

December 1951

THE *Missionary* Catechist



The Great "O" Antiphons

IN the liturgy for Advent the Church relives the time from the fall of our first parents to the Birth of our Redeemer. She takes the prayers and longings of the Old Testament and makes them her own. She implores the Savior to come again to earth in a special way and renew the life He imparted to mankind by His earthly life and particularly by His death on the Cross. This spirit of longing is beautifully poured forth in the great "O" antiphons used for the Magnificat from December 17 to 23, in the Divine Office. The antiphons are fervent prayers addressed to the Savior asking Him to shorten the time of His tarrying and to come speedily. They are fruitful subjects for meditation during this blessed season.

○ WISDOM, Who camest out of the mouth of the Most High, (Eccles. 24, 5), reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: COME to teach us the way of prudence! (WIS. 8, 1)

○ ADONAI, and Ruler of the house of Israel, Who didst appear to Moses in the flame of the burning bush, and didst give unto him the law of Sinai: COME to redeem us with an outstretched arm!

○ ROOT OF JESSE, Who standest for an ensign of the people, (Is. 11, 10), before Whom kings shall keep silence, (Is. 53, 15), and unto Whom the Gentiles shall make their supplication: COME to deliver us, and tarry not!

○ KEY OF DAVID, and Scepter of the house of Israel, Who openest and no man shutteth, Who shuttest and no man openeth (Apoc. 3, 7): COME to bring forth from his prison-house, the captive that sitteth in darkness and in the shadow of death! (Is. 42,)



○ ORIENT, (Luke 1, 78-79), brightness of the light eternal, (Wis. 7, 26), and Sun of Justice, (Mal. 4,2) COME to enlighten them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death! (Luke 1, 78-79)

○ KING of the Gentiles and the desired of them, (Hag. 2, 8), Thou corner-stone that makest both one, COME to deliver man whom Thou didst form out of the dust of the earth! (Eph. 2, 14-20)

○ EMMANUEL, our King and Lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Savior, COME to save us, O Lord our God! (Gen. 49, 10)



The Missionary Catechist

Volume XXVIII

December, 1951

Number 1

Staunch Friends of an Infant Community

by Sister Blanche Marie

IT seems to us, somehow, very appropriate that, during this Holy Season of Advent when our thoughts are centered on the Infant Savior to come, we pay tribute to two recently deceased friends of our community who knew and aided it in the earliest stages of its existence. Both lent great encouragement and help to our founding Father, Reverend John J. Sigstein, and the pioneer Sisters, of whom the writer of this article is happy to number herself.

We refer to the Reverend George Bernard Lescher, former pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Chicago, and Mother M. Aquinata, S.S.N.D., one time Directress of the Academy of Our Lady, of the same city.

Father Lescher was ordained in May, 1923, and after three years as curate at St. Gregory's parish, he was selected for a professorship at Quigley Preparatory Seminary. For seventeen years he served on the staff at the seminary, teaching English, German, history and public speaking.



Rev. Geo. B. Lescher

It was during the long period of his teaching that Father Lescher became acquainted with our

Reverend Founder and greatly interested in our missionary work among the poor, neglected little ones of the flock in the Southwest. Later, he visited some of these mission fields in person and returned to Chicago with redoubled enthusiasm and renewed zeal for the work of our community.

At the seminary, Father Lescher was instrumental in making his students mission-minded, and secured many boxes of clothing from them for the poor.

That our modern American girls should leave their family hearth, parents and friends, and consecrate their lives to the service of God and the pressing spiritual needs of our Homeland, greatly stirred him. He lost no time in words of praise, but gave himself and all his energies and free time to the promotion of our work. If he could not supply us with vocations (and that he sought to do, too) he could at least interest young ladies to align themselves as auxiliaries and Associates of our Missionary Sisters. Within less than ten years he had organized at least nine Mission Bands in Chicago among young ladies over whom he presided as Spiritual Director. Father Lescher frequently brought groups of these young women to Victory Noll where they might be spiritually renewed in their charitable works, through contact with our Reverend Founder, and our Missionary Sisters in training for their future mission work. Often, too, he arranged trips for these youthful helpers to our nearby missions of Indiana Harbor, East Chicago and Gary. To open their eyes to the dire poverty which existed in the slum districts of these cities, he would arrange for them to accompany our Sisters on their errands of charity into the homes of the poor.

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

It was quite the ordinary thing in those early days for us to receive letters from Father Lescher which opened with the lines: "Enclosed find a money order for \$50.00, the proceeds of a dance (or card party) held for the benefit of the Catechists."

The hearty welcome which Father received when he joined his friends before the parties broke up showed the esteem and love they had for their fatherly promoter.

Many were the times, too, that Father Lescher, with a few of his young Seminarians, would borrow a truck and fill it with furniture, food and whatever else the poor might need or use, and drive down to Huntington with them. During the interval in which our Sisters prepared them a repast, Father Lescher would seat himself at a piano and play songs in which the Seminarians would join lustily. Father, definitely, had a way with youth.

