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*Feb. 1947*

The  
Missionary  
Centerists

# Mission Intention For February

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

## SUCCESS OF THE CHINESE MISSIONS UNDER PEACEFUL CONDITIONS

"**B**UILDERS of civilization and of peace" are the words used by His Excellency, Most Rev. Celso Constantini, to describe the missionaries of the Catholic Church. This accolade of greatness is accorded the men and women who staff the missions in every part of the world, but has a particular meaning for the workers in China, whose efforts are so well understood by the Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide after his years of service as Apostolic Delegate to the Flowery Kingdom.

"**T**HE peace has been written in the protocols of Paris, but it is not yet written in the hearts of men," continues His Excellency. "It is the missionaries who seek to have peace written in the hearts of men and, therefore, they are the ones who spread true Christian love, the only thing that can rid the embittered world of its many hatreds."

**T**HE rank and file of Chinese, that is to say those who have not been indoctrinated by communism, have a great respect for the missionaries, who stood shoulder to shoulder with them during the long years of the Sino-Japanese struggle. For thousands of them the war created their first contact with Catholicity, and the bishops, priests, brothers, and sisters who were the messengers of that universal brotherhood in the Fatherhood of God won their esteem and admiration.

**T**HROUGH the efforts of these dauntless men and women the present might prove China's

hour of true greatness if the missionaries were allowed to rebuild, restore, and expand their apostolate under peaceful conditions. However, the Holy See realizes the dangers which confront the people and the missioners in that unhappy land. She is fully aware of the activities which are being conducted behind the iron curtain of the Russian dominated territories. Letters received at the offices of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith bear out the hollow mockery of a so-called peace in a nation torn by internal strife.

**H**OWEVER, despite confiscation of church property, trials before the so-called "people's court," and banishment into exile of bishops and priests, the missionaries still wish to carry the truths of Christianity to every section of China. The present is not the first persecution through which the Church has passed in her endeavors to win the Chinese to Christ. Within the memory of many of the readers the Boxer uprising flared up only forty-six years ago; an uprising which, while short-lived, was intense in its violence. Only last November came the answer of Catholicism to that rebellion as twenty-nine martyrs—lay as well as cleric—were beatified with all the pomp and circumstance of the Church's ritual. Certainly the blood of those martyrs will water well the seed of faith for the people of China, and, if sustained by the prayerful intercession of American Catholics during the month of February, will insure the success of the mission apostolate.

# Archbishop of Los Angeles



Photo by Curtis Studios, Los Angeles, Calif.

*His Excellency  
Most Reverend John J. Cantwell, D.D., L.L.D.  
Archbishop of Los Angeles*

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# The Catechist and the Far West

A SURVEY OF CONFRATERNITY WORK IN THE CITY OF THE ANGELS

by Reverend Thomas F. Coogan

Assistant Director, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Los Angeles, California

ALMOST anybody who has heard about the West has heard about Los Angeles. It is a fairly new country, yet an old one. It has seen the early Christianizing efforts of Padre Junipero Serra and the establishment of the California missions. It has also experienced the population migrations of the 1920's and 1930's that have resulted in rapid growth. Population has doubled and redoubled itself. It has brought a mixture of peoples of many different races, nationalities, tongues, and experiences. Indeed, it is the new melting pot. It is the fusion of peoples from every state in the union. From the kaleidoscope of such variety, a weaving process is now attempting to align differences into a smooth pattern.

IN THE Catholic field a huge sprawling diocese running from Monterey to the Mexican border was cut twice within a comparatively short space of time. Finally, the diocese of Los Angeles was elevated to the position of an Archdiocese in 1936. The expansion of the Church in the West has indeed been rapid, especially within the last twenty years. It has resulted in the erection of an Archdiocese with some half million Catholics within its borders. Yet sudden growth brings missionary work, for it is most difficult for normal development to keep pace with rapid expansion.

BECAUSE of these circumstances, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine has found its work ever increasing. Next year the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in Los Angeles will celebrate its twenty-fifth year of existence. It was established almost at the same time that the Society of Missionary Catechists was founded. In all those years, it has had to bear an ever increasing load. More demands were placed upon it because of the unique development of its surroundings. Its work embraces areas of congested dwellings, where a great many Catholic children are living within a relatively small area; it embraces areas of large dimensions where only a few families are living. This great variation in population density increases the problem of supplying the necessary catechization of Catholic children placed under the charge of the Confraternity.

OTHER problems might also be indicated. The turnover in population because of the migratory character of some within it and the employment of many in agricultural pursuits deny the child attendance at class consistently during the year. In many parishes parochial schools have not yet been erected because of the poverty of the parish or because of its sudden growth.

THE Confraternity, however, with the zealous aid of religious and lay people has managed to surmount these difficulties. Its program for the children in public schools emphasizes faithful attendance at catechism classes during the year and a further concentration of study during the summer vacation school. The year-round classes are aided in attendance by the inception of a released time program which is functioning in a great number of the schools. Even where it is most successful, the program asks for class to be held twice during the week—once in released time and once in after school hours.

STATISTICS can give us a fair picture of the success of these activities. Last year some 15,000 children were enrolled in the released time program. All told, 44,000 participated in Confraternity classes. During the vacation school, 23,500 children learned more about their faith. Compared to the figures for the previous years, these statistics indicate a steady growth in the effectiveness with which children are being interested in things religious. Because of the tremendous war time increase in the Catholic population, it also emphasizes that continued expansion of our work is demanded.

WE HAVE mentioned the problem of migration and part time attendance at classes. To solve this it was felt that an effort should be made to teach the child all the essential truths of his faith during the year instead of concentrating on one phase, such as the Commandments or Sacraments. This is called the concentric system or method as opposed to the segmented method. Each year of the child's training gives him the basic truths of his religion, but each

(Continued on page 6)



These San Pedro boys and girls take advantage of Release Time religion classes. They are on their way from Dana Junior High School (extreme left), to places where religion classes are held.

