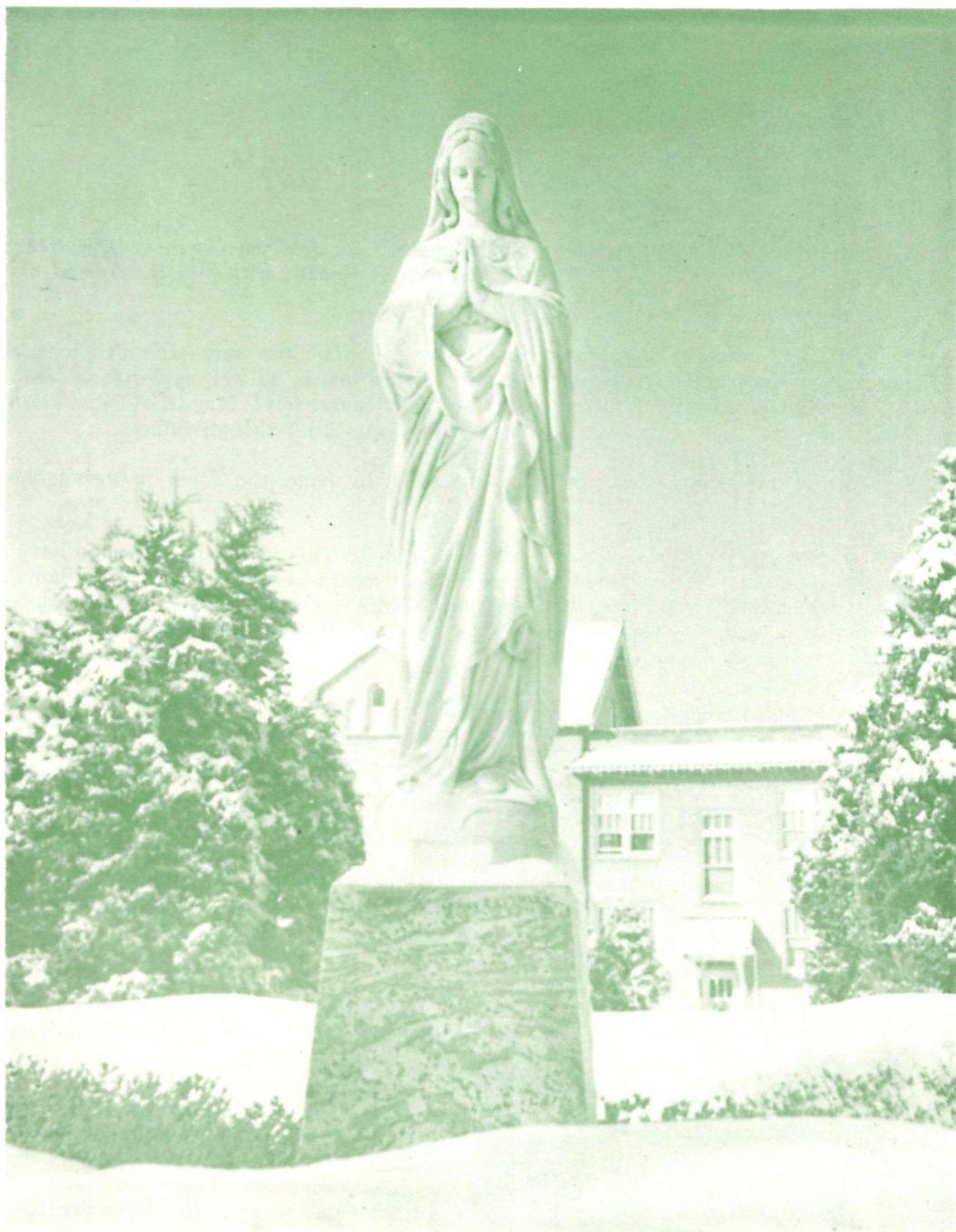


The Missionary Catechist



Volume XXVII

Number 2

January, 1951

ALL FOR JESUS THROUGH MARY

563 W. O'Farrell Street
San Pedro, California
December 27, 1950

DEAR Mother and Dad,

May the Infant Jesus bestow upon you that peace and joy that were in the Heart of our Blessed Mother on the day of His birth. And may it remain with you throughout the coming year.

First of all, I wish to thank you for the lovely gifts you sent—the delicious chocolates and hard candy, the travel alarm and the dandy clothes brush, as well as the large box of those delicious home-made cookies. We are enjoying them immensely! May the little Jesus bestow many spiritual and temporal favors upon you for your kind thoughtfulness.

How was your Christmas? Did Uncle Nick come in from the farm to spend the holiday with you?

We had a lovely Christmas. Let me tell you about it! This year I happened to have the community room assigned to me as one of my chores. That meant also that I was to be Santa's helper. The room was locked for three days before Christmas since it was Santa's workshop. (The enclosed snapshots will give you an inside view of some of the "cloistered" parts of our little convent.)



December twenty-fourth found us busy as bees preparing for the birthday of our little King. Since He was to be re-born at midnight, in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in our own little house, we set up an altar on our study table in the community room. It was certainly beautiful! Lolita, one of our choir girls, brought us a huge armful of the most beautiful poinsettias I have ever seen. They made two lovely bouquets for our altar.

We went to bed rather early on Christmas Eve, and at 11:00 p.m. we were awakened from our slumber by the sweet music of Christmas carols coming from Sister Mary Millicent's violin accompanied by Sister Adriana at the organ. We dressed hurriedly and went into the community room which was softly lighted by the Christmas tree. About ten minutes to twelve Father came to offer the Holy Sacrifice for us. Really, you can imagine my great joy to think

(Continued on page 10)

The Missionary Catechist

Volume XXVII

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A
Happy
and
Blessed
New Year!



Novices at Victory Noll on their way to the refectory after Midnight Mass.

THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST is published with Ecclesiastical approbation by Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, Victory Noll, Huntington, Indiana. Issued monthly, September to June; bi-monthly, July-August. Subscription rates: \$1 a year; \$2.50 for 3 years; \$4 for 5 years; \$25 for life, payable in monthly installments; \$1.50 Canada and Foreign. Entered as second class matter December 30, 1924, at the post office at Huntington, Indiana, under the act of March 3, 1879.

