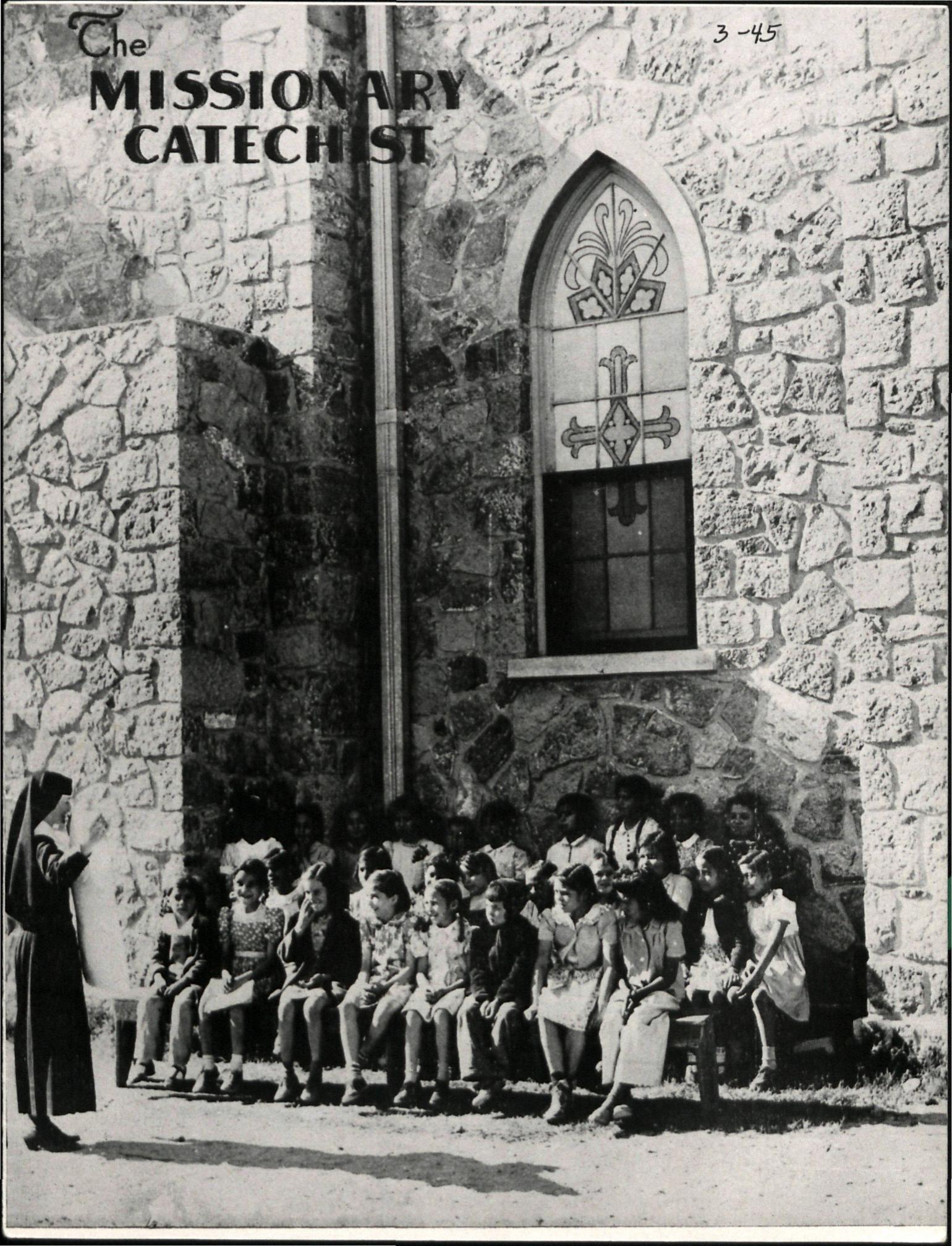


The  
**MISSIONARY  
CATECHIST**

3-45



# A Soldier's Prayer

by Sgt. Herman Alberding

In a hidden Belgium chapel  
Removed from din and rout  
I paused awhile to pray tonight  
And there my heart poured out.

I admired the omnipresence  
Of so wonderful a God  
Who should be always near me  
Where'er on earth I trod.

I then went on to thank Him  
And to glorify His name;  
I breathed a prayer of fervent hope  
That *all* should sing His fame.

I voiced my earnest sorrow  
For sins I had committed—  
He whispered, "By my painful death  
All these have been remitted."

As kneeling I received Him  
Up at the altar rail,  
He said, "Son, while I'm with you,  
What power can make you fail?"

How true! This God of mercy  
Has e'er protected me  
In Belgium, France and Holland,  
On beach of Normandy.



# The Missionary Catechist

Volume XXI

March, 1945

Number 4

## "Who, St. Patrick, Me?"

by Catechist Miriam Doyle

DOWN the aisle of Victory-Noll's lovely chapel, for a visit to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Now a few steps over to the altar of Our Blessed Lady of Victory. Ardent prayers there for the dear Society of which she is patroness. A fervent plea for loved ones at home and abroad, for the true Victory her title embraces. A grateful Magnificat for the graces she has won and bestowed.

**A**CROSS the chapel now to complete the trilogy with a visit to St. Joseph's altar. Not a hasty call this time, for it is March, his own month. There is the good Father with the sleeping Child in his arms.

"TAKE care of us all, good Saint, as you took care of your Boy . . . Watch over mother and the children back home—remember you've been our only father for so many years. We never knew him on this earth. Won't it be grand to see you both up there?"

"AND take care of the community, please, St. Joseph. You know about the bills to pay, the work to be done, the hearts that need strength and encouragement. Ask the Little One in your arms to let us share that peaceful security He's finding there. You will provide, you always have.

"DON'T forget to pray for all fathers of families, dear Foster-father of Our Lord. Especially for fathers at war, and fathers of service men and women . . . and fathers who need your extra push to make their Easter duty . . . and

help them all with their family cares."

**T**HERE, the third visit is finished. But wait! Up in the stained-glass window nearest St. Joseph, is the great St. Patrick, and it's his month, too.

"ST. PATRICK, please pray for Ireland and all the Irish and all the nations at war. It's so awful . . . your country is suffering even in neutrality, and how many of your children who've carried your faith all over, are in the midst of it all!

"LOOK at St. Boniface right across the chapel, and St. Francis Xavier next to him. I know they're interceding for the poor people of Germany and Japan. And St. Francis of Assisi next to you, and the French Jesuits up the line, and the Little Flower over there, why, all the nationalities have some connection up in heaven. Can't you Saints bring the peace for which we pray? It seems so hopeless down here.

"DID you say *we* saints down here had to bring peace? But, St. Patrick, we—oh, you mean I must start with me, become a saint myself? Thank you for reminding me. I guess if we worked in our own small corner, we'd find the peace you have now, you and all the other saints up in the windows and on the walls.

"PLEASE, all of you, help me to work on that peace plan. Remind me every time I come to chapel, and help me to carry it out whenever I leave. Goodbye to all of you now. I'll be with you soon again."

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# The Mass and Social Work

Summarized from a talk

by Rev. Paul H. Furfey, Ph.D., Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C.