## St. Peter the Apostle Mission

*by Catechist C. Durkin*

OUR convent at San Pedro was opened on September 25, 1935, and placed under the patronage of St. Peter the Apostle. Four Catechists were assigned to this mission to begin work among the thousands of Mexicans, Italians, Portuguese, and Slavonians, who make up a great part of the population of San Pedro.

Historically, San Pedro dates back to the year 1542 when San Pedro Bay—now one of the world's largest harbors—was discovered by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, just fifty years after the discovery of the New World by Columbus. San Pedro was named by Sebastian Viscaino, who entered the harbor on the feast of St. Peter.

When the Catechists came to San Pedro in 1935 the population was 37,281. A census taken this fall shows the present population to be 65,000. This large increase in population was due to the great number of war workers who came

to San Pedro because of the mushroom growth of the shipbuilding industry. Now that that industry has been practically discontinued, except for repair work and the conversion of warships into trading vessels, many of the workers have stayed on in San Pedro even though they have had to go in to other industries.

There are two Catholic Churches in San Pedro—Mary, Star of the Sea and Holy Trinity. Mass is also said in the community halls at Banning Homes, Channel Heights, and Western Terrace,—all government housing projects.

We are now teaching in seventeen catechetical centers, eleven of which are in San Pedro. The other centers are in Wilmington, Torrance, and Lomita parishes. Instead of the original four Catechists, our number has grown to nine. Two thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight children are enrolled in our classes.

## THE CATECHIST AND THE FAR WEST

(Continued from page 4)

year presents it more in detail, considering his grade level, intelligence, and former religious education. In this way, if circumstances demand that the child miss a year or two of catechism classes because he is away from the parish, he has obtained a basic knowledge of all truths in his religion.

THE laity have co-operated splendidly with the priests and Sisters in giving aid whenever and wherever it was needed. In many sections where there is a large concentration of children, they are needed to assist in teaching. To equip them for this important task, teacher training courses have been conducted to give them the tools with which to do an effective job. The requirements for lay teachers is now three semesters of attendance at these courses. Model lesson plans have been formulated to further aid them in their work, for this complete guide helps them in covering the year's program in an orderly and interesting manner.

ONE most important part of the Confraternity program is that in which the Missionary Catechists participate. They are indeed an integral section of the whole Confraternity picture. For the last sixteen years they have been laboring in the catechetical field, in the crowded areas and in the country. They have seen their greatest success among the Mexican people. Their houses have been placed at vantage spots throughout the diocese and only lately another has been added (which opened just a few months ago) in the parish of Our Lady of Soledad, Los Angeles, where they have already enrolled 1300 children. Last year the Missionary Catechists taught some 9,400 children in their catechism classes. These were enrolled in forty centers throughout the archdiocese. Out of these, 3,700 students were on the released time program. This picture gives some indication of the work of the Society of Missionary Catechists, whose labors have been dedicated to the basic principles of the Confraternity program.

THE Catechists have proven especially effective in the released time program. A program that includes complete coverage of all possible Catholic children eligible for release demands two things: an interesting class and vigilant home visitation. Many children do not acquaint their parents with the benefits of released time, nor with its availability. As a result, many do not sign the necessary release card. A visit to the home by a representative of the Church will help greatly in explaining to the parent the

value of religious instruction and the formalities connected with the program. Home visitation can increase enrollment greatly. Since the children in many cases, however, have not the watchful eyes of their parents encouraging their attendance, an interesting class must be provided to keep their attention and enthusiasm at a high pitch. The Missionary Catechists have provided both these requirements: well planned class work and painstaking home visiting. They have inspired many others to higher standards when working with the public school children.

ALL in all, the Confraternity has been striving to provide adequate religious education for all those who are not under the saving influence of parochial schools. Besides the activities mentioned above, an integrated program has been prepared for the children of junior high and senior high school age. Adult study clubs have been organized to further ground Catholics in the tenets of the faith. In order to provide a workable yet interesting program, project books have been published for use in the vacation school to hold the child's interest, and through the senses of touch and sight, in addition to hearing, teach him his religion. Visual aids in the form of slides have been initiated to add yet another feature to the religious program.

THE Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in Los Angeles might cite as the most heartening sign in its work the co-operation on the part of the priests, religious, and laity. When many are apathetic or vaguely interested, effective work can never be accomplished. This is not the case in the Far West, however, for over 400 lay people engaged in the work of the vacation school last summer and a great many Sisters lent their talents to make the work a real success.

THIS characteristic of co-operation can be seen in the labors of the Missionary Catechists. Knowing from experience the work of this band of valiant apostles, knowing their effectiveness from working side by side with them for sixteen years, the Los Angeles Confraternity is heartened to see them reach this silver milestone in their arduous march through the vineyard of the Lord. The Confraternity extends to them its warmest congratulations and offers a fervent prayer that they shall be given the grace to continue in their labors, zealous and strong as they have been in the past.

**OUR COVER:** Children from San Fernando, California, with Catechist Catherine Olberding, Superior General.



Mass is offered and Benediction given once a week in Catechists' Convent Chapel at Azusa.

## A Field of Activity

by Catechist Loretta Bergerie

**F**IVE Catechists arrived in Azusa on the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, September 15, 1937, in time for the formal opening and blessing of the Azusa Convent by His Excellency, the Most Reverend John J. Cantwell, D.D., LL.D., Archbishop of Los Angeles.

Azusa was placed under the patronage of Our Lady, Refuge of Sinners, with the hope and prayer that Our Blessed Mother through the labors and efforts of the Azusa Catechists would be instrumental in bringing many souls to the feet of her Divine Son.