O.B.L.V. Press, Victory Noll, Huntington, Indiana.

Number 2

Hidden Treasure in Missouri

by Sister Helen



Chase News Photo—Washington, D. C.

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph E. Ritter, D.D.
Archbishop of St. Louis

UNICITY is not likely to be found on a map—that is, not unless the map has been published by the Unicity Chamber of Commerce. Nevertheless, Unicity, with a population of 26,500, is a very important place—rather, it is ten important places, for it is made up of ten towns within the Lead Belt, each town a separate entity.

The largest town and the central point in Unicity is Flat River. The other towns, all located within a radius of five and one half miles from Flat River, are: Desloge, Leadwood, St. Francois, Esther, Cantwell, Elvins, River Mines, Leadington, and Bonne Terre.

With the exception of Bonne Terre, which is a parish in itself, these towns all belong to Immaculate Conception parish at Desloge. Frank-

clay, and a few smaller places, though not included in Unicity, are also part of the Immaculate Conception parish. Sacred Heart Church, which is served from Desloge, takes care of approximately one half of the parish.

ABOUT ninety-eight percent of the population of Unicity are native born Americans. A large percentage of these Americans are of French and Irish extraction, but Catholics are a very great minority in this district. Within this area are some seventy-five churches; three are Catholic. Originally a French settlement, a great many of those who followed, as the mines developed, were also Catholic—Irish, German, Polish, Greek. But as we go from door to door, we find that many of the possessors of these old Catholic names, are now Baptist, Methodist, Naz-

arene, or some other of the more than two hundred and fifty non-Catholic sects in the United States.

WE were very much surprised when we arrived in Flat River to find a thriving little town of some six thousand people. Although a mining town, Flat River is very much unlike the typical mining town, at least as such towns are portrayed in story and on screen. It is clean, quiet, orderly, progressive, rather prosperous, and very friendly. It has three grade schools, a Junior and Senior High School, a Junior College, a public library, and a very fine shopping district.

But then mining, at least mining as done here in the Lead Belt, is not what it used to be. Most of the back-breaking work is now done by machinery and requires skilled labor, with the result that the men are well paid and contented with their work.

The St. Joseph Lead Company owns all rights beneath the surface, but sells the surface property rights. About seventy-five percent of the homes in the Lead Belt are owner occupied. Private business is encouraged. There are no "Company-owned" stores as in many other mining towns.

IF we might presume to judge, after having been in the Lead Belt only ten weeks, we would say that the main interests of the people are three: religion, education, and television. For the younger generation we might add basketball as a fourth. It is the most popular sport in the Lead Belt.

That the people are vitally interested in religion, one might judge from the fact that there is one church for every 350 persons in this area. But we are not basing our opinion on the number of churches, for we know churches are not always filled. Rather have we judged of the place religion holds in the lives of the people from the interest shown in it as we go from house to house in our daily round of visiting.

SOMETIMES it seems to us that the people are just waiting for us to invite them to investigate the teachings of the Catholic Church. For instance there is the case of Mr. G. We stopped at his home one day last week. Providentially, he was working the "three to eleven" shift (as it is commonly called), so he was home that morning. Mr. G. said he was interested in the Catholic Church. When Father made the follow-up visit, he said all he had to do was set the time for Mr. G. to come for instructions.

Then there was Mr. M. He was not even

home when we called there. His wife, herself a convert, said her husband was interested in the Church. Father made the follow-up visit and now we meet Mr. M. every Monday coming from the rectory after his instruction, as we go to the church to teach the children.

Mrs. B. was not at home when we called. Later in the morning, as we were visiting on the opposite side of the street, she called to us. We went over to her home. She told us she had five children, only one of whom was baptized. She and her husband had been reared Catholics. She wanted her children instructed in the Faith. The four older ones are now coming regularly for religious instruction, and with their prayers we feel sure their parents will have the grace to return to the Sacraments.

We stopped at the home of Mrs. H. She, too, had been brought up in the Faith and had attended a parochial school. Her husband was not Catholic. She had four children. They, too, are enrolled in our classes, and each Sunday they and their mother are at Mass, even though they live about eight miles from the church.

Last Thursday we knocked at the door of Mrs. A's home. To us it was just another call, but soon Mrs. A was telling us of her interest in the Catholic Faith. As we were leaving, she told us to return on Monday and she would let us know her decision. She wanted to discuss the matter with her husband. We returned on Monday. Mrs. A. will start her instructions this week.



Mr. Mecey, the non-Catholic father of one of our pupils, transports this group to and from Religion class at Desloge twice a week.

SO far we have completed the census in two towns. In the first, out of one hundred and twenty-seven visits, we found three Catholic families, two were mixed marriages, and in the third though both parties are Catholic, only one party is a practical Catholic. In the second town, out of two hundred and eighty-nine calls, we found two Catholic families. In one of these families the mother, father, and their two sons are converts.

How to reach the children in this scattered parish was the first problem which presented itself when we arrived in Flat River. Though few in number, the children attend ten different schools. We finally decided to try out a system whereby all the children, except those from Franklsey, would come to the church at either Desloge or River Mines after school two afternoons a week, and on Saturday or Sunday we would take those children who could not get to one or other of these places. Thus it is that the children come to class on foot, in trucks, in cars, or on bicycles. One group of five come in a cab, each child paying ten cents, which does not make taxi fare too much of an item.

ON September 27, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph E. Ritter, D.D., Archbishop of St. Louis, administered the sacrament of Confirmation to one hundred and thirty-one persons in Sacred Heart and Immaculate Conception churches. Of this number, thirty-one were adults. The ages of those confirmed ranged from seven to seventy-five years.

After Confirmation at Sacred Heart Church, His Excellency paid a short visit to our convent. Then we all left for Confirmation at Immaculate Conception church. The ceremonies in both churches were beautiful and the people delighted that the Archbishop himself had come for Confirmation. The Archbishop's talk in each church was inspiring, simple enough for the children to understand, sublime enough for the adults, for his words were from the heart of a Father speaking to the hearts of his spiritual children.