It was during the period when our work was little known, and therefore when funds were very badly needed, that our good friend, Father George Lescher, came to our rescue. As St. Joseph provided for the material needs of the Holy Child, so Father Lescher aided us with substantial money gifts while our community was in its infancy.

After a solemn Requiem Mass in the church of which he was pastor, presided over by His Eminence, Cardinal Stritch, who also preached the sermon, and at which his nephew, Reverend Edward J. Kniewel, of Evanston, was the Celebrant, Father was laid to rest in St. Joseph's cemetery. Reverend Father Kniewel was assisted by Reverend Walter F. Liesch, pastor of St. Mary Church, Alexandria, S. Dak., a classmate, and the Reverend Aloysius J. Hinterberger, as deacon and subdeacon.

Assistants at the throne were the Right Reverend Monsignor Eugene J. Luke, the Reverends Paul F. Loeffel, and James F. Cloonan. Others in the ceremonies were the Reverend Richard J. Bermingham, master of ceremonies, and the Reverends John O'Brien and Harry M. Grzegowski, acolytes.

Father Lescher died on October 7, and was buried on October 10. May his charitable soul rest in peace.

JUST as we have likened Father Lescher to St. Joseph, we would in these few lines of tribute liken Mother M. Aquinata, who departed this life

on October 5, to our Heavenly Mother Mary. The reason is that, through her maternal solicitude, the Academy of Our Lady, of which Mother was for many years the Directress, became the cradle of our infant community. The first six members of our Order were received before our Motherhouse at Huntington, Indiana, had been built and offered to our Father Founder by His Excellency, Bishop John Francis Noll, our dearly loved Bishop of Fort Wayne. Although Victory Noll was destined by the Providence of God to become the training center for our young Missionaries, at this critical period of our existence, Father had no home to offer to us, nor had he immediate prospects of any, as he had not yet made the acquaintance of Bishop Noll. Consequently, it was of primary importance for our Founder to find a roof for our heads. Mother Aquinata, in her greatness of soul and bigness of heart, assured Father that she would gladly provide these first recruits of his Order with room and board until such time as he could establish them in a convent of their own.

Besides being a material benefactress, Mother Aquinata was also a spiritual friend, adviser, and consoler to our Father Founder in those anxiety-crowded years. The writer of these lines has a mental picture of the two, Mother Aquinata and our Reverend Founder, walking side by side in the extensive grounds of the Academy, deep in conversation—Father with his eager plans for the newly founded community, and Mother with her fund of other-worldly wisdom, counsels and suggestions.

FATHER LESCHER was only fifty-four when death claimed him; Mother Aquinata had reached the ripe age of eighty-five. Both entered into eternal life laden with merits for having spent the whole of their consecrated lives in the service of God and souls.

IN MEMORIAM

Rev. George B. Lescher, Chicago, Illinois
Brother Fernando, O.F.M. Cap., St. Felix Friary,
Huntington, Indiana
Mother Aquinata, S.S.N.D., Chicago, Illinois
Sister M. Dolores Leven, O.S.F., Joliet, Illinois
sister of Sister Kathleen, O.L.V.M.
William Blumenkemper, St. Louis, Missouri
father of Sister Annette, O.L.V.M.
William C. Cray, Evanston, Illinois
father of Sister Camilla, O.L.V.M.
Eugene F. Igel, Omaha, Nebraska
Fred Beach, Chicago, Illinois
Amelia Muller, Normandy, Missouri
Mary Seely, ACM, Chicago, Illinois
Mary Rice, Chicago, Illinois
Julia Farley, Lancashire, England

All for Jesus through Mary

"Consecration to the Mother of God is a total giving of oneself for life and for eternity; not just a formal or purely sentimental offering, but an effective donation realised in the intensity of a life both Christian and Marian."—(Pius XII, January, 1945.)

Last December eighth a woman sodalist of Bordeaux formulated her convictions in writing when she vowed her consecration to Mary in the chapel of the Madeleine, a shrine hallowed a century and a half ago by the Marian action of William Joseph Cnaminad, apostle of total consecration to Mary.

O Mary, I believe that to be consecrated to thee requires that I live for thee, through love.

I believe that to endeavor to extend thy reign is also to extend the reign of thy beloved Son; that to labor for Him is to labor for thee also; that to give myself to thee is to give myself to Him.

I believe that there is only one will between the Father and thee, namely, the will of God; that there is only one love between the Holy Spirit and thee, namely, the love of God; that there is only one intention between Jesus and thee, namely, the return of all thy children to God.

I believe that thou desirest those consecrated to thee; to cooperate in thy mission as Mother



December 12 is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of Mexico.

December, 1951



December 8 is the Feast of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of America.

of souls; to live the life of Jesus so as to be fully thy children—sisters of thy first-born Son; to cultivate in themselves the very sentiments of Jesus for thee and for the souls for whom He has given His life on the cross.

I believe that thou desirest: to form souls only in order to transform them into other Christs; to teach them, after thy example, to become little and humble so that in His Mystical Body He may grow in stature; to make them share in the work of thy co-redemption.

I believe that thou are my Mother for all eternity. Amen.