On December 21, 1937, Mass was offered for the first time in our beautiful chapel. Since that time Mass has been offered weekly in our Convent chapel and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament has been given once a week or oftener.

During July of 1937, before Azusa was formally opened, six Catechists conducted a very successful vacation school in Azusa and Puente.

By the end of the first year of mission work, 1764 children from Azusa and six nearby towns had been enrolled in catechism classes by the five Catechists working from Azusa. In these seven towns there were twelve centers.

After four years, one Catechist was added to the Azusa community, and two years later two more, so that Azusa now has eight Catechists who are working in twelve towns, with a total of twenty-three centers, and an enrollment of 3282 children.

In March, 1944, the Catechists conducted their first Release Time class in Azusa. Over 150 children were enrolled from the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. Through Release Time we have been able to enroll older boys and girls who would not come after school for religious instruction. We are now conducting Release Time classes in thirteen schools.

Before Release Time classes began in Azusa

the Pastor had the two front rooms of the parish hall equipped as regular classrooms, with blackboards, bulletin boards, and regular school desks. Blackboards and bulletin boards were also put in the back room and in other parts of the hall used as classrooms. This was a great improvement and very helpful for all our classes—regular as well as Release Time.

In addition to catechism classes, the Catechists train the altar boys and choir. Azusa also boasts a good Sodality. The boys and girls have separate weekly meetings but conduct their socials together. The Sodality uses the Convent club room for meetings and the parish hall for larger socials.

Parties are of frequent occurrence. They are never omitted at Christmas or at the end of vacation school classes, and take place on many other important occasions during the school year.

A Christmas play is a tradition in Azusa. Children from the kindergarten to Sodalists out of school take part in the program.

Each day during the month of May special devotions are conducted in church. Little girls ranging in age from three to twelve, dressed in white and wearing white veils, stand in line at the rear of the church. After each decade of the rosary they walk up the center aisle of the church carrying flowers and, after genuflecting

two at a time, they give their flowers to the altar boys who place them on the altar of Our Blessed Mother. A hymn to Our Blessed Mother is sung while the flowers are being offered. The children return to the back of the church and a Catechist gives them more flowers. After the fifth offering the little girls take their places in the front pews near Our Blessed Mother's altar. Benediction is then given and devotions conclude with all the congregation singing, "Adios, Reina del Cielo."

On the last day of the month Our Blessed Mother is crowned by one of the Sodalists, selected because of her faithfulness. This is always a red letter day for the parish, especially for the children and the sodalists. Two of the most faithful little boys are chosen to be pages, and the most faithful of the little girls carries the crown. The Sodalist who crowns Our Blessed Mother is attended by two other sodalists. The Sodality girls wear their capes and caps and the boys their sweaters. All the congregation walks in procession around the church, singing and praying the rosary. When all are in their places in church Our Blessed Mother is crowned. Reception of new members into the Sodality takes place after the crowning. Sermon and Benediction follow. Then after receiving the individual blessing of the priest, all return to their homes happy in having shown their love and devotion to their Heavenly Mother.



Catechist Kowalewski teaches group of Release Time children in well equipped classroom in Azusa parish hall.

During the month of June daily devotions are conducted the same as during the month of May, except that it is the boys who offer flowers to the Sacred Heart. The boys wear red ribbons with a Sacred Heart badge over their shoulders.

During the past ten years many new families have come to live in our field of work and some of the old families have moved away, but there are still many families here who were here since we opened our center. A large number of our

present Sodality boys and girls attended the first classes held here and have been faithful in their attendance from kindergarten upward. Some who received their First Holy Communion in the first First Communion class are officers in the sodality, and one member of the Sodality is now a Postulant at our Motherhouse.

May Our Lady, Refuge of Sinners, continue to bless our mission and bring more and more souls to the feet of her Divine Son!

## "The Harvest is Great"

by Catechist Mary Ann Seewaldt

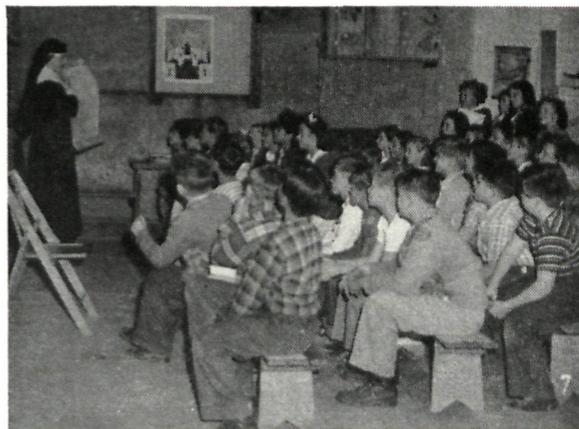
AT THE foot of the Sierra Madre Mountains, is the parish of Nuestra Senora de la Soledad which was established in 1926. In this area there now live about 2500 families. Since 1931 the Claretian Fathers have served the needs of the people, and at present Reverend Anthony Catalina, C.M.F., is the pastor.

Nuestra Senora de la Soledad is a typical city parish in which many nationalities are represented, but the Mexican predominates. It is one of the largest parishes in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. About 400 children attend the parochial school which is located near the Church. Three public schools, Riggin, Brooklyn, and Eugene take care of the balance of the 3,000 children of the parish, and all these children must receive religious instruction outside of school. Brooklyn is one of the largest elementary schools in the city. Eugene has over 200 mentally retarded children.

Right Reverend Monsignor Edward R. Kirk, Pastor of St. Basil's Church, and his parishioners have always taken a lively interest in the children attending Riggin School. Under the auspices of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, some of the women of St. Basil's gave their time for religious instruction. In 1942 the Catechists of the Infant of Prague Convent in St. Isabel's Parish were given charge of the work, assisted by these pioneer lay teachers. Monsignor Kirk by his generous donation has made possible the building of a convent for the Catechists working in Soledad.