HIS EXCELLENCY, the Most Reverend Charles H. Helmsing, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis, has also paid several visits to our convent. On October 6 he offered the first Mass in our chapel, and on November 12 erected the stations. The stations, the Bishop's gift to us, are very beautiful. Each station is an etching of the Head of Christ, the expression of each portraying the suffering of our Lord in that particular station. The Bishop brought the stations from Lourdes, when he stopped there last



His Excellency, the Most Reverend Charles H. Helmsing, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis.

summer on his way to Rome for his Holy Year pilgrimage.

THE spiritual needs of our people in the Lead Belt are great, and we are especially grateful for the many spiritual privileges which are ours in Immaculate Conception parish, not the least of which is the Presence of our Eucharistic King in the chapel of our little convent. Before the tabernacle we can plead at any hour of the day for the graces needed by those souls whom Our Divine Lord has entrusted to us in this portion of the vineyard.

There is a rich potential harvest of souls in this area, though at present we can count less than two hundred practical Catholic families. Living all around us are some 25,000 souls for whom the Sacred Heart is yearning. Two zealous priests, the Reverend Edmund Clohessy, Pastor, and Reverend Francis Muellner, assistant, are laboring tirelessly to give these souls to Christ, and in their labors they are aided by three Victory Noll Sisters who will not cease until everything possible has been done to win to the Heart of Christ these souls for whom He suffered and died.

It is God's will that we should receive all graces through Mary.—St. Bernard

Saluti da Roma!

OCTOBER 9, 1950

Dear Sisters, Novices and Postulants,

We are almost half way across by this time and have enjoyed every minute of it. We have many priests aboard and can assist at four Masses every day. The weather is perfect—made to order. I'm sure you all have something to do about this.

God love you,
Mother Cecilia

PARIS, October 12, 1950

Dear Sisters,

We arrived here at 2:00 p.m. Ocean voyage was most enjoyable. Tomorrow we go sightseeing, and will see the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Leave for Lourdes Saturday morning.

Love to all,
Mother Catherine

LOURDES—October 15, 1950

Dear Sisters,

We wish you were here with us to enjoy this wonderful place. Tonight we will have the torchlight procession at eight o'clock. We went to the Grotto last evening as soon as we arrived and are spending as much time there as possible. Your intentions are at the feet of our Lady of Lourdes.

Mother Cecilia

GREETINGS from Lourdes!

Dear Sister Mary Louise,

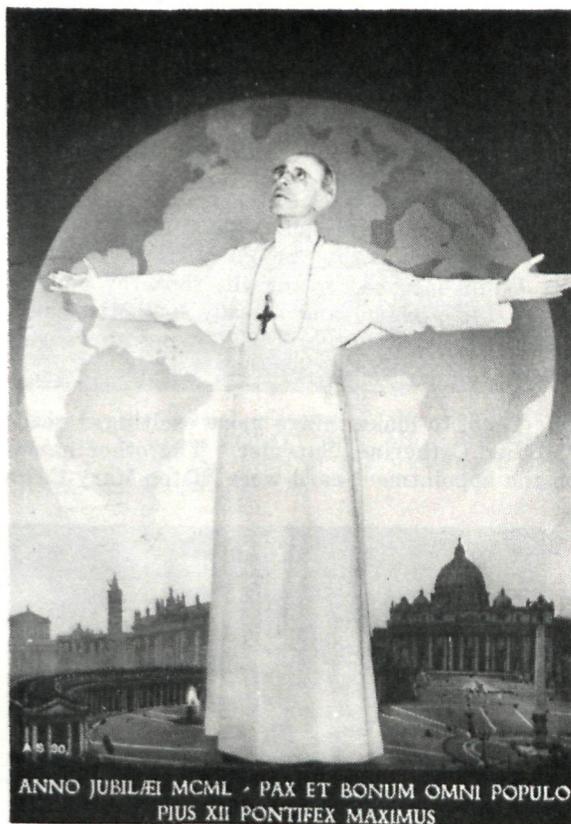
Just returned from the Grotto—praying with thousands and thousands of pilgrims. We were there for hours today and remembered you all. This place is a bit of heaven—beyond description! Heard four Masses and we were at the Grotto before five o'clock. Tonight there will be candlelight procession.

Mother Catherine

ROME—October 22, 1950

Dear Sister Mary Angela,

It is almost a week since we have written and so much has happened. We left Lourdes Tuesday and arrived in Rome Wednesday at 11:30 p.m. Thursday we made our Jubilee visits and assisted at Mass at St. Peter's. Yesterday we had the privilege of a special audience with His Holiness at Castelgandolfo. It was wonderful! In the afternoon we were in front of St.



Peter's when our Holy Father went into the Basilica for a public audience.

Thanks for your letter and the two from the other Sisters. We will leave here the evening of Nov. 1 and go to Zurich, Switzerland, to visit Einsiedeln, then to Paris or Le Havre and take the boat on the 7th. We are leaving for Assisi and Loretto today.

Mother Cecilia

Washington C.H.

by Sister Mary Patrick

Would you like to hear about Washington Courthouse? What a mystery this particular name and place was to me a few months ago.

On August fifteenth while in Ireland, I received an air mail letter from the United States. It was most remarkable that the letter was delivered early in the morning even before Mass. (In Ireland things move at a slow pace.)

Perhaps the mail man had an intuition that yearly appointments are given out on the fifteenth of August as I think this was the only letter received quite so early. On returning from Holy Mass I opened the letter, and much to my surprise I read that my assignment was a new mission in Washington C. H., Ohio.

"Washington C. H.!" the words fairly rolled out. "What kind of a place can this be?"

While I mused to myself, those around me solved the problem and already had Missionary Sisters in Washington, D.C., trying to convert the President and the Senate.

Then, to make things more exciting, I read: "Mother Catherine, Superior.' The other names on the appointment card were Sister Mary Caro-

lyn, and Sister Mary Ruth. No, I didn't know either of these two Sisters, but I did know Mother Catherine, and my worries were over.