From an article in *QUEEN OF ALL HEARTS* entitled "The Marianist Consecration" by the Very Reverend Peter Resch, S.M., head of the St. Louis Province of the Society of Mary.

Monsignor O'Connor, Director of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at Washington, D. C., was a recent visitor at Victory Noll. In a plea for prayers Monsignor stated that the completion of Our Lady's Shrine may be the very thing needed to appease the anger of a just God.

Will you join in this crusade of prayer that in the near future the completed shrine may rise as a glorious tribute to the love and loyalty of American Catholics for God and Our Blessed Mother?

CONSECRATION OF OURSELVES TO
JESUS CHRIST, THE INCARNATE
WISDOM, BY THE HANDS OF MARY

○ ETERNAL and INCARNATE WISDOM! O sweetest and most adorable Jesus! True God and True Man, only Son of the Eternal Father, and of Mary always Virgin! I adore Thee profoundly in the bosom and splendours of Thy Father during eternity; and I adore Thee also in the virginal bosom of Mary, Thy most worthy Mother, in the time of Thine Incarnation.

| GIVE THEE THANKS for that Thou hast annihilated Thyself, in taking the form of a slave in order to rescue me from the cruel slavery of the devil. I praise and glorify Thee for that Thou hast been pleased to submit Thyself to Mary, Thy holy Mother, in all things, in order to make me Thy faithful slave through her. But, alas! ungrateful and faithless as I have been, I have not kept the promises which I made so solemnly to Thee in my Baptism; I have not fulfilled my obligations; I do not deserve to be called Thy son, nor yet Thy slave; and as there is nothing in me which does not merit Thine anger and Thy repulse, I dare no more come by myself before Thy Most Holy and August Majesty. It is on this account that I have recourse to the intercession of Thy most holy Mother, whom Thou hast given me for a mediatrix with Thee. It is by her means that I hope to obtain of Thee contrition, and the pardon of my sins, the acquisition and the preservation of wisdom. I salute Thee, then, O Immaculate Mary, living tabernacle of the Divinity, where the Eternal Wisdom willed to be hidden, and to be adored by Angels and by men. I hail thee, O Queen of heaven and earth, to whose empire everything is subject which is under God.

| SALUTE THEE, O sure refuge of sinners, whose mercy fails to no one. Hear the desires which I have of the Divine Wisdom; and for that end receive the vows and offerings which my lowness presents to thee. I, N....., a faithless sinner—I renew and ratify today in thy hands the vows of my Baptism; I renounce forever Satan, his pomps and works; and I give myself entirely to Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Wisdom, to carry my cross after Him all the days of my life, and to be more faithful to Him than I have ever been before.

| IN THE PRESENCE of all the heavenly court I choose thee this day for my Mother and Mis-

Act of Consecration by Saint Grignon de Montfort reprinted from Rev. Ralph Beiting's Catechism on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.



ress. I deliver and consecrate to thee, as thy slave, my body and my soul, my goods, both interior and exterior, and even, the value of all my good actions, past, present, and future; leaving to thee the entire and full right of disposing of me, and all that belongs to me, without exception, according to thy good pleasure, to the greatest glory of God, in time and in eternity.

RECEIVE, O benignant Virgin, this little offering of my slavery, in the honour of, and in union with that subjection which the Eternal Wisdom deigned to have to thy Maternity, in homage to the power which both of you have over this little worm and miserable sinner, and in thanksgiving for the privileges with which the Holy Trinity hath favoured thee. I protest that I wish henceforth, as thy true slave, to seek thy honour, and to obey thee in all things.

○ ADMIRABLE MOTHER, present me to thy dear Son as His eternal slave, so that as He hath redeemed me by thee, by thee He may receive me! O Mother of mercy, get me the grace to obtain the true Wisdom of God; and for that end put me in the number of those whom thou lovest, whom thou teacheest, whom thou conductest, and whom thou nourishest and protectest, as thy children and thy slaves.

○ FAITHFUL VIRGIN, make me in all things so perfect a disciple, imitator, and slave of the Incarnate Wisdom, Jesus Christ thy Son, that I may attain, by thy intercession and by thy example, to the fulness of His age on earth, and of His glory in the heavens. Amen.



The Angel Tree

by Sister Callista

OUR second year in Elkhart had just begun when the "angels" came to live with us. We didn't notice their presence much at first. There seemed to be plenty of room for all of us. They stayed discreetly to one side,—drab and inconspicuous, usually under cover of a box lid, or hiding among the books and charts of Sister Mary Veronica's brief case.

It wasn't long before we began to move them off the table, or lift them carefully from the sewing machine. If we opened the bookcase too carelessly, angels would topple into our arms.

And they weren't drab any longer! Some proudly displayed a bright blue ribbon between their outspread arms, with the name of their favorite child on it. The colorless curls of many had changed to golden yellow. Some were even wearing fluffy blue gowns.

BY-AND-BY, friends who came to visit began to ask us about them. The angels seemed to be just everywhere; and our friends, too, had to be careful not to push them or move about too quickly for fear of brushing them off the table and chairs.