September 15, 1946, the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, marked the formal opening of the convent of San Basilio in Soledad parish. At present the Catechists' work is divided among four centers. There are 1300 children enrolled in the classes, a great number of whom receive

religious instruction through the release time program. As in every mission field, foreign or domestic, "The harvest indeed is great, but the laborers are few."



Catechist Roels with an interested group of Release Time children from Leland District, one of San Pedro's seventeen centers.

This issue of our magazine features the work of the Missionary Catechists in the great Archdiocese of Los Angeles. During the year 1945-1946, the Catechists in this archdiocese taught in forty centers and had an enrollment of 9,400 children. In the fall of 1946 another house was opened in Soledad Parish, Los Angeles, making a total of six convents and adding—before the first of the year—1300 children to last year's enrollment.

The first convent for Missionary Catechists in the Archdiocese was opened at Santa Paula in 1930, with our present Superior General, Catechist Catherine Olberding, as Superior.

The Editor



Interested but shy, Maria manages a smile for the Madres who visit her home in their round of census taking.

VISITING in Los Angeles has its ups and downs in the literal sense of the word. Some homes are reached by climbing two or three flights of stairs or going up a steep embankment. In other localities it may be just the opposite—the roofs of the houses are on a level with the sidewalk so that we have to descend several flights in order to reach them.

We never know what kind of greeting we will receive when visiting the homes, especially when taking census from door to door. One day in response to our ring, a little boy of five or six opened the door. A voice from upstairs called to him, "Who is it, Tommy?" He answered, "It's . . . it's some . . . it's some . . . oh, I don't know. You'd better come and see."

Another time a small child was playing inside an open door as we approached to knock. Seeing us, she called to her mother, "Mummy, it's the Catholic Churches!"

Home visiting is invaluable in finding the spiritual pulse of the family. Poverty marks the

## In The Home Field

PATRICIO WANTS JESUS

home of Jose and Teresa, but the well-cared for shrine of the Sacred Heart and the well-used rosary lying on it show riches beyond compare.

A new family moved into Fickett Street. Inquiries revealed that the older boy, now out of school, had not made his First Communion, and private instructions were arranged for him. In two other cases the mothers of large families had not made their First Communion, and they too, were enrolled for private instructions.

In the Chapel district of Resurrection Parish, we have found several cases where the child is leading the way. Visits to the homes showed that the parents were interested in the Catholic faith. This induced them to permit their children to attend instructions. Then little by little, as the children relate at home what they have learned in class, the interest of the parents grows. At times the children seek the help of Mother or Dad in an assignment and the parents thus imbibe a knowledge of our faith. Grace works silently and imperceptibly to them, but visibly to us, and we keep them on our visiting list, trusting that some day their little ones may lead them straight to the Heart of Christ.

Catechist Margaret Baschnagel  
Los Angeles, California.



Catechist Killian with some of the prayer class children at San Pedro.



Patricio pays Catechist Krohn a visit in the back yard at San Pedro.

I MET Patricio one Sunday morning in the vestibule of the church. Barefoot, face dirty, shirt tail hanging out, and a wooden gun under his arm, he wandered in with the crowd. As he was only four, I tried to encourage him to go home . . . but Patricio was going to Mass.

I had almost forgotten about him, when at the beginning of Mass I felt a tug at my elbow, and there stood Patricio gun in hand. Foreseeing possible disaster, I convinced him to give me the gun. Then contrary to my expectations, Patricio was perfectly quiet and apparently very much interested in the Mass.

"Is that man up there giving money away?" asked Patricio when he saw the people going up to Holy Communion.

"No," I replied, "he is giving Jesus to the people."

"Oh!" said Patricio, and he lapsed into silence.

At the Post Communion he again pulled my arm, and said loud enough for the children around him to hear, "Say, I'd like to get Jesus, too." The children looked at him and grinned.

"Maybe you will some day when you are a little bigger," I whispered. And once more Patricio was quiet.

Patricio was so taken up with the ceremonies that by the time Benediction was over he had completely forgotten his gun. When he was

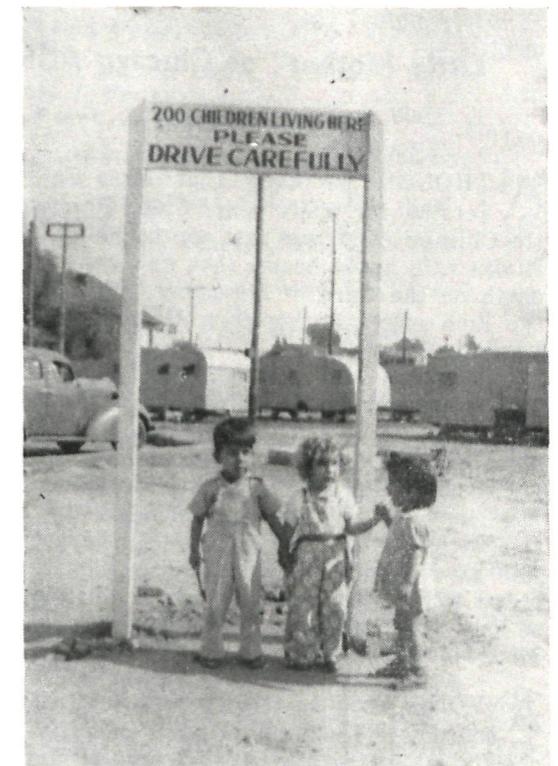
safely outside the church, I returned it to him.

