toward the burse for Catechist M. Anna Binz. It is the combined proceeds from our sunshine fund, a card party, and a band raffle. We wish the figures were larger, but hope to increase them in the future. Please accept our best wishes for the continued success of the Associate Catechists of Mary."

St. Joseph's Mission Club, *Baldwinsville*, New York, is another wide-awake band, ever ready to make use of all means to increase their mission fund. Mrs. Mary Bucci, the promoter, reporting on the Band's latest activities, writes: "We had our meeting last night and voted to send you a check for \$100 through Father Watley. This is part of the proceeds of our rummage sale, part of our bingo party, and the rest from our treasury. I know you will be as happy to receive it as we are to send it. You will probably have great need for it at this time. We all know that your prayers have helped us in our work, and we shall try to do as well in the future as in the past."

When the check was received it had grown in amount to \$125.20, for which we were grateful.

Our A.C.M. pages could hardly go to press without mention of some of our Chicago Bands. At this time we wish to say "thank you" publicly to the members of the *Adrian Club*, and especially to their zealous promoter, Miss Florence Dietz, who has worked hard and perseveringly in the interest of the club for many years. The Christmas holidays brought another large donation from the *Adrians* in the sum of \$50 for their Catechist.

May there be many more of them!

Dayton, Ohio, also reports with a contribution of \$19.00 from *Our Lady of Guadalupe Band*, of

which Miss Margaret Karas is the promoter.

Thank you, *Our Lady of Guadalupe Members*. We hope that you may continue your good work. Your offerings which come in so regularly mean a great deal to us in our work.

We also hear from *St. George's Band*, Chicago, another of our long-time faithful bands, of which Miss Lucille Dea, is the promoter. They, too, sent a substantial offering. Miss Marie Vaughn, when sending the check, said, "Enclosed find money order for \$50. This money is the proceeds of a raffle held by the members of *St. George's Band*."

It is interesting to us to learn of the different ways the various Bands employ to fill their coffers, and we are sure our Associates also enjoy hearing of them.

A.C.M. BAND DONATIONS

December 28, 1943 to January 31, 1944

Archbishop Stritch Band, Chicago, Miss Helen Gaetke...	\$ 7.10
Child Jesus Club, St. Louis, Miss Adelaide Fitzpatrick	5.00
Dolores Band I, Chicago, Mrs. A. Klingel	8.25
Dolores Band II, Chicago, Mrs. A. Bechtold	10.00
Good Shepherd Band, Chicago, Mrs. H. F. Staley	1.75
Good Will Mission Club, Carrollton, Ky., Mrs. Casper Hill	3.00
Holy Family Band, Chicago, Mrs. Wm. Murphy	12.00
Immaculate Conception Band, Detroit, Miss Lillian Dunn	10.00
Mission Club, Chicago, Mrs. E. Anderson	6.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe Band, Dayton, Ohio, Miss Rose Marie Heier	19.00
Our Lady Queen of Angels, Los Angeles, Mrs. Margaret Sauthier	5.00
Our Lady Queen of Poor Souls, Los Angeles, Mrs. Anna Meng	5.00
Poor Souls Band, Berwyn, Illinois	5.50
Our Lady Queen of Hearts, Lombard, Ill., Miss Wilma Wangritzky	10.00
Srillians of Our Lady of Sorrows, Cheviot, O., Miss Marie Gadzinski	1.00
St. Anne Band, Fort Wayne, Ind., Miss Anne Brink	8.25
St. Anthony Band, Los Angeles, Calif.	5.00
St. Clara Band, Fort Wayne, Mrs. Wm. Ryan	10.00
St. Gemma Galgani Band, Chicago, Mrs. J. Vogt	50.00
St. Irene Band, Chicago, Miss May Walsh	4.00
St. Joseph Mission Society, Baldwinsville, N. Y., Mrs. Mary Bucci	125.20
St. Jude Thaddeus Band, Chicago, Mrs. Chas. J. Fiala	2.00
St. Justin Martyr Band, Chicago, Mrs. Fred Kiefer	6.00
St. Katherine Band, Chicago, Mrs. Katherine Hammer	50.00
St. Luke Band, Chicago, Mrs. Wm. Maxwell	50.00
St. Margaret Mary Band, Omaha, Neb., Mrs. Fred Shields	5.00
St. Mary Band, Fort Wayne, Mrs. J. Lenk	5.00
St. Mary Sodality, Detroit, Mrs. P. Pink	5.00
St. Mary Philomena Band, Stevens Point, Wis., Mrs. P. Levenduske	4.00
St. Philomena Band, Chicago, Miss Mary Schaefer	21.50
St. Raymond Nonatus Band, Chicago, Mrs. Kathryne Quinlan	4.50
St. Thomas Aquinas Band, Chicago, Mrs. M. B. McDonald	28.00