The days were growing shorter and colder. Soon Thanksgiving would come. And then, oh so soon, it would be Christmas! Just to talk about Christmas seemed to make the Angels excited. In no time at all, many of them had shining gold and silver, blue and red stars on their beautiful gowns. Their eyes were deep blue now, and their lips rosy red.

ONCE each week since September, the angels would go with Sister Mary Veronica to the Catechism class for the younger children. Each angel would find its favorite child and stay quietly on the desk until class was over. The children would look to see if their angels were more beautiful than last time. Some were disappointed (but not surprised) to see no change. Oftener, there were happy smiles, as the weeks rolled on and Christmas came closer.

Sometimes their enthusiasm was amusing. Once, chubby Leonard with the bright red hair came home all excited with the startling statement, "I got golden hair! I got golden hair!" Another time, quiet, serious Lloyd, who loves his religion class deeply, broke through his usual reserve and, all pent up with excitement, said, "Sister, I can hardly wait for Christmas,

so that I can take my Angel home." Then Sister knew that her little angel project was bearing real fruit.

ONE Saturday when Sharon came to class, she found her angel with a sparkling belt around its waist, and a glistening band of silver all around the bottom of its angel gown. Pretty soon Larry's angel had the same, and in another week Sandra and Jimmy and Ross, and quite a few others, began to find their angels glittering with these shining bands of silver. Of course, they weren't really surprised, because they knew all about their angel and why it looked more beautiful each week.

Then one day when the angels came to Catechism class—lo and behold!—some of them had the most beautiful sparkling gold and silver wings the children had ever seen. That meant the goal was reached, and Christmas could come just any day now. Coaxingly, they pleaded, "Please may we take them home today, Sister?" "No," Sister answered, "the last Saturday before Christmas you may take them."

Sister knew that on that day there would be a party for all the children with a huge Christmas tree, a movie about our Blessed Lady, and pretty Christmas cookies made by the children's mothers. But even all that wasn't going to thrill them as much as the *big* surprise—the *Angel Tree*!

THE children knew that learning their prayers wasn't really so hard. It was rather fun seeing if you could remember so many words. What *was* hard was to form the habit of saying those prayers *every day*! And that is just what Sister wanted them to do. Sister had told them their angel would help them, but they didn't realize how true that would be. The very first day the angel had appeared on their desk, it was drab and colorless. But Sister had told them, "It is up to you to make your Angel so very beautiful by Christmas Day that it can stand at the top of the Christmas tree smiling down on the little Infant Jesus."

"What must we do, Sister? How can we make it beautiful?" they had asked.



The Christmas party comes at last,—the long awaited day! There is impatient pushing and crowding outside the closed doors. The signal is given, the doors swing open, and there in the dark room stands THE ANGEL TREE! The many colored lights are reflected in the glittering angel wings and bands. There is an eager search on the part of the children to find their own angel. Happy cries of "There's mine!" "I see mine!" "Help me find mine!" echo through the room.

"You must learn your prayers, and say them *every day*," Sister had answered. "If you learn every one but do not say them every day, it will not count.

"If you want your angel to hold your name between her hands, you must make the Sign of the Cross morning, night and at meal time—*every day*! For your angel to have a lovely blue gown, you will need to say the Our Father and Hail Mary twice *every day*! The golden curls will mean you have learned and are saying the Guardian Angel prayer *every day*! If you say the Morning Offering, *every day*, your angel will have rosy lips and pretty blue eyes.

"**A**FTER you have formed the habit of saying these prayers *every day*," Sister added encouragingly, "then I know you will want to do more. Would you like to see shining gold and silver and blue and red stars on your angel's gown?"

A chorus of, "O yes, Sister!"

"All right then. Two silver stars for our meal prayers, three gold stars for the short acts of Faith, Hope and Love, a red star for the Glory be to the Father, a *big* red star for the Act of Contrition, and a *big* gold star for the Apostles Creed. But each one must be said *every day*!"

This statement was followed, of course, by the usual admonition, "You can easily fool Sister, but you wouldn't want to fool Jesus, would you?"

"The boys and girls who learn the Seven Sacraments just the way they are written in your 'Jesus and I' catechisms will earn a sparkling belt for their angels; and those who learn the Ten Commandments will see their angels shine with a glittering silver band all around the angel's gown."

* * *

ALL this was very well,—but the wings? The wings? What could it be that you had to do to earn wings for your angel? Fortunately, for these eager little ones, the Family Rosary Crusade had just met with gratifying success in the parishes where they lived, so the angel wings were not something beyond their reach. *The Rosary every day for a month!* That was the practice that would win for their angel those beautiful wings. And then their Angel would be completed, but Sister hoped that the children would not think their prayers were completed too! Rather, she hoped that the idea behind the angel project would take firm hold and grow and grow—the idea of *daily* prayer their whole life long.

Now you can see why the angels almost crowded us out of our little house, and claimed every bit of our spare time, and much that wasn't spare. We even had to call for help on our angelic task, and found it in the parish custodian, Jerry, who painstakingly cut them out after his hard day's work.