POPE LEO XIII, not many months before he died, issued one of his most important Encyclicals, *MIRAE CARITATIS*, on the Holy Eucharist. In this document Leo XIII made the statement that the only remedy for the social class struggle was the Holy Eucharist; legislation with its accompanying penalty is no cure. This may strike many Catholics who think only in terms of natural means as very strange. After stating that it was vain to seek a remedy in human prudence, the Pope said that he knew that many Catholics would not believe his words. I do not recall any other instance in which a Pope stated that he did not expect to be believed by Catholics. However, he went on to prove his assertion by an argument which is very clear and simple.

LEO XIII said that the reason for class struggle was a lack of charity. The Holy Eucharist has for an end more charity to God, first of all, and then among men. Here is a general principle which applies to all social problems. If we had more charity, scarcely any social problems would exist. If employers really loved their employees and employees really loved their employers, there would be little difficulties now and then, but they could be ironed out. Or take the problem of war: if we had charity, we wouldn't have war. We don't bomb, we don't slaughter, people we love. If we love them we can always find a way out.

RACE prejudice, also, comes from a lack of charity. The principle that Leo XIII laid down has a very general application. If men of different races and nations loved each other, there wouldn't be any really serious social problems. Charity is really the universal solvent for all these social problems. We may impose legislation, but industrialists will find ways to get around these regulations. The best social work and the best natural assets we have to overcome social problems are bound to fail if we have not charity.

THE great source of charity is the Mass, and, therefore, we are driven to the conclusion that the Mass is the way to solve social problems. Without using the Mass and charity as the great solvents of social problems, other methods are doomed to failure. Since the Mass is the

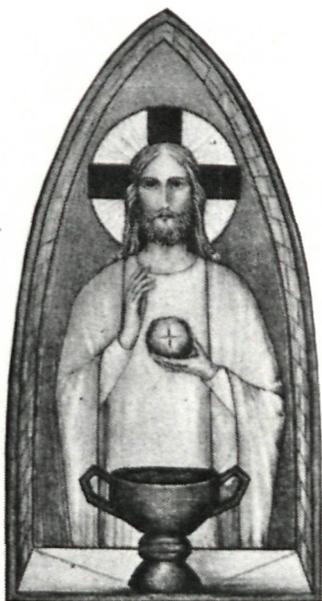
source of love, Eucharistic Action is the only cure for our social problems. Why is it, then, that the Mass has not solved social problems centuries ago? Every morning thousands of Masses are celebrated. Perhaps the answer is that we don't participate properly in the Mass.

IN ORDER to understand what the Mass should be, let us ask ourselves what the Mass is. The Mass is an action and not just a form of words. When we talk about the Mass as something to be "said" and "heard" we are inclined to think that the Mass is merely a form of words. We should be more accurate, even though it sounds a little strange, if we said that the priest DID the Mass and the people helped him to DO the Mass. Even now in the Canon (formerly called the "Action") we have the reference to the *Communicantes* as *Infra Actionem*, "within the action."

THE essential part of the Mass is the action. What do we do when we celebrate Mass? The Secret Prayer for the ninth Sunday after Pentecost expresses this idea: "As often as the commemoration of this victim is celebrated the work of our Redemption is accomplished."

WE KNOW that Christ redeemed the world by the Sacrifice of Calvary. Without the Sacrifice of Calvary we would not have grace; we would not have any way of reaching Heaven. Calvary is the source of Redemption—all grace (actual and sanctifying) comes from Calvary. The Mass, every Mass, is the same identical sacrifice as that of Calvary. We have that on the authority of the Council of Trent, which states that only the manner of the offering differs. A mystery is involved which we should try to grasp. The Mass is celebrated again and again; yet there is only one redemptive sacrifice. It is a mystery, but perhaps we can explain it with another mystery. When the priest consecrates a ciborium containing many hosts, Christ is present in each, yet there is only one Christ. We can see a parallel in the Sacrifice of the Mass. The same Sacrifice takes place in a thousand Sacrifices, but there remains one Sacrifice.

AT MASS we accomplish the work of our Redemption. That is why the Mass is such a great act of charity. Christ dying for us on Calvary performed the greatest act of love. Now,



charity, or supernatural love, would be impossible without the Mass. When we ourselves carry on the Sacrifice of Calvary we are identified with the greatest act of love in all history. It is not enough that God redeemed us, but He wants us to work with Him in His redemptive work. It is a great mystery that God allows us to carry on the work of the Redemption. St. Paul refers to this when he says, we "Make up those things that are wanting in the sufferings of Christ."

**I**F THE Mass is the source of charity, then in what spirit should we participate in it? The best way to answer that question is to think of Mary. Mary standing beside the Cross on Calvary was the ideal participant. She was not literally a priest, but the perfect member of the congregation. What was she doing? First, she was suffering. We cannot imagine how very much she must have suffered. Second, she was suffering voluntarily. Mary wanted Christ to die; she wanted Christ to suffer, because her will was perfectly united to His. Third, Mary suffered out of a motive of universal love for mankind. That is the way that we ought to participate in the sacrifice.

**F**IRST, we must suffer. That sounds a little bit strange. How does the Mass involve suffering? Actually the Mass shouldn't be isolated from the rest of our life. Everything we do during the day should lead toward the Mass or flow from it. The Christian life as a whole does involve real sacrifice and suffering. The Mass, therefore, should be the point to which we bring our sufferings. Second, our sacrifice should be

voluntary. We should be willing to face the difficulties of a Christian life. Third, the Mass should mean that I bring my sufferings here because I love God and all mankind so much. The Mass, if we do this, will involve the greatest act of charity.

**S**UPPOSE you should ask a number of Catholics when the Mass is most worthily celebrated. One who is not very well instructed might reply that the Mass is most worthily celebrated when the surroundings are the most beautiful, for example, in a beautiful cathedral. Another might say that it was when the priest was very holy. That is getting a little closer, but that is not correct. It would be correct if the Mass were an act of private devotion; but it is the celebrant's *and* the congregation's act. The correct answer should be that the Mass is most worthily celebrated when the priest *and* the people are united in perfect love.

**S**T. PAUL realized this; in writing to the Corinthians he told them that they spoiled the Mass. He charged them with this because they offered up the Mass without charity. St. Paul enumerates their sins against charity and declares, "Therefore, are there many infirm and weak among you, and many sleep." He said that this sin was so serious that God punished by death people attending Mass in that spirit. When you analyze it, it seems a little clearer. When a person attends Mass in a spirit of hatred he is pretending to take part in the greatest act of love that was ever performed. He is doing a horribly irreverent thing. The way, therefore, to benefit by the Mass is to participate in the Mass in a spirit of love. It works in a sort of "holy circle"; when a person comes to Mass with charity he gets more charity; rising, thus, in a sort of spiral.

**L**ET us think of that same thing from a slightly different angle. Let us think of the three principle parts of the Mass and how they apply to the foregoing. First, the Offertory. The Offertory is the part of the Mass during which we offer up the victim. We offer ourselves at the Offertory. The Offertory procession of old symbolized this. At the Consecration the sacrifice we have offered is accomplished. The death of Christ is mystically consummated and our sacrifices are accepted. Then, finally, the Communion. Communion is union with Christ in the act of sacrifice. The best thanksgiving is not a quiet talk, but one in which we unite ourselves with Christ in the act of sacrifice.