Sister Bridget, my companion, was at this time enjoying the quiet and delightful scenery of County Clare. Perhaps Sister would know something about Washington C. H. Before I could get a letter off, I received one from Sister asking me if I knew anything about Washington C. H.

On September fourteenth we arrived in Columbus, Ohio—the last lap of our memorable and blessed journey. Soon we would get the mystery of the "C. H." solved.

Mother Catherine and Sister Mary Ruth met us at the station. How thrilling it was to see our Sisters again! As I now recall that meeting, it seems to me that in my excitement I repeated at least half a dozen times to Mother Catherine, "Mother, I am so glad you are going to Rome."

(Now that Mother has visited the Eternal City she will understand my exuberance.)

As we drove along the beautiful Ohio road we heard many interesting items about our new-



Shown with Bishop Ready are the Rev. Edward Reidy, left, pastor of St. Joseph's, Circleville, and the Rev. Otto Guenther, pastor of St. Colman's; and left to right, Sister Mary Ruth, Mother Catherine, Sister Mary Patrick, and Sister Mary Carolyn.

est mission with an occasional interjection—
“You’ll just love Washington C. H.!”

In a short time we arrived home where Sister Mary Carolyn had a delicious dinner prepared for us. Our first impression of our convent was its homey appearance—and to be right next to the church seemed wonderful! But our hearts took an extra beat when we stepped into the little room which was to be our chapel. Our kind and zealous pastor, Father Guenther, had personally planned and supervised the work put into this room, soon to become a little heaven.

Then I was told the joyous tidings—our convent would be dedicated to Our Blessed Mother under her glorious title *Saint Mary of the Assumption*. And on the twenty-eighth of September, His Excellency Bishop Ready would offer the first Holy Mass in our chapel. We actually just about counted the hours for that great day, and in our hearts we sang: “Hasten, O Lord, the time of Your visitation.” Our joy was akin to a priest’s anticipation of his first Mass. His—to hold the Saviour in his anointed hands; ours to adore, watch, and care for Him.

September twenty-eighth dawned bright and beautiful. Nature in her gorgeous array of color seemed to join us in our celebration. Present for the occasion were: His Excellency Bishop Ready; Very Rev. Monsignor Roland Winel, secretary to the Bishop; Rev. James Carroll of the Bishop’s office; Rev. Otto Guenther, pastor at Washington C. H.; Rev. Edward Reidy, pastor at Circleville, Ohio; and Mother Cecilia and Sister Mary Angela from Victory Noll.

Swiftly and quietly the Holy Sacrifice proceeded. Soon we heard the words of the *Suscipe* at the Offertory: “Receive, O holy Father, almighty and eternal God, this spotless host . . .” We Sisters paused—*yes, dear heavenly Father, accept not only this spotless host, but also our lives, our work, and every soul we meet in this new field of our missionary endeavors. May we glorify the Eternal Trinity by the least of our actions.*

At the end of the Holy Sacrifice His Excellency talked to us. Again he extended to us a hearty and warm welcome to the Diocese of Columbus. He told us how delighted he was that our convent was named in honor of the dogma of the Assumption. We claim to be one of the first to do so after the Holy Father publicly announced the coming proclamation of the dogma.

If you ever visit beautiful Ohio, won’t you come to visit our little heaven—*Saint Mary of the Assumption*—in Washington, C. H.?

January, 1951



This is the official picture of the Family Communion Crusade (P.O. Box 615, Brooklyn 1, N. Y.) and is the work of the well-known artist, Erica von Kager.

In loving devotion to the Holy Family of Nazareth, many families throughout the nation have made it a practice to receive Holy Communion regularly on a certain day of every month.

The approaching Feast of the Holy Family will fall on January 7, 1951. Why not make it “Family Day”?

“Family Union thru Family Communion”

INVOCATIONS

Jesus, Mary, Joseph.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and soul.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you.

(An indulgence of 7 years for each invocation.)



In the Home Field

(Continued from Inside Cover)

that Jesus was re-born in our own little convent just as truly as He had been born on that cold winter night so many centuries ago.

After Mass and Communion, we made a fervent thanksgiving, and then went to breakfast in the dining room, which Sister Mary John had so beautifully decorated. After breakfast, the "8" of us gathered about the tree and opened our gifts and all the mail that had accumulated since the beginning of Advent.

At 5:30 a.m. we went over to church for the Shepherds' Mass. I wish you could have been there to see Sister Margaret Ann's altar boys enter the church, walking in procession. There were about forty boys of all sizes, dressed in white cassocks with Buster Brown collars and red bow ties. All of them made a visit to the crib. The altars were banked with poinsettias—here in California they grow so plentifully. After Mass we had a second breakfast since it was already seven o'clock. It was then that we enjoyed the sausages you sent, Dad! Breakfast



finished, we hurried over to the sacristy to pack the Mass kit and go to Banning Homes, one of San Pedro's huge housing projects. Father says Mass there on the stage every Sunday. The enclosed snapshots show us packing the Mass kit in the sacristy, and unpacking and laying out vestments on the baby-grand piano in the stage dressing room at Banning Homes. The picture of the altar and Father offering Mass was also taken there.

After dinner most of us were ready for a little "siesta" as we hadn't gotten much sleep



the night before. The rest of Christmas day found us playing games, answering letters, singing carols, etc. Our community prayers, office, rosary and spiritual reading were all prayed privately that day. We had supper in buffet style around the tree. And that summarizes our day!

Mother, please tell Marge and John as well as Charlie, that I shall try to answer their letters in the near future. May God bless you!

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,
Your loving daughter, Sister Gemma

P.S. The picture of my class was taken in the auditorium of Holy Trinity church where we have catechism every Tuesday and Friday.



ONE afternoon, soon after the opening of school, we stood by the gate of the school playground at one of the numerous housing projects.

AS the children were being dismissed, we handed each Catholic boy and girl a slip of paper that told their parents when catechism classes would be held in that vicinity.

ON the first day we were to have class, many of the little ones came to school with notes

pinned to their clothes: solicitous parents were requesting the teachers to send their children to religious instruction that afternoon.