* * *

THE Christmas party comes at last,—the long awaited day! There is impatient pushing and crowding outside the closed doors. The signal is given, the doors swing open, and there in the dark room stands THE ANGEL TREE! The many colored lights are reflected in the glittering angel wings and bands. There is an eager search on the part of the children to find their own angel. Happy cries of "There's mine!" "I see mine!" "Help me find mine!" echo through the room. With difficulty all are made to sit down.



Then Father calls *your* name! You go up in front and Father lifts *your* angel from the tree! It is yours at last!!

* * *

Four times in four different missions we saw this happy little performance repeated and each time the same delight and surprise on the faces of the children—to see a tree all covered with angels—and the most beautiful one their own!

Our Silver Jubilarians



Motner Catherine

One of the most sublime responsibilities of a Missionary Sister is the instruction of children for their reception of the Sacraments. During the past twenty-five years our Sisters have prepared thousands of children to receive the Sacraments of Penance, Holy Communion, and Confirmation.

Pictured above with their pastor are the First Communicants of St. Colman's parish, Washington Courthouse, Ohio.

- * Mother Catherine (Olberding)
- * Sister Helen (Srill)
- * Sister Edna (Like)
- * Sister Mary Paul (Barthen)
- * Sister Agnes (Kozla)
- * Sister Bridget (Hynes)
- * Sister Maria Rafaela (Mendoza)
- * Sister Ida Ann (Keller)



Sister Ida Ann

Correspondence and secretarial work at the Mother-house are also means of bringing souls closer to God.



Sister Helen

Ready to Begin a Day's Work

Census-taking and home-visiting form part of the Sisters' weekly schedule at Flat River, Missouri.



Sister Bridget

A cheerful smile and a heart-warming way of saying "God love you now" are the tonics that Sister Bridget brings with the trays she prepares and carries to the sick.



Sister Maria Rafaela

A dozen or more benches and the open blue sky comprise many a classroom for the Sisters teaching catechism in Texas.

Above: Bringing back the benches at the end of summer school.



Sister Mary Paul

In addition to their regular singing of hymns every Sunday, these junior choir members of St. Joseph's church at Paulding, Ohio, have the honor of singing also for a High Mass every Wednesday morning before they go to school.



Sister Edna

Teaching the little ones their prayers is of primary importance in every mission center. These boys at Flagstaff, Arizona check their progress on the prayer chart.



Sister Agnes

Postulants at Victory Noll enjoy a walk between classes with Sister Agnes.



Dear Associates:

THROUGH these pages we wish to express our heartfelt thanks for the cooperation and assistance given our Missionary Sisters during the past year, and the many years which have preceded the last one.

We know that your basic purpose in clinging perseveringly to your Band activities these many years is not just an enjoyable evening, with prizes and refreshments. Rather it springs from your inner conviction that Christ's sheep, wherever they are in the world, are our care. In helping our Missionaries you know that you are helping *them!* And this objective gives spur and purpose to your social gatherings.

May our Infant King, in Mary's Arms, bless you and Himself be your reward for all the sacrifices you have made to help us teach His poorest and neediest to know, love and serve Him.

Devotedly in Jesus and Mary,
SISTER SUPERVISOR, ACM.

OMAHA BANDS—OUR PRIDE AND JOY

AT the time we write these lines we are still ten weeks removed from Christmas, yet our three Omaha Bands have already reached a combined total of \$415.00 for the year.

St. Margaret Mary Band, the "parent" Band, sponsors Sister Mary Marguerite who is missioned in Los Banos, California. *Mrs. Fred Shields* heads the Band.

St. Clare Band sponsors Sister Mary Clare who is missioned in Las Vegas, New Mexico. *Mrs. Anne Igel* heads this Band.

St. Martin of Tours Band sponsors Sister Mary Martin, who is missioned in East Gary, Indiana. *Miss Lucille Murphy* heads the group.

The three Bands raise their funds in a variety of ways—food sales, rummage sales, plate dinners at so much per plate, etc.

News Items of

ST. KATHERINE BAND (Chicago)

THIS North Side Band is one of the most successful when it comes to raising money for our Missionary Sisters. We think it is probably due to the fact that they meet *twice* a month. Once when they had to miss a meeting due to severely cold weather, they had *three meetings* the following month to make up for the omission!

At the head of the Band is *Mrs. Katherine Hammer*.

MEET OUR PROMOTERS

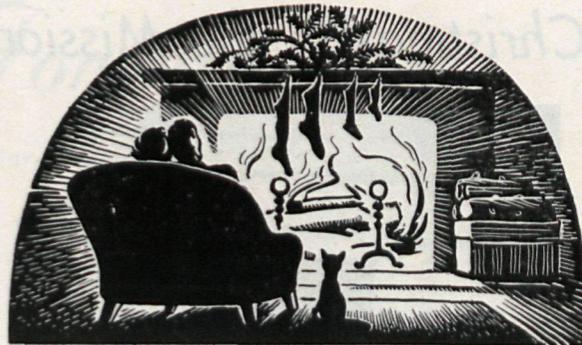


Mrs. H. R. Staley, President of Good Shepherd Mission Club, Chicago, is well known to most of our Associates in the Chicago Area. Every year, *Mrs. Staley*, aided by her faithful co-workers, has at least one big benefit party in St. Thomas Aquinas Hall, as well as many smaller ones, for us. In times past, in conjunction with members of the ACM Central Committee she has "engineered" to a successful conclusion luncheons and parties for us in the Loop District.