(Continued on page 18)

# The Ladies Did It

by Catechist M. Alice James

PITTER pat . . . pitter pat . . . pitter pat!

THE rain drops fell in unbroken cadence against the window panes.

JINGLE . . . swish . . . jingle . . . swish!

THAT would be the gentle music of Sister Maria's rosary beads playing hide and seek in the generous folds of her habit, as she went back and forth from dining room to kitchen.

BRRR . . . Brrr . . . Brrrr!

THE telephone again! All the same old every day sounds that one could hear in the "Ladies' Home." Dona Luisa shifted impatiently in the comfortable armchair. Most of the time the friendly, homey sounds added to her feeling of contentment that she lived in the Home cared for by the good Sisters. But not today.

TODAY her thoughts scurried like truants back to old Mexico; to her father's large house with its sunny patios and tinkling fountains; to the evening concerts in the spacious parks; to the family gatherings during the gay holiday season; it was at one of these, as she whirled in the intricate steps of the Jarabe that she had danced into the heart of young Don Miguel; the beautiful wedding in the great Cathedral seemed to come to life again as though captured and held in the shimmering misty whiteness of her bridal veil.

ON AND on the panorama of memory unfolded with the steady patter of raindrops for accompaniment. She remembered so well the sad, yet eagerly awaited departure for the United States, where Don Miguel had purchased a home; the coming of the children God had been so good to send. The children had grown up and left them to pattern their families and homes on hers and Miguel's,—all but Antonio. He had not wished to leave his mother. After the death of Don Miguel, she and Antonio had stayed on in the big house with regular visits from the children and grandchildren to enliven the quiet tempo of their happy lives.

THEN the war had come! Don Luisa's head bent lower. Could she ever forget Antonio's farewell? She could still feel the quick hard pressure of his strong arms; still hear the gay

confidence in his voice as he said, not "Adios," but "Hasta luego, Madre mia!"

IN SPITE of the other children's pleas, she had closed the big house and had come as a temporary guest to the "Ladies' Home," until Antonio's return. Here she lived happily, but . . .

THE hard pealing of the door bell jarred her musings. Sister Maria was not in sight. Dona Luisa opened the big front door. She had a bewildered impression of a great object wrapped in an oilskin raincoat, an umbrella, and a long purse waving in her direction, while a muffled voice questioned her.

"WHAT shall I do if the Layette is ruined? Please help me, Dona Luisa. Put the box on the table."

TOGETHER they managed to unwrap the large box from the wet coat and put it on the library table. Some of the other ladies, hearing the confusion, had entered the room. Anna, the bearer of the box, was explaining.

"THIS is the Layette for the baby who will be born nearest to midnight on the Feast of the Purification in San Jose Hospital."

CAREFULLY she undid the protecting wrappings of tissue, disclosing a box covered with crystal cellophane and tied with wide blue ribbons. The ladies exclaimed delightedly as the pictured face of a baby smiled up at them from the small white cap fastened securely around it. Dressed in a baby bunting of pale pink, trimmed with prancing blue elephants, the pictured infant seemed almost real. An array of small dresses, slips, gowns, stockings, booties, lay in gay abandonment around the paper baby. A tiny gold medal was pinned to the blanket top.

ANNA continued, "The Catechists will be glad to know the Layette is safe. They were very busy this morning so I offered to take the box to the hospital."

SHE paused and looked out of the window. "I hadn't counted on one of El Paso's infrequent rainfalls. Isn't the Layette a dream? There are some Sisters in Boston who send the baby clothing regularly. The Catechists make up the Layette for each feast day of our Blessed Mother,



The twins do not object to having their picture taken with Catechist Luna, but they aren't going to interrupt their nap.

and some lucky little person starts life with this generous wardrobe."

ANNA lifted the blanket to show the well-stocked layers of infants' clothing underneath. "Catechist told me that they always ask our Blessed Mother to let some very poor little child receive the Layette and so far she has never failed them."

DONA LUISA was only half listening. She was studying the faces of the women around the table. What looks of interest! What delighted attention the pictured baby was receiving. Suddenly she turned to Anna.

"WHEN will the Madres prepare the next Layette? The feast of the Annunciation, yes? Then suppose we ladies prepare one also. And," she laughed merrily, "we will ask the dear Virgin of Guadalupe to send twins to the Hospital of San Jose for her beautiful feast."

FOR several weeks the "Ladies' Home" hummed with happy preparation for the other Layette. Tales of the antics of children and grandchildren and all the home pleasures of other days were revived and recalled for the enjoyment of all;

while the busy sounds of snipping scissors, whirring machines, and clicking needles gave everyone a comfortable feeling of being necessary and responsible.

SISTER Maria donated the beautiful medal and the picture of the sleeping Nino Dios to accompany the Layette. Some of the younger women who resided in the Home, stopped on their way from work to purchase the pink soap cat, the Micky Mouse rattle, the furry Brown Bear, and the gay colored Baby Book. A package from Chihuahua addressed to Dona Luisa brought a beautifully embroidered jacket for the Layette.

ALL too soon the beautiful feast day arrived, and the Catechists came to the Home with the blue and white Layette provided by the good Sisters in Boston. Dona Luisa and the other ladies awaited them. Triumphantly they led the way to the library table where their pink and white Layette was attractively arranged. Everyone laughed as Catechist placed the Layettes side by side, because the pictured face smiling up from the pink and white Layette was that of a wee, dark-eyed Mejicanita.

AND that is how the two Layettes found their way to the doors of San Jose Hospital on the beautiful feast of the Annunciation, and that is why the Munoz twins were so well provided for on their entrance into this world.

AS Dona Luisa laughingly explains in her broken English, "Anna tells me what the Madres do . . . I get the idea . . . and the ladies deed eet!"

---

## THE INTERRUPTIONS

### WERE PROFITABLE

THERE had been two interruptions during the class. One had been a necessary digression from the class matter to explain what I meant when I asked for an example. The second was a necessary explanation of "minding one's own business." The third attempt at resuming the material for the day's class was spoiled by a knock at the door. All were interested as to whom the visitor might be. Since the visitor did not enter the room, one of the pupils came to the door to find out for himself. As I saw him, I came to the conclusion that the second interruption had not been a profitable one. But I changed my mind a few minutes later when one of the girls raised her hand and said, "Catechist, that's an *example of not minding one's own business*, isn't it?"

Catechist M. Annette Saltus,  
Winnemucca, Nevada.

# The Army Accepts --- Definitely

by Catechist Marguerite Srill

"WAC Recruiting Office! Sergeant X speaking!"

"THIS is Catechist calling, Sergeant. We would be very happy to have the Office Force come to dinner and spend the evening with us next . . . if it will be convenient. Would you like to ask the others, and call us back a little later?"

THE call was not long in coming and the answer, "The Army accepts—definitely!"

WE HAD become acquainted with the personnel of the Recruiting Office over a period of several months. One WAC obligingly gave her spare time to give our troops of Girl Scouts some much needed drill work. The girls had responded with enthusiasm to the terse, clipped commands of the WAC in her natty uniform. "Attention! At Ease! Right face!"

THE Scouts drilled with alacrity and concentration, and resulting good posture and carriage were soon in evidence!