Dr. Jean Petrick, Catechist Masterson, the county health nurse and one of the mothers, patron of the clinic, pose with a few of the precious babies who have benefited by Father Nunez' health project.—San Bernardino, Calif.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Clinic Prospers

by Catechist Mary Masterson

FOUR years ago, in 1939, when the Reverend Jose Nunez was assigned pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in San Bernardino, California, he saw the need of a parish clinic for his Mexican people. Immediately he made plans and submitted them to the Bishop of San Diego. In the summer of 1941 His Excellency's whole-hearted approval was given, and at once two rooms of the old school building were selected for the project. But the rooms were bare. Where was the necessary equipment to come

from? The Catholic Welfare Bureau of San Bernardino came to Father's assistance in this urgency, and by the first of October, 1941, the clinic was in readiness to operate. It was blessed by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Charles F. Buddy. Today it is one of the best equipped clinics in the County of San Bernardino.

MANY struggles and discouragements marked the humble beginnings of the clinic. Although four Catholic doctors offered their time, their own practices and emergency calls, often

left the clinic unable to care for its patients. But Father Nunez refused to close it, always optimistically predicting better service for the following week. He felt confident that Our Lord would help him succeed in this praiseworthy enterprise.

IN the spring of 1942, the only public health nurse of San Bernardino, at the request of the health officer, held a public clinic in Our Lady of Guadalupe parish once a month for four months. She and two doctors immunized one hundred children at each of these sessions.

IN the autumn of 1942 Dr. Jean Petrik, county pediatrician, offered her services to the clinic. One of the public health nurses is also on the present clinic staff. She attends each weekly session, giving inoculations and vaccinations when a doctor is not available.

AT present the clinic work is devoted primarily to babies and school children. Once a month a "well baby clinic" is held by Dr. Petrik. Mothers are advised regarding feeding and proper care necessary to keep the well baby well. Besides this, much of our time is taken up in administering the injections for whooping cough and diphtheria, and vaccinations for small-

pox. This has been requested of the clinic by the city health officer, Dr. Gardner, for all preschool children whose parents wish it. In a large measure our work is preventive. However, aid is also rendered to those who are ill, although the recent shortage of doctors and the increase in local population has curtailed the activities in this regard.

DR. F. X. FIEGEL of Saint Bernardine's Parish attends and treats patients at the adult and school children's clinic held at four o'clock one afternoon each week.

THE plans for the present year include tuberculin tests to be given every person in the parish who wishes them. The purpose of this is to discover cases of tuberculosis before they are too far advanced.

DURING the past year Our Lady of Guadalupe Clinic has had an average weekly attendance of between twenty and thirty babies.

SERVICES rendered by the doctors are without charge. The city health nurse is paid by the city.

TWO Missionary Catechists, from our convent in Redlands, supervise the clinic.

Jamaica Time in Cucamonga

by Catechist Elizabeth Turnis

CUCAMONGA, California, is a Mexican settlement surrounded almost entirely by vineyards. Cucamonga is an Indian word meaning land of many waters. The waters are underground and the grape growers tell us that the roots of the grape vines grow so deep that they reach this water—an unfailling supply—and so need no surface irrigation as they do in most other regions.