The following day when I made a visit to the church, I found Patricio and his little sister kneeling on the Communion rail trying to light a vigil light. Patricio had a nickel in one hand and a few wilted flowers in the other. Not at all perturbed he asked, "Will I get Jesus if I put my nickel in here?" Evidently Patricio was used to playing slot machines!

I told Patricio how Jesus lived in the tabernacle and how one day when he was older Jesus would come right into his heart. But meanwhile wouldn't he like to kneel down and talk to Jesus? He would and he did, Little Sister kneeling beside him. Little Sister must have dressed herself for her dress was on backward and she had no shoes or stockings on.

After their talk with Jesus was over, the children waited until I lit the vigil light for them and placed their flowers on the altar of the Sacred Heart. Then hand in hand they went on their way.

Catechist Catherine Durkin  
San Pedro, California



Trailer Camp at Los Angeles.

# Associate Catechists



Dear Associates:

WE feel our "outside of Chicago" Bands will pardon us for devoting the greater part of our space this month to Mrs. Catherine Service, recently deceased, when we explain that this generous-souled woman was closely identified with our Society and its auxiliary organization, the Associate Catechists of Mary, from their pioneer days. Chicago, as most of you must know, is the birth-place of our ACM. It was not until Victory-Noll was built and our work became better known that Bands began to be formed in other cities and states.

## "Little Mother" of Chicago ACM

### Taken in Death

ALTHOUGH we knew that Mrs. Catherine Service, for many years Chief Promoter of the Chicago ACM, was fast approaching her end, it was with heavy hearts that we learned of her death on the third of December, 1946, through the kind offices of her long time friend, Mrs. Louis J. Owens.

WE were sorrowful and yet a ray of spiritual joy penetrated the gloom which had settled down on us when we called to mind the day of her passing. It was the Feast-day of the greatest Missionary in the Church's calendar—St. Francis Xavier. Could we not piously believe that this great lover of God and souls had come to escort to her eternal reward one who had labored so long and so faithfully for God's poor and His Missionaries?

ANYONE who has tried it will agree that to dedicate one's life and one's energies to a charitable enterprise without any thought of personal gain or reward is, humanly speaking, one of the hardest and most thankless tasks one

can possibly assume. Only the valiant and those who remind themselves day after day, "I am doing this work for God and to gain souls to His knowledge, love and service and not for any human applause" can persevere for any length of time in such a calling. The faint hearted and less generous soon find excuses for desisting from further efforts.



Mrs. Catherine Service, R.I.P.

### A Beggar For Christ And His Dear Poor

TO become known as a beggar for Christ and His Dear Poor is to be ready to face any personal discomfort or inconvenience which might arise as part of the price to be paid for such an unworldly honor. Countless were the trips by street car, by elevated trains, and by taxi (Mrs. Service owned no car of her own) from one end of the vast city of Chicago to the other in order to interest a new friend in our cause or to get a new Band successfully started. She confessed to us that one of her strategic moves was to secure new members for a club leader until the Band had greatly grown in numbers. With a professional eye she could detect

# of Mary



those of leadership ability, and then would come the tactful recommendation that the Band be divided into two separate groups. In this manner she greatly increased the number of Chicago Bands.

OUR former Chief Promoter not only took a dollar which was pressed into her hand for our Missionary works, she took everything else which was offered. It was not long before her home began to look like a warehouse of some kind, with its bags of clothing, utensils, and an endless variety of discarded objects. Neither she nor the members of her family were heard to complain about this burdensome part of her work. It was all for Christ and His dear poor.

### "The Financial Tail of Our Spiritual Kite"

MRS. SERVICE had numerous quaint expressions descriptive of the part she had in our work. Of these the best remembered and most typical of her was her coined phrase, "I wish to be the financial tail of your spiritual kite." It was typical because it portrayed at once her humility, faith, and charity.

### Apostolate of Suffering

Advancing age and declining health obliged our dear friend to give up her cherished missionary activities about five years ago. From that time on she could aid us only by her prayers, sufferings, and sacrifices. So much does God value these latter when offered to Him through the Pure Hands of Mary (Mrs. Service was always a devoted client of Mary) that it may well be these last hidden years were the most fruitful years of her long apostolate.

### "A Thousand Welcomes"

WE are certain that Mrs. Service not only had a welcome from her Lord and Master whom she served so well and from Our Blessed Mother whose praises were ever on her lips, but from the numerous poor whom she had helped in life and who had preceded her in death.

MAY her great and holy soul rest in peace.

### DO NOT FORGET THE BEDSPREAD RAFFLE!

WE wish again to remind you of the Central Committee, Chicago Area, ACM luncheon to be held in the Chicago Loop District on Saturday, March 9, at which the beautiful hand

crocheted bedspread made and donated by Mrs. C. J. Sauthier, Promoter of Our Lady, Queen of Angels Band, Los Angeles, will be disposed of for the benefit of our Catechists. We urge everyone to pray for its success. Band members and readers of THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST interested in lending active support to this project should communicate with Miss Marie Dwyer, 7619 May Street, Chicago 20, Ill.