SEVERAL of the Wacs had also given a donation towards clothing for poor children. The happiness of the little ones had given them a deep sense of satisfaction.

KERMESS time was now upon us and the Wacs asked to look in on a Kermess, in which the children exchange their class attendance tickets for prizes, religious articles, small toys or other gifts. But when three hundred children from one of our most congested districts swarmed in on us, the Wacs changed from on-lookers to workers. The children, delighted at the opportunity to buy their prizes from the ladies in uniform, kept the Wacs busy. Over and above the delighted screams and howls of the children, came the Wacs' query, "Catechist, how do you ever keep going?" And a little later to one of the Catechists, who hummed merrily as she collected tickets and handed out articles, "And you can even sing!"

KERMESS was a revelation to these members of Uncle Sam's forces. "We surely enjoyed it," was their parting comment, and when we added smilingly, that there were still about six more Kermesses to be given in our various cen-



Sgt. Curry, WAC Recruiting Officer, receives good behaviour medal. Sgt. Curry was a Corporal at the time this picture was taken.

ters on the following days, they smiled ruefully and fell back on one of their Army expressions, "O my aching back!"

BUT to our astonishment they came again the following day after office hours to lend a hand on another Kermess. Our respect for these girls in uniform was surely growing! We felt that we owed the whole staff a vote of thanks and we also wanted to add to their holiday cheer, since holiday furloughs had not been forthcoming. A home-cooked dinner seemed the right solution!

AND their answer was, "The Army accepts—definitely!"

THE happy flow of conversation and the good-natured give and take around the table would indicate that this particular branch of Uncle Sam's forces was enjoying itself. The atmosphere of good fellowship carried over into an evening of conversation about their work and plans; rendition of favorite songs, stunts, games, and humorous descriptions of Army life. As the group prepared to leave, their expressions of gratitude were very sincere.

WE congratulated ourselves on having met such a fine group of young people and were grateful that we had been able to do our part

(Continued on page 18)

# Chaplain

## First Priest on Island

HEADQUARTERS PANAMA CANAL  
DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC  
RELATIONS OFFICER

THE prayers of a tiny settlement of Ecuadorians on lonely San Cristobal Island in the Galapagos group have been answered, at long last.

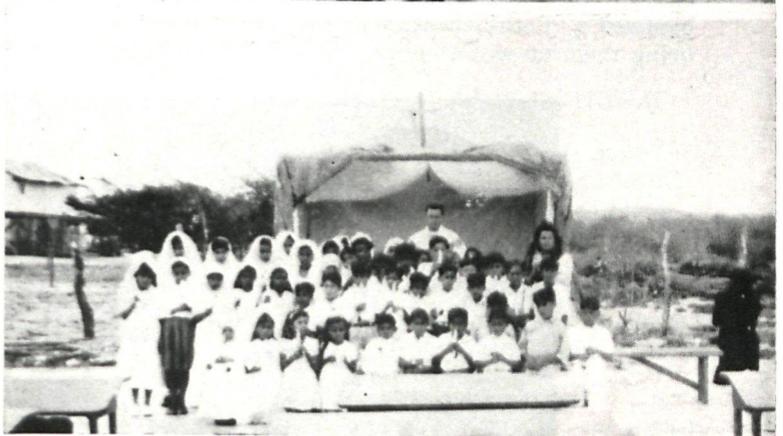
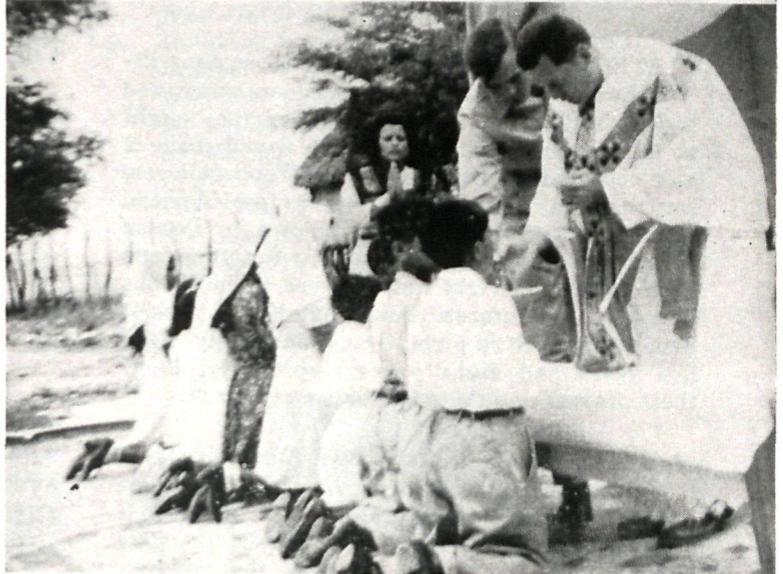
FOR the first time, a Catholic Priest has set foot on their island, trod their streets and the lanes of their isolated communities and administered to the spiritual needs of their children, who never before had seen a Priest.

THE Priest was the Reverend Edward P. Gicewicz, late of St. John Kanty College, Erie, Pa., and at present, Chaplain of a Sixth Air Force outlying base in the Galapagos Islands which lie astride the equator some 600 miles west of Ecuador.

IT WAS a never-to-be-forgotten moment for the 51 youngsters of the twin communities of Wreck Bay and Progreso when the handsome young Chaplain, dressed in his vestments, celebrated Mass. The young people later received their first Holy Communion and stood by in reverent awe while 17 of the tiniest children were baptized by Chaplain Gicewicz.

THE day had been arranged by Lt. Col. Leonardo Chiriboga, governor of the Galapagos Island whose Ecuadorian title is Jefe Territorial del Archipelago del Colon. He appealed to the Chaplain, explaining that Senora Chiriboga, his wife, had completed preliminary instruction of the children, but there was no way for them to make their First Communion because there was no resident Priest.

FOLLOWING the Mass, Colonel Chiriboga was host at a breakfast for the entire population of the island, with Chaplain Gicewicz as guest of honor.



Top: Prayers are said—Children of the tiny Colonies at Wreck Bay and Progreso attend outdoor services conducted by Chaplain Gicewicz.—(Photo by U.S. Sixth Air Force.)

Center: One of the Island children receiving his First Communion from the Chaplain. This was the first time the youngsters had ever seen a Catholic priest.—(Photo by U.S. Sixth Air Force.)

Lower: Following the services, Chaplain Gicewicz posed with the children in front of the improvised altar. Youngsters received their First Communion amid these bleak surroundings.—(Photo by Sixth Air Force.)

FOUR MEMBERS ADDED  
TO THE ONE TRUE FOLD

**B**LOCK Avenue, you know, has more children than any other street in the country. Among the many little colored faces that play about our house, peep into our first floor windows, and climb upon our new garage roof, much to its damage and our chagrin, there appeared one day four white faces, with the same propensity for making themselves cheerful nuisances as had their colored playmates.

**C**ATECHIST soon learned that these four little white children lived a few doors away, and had no religion at all. She decided they ought to have some. The front porch would make a nice classroom. She invited the Webb children, for that was their name, and a few Mexican children who thought walking down to Deodar Street for Doctrina was much too far, to attend a special class several times a week. The Webbs showed more interest than any of the others. Soon the two little girls, Gracie and Betty, aged five years and eight years respectively, knew their prayers and their Catechism very well.