THE little mission church serving the poor Mexican people of Cucamonga was built many years ago. Now it is much too small for the ever increasing congregation. Father Conti, pastor of Guasti, who takes care of the mission, is trying to raise funds for a new church. He has the cooperation of a splendid committee; every Sunday he has surprising results to announce.

ONCE a week a jamaica is given for the benefit of the mission. The ladies take turns making and selling tamales and tacos, and the men take charge of the barbecue and the stands.

HAVING caught the spirit of their elders, the children also were eager to do something for the new church. They asked, "Why can't we have a jamaica chiquita?" Well, why not, indeed!

No sooner said than begun. The sodality girls were eager to use their talent in sewing and fancy work. The smaller children made paper novelties after classes. The church grounds became a scene of intense, colorful activity as

all the boys and girls devoted themselves to making something for their parish festival.

ON A certain day we asked each family to bring one cup of sugar or flour. The result was overwhelming. Some children brought from five to ten pounds of sugar and the same of flour, as well as milk and eggs. From all direction came smiling boys and girls, laden with their contributions. Each wished to bring the most. The flour, sugar, etc. were soon converted into cookies and candy.

WHEN all was in readiness, on a beautiful, sunny Tuesday afternoon, the children had their jamaica for the benefit of the new church. It was a joyful affair. Bingo was popular. There were three raffles, a fish pond, and several game booths. Various novelties were sold. Candy and cookies, hot cocoa and kool-ade were in constant demand. Almost everything was on sale for a penny so that the children's money lasted a long time.

THE jamaica began at 2:00 P. M. and closed at 5:30. Many of the mothers came, and of course Father Conti was there, in the midst of things, keeping up spirits. He helped the little ones play bingo and enjoyed himself as much as they did.

THE sum of \$50.00 was cleared and presented as the children's gift toward the new church.

BEFORE the afternoon was over, the children were already asking when they could have another jamaica. We promised a bigger and better one when warmer weather set in.

Loyal Helpers

"Nope" answered Bobby, "she's in misery."
"Misery? Is she sick in the hospital?" was our sympathetic query.
"Nope" replied Tommy. She's on the train, on the way to misery. My grandma died."
"Oh" we both exclaimed in one breath, "you mean 'MISSOURI'?"
"Yep" was the response, "that's right. She's in misery."



Said Mary to Jane,
"I've a Sunshine Bag, you see!"
Said Jane to Mary,
"And what is that to me?"
"Why, Jane," replied Mary,
"Do you mean to say
That you have no thought
For the poor far away?"
"Forgive me, I'm sorry,"
Came Jane's quick response.
"I'll write to the Catechists
'Send Sunshine Bag at once'."

Dear Catechists,

I am enclosing \$5.00 which I have been saving in pennies for your mile of smiles. I think this is a good time to send it in honor of Jesus.

Sincerely,
Cecelia A. Ley

Gladwin, Michigan

Dear Catechist,

We are sending a little offering (\$10.00). I hope, or rather, I know that you can find a place to use it among your poor.

Mary's Loyal Helper
Nora Shea

The above letters brought much joy to our hearts. If we received a few like that each month it would not take long to get our Mile of Pennies finished. As it is, the mile is creeping along slowly, very slowly—much too slowly to suit us. But what can we do about it? We'll just have to wait until a few more generous Helpers come along to help us.

Did you send for your Lenten Sunshine Bag yet? Better hurry! It takes a long time to fill a bag, and you do want your Easter offering to be something worthwhile to offer to Jesus, don't you?

Sunshine Secretary
Victory-Noll
Huntington, Indiana

Please send me my Sunshine Bag immediately so that I can get it filled by the end of Lent.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY



Help us, Joseph, that, ever secure under thy protection, we may pass our lives without guilt. (300 days)

BOOKS

THE PATH OF LOVE, Counsels and Spiritual Directions of Father Page, C.S.C., Frederick Pustet Co., Inc., 14 Barclay St., New York 8, N. Y., and 436 Main St. Cincinnati 1, Ohio, \$2.00.