Our Associates

S.O.S. FROM UTAH

SISTER MARY DAVID, St. Henry's Mission, 23 S. First East Street, Brigham City, Utah, is very much in need of small holy pictures, religious bookmarks, mounted medals, etc. Our Sisters at this new Mission teach religion to 800 Navajo Indian children (*Catholics*) in a large government school.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION BAND (Chicago)

THE Promoter, *Miss Mary Perkins*, must have thought much about the labors and sacrifices of Missionaries when she landed at Hawaii, after that long flight across the blue waters of the Pacific. She must have seen many dark-skinned natives who, generations back, were won to Christianity through the efforts of zealous Missionaries.

However, it was not necessary for Miss Perkins to make this trip to become mission-minded. She and the members of her Band have proved their interest in the Missions by twenty years of continued support to our Sisters.

ST. MICHAEL MISSION GUILD (Palos Heights, Ill.)

ONE of our youngest Bands, the ladies of this Guild have rounded out five years of successful efforts in behalf of our community. They sponsor Sister Lourdes, who is at present stationed in San Fernando, California.

In June, new officers were installed. Their names are: President, Mrs. Charles B. Lynch; Vice President, Mrs. Leonard Lynch; Secretary, Mrs. Richard Fleming and Treasurer, Mrs. G. W. Twining.

The Guild consists of about forty-five women, most of them young mothers of families. Besides helping our Missions, they have also been helping to raise funds for their new Catholic school.

ST. MARY'S MISSION CLUB (Maywood, Ill.)

IT'S a small group of only seven members, yet the checks we receive from *Mrs. Forest Lehman*, Promoter, are large. The last one amounted to \$40.00 and resulted from a card party. Mrs. Lehman's mother, while she lived, also worked hard for "the Catechists," as we were then known.

ACM BAND CONTRIBUTIONS September 20, 1951 to October 17, 1951

Bl. Martin Porres Band, Lewiston, Minn., Mrs. I. Lehmann	20.00
Charitina Club 1, Chicago, Katherine Hennigan	6.00
Child Jesus Band, St. Louis, Mrs. Jas. Butler	18.00
Christ the King Band, Detroit, Eliz. Bien	10.00
Good Shepherd Club, Mrs. H. F. Staley	12.00
Immaculate Conception Band, Detroit, Lillian Dunn	15.00
Les Petites Fleurs, Chicago, Anne I Accomando	25.00
Mothers & Daughters, Chicago, Mrs. Earl Keegan	15.00
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Band, Appleton, Wis., Helen Arens	73.00
Queen of Angels Band, Los Angeles, Mrs. C. J. Sauthier	15.00
St. Anthony Mission Club, Chicago, Mrs. A. Beck	72.50
St. Bridget Band, Covington, Ky., Mrs. Jno. Busse	9.00
St. Clare Band, Omaha, Neb., Mrs. Ann Igel	10.00
St. Irene Band, Chicago, May Walsh	8.50
St. John Mission Guild, Chicago, Mrs. A. Bechtold	41.00
St. Joseph Band 1, Chicago, Mrs. Eva Dugan	25.00
St. Joseph Mission Club, Baldwinsville, N. Y., Mrs. H. Reeves	31.50
St. Katherine Band, Chicago, Mrs. Katherine Hammer	30.00
St. Michael Guild, Palos Hts., Ill., Mrs. Chas. B. Lynch	5.00
St. Martin of Tours Band, Omaha, Lucille Murphy	60.00
St. Philomena Band, Chicago, Mary Schaefer	18.00
St. Rose Band, Marshfield, Wis., Mrs. John Huebl	50.00
Via Matris Band, Chicago, Mary Nash	40.00

ST. ANTHONY MISSION CLUB (Chicago)

THE Promoter, *Mrs. Agnes Beck*, is fond of springing pleasant surprises on us. Just about the time we think she has forgotten all about our Mission needs, she sends a fistful of checks, resulting from some big benefit party she has sponsored.

During the first six months of the year, Mrs. Beck made a fine record of giving. We have not heard from her recently, and she has us worried. Can it be that she is ill? We hope it is only another instance of a pleasant surprise in store for us. May God bless her generous efforts.

Christmas in the Missions



OUR COVER

Jose Luis Espinoza of Waco, Texas places the Santo Nino in the crib while junior members of the Castaneda and Benavides families look on.



FROM—Queen of the Missions— Redlands, California

It was Andrea's turn to spin the Advent wheel. On it were written little sacrifices which were to be the Christ Child's Christmas present. Andrea's eyes watched eagerly as the spinner gradually came to a stop at the words: *Whenever you are told to do something hard, say this little prayer, 'Dear Jesus, I do this for you.'*

Then, her eyes shining, Andrea whispered, "Sister, I always do it anyway."

Alabama



Kentucky

"Please Forward"

by Sister Mary Patrick

MIDNIGHT MASS was over. In our hearts there lingered the harmonies of the angels, while jubilant joy and peace seemed to flood our little convent.