AS soon as school was dismissed, what was our surprise to see several non-Catholic teachers leading the children to the street corner where we Sisters were waiting to take them to the hall for class. Truly, a word from the parents works wonders!

Sister Margaret Ann

Associate Catechists



Dear Associates:

Let's start the New Year *with a smile!* It will help us to keep up our own spirits, beautify our faces, draw smiles from others, cheer the sad and faint-hearted, bring new life and courage to the discouraged and tempted, and win for ourselves and our mission cause new friends. Lastly, if we smile at God, as did the Little Flower (often through her tears), in loving acceptance of His Holy Will, we will merit to behold the Smiling Face of Christ as our Heavenly reward. When we hear those blessed words from His Divine lips, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of the Lord," will His Face be expressionless? Oh no! It will be suffused with a radiant smile.

In Mary's Immaculate Heart,
SISTER SUPERVISOR, ACM.

ST. ROSE BAND (*Marshfield, Wis.*)

THESE ladies have gained quite a name for themselves as mission workers. Small wonder! There is nothing to which they will not put their hands and needles to, if it will help the missions. Several months ago, the Secretary, *Mrs. Ray Flagel*, wrote us they were working on vestments. They have also sold hand-made articles at bazaars and conducted bake sales. At other times they mounted medals on Christmas cards for the missions.

IN reading their letters, we are reminded of the antiphon found in Lauds on the Feast of St. Cecilia, which goes as follows: "Cecilia, thy handmaid serves thee, O Lord, busy as a bee." May the blessed Lord reward all these busy bees!

DECEMBER SHOWERS AS WELCOME AS MAY FLOWERS

In Chicago, *St. Luke's Band*, sponsored by *Mrs. Lillian Potter*, held a "Poor Baby Shower" in behalf of poor infants in missions cared for by our Sisters. We think this was a beautiful way to give a Christmas gift to the Divine Babe of Bethlehem in the person of His dear poor.

In Fort Wayne, *St. Patrick's Mission Club* (not yet identified as an ACM Band) had a "Toy and Clothing Shower" for our Big Spring, Texas, Mission. A year ago they had a similar shower for our Richmond, Kentucky, Mission *Mary M. Bauer* is one of the officers in the Club.

A FOUR HUNDRED DOLLAR PARTY IN CHICAGO

A big mission party was given late in October in the Green Room of the Loyola Community Theatre



for the benefit of our Sisters. We are sorry we cannot name the lady who sponsored it for she shuns publicity of any kind. We can and do breathe her name in our prayers of gratitude, as well as all our Chicago friends who aided her in making that party the tremendous success it turned out to be.

RUMMAGE SALES BRING GOOD RETURNS

THE members of *St. Joseph Band No. 2, Chicago*, headed by *Mrs. Lillian Schultz*, held a rummage sale on October 27th which brought \$85.00.

Another rummage sale sponsored by *St. Clare Band, Omaha, Nebraska*, also held in October, brought \$75.00, according to word received from the Secretary, *Mrs. H. Leutenegger*.

ST. PHILOMENA BAND (*Chicago, Ill.*)

EVERY month we receive contributions from the members of this Band, through *Miss Mary Schaefer*, Promoter. They also send contributions for the summer months in which they do not meet. May God reward them with many great blessings.

of Mary

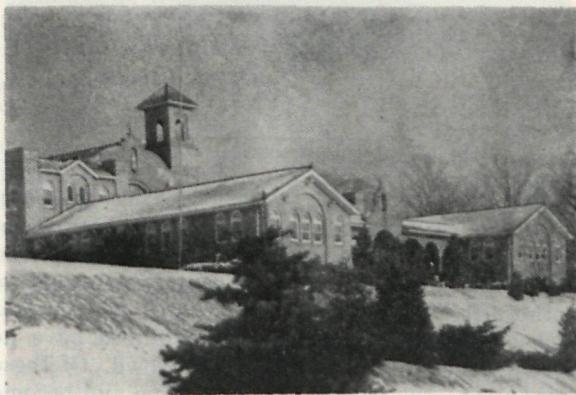
MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP BAND (Evanston, Ill.)

OUT Evanston way, Miss Celia Henrich and her group have been helping us "since away back." They began sending donations to Victory Noll in December, 1939, to be exact. Congratulations to them for twenty years' aid to our Missions and Missionaries.



ST. SABINA BAND (Chicago, Ill.)

LAST Fall, the Promoter, Miss Marie Dwyer, lost her dear mother in death. The pastor of St. Sabina's Church paid Mrs. Dwyer a fine tribute at the funeral Mass. A host of friends were in attendance. Mrs. Helen Garrity and Mrs. R. Lynch, of The Little Flower Band, formed part of the funeral cortege. These ladies belong to St. Sabina's Rosary Society.



CHARITINA CLUB No. 1 (Chicago, Ill.)

THE City of Chicago takes in a lot of territory and the members of Charitina Club live on the North, South and West Sides. For two years they have held their meetings in downtown Chicago, which makes it convenient for all. After dinner in a room reserved especially for them at the Illinois Catholic Women's Club, they play cards and pay dues. Prizes are provided by the member whose turn it is to entertain. If a member is absent she pays her dues just the same. Miss Katherine Hennigan is Promoter.