### ACM BAND CONTRIBUTIONS

November 29 to December 18, 1946

Charitina, Club No. 2, Paris, Illinois, Miss Mary C. Gibbons	\$ 70.00
Christ the King Band, Detroit, Miss Elizabeth Bien	40.00
Ellen Lemm Circle, Chicago, Miss Carmen U. White	4.00
Good Will Mission Circle, Carrollton, Ky., Mrs. L. Framme	7.00
Holy Family Band, Chicago, Joseph Walz, Sec.	11.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary Group, a Chicago Bridge Club	7.00
Infant of Prague Band, Chicago, Mrs. Kay Eichhorn	1.00
Les Petites Fleurs, Chicago, Miss Elsie Jachman	77.00
Maywood Social Club, Maywood, Ill., Mrs. Forest Lehman	9.00
Our Lady of Victory Band, Brooklyn, N. Y., Miss Marion Foley	75.00
Our Lady of Victory Circle, Omaha, Neb., Mrs. Edw. McCaffrey	5.00
Poor Souls Band, Berwyn, Ill., Mrs. J. V. McGovern	25.00
Sacred Heart Mission Society, Newark, N. Y., Mary Muscolino	20.00
St. Bridget Band, Bellevue, Ky., Miss Grace Kern	3.75
St. George Band, Chicago, Miss Marie Vaughn	57.25
St. Joseph Band, Chicago, Miss Anna Knusman	25.00
St. Katherine Band, Chicago, Mrs. Katherine Hammer	30.00
St. Margaret Mary Band, Omaha, Neb., Mrs. Frances Shanahan	5.00
St. Mary Band, Chicago, Mrs. Annie Hansen	100.00
St. Michael Guild, Chicago, Mrs. Dale Bryant	15.00
St. Rose Band, Marshfield, Wis., Mrs. J. J. Huebl	116.00
Via Matris Band, Chicago, Miss Dorothy O'Brien	25.00

# Fiesta Time in San Fernando

by Catechist M. Ellen Gallagher

SAN FERNANDO is rich in traditions of the founding of the Old Mission for which this city is named. Commemorating this event, the citizens celebrate annually with an elaborate fiesta which lasts a week. Everyone takes part in it and all are carried back in spirit to San Fernando's pioneer days.

During fiesta time the women become señoritas in beautiful Spanish costumes, including the traditional high combs and lace mantillas. This colorful pageantry is heightened in the fiesta parade which takes place near the end of the week. The numerous floats of the parade depict scenes of pioneer days in San Fernando. The outstanding float is "The Coming of the Padres."

The two evenings after the parade are devoted to the "Mission Play," which is presented on the grounds of the San Fernando Mission. Most of the cast are San Fernando residents who devote their time and talent to this part of the fiesta program. They make it possible for the deeds of the Franciscan Padres to be again honored.

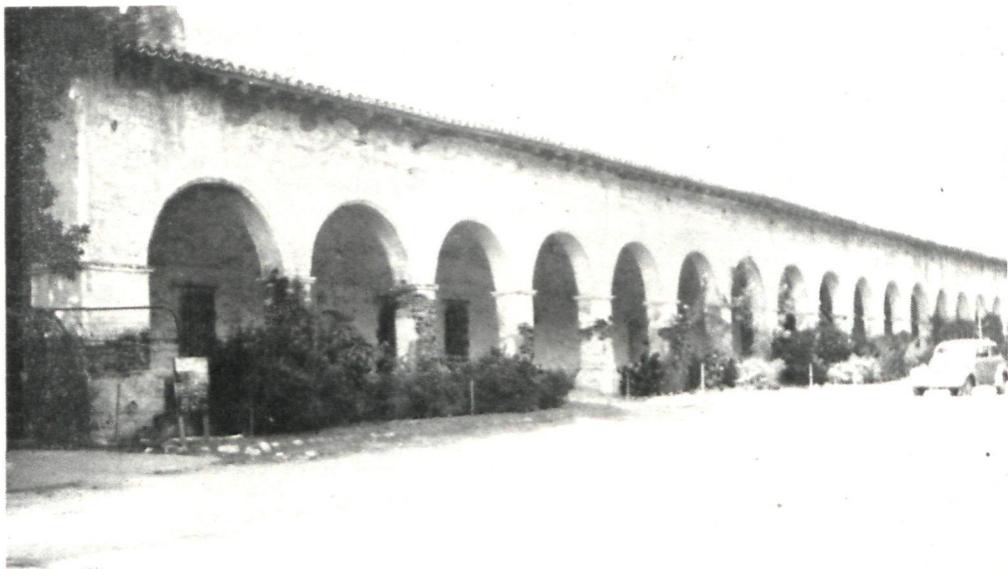
Besides this annual pageantry which keeps alive the spirit of the Old Mission, San Fernando has a park which was part of the Mission grounds. It is situated directly across from the Old Mission building. This location produces such a picturesque effect that one almost expects a Franciscan Padre to emerge from behind

the heavy doors of the building. Too, one is tempted to look in the corners of the garden for an Indian who might be grinding corn on one of the crude implements preserved at the mission.

This park, which is known as Memory Garden, typifies the Old Mission City. Everyone seems to feel at home in it with its charming arrangement of flowers, trees, and fountains. The children especially are fascinated by this quaint but beautiful setting. They often ask, "When are we going to the Old Mission?"

We have gone to the park with the children on several occasions and have been amused as we watched them looking intently at the statue of Father Serra with a little Indian boy. Finally they will ask, "Who are the Padre and little boy? Why are they here?" The children like to run through the large vat which the Padres used to use for the rendering of tallow. The fountains from which the Indians drew water also fascinate them.

Many years have passed since the Franciscan Padres and the Indians were actually a part of the Mission's picturesque setting. But the memories and appreciation of the valiant deeds of the Padres will ever remain with the residents of the city which had its beginning with the founding of Mission San Fernando.



San Fernando Mission, one of the twenty-one missions established by Fray Junipero Serra.



Photo by Studio of Modern Photography, Los Angeles, Calif.

Catechists at Infant of Prague Convent, Los Angeles.

## In the City of the Angels

by Catechist Muriel Balch

THE Convent of the Infant of Prague was opened in St. Elizabeth's parish on the feast of the Nativity of our Blessed Mother, September 8, 1942. East Los Angeles from a "heaven's-eye" view is an immense field of souls. Hoping to reap at least a little of this overwhelming harvest, the Catechists began their work in three of the Eastside parishes: St. Elizabeth's, Resurrection, and Monte Carmelo.