**A** FEW friendly visits to Mrs. Webb disclosed the fact that she was a baptized but uneducated Catholic, much interested in the Church and very cooperative. Catechist asked the parents if they would like to have the children baptized. Both consented and promised to bring them up as Catholics. So one bright Sun-



The Webb children with Father Leo, S.C.J., who baptized them, and Catechist Meister who instructed them. From left to right the children are: Billy, age nine, Betty, age eight, Gracie, age five, and Raymond, age four.

## In The Home Field

day afternoon a car full of children, sponsors, and parents, went to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, and membership in the one, true fold increased by four. It was a happy day and one of great enlightenment, especially for Mr. Webb, who followed every bit of the ceremony as Father carefully explained it in English.

**N**OW the three little Webbs of school age are attending Catholic school, and are fast becoming very courteous and refined children, with a real desire to be good Catholics. We hope, with the grace of God, to be able to influence the mother to begin instructions, and to arouse some religious enthusiasm in the oldest boy, who as yet has expressed no desire to come into the Church.

Catechist M. Eva Geiskopf  
Indiana Harbor, Indiana.

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

### NEW LOCATION

**A**N EIGHT room apartment has been rented by the El Centro parish to provide a teaching center for the East side. The rooms are being converted into class and club rooms. The children call it the CLUB HOUSE. With release time for the Washington School, it has easily proved its worth, as it accommodates the entire Mexican enrollment of the school from fourth to eighth grades at the same hour. During another period it accommodates the children from the pre-first to the third grades. After school hours, it becomes the scene of the activities of the Crusaders and Sodalists.

Until it is possible to build a Church, the Club House will be used as a Church for the East side.

Catechist M. Brohman,  
Brawley, California

**T**HE little ones and I were having a class on the birth of Jesus. We had just reached the point concerning the cold weather and how this made it more difficult for Mary and Joseph to obtain shelter. Five year old Johnny raised his hand and asked, "Catechist, did they have a car?" I replied in the negative. "Oh," he continued, "I was going to say if they did they could have got in and turned the heater on."

Catechist M. Annette Saltus,  
Winnemucca, Nevada.

Negro: How is it you ain't never stopped in to see me? You pass here every day and you never stop.

Catechist: We are taking the census of the Catholic families in the parish, and we haven't been in this district yet.

Negro: Catholic families! Don't you know you have to throw out the life line? You ain't never done it to me. Listen, doesn't the Bible tell us the Lord went after the one, and left the ninety nine?

Catechist: But we haven't the ninety nine in the fold. We have to look them up. That's why we are taking the census.

Negro: That doesn't make any difference. You Sisters are supposed to throw out the life line.

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

by Catechist Blanche Richardson

Come timid one,—be not afraid!  
Thy many sins have thee dismayed?  
Thy soul's white robe hast thou defiled  
And now dost forfeit right of child  
To seek a Father's pardon where  
My ministers My powers share?  
Thy heart is numb and cold as ice?  
Thy will to please Me doth suffice.  
Hast sinful pleasure thee allured  
Inflicting wound which needs be cured?  
Behold! My sacramental kiss  
Will heal a blemish such as this.  
My child! Yet greater is thy need  
Of Me, My wounds to intercede,  
If grievous sin didst thee o'ertake,  
Thy Saviour will not thee forsake.  
My Blood, bestowed by Sign of Cross,  
Will save thy soul's eternal loss.



### STUDYING TO PREACH— BUT NOT AS A CATHOLIC

**M**ANY of our children have a real struggle to preserve their faith against the obstacles of poor home environment and the dangers of proselytizing influences. The Methodists have a large foreign mission fund which they formerly used for China. Since the war, they have been using this money to send young boys and girls, even those of High School age, to their training school in Arizona.

**T**HE other day at Moorpark one of my little First Communicants was telling me that his sister was far away "studying to preach." "Why," he said, "now she is not afraid to sit up in front and she goes to church often when she is home." Then he continued, "that's what I'm going to do when I get big—be a priest, just like the Father." **P**OOOR little lad! He didn't even know that his sister was attending a Protestant missionary school.

Catechist M. F. Luechtefeld  
Santa Paula, California



# Associate Catechists

Santa Paula, Calif.

Dear Catechist,

Greetings through the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary!

Perhaps you would be interested to know that this year the Florentine Band had five candles on their birthday cake. They celebrate the anniversary of the organization of the band with a birthday party each year. The twelve members are all the original group with the exception of two. One of the members, Mrs. Stireman, who was a great help to Mrs. Krueger in starting the Band, has already gone to her eternal reward.

From this group another Band was started three years ago by Mrs. Krueger, for those friends who were unable to attend the evening meetings. The Mother of Perpetual Help Band meets in the afternoon. Part of their time is devoted to sewing for the missions.

During the past year both Bands supplied a large number of parcels for a parcel post booth at our Spring festival.

Mrs. Krueger says the members are very grateful for the prayers and sacrifices of all the Catechists.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,  
Catechist Luechtefeld

Another new band has joined our ranks—St. Catherine Band of Los Angeles. Mrs. Margaret McMannamy, who organized the band, has a two-fold purpose in her new activity—that of honoring the memory of her deceased mother, who had an ardent love for the poor, and of helping the missions. Mrs. McMannamy feels that in continuing her mother's work of charity and of supporting a Burse in honor of the Poor Souls in Purgatory she is erecting a perpetual spiritual memorial for her.

St. Margaret's is our third band in Los Angeles.

Elkhart, Indiana

Dear Catechists,

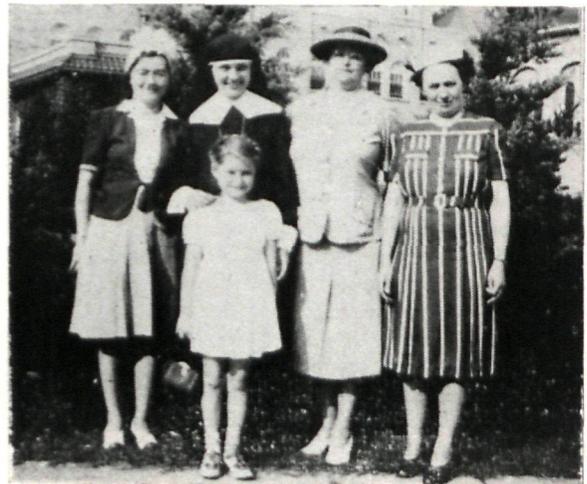
You will find enclosed a check for \$25.00. I hope it will in a small way make the burden at Victory-Noll a little bit lighter. I know how badly the money is needed.

I wish you and all the Catechists a Blessed Christmas, and Peace in your hearts, even though the world is anything but at peace. With love,

Holy Ghost Band

Mary E. Nye, Promoter

*It is not always large numbers that count. Holy Ghost Band, Elkhart, Indiana, can vouch for this, for after five years of successful planning and working they have a record to be proud of. In addition to the financial support, each member recites daily one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Gloria in honor of the Holy Ghost, for the Catechists and the missions. Miss Mary Nye is the promoter.*



Catechist F. Luechtefeld with officers of Our Mother of Perpetual Help and Florentine Bands.