We each found ourselves a comfortable place, and paged through our Christmas mail, which had grown mysteriously during the Holy Season of Advent.

Each year we look forward to the same loving greetings from our loved ones and faithful friends. We came across an envelope which puzzled us. The address was scarcely readable, because of the numerous "Please forward" signs which were written all over it. We became a little alarmed and curious, wondering if the F.B.I. were trying to locate us.

In order to make sure, we opened it immediately, and drew out an artistic picture of the shepherds hastening to Bethlehem. Written inside was the following message:

Dear Sister,

I think of you and Sister Joseph so often, and always with affection and thankfulness that you came to our front door one day taking a census.

A happy Christmas to you!

Sincerely,

Helen Smith

ABOUT ten years ago we stood on Mrs. Smith's doorstep and inquired if any Catholics lived there. To us it seems but yesterday. Again we see Mrs. Smith standing at the door, young, attractive, her golden hair shining in the sun. In a soft low voice, she had replied to our question, with the simple statement, "Yes, I am a Catholic." We were amazed. Somehow we were not prepared for this answer. Mrs. Smith was living almost in the shadow of the church, and we wondered why this revealing information had not leaked out before. Tactfully, we explained who we were and the purpose of our home visiting in this locality. After our introduction, we silently listened as Mrs. Smith gave us the necessary information we were seeking. She had been a practical Catholic until her marriage outside the Church. There were no impediments in

having her marriage validated, nor any particular reason why her children were not baptized.

There seemed to be so much natural happiness and beauty in this home. We could not help but think how wonderful if all could be supernaturalized. Then life for them would become infinitely precious, deeply significant, and truly Christian.

So we began our little "sales talk" on the tremendous graces of the Sacraments and the Mass, and reminded her of the tender love of Mary. Then we suggested that she call on her pastor.

Much to our joy, in that same low decisive voice she said, "Yes, I will call on Father X this evening."

AS we walked down the road, we could not but recall the words of the first great Missionary, Our Blessed Saviour, when He said, "Go out into the highways and byways and compel them to come in."

Home visiting is truly one of the most efficacious means of reaching souls—after prayer and sacrifice. Our knocking on doors is actually grace knocking on the human heart.

Mrs. Smith kept her appointment and, in a short time, became an exemplary Catholic. The above note speaks her deep gratitude and appreciation for the peace she now possesses.

However, we have often asked ourselves, "Who paid the ransom for the family?"

A FEW years ago, Father Gallo, a Missionary Father of the Sacred Hearts, famous for his great work of winning countless souls to the Heart of Christ, was dying. So great had been his influence with souls that a priest came to his bedside to ask him the secret of his success. Father replied with these words, "I paid the ransom!"

Often we ponder on those who pay ransom for the souls who, through our instrumentality, return to the fold. Some we know, but there are

(Please turn to page 18)

Mary's



"With angels, Jesus,
I adore:
But what would You
that I do more?"
"On earth seek you
My counterpart,
And love that child
with all your heart!
Like Me, among the poor
he'll be:
With alms and prayers,
help him and Me!

Dear Loyal Helpers:

FOR all the prayers and pennies sent to aid our work among poor children, during the past year, we thank you! During the Christmas Season—on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, if possible—Sunshine Secretary will have the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered for you. When Jesus lies upon the altar, we will ask Him to raise His tiny hand in blessing on you and all those dear to you. We shall ask Him to reward you for all the sacrifices you made to help us help poor children.

A MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR!

Mary-ly yours,
SUNSHINE SECRETARY, MLH.

BERNADETTE STADLER SENDS EIGHT!

IN the October issue of THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST, we offered a beautiful blue and white enameled *Mary's Loyal Helper's* pin to every boy and girl who would send us two new subscriptions to our little magazine.

Imagine our surprise and joy when we received *eight* new subscriptions from one Helper, —Bernadette Stadler, of Topeka, Kansas!

Besides sending Bernadette the promised *Mary's Loyal Helper's* pin we rewarded her with a special premium.

We renew our offer to send an MLH pin to each Helper who sends us the price of two new subscriptions (\$2.00). Anyone who sends us more than two new subscriptions will receive an extra reward, besides.

PICTURES WANTED

Has your picture appeared in *Mary's Loyal Helpers* pages? Send us a small clear snapshot and we'll be glad to print it. At the same time tell us something about yourself. What are your favorite sports, hobbies, etc.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI HELPERS



Above are pictured Robert and Patsy Sager, of St. Louis, Missouri. It is a year since this snapshot was taken. Robert is now a sophomore in high school, and Patsy is in the seventh grade at St. Cecilia's School, in their city. They are relatives of Sister Jacinta, who is stationed in Brady, Texas.

Loyal Helpers Page

LETTERS O' THE MONTH

"This afternoon we were very busy with Christmas decorations at school. Actually we were busy all week making the designs, but this afternoon we put them up. Jane Dichello and myself were assigned to trim the kindergarten, along with Edward Sittnick and Ronald Bish. The decorations are very pretty, consisting of a gold star above two large white candles. In between the candles is a white poinsettia and a red one on each side.