St. Elizabeth's parish, though only six-tenths of a mile square, has a population of 2800 souls, and of these 800 are school children. Classes are held for these children both on the release time system and after school hours.

Resurrection parish is much larger in territorial extent and has over 3600 Catholics within its boundaries. The steady influx of Catholic families necessitated an extra Sunday Mass near

the edge of the parish. To cope with the situation the pastor bought a garage which with a little remodeling was transformed into a chapel. But the numbers continue to grow and though the chapel is filled to capacity each Sunday, it does not accommodate the congregation. Home visiting constantly adds to these numbers, since census taking reveals more families who have strayed from the Church during the abnormal war period and who are now grateful for a helping hand to lead them back to their religious duties.

Monte Carmelo, our third parish, has about 700 souls, of whom 250 are children of school age.

In the first years of the Infant of Prague Con-

(Continued on page 18)



# Mary's Loyal

Dear Loyal Helpers:

YOU'VE been such generous *givers*. You are ever ready to sacrifice Sunshine pennies for Missionaries. Had you been selfish those pennies would have bought candy or gum or a bag of marbles or some jacks. But let's check up a bit. Have you been good *pray-ers* also? Do you always remember to say a Hail Mary or the Memorare for our Catechists each day? Our Catechists in the Missions often meet with disappointment when they try to get some old person to return to the Sacraments who has been away from the Church twenty, thirty years, or even longer. Maybe they need your Hail Mary to do it. No, you don't have to wear your knees out. It would be nice if you stopped into church on your way home from school to say that Hail Mary before the Blessed Sacrament, but God is everywhere. The Three Divine Persons make Their abode in the heart of every Christian (yes, every child) who is in a state of grace, so you can turn your spiritual eyes inward and say your Hail Mary as you ride the school bus or trudge along home with your school books. If your talkative companion suddenly turns to you and says, "Why are you so quiet? Aren't you listening to me?" You can smile and answer, "Sure." Your pal doesn't have to know you took time out for a little chat with God about souls. *He's our best pal, you know.*

UNTIL next month, I am  
*Mary-ly yours,*  
SUNSHINE SECRETARY.

## FEBRUARY—MONTH OF THE HOLY FACE

O suffering Face of Jesus,  
Bleeding, soiled, and torn,  
Thy temple and Thy brow transfixed  
With many a cruel thorn!

"ALL LINED UP BEHIND OUR  
MISSIONARIES"

Boys and girls we are mighty proud to introduce you to the members of *Mary's Loyal Helpers Club* of Breese, Illinois.



Reading from left to right the five younger children in the front row are: Bertha Wilke, Irma Wilke, Annie Kampwerth, Marcella Schrage, and George Kampwerth. Reading from left to right the four older children in the back row are: Mary Anne Wilke, Rita Kampwerth, Raymond Schrage, and Marie Anne Schrage.

The Wilke girls have two sisters, Catechist Martha and Catechist Henrietta, in our Society and it was to help toward their support that this little club was organized. In less than four months' time these children sent us \$28.35, so you can see for yourselves how hard they've been working.

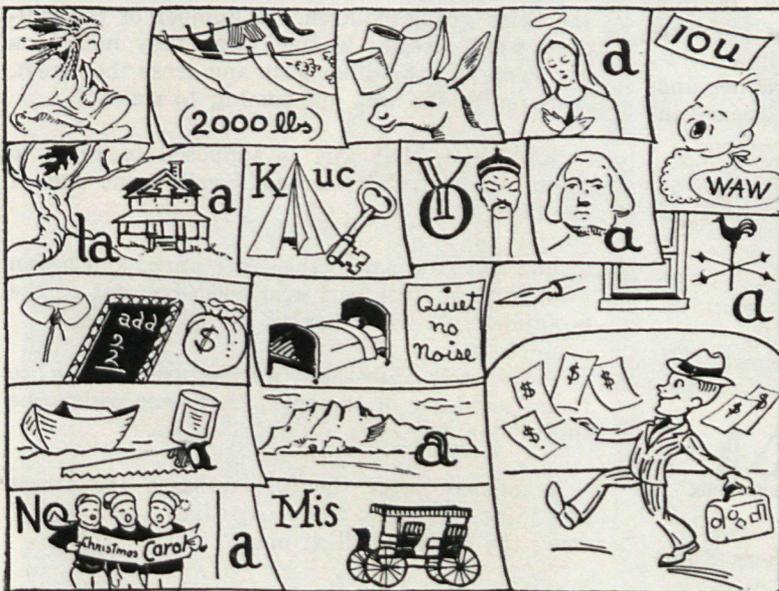
## OHIO HELPER

We are happy to make you acquainted with *Pauline Marchal* of Houston, Ohio. Pauline is a junior in high school and joined us about 18 months ago. We have some more Loyal Helpers out her way. Their little town lies in a rural district which is thoroughly Catholic and the children are well trained in their large parish school.



# Helpers Pages

DO YOU KNOW YOUR STATES? THEN TRY THIS PUZZLE.



Happy Harry was a traveling salesman. He was always in a happy state of mind, for in every State he sold his wares and life for him was sublime. But in which States of the U.S.A. did he make the biggest sales? If you can guess most of them we will send you a holy card.



This is *Lois Beall* of Chicago, Illinois. Our new Helper is 11 years old and in the seventh



grade. Her Aunt Helen is our Catechist Beall who is doing missionary work in New Mexico. David Mills who was pictured on these pages in November is her cousin. You will agree that Lois belongs to a mission-minded family.

## "PULLING HARD FOR THE MISSIONS"

Here is another snapshot of the members of Mary's Loyal Helpers Club of Detroit, Michigan, which Mark Power, one of their number, organized about two years ago.