ACM BAND CONTRIBUTIONS

October 22, 1950 to November 21, 1950

Charitina Club No. 1, Chicago	
Miss Katherine Hennigan	\$ 6.00
Dolores Mission Guild, Chicago	
Mrs. Anna Klingel	50.00
Little Flower Miss'ion Circle, Chicago,	
Miss Veronica Foertsch	30.00
Good Shepherd Miss'ion Club, Chicago,	
Mrs. H. F. Staley	6.00
Good Will Mission Circle, Carrollton, Ky.,	
Mrs. Margaret Eckstein	24.00
Poor Souls Band, Berwyn, Ill.,	
Mrs. J. V. McGovern	16.00
Our Lady of Fatima Group, Huntington, Ind.,	
Mrs. Dan Herzog	10.00
Our Lady of Sorrows Band, Chicago,	
Anne Malone	55.00
Our Lady, Queen of our Hearts, Lombard, Ill.,	
Wilma Wengritzky	5.00
St. Ann Band, Fort Wayne,	
Mrs. Geo. M. Deininger	4.00
St. Anthony Band, Chicago, Mrs. A. F. Beck	153.10
St. Bridget Band, Covington, Ky.	
Mrs. John Busse	12.50
St. Clare Band, Omaha, Neb.,	
Mrs. Ann Igel	90.00
St. Helen Band, Dayton, Ohio,	
Miss Helen Melke	7.50
St. Irene Band, Chicago,	
Miss May Walsh	5.00
St. John Mission Guild, Chicago,	
Mrs. Anna Bechtold	1.00
St. Joseph Band No. 1, Chicago,	
Mrs. Margaret King	25.00
St. Joseph Band No. 2, Chicago,	
Mrs. Wm. Schultz	93.00
St. Jude Mission Club, Chicago,	
Mrs. C. J. Fiala	25.00
St. Justin Martyr Band, Chicago,	
Mrs. Fred Kiefer	10.00
St. Katherine Band, Chicago,	
Mrs. Katherine Hammer	45.00
St. Luke Band, Chicago,	
Mrs. L. T. Potter	40.00
St. Martin of Tours Band, Omaha, Neb.,	
Miss Lucille Murphy	5.00
St. Thomas Band, Chicago,	
Mrs. Marie B. McDonald	15.00
Seven Dolores Band, Chicago,	
Mrs. John J. Murphy	45.00
Srillians of Our Lady, Cincinnati,	
Miss Marie Gouy	3.00

Moses Learns the Ten Commandments

It was the week before Christmas — and Moses was studying the Ten Commandments. Although this sounds like an anachronism, still it is a fact. Where did Moses learn the Ten Commandments? On top of Mount Sinai? No, on top of a ladder, trimming the huge Christmas tree in the auditorium at Holy Ghost Youth Center.

Until this time all that Moses knew about the Ten Commandments was how to break them. But now, at last, he was learning how to recite them and—more important—how to keep them.

Moses is one of the many teen-age boys who come to Holy Ghost Youth Center to take part in the recreational activities there, such as boxing, billiards and ping-pong. The Sisters, ever alert to the spiritual needs of the participants, soon discovered that Moses was one of those older boys whose religious education had been neglected. In fact, Moses had not yet received his First Holy Communion. He was invited to join the evening class for boys, and so was launched on a course of religious instruction.

"First, 'I am the Lord thy God; thou shalt not have strange gods before Me'," Moses triumphantly fastened the star on top of the tree. Suddenly he broke off his study of Divine Law to remark, "You know, Sister, I never knew before what the star on top of the Christmas tree meant. It stands for the Star that the Three Kings saw, doesn't it?"

"That's what it should mean to everyone, Moses, but I'm afraid to many people it is just another ornament," replied Sister, as she handed him a silver bell, and at the same time kept a watchful eye on a group of nine-year-old boys at a near-by table, who were making paper chains for the tree. She could hear their exuberant shouts:

"Mine's longer'n yours, Teddy!"

"Wait till we finish, boy, mine's gonna be the biggest!"

"Hey, gimme the paste."

"Lookut mine, Sister!"

"Mmm," said Sister appreciatively. "This is going to be the fanciest tree that ever graced a hall," she thought.

"Second, 'Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.' Third, 'Remember that thou keep holy the Lord's Day.'—You know, Sister, I haven't missed Sunday Mass for two months, and I even went on November 1, All Souls' Day."

"November 1 is *All Saints' Day*. November 2 is All Souls' Day. November 1 is a Holyday of Obligation, but not November 2. You went to Mass on November 1, but how about December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception?"

"I forgot, Sister."

"Will you forget the next Holyday of Obligation?"

"Christmas!" said Moses, his face aglow like the tree. "I should say I won't, Sister. I'm getting a very Special Gift on that day and I don't want to miss It."

Sister smiled. In her heart she thanked the Christ Child Who would give Himself, the Perfect Gift, to Moses for the first time in Holy Communion on Christmas morning.

Sister Columba
Denver, Colorado

FOR the past eight years Holy Family Catechetical Center has been inviting both Catholic and non-Catholic Negro children to attend religion classes. To many it is a Bible class—to others it is merely another class to attend after school hours. The latter poor children have no place to play and just follow the crowd. Of these many continue over a period of time and become very interested in the story of the Life of Our Lord.

MATERIAL things help a great deal to attract the little ones. Christmas at the Center means for many a lovely gift that their own poor homes cannot supply. The zealous members of the Third Order of St. Francis under the direction of the Capuchin Fathers from St. Felix Monastery help to make the children share the joy of the Christ Child during the happy Christmas season.

Sister Elaine
Fort Wayne, Indiana

The Missionary Catechist

MEET GEORGE WASHINGTON FROM ALASKA

HAVE you ever met a person who radiates cheer? Such a person is George Washington who came from Alaska years ago with his bag of gold. Not realizing its value, he gave away the precious nuggets, one by one. Today, though partially paralyzed, he possesses and scatters something far more precious than silver or gold.



CONFINED to a wheel chair, he is to be seen on sunny days selling his wares—gum and pencils—in a little shopping district in one of our big cities. His smile greets you from a distance, his jolly banter buoys you up and his laughter accompanies you on your way.

Sister Mary Louise

(Letter written by a grateful Negro convert to Sister Adelle who instructed her and her husband in the Catholic faith. They were baptized two years ago.)

Dear Sister,

Your letter came last Thursday, and we were very glad to hear from you. We had planned to visit your vicinity during Christmas time but we didn't make it. The girls and I were very disappointed. Albert and I went to Midnight Mass Christmas. It was wonderful! We now have plans for our own church building here. We are raising money by having dinners and sales of used clothing. I do not belong to the Altar Society but I have attended the meetings, and

if we stay here much longer, I think I shall join. The girls are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion this year. Father B. has catechism class every Friday after school.