AIDS TO WILL TRAINING IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, by two Sisters of Notre Dame, Cleveland, Ohio. Frederick Pustet Co., New York, and Cincinnati. \$2.50.

IN MEMORIAM

Rev. Francis P. Faust, Fort Wayne, Indiana, former chaplain at Victory-Noll.
 Joseph Rosenbeck, Coldwater, O., father of Catechist M. Esther Rosenbeck.
 Mrs. Joseph Binz, A.C.M. Brooklyn, N. Y., mother of Catechist M. Anna Binz.
 Lt. Joseph Lembeck, St. Louis, Mo., brother of Catechist M. Josephine Lembeck.
 Lambert Lorang, La Crosse, Wis., brother of Catechist Madelon Lorang.
 Joseph Shoenhamer, Everson, Pa.
 Joseph Gertbauer, Mishawaka, Ind.
 Thomas J. Bradley, Loogootee, Ind.
 Mrs. Mae Howard, Compton, Calif.
 Mrs. Julia Lieder, Detroit, Michigan
 Mary R. Jochem, Rock Island, Ill.
 Jerome Casper, Los Angeles, Calif.

What sacrifices can we make for the poor which will seem enough, when we reflect that mercy to them is our great means of repaying Jesus Christ, Who sacrificed His Life for us.

1944 Blood Bank

WHEN BOMBS FALL there is no time to send help half way around the world. When a badly wounded fighting man needs a transfusion, it is too late to begin looking for a blood donor or find a nurse to take care of him. When a lonely soldier learns of trouble at home, he needs help—immediately.

The American Red Cross provides that help wherever and whenever the need arises. A continuous procession of blood donors must be maintained, nurses must be recruited for the Army and Navy, trained Red Cross workers and supplies must be sent to camps, hospitals and foreign theaters of operation the world over.

When a train crash leaves scores injured, when a flood engulfs a town, when epidemic strikes, delay may cost lives. Red Cross disaster relief and medical supplies, held in readiness for such emergencies, plus trained workers to rescue and assist victims and help in their rehabilitation, will prevent delay and thus save many lives.

To fulfill its many obligations to the armed forces and our people, the American Red Cross needs your help. During 1944 it must supply some 5,000,000 blood donations. Each month 2,500 nurses must be recruited for the Army and Navy. Red Cross field directors and other trained personnel must be stationed at military and naval posts and hospitals to help our fighting men and their families when personal trouble brews, a task in which the Red Cross chapter on the home front ably does its share.

At home the Red Cross must continue to maintain a state of alert. Disasters must be met as they occur. Nurse's aides and first aiders must be trained and other educational projects continued. Food parcels for distribution to prisoners of war must be packed, surgical dressings made and the thousand and one details of administering a far-flung, busy organization must be attended.

All activities of the American Red Cross are financed by voluntary gifts and contributions. During March, designated by President Roosevelt as Red Cross Month, the American Red Cross must raise its 1944 War Fund of unprecedented size to meet unprecedented needs. Your contribution will assure maintenance of all Red Cross services and thus indirectly help save many a life. Let's give!

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

Mission Intention for March

by the Right Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell

"THE PRESERVATION OF AFRICA FROM SECTARIANISM"

WHILE figures may seem to be the most uninteresting reading in the world they constitute irrefutable testimony as to the success or failure of an enterprise. It is our good fortune to have the following statistics which will prove undeniably the great danger which threatens Africa because of the spread of sectarianism. According to a survey made in 1938 there are some 8,447 foreign workers of various sects laboring in that continent and they are assisted by native staffs totalling 81,625 members. Twenty-four pages of regular-sized printed book pages are required to list the various denominations to which they belong and we find that during that one year \$6,336,244 were at their disposal to further their works. In view of such facts and figures it is not surprising that the Holy See requests the prayers of the faithful during the month of March for "the preservation of Africa from sectarianism."