# of Mary

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Chicago, Illinois

Dear Catechist Wopperer,

Enclosed please find a money order for the sum of \$50.00 . . . This donation is made up of dues from our Band, also proceeds from a card party.

Our Band has been going along just fine. In the near future we plan to visit the Catechists at East Chicago. In this way some of the new members can get acquainted with the Catechists and understand their work better.

Our aim is to send you more money than in '43.  
Sincerely

Our Lady of Sorrows Band  
Florence Kuenster, President

We like the optimistic spirit which this letter breathes. Doubtless the old and new members of Our Lady of Sorrows Band have already had that planned visit with our Catechists at East Chicago.

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Catechists,

After a silence of many months the Mothers and Daughters Club finally met at a party given by one of the daughters. We were all present and had a wonderful time. We also thought of the Catechists, and this check of \$18.00 is the result.

We have twelve members. At the present time we find it difficult to get together regularly, but we shall do our best.

Mrs. Luetkenhus

We fully appreciate the hardships endured by many of our Associates in continuing their mission activities during these difficult times. However, we feel sure their reward will be doubly great due to the self-sacrificing efforts they make to carry on.



The members of our Poor Souls Band, Berwyn, Illinois, of which Mrs. John McGovern is the promoter, are to be congratulated upon their faithfulness and untiring zeal. In addition to the regular monthly checks which are sent to Victory-Noll this band makes sewing for the missions one of its projects. Mrs. McGovern informs us that the success of their enterprise is due to the cooperation and faithful support of her loyal members.

#### A. C. M. BAND DONATIONS

December 30th to January 22nd

Archbishop Stritch Band, Chicago, Helen Gaethke .....	\$25.00
Holy Family Band, Chicago, Mrs. William Murphy .....	13.00
Holy Ghost Band, Elkhart, Ind., Miss Mary Nye .....	50.00
Infant of Prague Band, Chicago, Miss Catherine Lichter .....	15.00
Little Flower Band, Pittsburgh, Pa. Catherine Lippert .....	10.00
Marians, The Chicago, Mrs. Lolita Schulien .....	15.00
Mothers and Daughters Band, Mrs. M. Luetkenhus .....	12.00
Our Blessed Lady of Victory Band, Pittsburgh, Marie Lener- ert .....	7.50
Poor Souls Band, Berwyn, Ill., Mrs. J. V. McGovern .....	6.50
Queen of Angels Band, Los Angeles, Mrs. C. J. Sauthier .....	5.00
Queen of Poor Souls Los Angeles, Mrs. Anna Meng .....	5.00
Sacred Heart Mission Soc, Newark, N.Y., Miss Ann Cassano .....	30.00
St. Anthony Band, Los Angeles, Mrs. Anna Meng .....	5.00
St. Catherine Band, Los Angeles, Margaret McManamy .....	32.50
St. Irene Band, Chicago, May Walsh .....	5.50
St. Joseph Mission Society, Baldwinsville, N.Y., Mrs. M. Bucci .....	67.50
St. Jude Band, Chicago, Mrs. Charles Fiala .....	11.00
St. Jude Band, Ft. Wayne, Ind., Mrs. M. Noll .....	89.75
St. Justin Martyr Band, Chicago, Mrs. Fred Fiefer .....	13.00
St. Katherine Band, Chicago, Mrs. Katherine Hammer .....	50.00
St. Margaret Mary Band, Marshfield, Wis., Mrs. Earl Leu .....	83.00
St. Mary Sodality, Detroit, Mrs. Peter Pink .....	8.00
St. Raymond Nonatus, Chicago, Mrs. T. Quinlan .....	10.00
Srillians Band, Cheviot, O., Marion Mueller .....	1.00
St. Philomena Band, Chicago, Miss Mary Schaefer .....	31.50
Tip Top Twelve, Cincinnati, O., Irene Stanley .....	5.00

#### OUR A.C.M. SOLDIERS

Pfc. John A. Orbon  
Ralph and Clifford McCandless  
Robt. J. Renier  
Sgt. Edw. Ryan  
Captain A. F. Rus  
Pfc. Frank Davi  
Corp. Wm. Davi  
S/Sgt. J. S. Daaso

# Following Christ

"**I**F anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." (Matt. XVI, 24).

"**I**F anyone wishes to come after Me," the Saviour begins.

**Y**ES, Lord, we want to come after You, we want to follow You closely, so closely that we can touch the hem of your garment. We want to sit at your feet, like the repentant Magdalen. Ah! if we could but lean our head upon your breast, as did the Beloved Disciple the night before You died. There would we rest, there would we find our happiness, our joy, our delight, close to You, yes, united intimately in the bond of love with You, our Lord, our King, our God.

"**L**ET him deny himself."

**L**ISTEN! It is the Saviour voicing one of the conditions under which we can be His followers. "Deny yourself." How poor human nature shirks from these words. We would expunge from our vocabulary the very word self-denial. We are ever trying to avoid it, trying to get away from self-sacrifice, from every form of mortification or penance. We seek an easier way. An easier way to follow a Crucified King? And is the Saviour the only one who asks for self-denial? What about the world? How much self-denial, how much sacrifice is entailed in the pursuit of riches, of honors, of pleasures, or even of success in one's business or profession? Shall we who wish to follow close to the Saviour be willing to give less?

**N**O, Lord, let it not be so. Let us be generous. Let us give and not count the cost. Help us to be kind, thoughtful, patient, with our fellowmen because they, too, are your children. Let our love for them be the overflow of our love for You. If our love for You is great enough, we shall no longer avoid, rather shall we seek the many occasions of self-denial hidden in the countless little things of each day.

"**A**ND take up his cross," the Saviour continues.

**W**HAT cross, Lord? You mean the ordinary events in daily life? You mean that in all our difficulties we are to look beyond that person who is causing them and see in them only the cross which you so lovingly hand to us? You mean these little trials, these vexations, these sorrows, are all a part of the cross which You wish us to take up and carry for love of You, if we wish to be close to You?

**D**EAR Lord, let us recognize them as such. Give us the grace to see beyond the human in all the events of life to the Divine Hand which guides our destiny. Give us strength and courage to carry the cross You fashion for us.

"**A**ND follow me."

**A**H, Lord, we will follow You in life and in death. It makes no difference whether the path be smooth or rough, whether it leads to Calvary or Thabor, it is enough for us if we can but remain close to You, our Lord and our God. But, Lord, remember we are weak. We are liable to falter, and You may have to hold out your hand again and again to help us over the stony path, or to lift us up when we stumble and fall on the rough way. But close to You, dear Lord, and depending upon the strength of your grace to carry the cross You fashion for us, we shall go forward confidently until that day when we are united with You forever in eternal bliss.



# Mission Intention For March

"The Arabic nations where Mohammedanism arose."

by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. T. J. McDonnell

PERHAPS it is because we are so new a nation, whose very vastness would seem to dwarf other lands, that Americans lose sight of the antiquity and importance of other peoples who have played important roles in the history of the world long before Christopher Columbus made his great discovery. This is particularly true as regards our attitude toward the Arabic nations where Mohammedanism arose. Besides being the cradle of Islam, Arabia in all probability was the home of the Semitic race. Ageless, timeless, the native there today pursues the same leisurely manner of living as did his forebears in the time of the Messiah, whose birthplace was to the north in Palestine.