Our living has been very hard since we came here. We went into debt to get our truck ready for the potato harvest last year, but we got to haul only a few loads. We couldn't make enough money working by hand to pay our debts and go home, too. We are praying to be able to leave this year but Albert and I both know that it is worth all that we are going through to be Catholic. Had we gone home before I went to talk to Father M. we might never have known any more about the Catholic faith. When everything is at its worst, going to Mass on Sunday is our one bright spot. We always come home feeling uplifted. Last Sunday after Mass, Marian said to me, "Mother, I am surely glad we are Catholic." I thought the same.

Well, I will close now, Sister. Albert and the girls join me in sending our regards to you and the other Sisters we know.

Your friend,

Anita M. Johnson

UNPREDICTABLE SANTA

YOU never can tell what Santa Claus has for you in that mysterious bag of his! Take the Crescent family as an example. The younger children attend our Holy Family Instruction Center for the Colored in Fort Wayne. Two years ago the father died, and then this past summer the mother followed him to the grave. Older Sister took over the part of rearing her younger brothers and sisters, and the two older brothers provided food and clothing. They were paying for the home too, and there were monthly payments to be met.

THE Third Order of St. Francis members — alias Santa Claus—gave Older Sister two pieces of paper for Christmas! She prized them highly, as did the other members of the family who were old enough to comprehend what they were. You see, they were two down payments on their home!

Sister Charlotte

O THAT I may love our Blessed Lady and cause her to be loved by all.— Blessed Peter Chanel, S.M.



Dear Loyal Helpers

IN this issue, and in some which follow, we shall let our Loyal Helpers speak for themselves. We know you will enjoy hearing them tell how they helped the Missions either by their Sunshine pennies or by their prayers and sacrifices.

Make this a "Mary Year," children. Adopt the watchword, "All for Jesus through Mary," and perform all your actions for Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Mary-ly yours,
SUNSHINE SECRETARY, MLH

"I forgot to count all the things I sent to St. Louis de Montfort Mission this year, but I would estimate around 2,000 favors and holy cards, and about 700 Catholic magazines and periodicals."

Doris Heinen, Bird Island, Minn.

Good work, Doris, keep up this work in 1951!



"I am sending you an offering which I earned selling statues and dolls. I hope you appreciate it very much."

Louise Plum, age 9,
Milwaukee, Wis.

You may be sure we do, Louise. God bless and reward you a thousandfold!

"I am enclosing a dollar which I received for Christmas to help your Missionary work. I hope Santa was good to you. He was very good to me. I received our Lord on Christmas morning."

Peggy Semrau, age 8, Wallingford, Conn.

Peggy loves God. She receives Him often in Holy Communion. She loves the poor for Jesus' sake, and shares her Christmas gifts with them. God loves you dearly, Peggy.

Mary's Loyal

"My brother is getting real big. I know you never saw him. Did you get snow up there yet? I still know what you look like. We have two turtles. May Jesus, Mary and Joseph help you in all your needs."

Celeste Renier, age 9,
Chicago, Ill.



Yes, Celeste visited Victory Noll and knows what Sunshine Secretary looks like. She gets around. She flew to California and back last summer in a plane. Best of all she is a good little girl who intends to be a Sister when she grows up.

"MISS 1951"



This year we selected little Juanita Marks, of Kendallville, Indiana, as "Miss 1951." She lives near the church and every time she hears the church bells ring she says, "Let's go to church, Mommie."

Helpers Page

LETTER O' THE MONTH

Dear Sister:

I AM now a boarder in Sion Hill just to finish my last two years of school. Boarding school life isn't too bad. I go home every Sunday and free days. The only thing I do not like is we have to get up at 6:30 and go to bed at 9 p.m. I have become an active member of the Legion of Mary. At present we visit the Blind Asylum. Some of the blind girls wish to become auxiliary members so we dictate to them the prayers and they copy them down in braille.

Daddy was in Rome. He was on his way home from Switzerland. He borrowed a car and did his churches in two days.

I have now got three pen friends in America, two in Oregon and one in New York. At present we are acting a pageant. The name of the pageant is "Credo." It has been produced in thanksgiving for the Holy Year. It is simply wonderful. One of our nuns wrote it. This nun, Sister Joseph, has written many plays. The latest was "A Message of Fatima." It has travelled all over Ireland and has brought many people to the Church. The pageant has been on now for four days and will continue to the end of the week.

Our Mother Prioress celebrated her Feast Day yesterday, and we had a wonderful day. We saw the film "Monsieur Vincent." It was wonderful. It was the life story of St. Vincent de Paul. We are going to see "Hamlet" next week.

Blathnaid O'Broin, Blackrock, Ireland.

AN OHIO HELPER



Here is ten-year old Eileen Schmidt of Coldwater, Ohio who had her picture taken with Sister Mary Esther, a Missionary Sister from Victory Noll. Eileen has been a Helper for several years and saves her pennies for the poor children in the missions. Geography is her favorite subject at school. She has a pet dog named Trixie.



A "GO INTO REVERSE" PUZZLE

You've done this kind before. In each sentence fill the last blank with the missing word in first blank spelled in reverse.

(Example: 1. Down by the rapids, where the waters FLOW noisily, I saw a lone WOLF.)

1. Down by the rapids where the waters _____ noisily, I saw a lone _____.

2. The broken _____ made me believe that the rein _____ had passed here.

3. If you will put this acid on a _____ and apply it to the _____ on your fingers they will disappear.

4. The man in blue _____ overalls said that copper was once _____ here.

5. "Aw, _____!" cried Billy. "You'd never see a _____ shining on a cloudy night like this!"

Send worked puzzle to Sunshine Secretary for a holy card.

THERESA PACHECO WRITES

"I am sending you a half pound of stamps. Enclosed is a dollar for the book (*The Missionary Catechist*). In one day I said five Rosaries for you Sisters. Please pray for me that some day I may be a good Sister."

Theresa Pacheco, Goshen, California.

Theresa has said she is going to be a Sister ever since she was three years old. She is nine years old now.

Answers to December Puzzle: Mandolin, tuba, piano, cornet, saxophone, piccolo, French horn, bells, bull fiddle, violin, oboe, fife, harp, trombone, mouth organ.

Our Wish for You

by Sister Jean Marie

God bless you in this Christmastide
And after it has gone,
May the joy of His dear Presence
Within your heart live on.