## IN THE CITY OF THE ANGELS

(Continued from page 15)

vent's missionary life, the children of the Soledad parish were also taken for instruction. In this parish of 11,000 souls, the number of children grew to such proportions that it was impossible to take care of it from Infant of Prague, and in September, 1946, another house was opened in Soledad parish.

Yes, East Los Angeles is an immense field of souls ripe for the harvest.



Order following booklets from: Fathers Rumble & Carty, St. Paul 1, Minn.:

*The Fair Flower of Eden, the Spotless Mother of God*, by Rev. M. D. Forrest, M.S.C. Apologetics on devotion to Our Blessed Mother, price \$1.00, paper bound.

*What is the Catholic Faith Anyway?* by Rev. John J. Dussman, M.A. Price 20c

*The Way of the Cross for Children*, by Rev. Dr. L. Rumble, M.S.C., with fourteen Holy Face etchings by Hippolyte Lazerges. Price, 15c.

*The Three Hours and All Fridays of the Year*, arranged for congregational use. Booklet also contains the Way of the Cross and fourteen Holy Face etchings by Hippolyte Lazerges. Price 35c

*Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament*, Ejaculatory Prayers and Invocations, arranged for congregational use during Holy Hours and for private visits to the Blessed Sacrament. Compiled by Rev. Charles M. Carty, price 15c.

*First Friday and June Devotions to the Sacred Heart*, arranged for congregational use by Rev. Charles M. Carty, price 15c.

*Why A Mission Sister?* Vocation pamphlet by Rev. M. D. Forrest, M.S.C., price 15c.

*The Burial Service and Funeral Mass*, edited and explained by Rev. William H. Schulte, Ph.D., price 50c.

## The Guardian Angel Won

ONE Friday afternoon I was standing at the gate of one of our public schools waiting for the third grade children. A number of the children were already in line when they noticed a girl come out the other gate and cross the street. Apparently she was not coming to class.

"Catechist, that girl is supposed to come to class, and she isn't coming!" called out one of the boys.

Just at that moment the girl stopped and began talking to another girl who had come out of the building right after her.

"The devil and their angels are talking to them," said one of the boys. "Let's see which one they listen to."

A moment later the girls crossed the street and joined the line. "The Guardian angel won!" cried the children all at once.

Little do we realize what the children get out of our classes. The previous week the lesson had been on the Guardian Angels, and evidently it had struck home.

Catechist Mary Masterson  
Soledad Parish  
Los Angeles, California.



Mrs. Catherine Service, Chicago, Ill.  
Mrs. Mary Green, Chicago, Ill.  
Jeremiah Howard, Chicago, Ill.  
Delia Torrence, Chicago, Ill.  
Mrs. Alice Fenton, Chicago, Ill.  
Mrs. Mary Green, Chicago, Ill.  
Hazel Brotherton, Baldwinville, N. Y.  
Mrs. Joseph Kern, Mankato, Minn.  
John Nolan, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Mr. A. F. Schindler, Stayton, Oregon.  
Miss Rose Holland, Passaic, N. J.  
Mathias Young, Elizabeth, Pa.  
Mrs. Margaret E. Murphy, Marion, Ind.  
Jerome F. McCune, St. Louis, Mo.  
Marie L. Pranger, Fort Wayne, Ind.  
Mrs. George Rocklin, Chicago, Ill.  
Mrs. William Volkmann, Chicago, Ill.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.



Photo by S. Barrios Studio.

Our Convent at Santa Paula, the first mission of the Catechists in the great Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

## In the Footsteps of the Padres

by Catechist W. Leuchtefeld

SANTA PAULA is ideally situated in the narrow Santa Clara Valley, commanding a beautiful view of the surrounding mountains, and only fifteen miles from the ocean. The breezes from the ocean which sweep over the valley every day in summer make the climate a delightful one.

The city takes its name from the "Rancho Santa Paula," a land grant of almost 18,000 acres issued in 1840. This immense ranch has been broken up, giving place to towns, cities, and smaller ranches.

Within a short distance of Santa Paula are the old missions of San Fernando, Buenaventura, and Santa Barbara. These are three of the missions established by Fray Junipero Serra more than one hundred and seventy-five years ago. In his effort to convert the Indians, Father Serra traveled the length of California, establishing twenty-one missions along El Camino Real—the King's Highway—each mission located within a day's journey on foot from the adjoining one.

In 1930 our mission at Santa Paula was opened in order to bring religious instruction to the children in Ventura County (named in honor of St. Bonaventure). For sixteen years the Catechists have instructed all the Catholic children in this locality, as the nearest Catholic school is fifteen miles away.

Equipped with charts, pictures, and even a movie projector, we go daily to one or more of our teaching centers where we teach the ever old, ever new lesson of God's love for men—the same lesson that Father Serra and his Franciscan confreres taught as they went on foot from mission to mission in California's early days.

We now have 1300 children enrolled in our classes at St. Sebastian and Our Lady of Guadalupe parishes in Santa Paula, and in our centers at Saticoy, Saticoy Camp, Fillmore, Piru, Moorpark, and Simi.

In most of our centers the children from the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades are released one period a week for religion classes.

# 2500 Club



**The gift of SELF is the greatest gift.**

If YOU are not called to personal service in the missions, you can give yourself by helping THOSE who are actively engaged in the mission field.

The Missionary Catechists consecrate their lives to the sublime work of bringing Christ to others. If you wish to share in their work and in the eternal reward, you will welcome our 2500 CLUB as a convenient way of doing so.

*The 2500 CLUB is an association of persons who contribute \$1.00 a month or \$12.00 a year to help the Catechists carry on their work for souls.*

## Membership Application

Dear Catechists,

Please enroll me in the 2500 CLUB for one year. I shall pray for the Catechists and contribute one dollar each month towards their support.

Name .....

Address .....

City ..... Zone ..... State .....