WE know that from Jerusalem the doctrines of Christ spread after the pentecostal teaching southward to Arabia, eastward to India, westward to Rome and Mediterranean fringing Africa, then northward to the tribes of continental and insular Europe. However, as Dr. Gabriel Oussani remarks "Arabian Christianity was a seed sown on stony ground, whose product had no resistance when the heat came; it perished without a trace when Islam appeared."

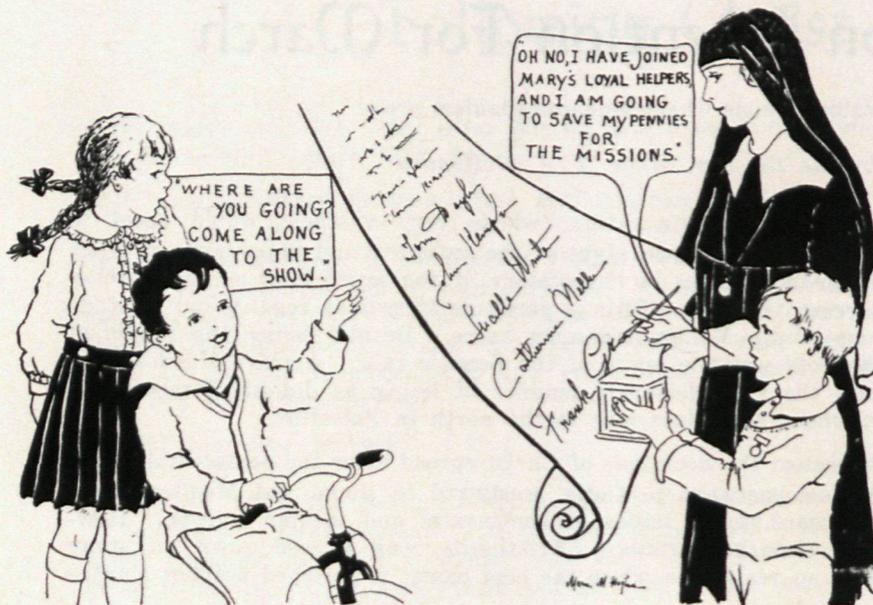
THEN in 610, when the forty year old former shepherd and caravan attendant, Mohammed of the tribe of Fihir or Quarish, received his "divine" message of salvation, Arabia did not possess the tenacious faith necessary to thwart Moslemism. However, to insure the success of his project, the wily Mohammed first conquered the Arabian, Jewish and Christian tribes of his native land and then united all under one symbol and one religion.

HIS homeland thus became Allah's fortress from which Mohammed was able to attack the citadels of Christianity. This was easily possible since Arabia constituted the great overland link from Europe to the east. The caravans from the various marts of trade moved then as now in leisurely fashion over its deserts to bring the produce of the world to peoples of all nations. Thanks to the zeal of Mohammed every caravan leader, every captain of the ships plying the lanes of sea travel, who came in contact with Allah's Prophet, became an apostle to win new souls to this easy and man-made religion.

IT is not surprising, therefore, to find that Moslemism swept over the desert like a prairie fire. Mesopotamia, Palestine, Syria, Egypt, and northern Africa, over which St. Augustine had ruled, all succumbed. New conquests followed in Persia, Afghanistan and India. By the 12th century the Moslems were masters of all western Asia, all northern Africa, as well as several islands of the Mediterranean and Spain.

WHILE we glory in the great triumph of Christianity in the battle of Lepanto, let us remember that the followers of the Prophet are still firmly entrenched in practically everyone of the above mentioned countries. For this reason it is not surprising that the Holy See, through the Society for the propagation of the Faith, requests the prayers of the faithful during the month of March for "the Arabic nations from which Mohammedanism arose" and from which it still threatens great sections of the world.





# Mary's

How are the extra little acts of penance coming along for the missions? Are you making many? Extra Holy Masses—Holy Communions—more rosaries said. A little unkind word checked—helping mother around the house—giving up the movies—denying yourself candy and sweets. Oh, there are so many little acts that if done for the love of our Crucified Jesus will bring you closer to Him and do much for the missions.

Houston, Ohio

Dear Missionary Catechist,

I received my Sunshine Bag, for which I am thankful and very proud, because I can do something which will store up treasures in Heaven; and help to win souls for God through the missionaries.

I am a Junior in Russia Rural High School. I will be seventeen February 1, 1945. I am now taking as my subjects; Religion, Home Ec. II, English, Typing II, Shorthand I, and American Government.

Do you want cancelled stamps? I am now saving them. And would you like to have a list of boys and girls for the Society of Mary's Loyal Helpers? I will try to do anything to aid the missions because I am now a member of Mary's Loyal Helpers, and I must try to live up to the name of being a Helper.

Sincerely,

A New-Helper,  
Emily Monnin

New York

Dear Catechists,

Enclosed find a check for five dollars. We filled the little Sunshine Bag for you during Lent. We gave up shows and candy to help you make the little boys like Carlos happy in being able to have the good Sisters teach him about God.

Sorry we did not get it to you sooner but we wanted to make the amount five dollars.

We say a Hail Mary every day for these little mission boys.

Pupils of Grades 3B and 4B  
Holy Rosary School  
Sisters of St. Dominic.



Barbara Offerle, Fort Wayne

One of our Loyal Helpers who is now preparing to serve God in the Precious Blood Order. Barbara is a postulant.

# Loyal Helpers

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Miles McShirley

Although Miles is only seven, he is a "seasoned" missionary. He never forgets the Catechists and the Missions.

Better hurry and send for your Sunshine Bag if you want to get it filled by Easter. It takes quite a few pennies to fill a bag, so you had better get started.

Write today for your Sunshine Bag!

Loretto, Tennessee

Dear Catechist,

The package which I sent you is intended for the missions.

I have always remembered you through our correspondence of ten years ago. I am Mary Rock of Norwalk, Ohio. It was through you that I was able to help some of your missions at that time. I have never forgotten them even in my Religious life to which God has called me.

Maybe you would like to know a little of what one of MARY'S LOYAL HELPERS is doing.

I left my home on September 6, 1937, to join the Sisters of Mercy of the Union in the U.S.A. at Dubuque, Iowa. In 1938 I received the Religious Habit and the name of Sister Mary Theonilla. In 1943 I made Perpetual Profession and then left for one of our missions in Tennessee. I love my work here very much.

I should like to be a Spiritual Loyal Helper in your big band of Helpers if I may.

You and all the rest of the Catechists will be remembered in my prayers.

Lovingly in Christ,  
Sister Mary Theonilla, R.S.M.

The above letter made us very happy. Twelve years ago Sister Mary Theonilla was a MARY'S LOYAL HELPER—one of our most faithful ones. And now, after all these years, Sister is a Helper that is still loyal in every sense of the word by being a Spiritual Helper and by interesting her pupils in the missions.

We wonder how many more of our Helpers have been blessed by God with a vocation. We know of a few. One is now a Carmelite priest, one a Missionary Catechist, and two entered a convent in the east.