May the thorns on your pathway
(You'll find them everywhere)
Soon be changed to fragrant blossoms
And quickly culled in prayer.

Accept the little hurts in life,
Then stepping stones they'll be
To greater love and truer peace
For all eternity.

SPANISH CHIVALRY

MIDNIGHT Mass in the little mission church had just been completed. The church was emptying, while I stood by the organ, picking up the scattered sheets of music.

Luis, a ten-year-old altar boy, came out of the sacristy and walked down the aisle towards me. I wasn't paying too much attention until he took hold of my right hand and kissed it. Looking at me with his serious black eyes, he said, "Good-bye, Sister. *Feliz Navidad* (Happy Christmas)." Then he bowed, turned and left the church.

In this respect, Luis is imitating many of the older people who have brought with them gracious Spanish customs from across the border.

Sister James
San Antonio, Texas

In Memoriam

Mrs. August Salitrik, Uniontown, Pa.,
mother of Sister Leo, O.L.V.M.
John U. Dorrman, Cincinnati, Ohio,
brother of Sister Bertha, O.L.V.M.
Frank Stech, Chicago, Illinois,
uncle of Sister Therese Marie, O.L.V.M.
Josephine Schmitt, Dubuque, Iowa,
aunt of Sister Julia Marie, O.L.V.M.
John F. Lindemann, Delphos, Ohio.
Margaret Schmit, Kenosha, Wisconsin.
Mrs. Bessie Hurlbut, White Water, Wisconsin.
Mr. Fred Hurlbut, White Water, Wisconsin.
Mrs. Joseph Dooley, Lawler, Iowa.
Mr. Graham Hatcher, Fort Wayne, Indiana
Dr. W. J. C. Lamb, Pittsburgh, Pa.

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



THOSE who love the poor in life shall have no fear of death. —St. Vincent de Paul

POLIO CONSCIOUS

One of the first days of school this fall, I was standing outside of the school awaiting my Catechism pupils. One little boy came out whom I thought looked as if he were Catholic. I asked him, "Are you a Catholic?"

"No, are you?" he answered.

Evidently he went home and told his mother, because the following week he came to class and announced that today he was a Catholic, and that his name was Stanley.

A few weeks later, I was questioning the children about the lesson of the previous week which had been about Adam and Eve.

I asked Stanley, "What was it that Adam and Eve did that was a sin?"

Stanley answered, "They didn't wash the apple before they ate it."

The teachers at school have been telling the children that one of the ways to contract polio is to eat any fresh fruit that has not been washed. It made an impression on Stanley.

Sister Mary Marguerite
Tulare, California

The Missionary Catechist

It Happened Thus... I Think

by Sister Barbara Ann

There was a conversation in Heaven the other day—I think—which ran something like this:

“My Mother, it is time for Me to take up my residence with Our daughters at Bethlehem convent.”

“Yes, my Son, the Sisters need the consolation of Your Sacramental Presence in their convent home if they are to keep up their courage in their difficult work. It is not easy for them to knock on door after door to find that the occupants—possessors of good French and Irish names—are one, two or three generations away from the Faith.”

“True, Mother dear. The Sisters’ petitions are increasing daily. I must be near them. You make all arrangements. I’m anxious to take up My abode in their convent home. I will be their strength and comfort; they will console My Sacred Heart, bruised and bleeding because of the ingratitude of men.”

One of the angels, overhearing this conversation—I think it was the Guardian Angel of the Convent—quickly interposed, “But, my Lord, the Sisters have not nearly completed preparations for Your coming! They finished painting the altar only yesterday—it probably isn’t even dry—and they have almost no furnishings for the chapel!”

“But, little angel,” replied Our Lord, “don’t you remember the poverty of the first Bethlehem? Yet where have I ever received such perfect adoration? Bethlehem convent would be misnamed if Our daughters were not poor.”

“Quite right, my Son,” replied the Mother. “I’ll make all arrangements immediately. The Sisters can borrow the essential articles from the parish church.”

Then, without delay, our Blessed Mother whispered softly—oh, so softly, that he had no idea it was she—to one of her favorite sons, the Shepherd of the Hills and Valleys in the archdiocese of St. Louis, that he should offer the first Mass at Bethlehem convent the next day.

Now, that is the way I think the whole thing started; but, of course, the Bishop may think it was his own idea. At any rate, our pastor knocked at our convent door about six o’clock on the eve of the First Friday in October and said that Bishop Helmsing would offer the first Mass in our chapel at eight o’clock the following morning, if we could be ready.

Yes, we could be ready. Indeed, we couldn’t pass up such a privilege. We knew we hadn’t much more than the manger and the swaddling clothes, but, more fortunate than Mary and Joseph, we could borrow the articles necessary for the Holy Sacrifice from the church. So after the Mass at church the following morning (which fortunately for us was at seven o’clock), we quickly collected the essential articles and brought them to the convent.

And thus it happened that the first Mass in Bethlehem convent was offered by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Charles H. Helmsing, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis, on October 6, the First Friday in October. This was not only the first Mass in Bethlehem convent, but also the first Mass ever offered in Flat River and the first time the Blessed Sacrament has been reserved there.



Left to right: Sister Barbara Ann, Rev. Edmund J. Clohessy, Pastor, Most Reverend Charles H. Helmsing, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis, Sister Helen and Sister Elizabeth Ann.

The Block Rosary

EVER since the first of May the members of the seven families in our block meet at one of the homes every evening to pray the Rosary. The families take turns and one of the members leads the prayers while those present unite their petitions to his for peace.

SO far only one family in the block has been touched by the Korean conflict. One of the older boys has been in Japan for some time and has been in danger since Korea became a battlefield. When his mother gives way to tears her eighth-grade son says, "Don't cry for Augustine, Mama. Just pray—pray."



Sister Mary Bernadette sends us this picture of a home in Las Vegas where the Sisters have joined the families on their block in their prayers for peace.

WHAT a consolation for this mother is the Block Rosary — her neighbors surrounding her in her sorrow, to pray to our Lady of Fatima for the peace that will bring back all mothers' sons from the battlefields.

Sister Mary Alice
Las Vegas, New Mexico