NO ROOM FOR DEFEATISM

REGARDLESS of this apprehension there must be no feeling of defeatism in regard to the progress of the Church in Africa. Excluding the northern section of the continent which was the pride of Catholicism during the first six centuries of the Christian era, the rest of the country had practically no contact with the teachings of the Church until the fifteenth century. At that time the Portuguese, seeking a new route to India after the fall of Constantinople, rounded the Cape of Storms, later known as the Cape of Good Hope, and proceeded through the Indian Ocean to reach their goal. In time settlements were made on the Cape and at Alagoa and Delegoa, but they were merely trade stops enroute to India. The only permanent settlements made by the Portuguese were along the west coast where flourishing stations were established, Catholic missionaries installed and eventually the son of a native chief elevated to the episcopacy.

THEN came the downfall of Portuguese power as the Dutch and British wrested from her the colonial possessions she had discovered. Since

both the latter nations had been so seriously affected by the Reformation, any ministers that journeyed to the newly acquired territories were members of the various sects which arose after Luther's defection. As far as Africa was concerned the principal settlements were made in the south where Calvinism became strongly entrenched among the English and Dutch settlers.

THE GLORIOUS NINETEENTH CENTURY

THEN came the glorious nineteenth century when the interior of the great African continent was reopened to others than the marauding slave traders who had raided the land for so many centuries and were responsible for the Africans' distrust of the white man. It must be remembered, however, that the trail blazing Livingstone first went to Africa as a member of the London Missionary Society and his first exploratory journeyings were financed by that organization. Naturally both men and money were poured into missionary endeavor by the various sects of Great Britain after Stanley's continuation of Livingstone's achievements and Rhodes empire building. Sectarianism spread through the great continent with lightninglike rapidity.

However, once more Catholicism accepted the challenge which threatened. Catholic missionaries, aided by the Belgian Crown, flocked to the newly opened Congo. The mighty Lavigerie dedicated his life and the lives of his followers to the winning of Africa for Christ. The Oblates came to the rescue of the harassed Basutos and won for them the protection of the British Crown. A farsighted Vaughan instituted St. Joseph's Society, Libermann perfected the rule of the Holy Ghost Fathers and the African Mission Society came into being. Sectarianism might have entered Africa but Christianity was ready to meet the challenge of its advance. However, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith reiterates the plea of the Holy See for the prayers of the faithful during March for "the preservation of Africa from sectarianism."

You

Help

Her

as well as yourself by your
membership in the Associate
Catechists of Mary.



The Associate Catechists of Mary is an organization whose purpose is to help the Society of Missionary Catechists in their work.

Members who are interested in club work, sponsor card parties, collect monthly dues, send boxes to the missions, etc.

Others who wish to join the A.C.M. and work for the missions but are unable to form a club, or belong to one, may become members of the VICTORY-NOLL HOME BAND by making an offering of \$1.00 a year.

Perpetual membership in the HOME BAND is \$10 for individuals, or \$25 for an entire family. Deceased persons may also be enrolled.

Membership in the VICTORY-NOLL HOME BAND, as well as CLUB MEMBERS, are entitled to the following benefits: EVERY DAY a remembrance in the Perpetual Novena; EVERY WEEK remembrance in Holy Mass; EVERY MONTH remembrance in the holy Mass which is offered for A.C.M. members; EVERY YEAR remembrance in the THANKSGIVING MASS. Deceased Associates are likewise remembered perpetually.

Associate Catechists of Mary
Victory-Noll
Huntington, Indiana

Please enroll me in the Victory-Noll Home Band of the A.C.M. I am enclosing for year.

I am enclosing \$10 for Perpetual Membership, or \$25 for Perpetual Family Membership.

Please send me information about starting a Band.

NAME

ADDRESS

(Perpetual Membership may be paid in installments)