## THE MASS AND SOCIAL WORK

(Continued from page 5)

THESE considerations show you the very intimate connection between the Mass and charity. The only appropriate way to participate in the Mass is with a great spirit of charity. If, on the other hand, we have hatreds towards other human beings, we are, "Eating and drinking judgment to ourselves."

AND, so, we have our program of Eucharistic social reform. The most important thing to do daily is, first, to participate actively in the Mass with love for all and to offer *our* sacrifice; second, to have charity. Just think, if we should do that every day we would become spiritual power houses. That is the way to reform the world. If the Mass received its proper emphasis among Catholics, they would burn with a great flame of charity. Before that, all social problems would melt away. The only reason that the first Christians had the charity they did was because of the love they had for the Mass.

IF WE had that spirit from the Mass there would be no interracial hatred; there would be no war. Therefore, Eucharistic social action is the great duty of every Catholic who wants to reform society. It is simply up to us whether we use this weapon or not. If we underestimate the Mass as an instrument of social reform, if we think that the natural measures alone can reform society, we are doomed to disappointment. If, on the other hand, we have the faith to turn to the Mass, the results will be marvelous.

IN CLOSING, let me refer to an incident in Our Lord's life. One day St. Peter and the Apostles were sitting by the Sea of Galilee washing their nets. Then Christ came along and borrowed their boat for a little while. Afterward He said, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." St. Peter was an expert fisherman; he knew that it was a foolish thing from a natural standpoint, but he was a man of faith. The thing happened that always happens when we put aside human prudence and do things Our Lord's way.

SUPPOSE you and I think we are experts in social work. We put these little human plans into effect and what do we get? Then Christ comes and tells us to do something foolish. He says: "If you want to solve all social problems just go down to Chapel for Mass." If we are like Peter we will do it; we will put aside our expert knowledge and do it anyway.

THERE are two ways of doing things. We may rely on charity and the Mass, or we may rely solely on natural techniques. That is up to us.



## THE ARMY ACCEPTS—DEFINITELY

(Continued from page 8)

on the home front, by giving them this bit of pleasure.

IN TURN we were given a sample of a soldier's gratitude when the next day's mail brought a letter from Sergeant Reid, one of the members of the Recruiting staff. His words reminded us once again of the truth of "bread cast upon the waters." Sergeant Reid wrote:

DEAR Catechists:

They say that the "way to a man's heart is through his stomach" and though you have won a place in my heart, it is not for the super dinner you prepared for us last night, but for the splendid work you folks are doing in helping our future citizens.

This may seem strange coming from an ex-newspaper man and a devout Protestant, but I have always been one to give credit where credit is due.

I know that it takes money to carry on your fine work, and while I know that the enclosed gift is just "a drop in the bucket," I hope that this small sum will be of some assistance to an underprivileged child in your care.

Thanks again for a wonderful evening that will linger in my memory as one of the bright spots in my life. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

(Signed) Donald E. Reid, Jr.,  
S/Sgt. AAF,  
WAC Recruiting Branch

# Lenten Reading

THE CATHOLIC Biblical Association of America is endeavoring to promote the practice of daily Bible reading, especially the New Testament, among the laity.

They are particularly interested in restoring in Catholic families the practice of Scripture reading, because it is "a means of bringing to the attention of the faithful the widely neglected treasures of spiritual wealth which are contained in the Holy Bible, and of inducing the laity to avail themselves of this source of divine light, heavenly consolation, and supernatural wisdom by frequent reading and study of God's word."

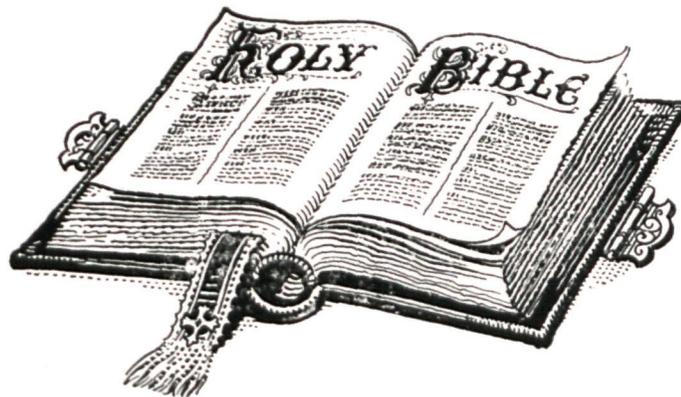
The Association is urging the reading of the New Testament especially during Lent, and for this purpose they have compiled a list of readings for each day of the Penitential Season. Below we give this list from March 1st to April 1st, inclusive.

DATE	TEXT	SUBJECT
March 1	Mk. 3:1-19	Conflict with the Pharisees
" 2	Mt. 5:1-20	Sermon on the Mount
" 3	Mt. 6:1-18	The same continued
" 4	Lk. 7:1-17	Centurion's servant
" 5	Lk. 7:18-35	John the Baptist
" 6	Lk. 7:36-50	The sinful woman
" 7	Mk. 3:20-35	Blasphemy of the Scribes
" 8	Mt. 13:1-23	The Sower
" 9	Mt. 13:24-52	Other parables
" 10	Lk. 4:16-30	Jesus at Nazareth
" 11	Mt. 14:1-12	Death of the Baptist
" 12	Jn. 6:1-21	Jesus feeds five thousand
" 13	Jn. 6:22-47	Jesus on the Eucharist

" 14	Jn. 6:48-70	Jesus on the Eucharist
" 15	Mk. 7:24-37	Chanaanite woman
" 16	Mt. 16:13-28	Peter's profession of Faith
" 17	Mk. 9:1-12	Transfiguration
" 18	Mk. 9:32-49	Against various vices
" 19	Jn. 8:12-30	Light of the world
" 20	Jn. 10:1-18	Good Shepherd
" 21	Lk. 15:11-32	Prodigal Son
" 22	Mt. 19:16-30	Danger of riches
" 23	Jn. 11:1-44	Lazarus
" 24	Jn. 12:1-11	At Bethany
" 25	Mt. 21:1-11	Palm Sunday
" 26	Mt. 22:34-46	The Son of David
" 27	Mk. 13:1-13	Destruction of Jerusalem and of the world
" 28	Jn. 12:20-50	Jesus' last words to the people
" 29	Mk. 14:12-25	Last Supper
" 30	Mk. 15:20-47	Crucifixion and death of Jesus
" 31	Mk. 16:1-18	The Resurrection
April 1	Jn. 21:1-25	Appearances of Jesus

“ . . . To the end that we may bear more earnest witness to our gratitude to almighty God, I suggest a nationwide reading of Holy Scripture during the period from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Let every man of every creed go to his own version of the Scriptures for a renewed and strengthening contact with those eternal truths and majestic principles which have inspired such measure of true greatness as this nation has achieved.”

—From President Roosevelt's Thanksgiving Proclamation, November 1, 1944.



## Novena in Honor of St. Joseph

Begins March 10th



Ends March 18th

Remember, O most pure spouse of Mary ever-Virgin, my loving protector, St. Joseph, that never has it been heard that anyone ever invoked thy protection, or besought aid of thee, without being consoled. In this confidence I come before thee, I fervently recommend myself to thee. Despise not my prayer, foster-father of our Redeemer, but do thou in thy pity receive it. Amen.

**Send in your Petitions. We shall gladly include them in our Novena.**