"Our 'Youth Retreat' this year was conducted by Reverend Lawrence E. Stanley, S. J. It was supposed to be for High School boys and girls, but we seventh and eighth graders were invited, too. Father is a very forceful speaker and sounds like a very learned man."

Barbara Ann Lee, Wallingford, Conn.

"I gave up a football game and got a quarter. I put it in my Sunshine Bag. I am in the third grade and my teacher's name is Sister Sabina Marie. My music teacher's name is Sister Francis. I am sending a dollar from my Sunshine Bag. This is my second offering."

Kathleen Irvine, Manhattan, Kansas.



A DETROIT, MICHIGAN HELPER



"Hello, Hello!" calls little Regina Glonek of Detroit, Michigan. "I am wishing all Loyal Helpers and Sunshine Secretary a Merry Christmas!"

December, 1951



HELP DRESS THE CHILD JESUS WITH SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

1. A Little Dress: Obey your parents promptly without arguments.
2. A Little Cape: Check your impulse to speak sharply and angrily at your companions.
3. A Crown of Gold: Whisper, "Jesus, I love You" every hour.

DECEMBER PUZZLE

This will be a "star" puzzle. Write down the word star five times on the left hand side of your paper. By adding the number of letters indicated you will have a new word. We also furnish you with a clue.



1. Add one letter and you will have a word which means *to begin*.
2. Add one letter and you will have a word which means *to gaze fixedly at*.
3. Add two letters and you will have a word which means *to go without food for a long time*.
4. Add two letters and you will have a word which means *to make stiff*.
5. Add four letters and you will have the name of a *common bird*.

Send your worked puzzle to Sunshine Secretary, Victory Noll, Huntington, Indiana, and she will send you a holy card.

ANSWERS TO NOVEMBER PUZZLE

1. Turkey. 2. Cranberries. 3. Gravy. 4. Potatoes. 5. Mince Pie. 6. Cake 7. Celery. 8. Pickles.



BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED

Fifteenth Anniversary Book of
THE BLESSED MARTIN GUILD
 Compiled by Norbert Georges, O.P., S.T.Lr.
 141 E. 65th Street, New York 21, N. Y.
 Price: \$1.75

FATIMA or World Suicide,
 Price: \$1.00
 by Rt. Rev. Wm. C. McGrath, P.A.
 The Scarboro Foreign Mission Society,
 Ontario, Canada

GOD'S TEENAGER (Blessed Dominic Savio)
 20c single copy; \$10 a hundred
 by Rev. Paul Aronica, S.D.B. of the "Don
 Bosco Writers Guild"
 Salesiana Publishers & Distributors, New
 Rochelle, N.Y.
 (20c single copy; \$10 a hundred)

MY LITTLE MISSAL by Rev. Francis Turmezei
 Price: 25c
 Catechetical Guild, 147 E. Fifth Street,
 St. Paul, Minn.

WHAT THE JEWS BELIEVE by Rabbi Philip
 S. Bernstein
 Farrar, Straus and Young, Inc. 53 E. 34th St.,
 New York 16, N.Y.

The following pamphlets may be obtained
 from Radio Replies Press, St. Paul 1, Minn.

COMMUNION CRUSADE by Father Lawrence
 G. Lovasik, S.V.D., price 35c.

THE JEHOVAH WITNESS by Rev. Dr.
 Rumble, M.S.C., price 15c.

THE ADVENTISTS by Rev. Dr. Rumble,
 M.S.C., price 15c.

(Continued from page 15)

countless others we do not know. They are the
 invincible army, the King's favorites, sealed with
 the insignia of His cross.

DURING this beloved season when earth seems
 to be clothed with some of the beauty of
 Heaven, as once again we kneel before the crib
 to meditate on the wondrous mystery of the In-
 carnation, we will ask the Infant King to bless
 with His richest blessings those souls who paid
 the ransom.

OUR SUNDAY VISITOR PAMPHLETS

WHO'S WHO in the P.O.A.U.? (60c single copy; \$22.00 a hundred)
LOVE THY NEIGHBOR (85c single copy; \$39.00 a hundred)
MAN IS DESTINED FOR THE GLORY OF GOD (20c single copy; \$8.00 a hundred)
THIS NATION UNDER GOD (25c single copy; \$10.00 a hundred)
HOW TO COUNTERACT ANTI-CATHOLIC PROPAGANDA (20c single copy; \$6.00 a hundred)
RELIGION IN A CAPSULE (50c single copy; \$22.00 a hundred)
TO WEAR A HALO (25c single copy; \$9.25 a hundred)
THE UNSEEN ARMY (20c single copy; \$18.00 a hundred)
LOOKING FORWARD 20c single copy; \$8.75 a hundred)
CHRIST AS SEEN BY HIS APOSTLES (20c single copy; \$8.75 a hundred)
HIS WAYS HIS PATHS (20c single copy; \$8.75 a hundred)
BY GREYHOUND TO HEAVEN, VIRGINIA (25c single copy; \$9.25 a hundred)
SANCTITY ON THE SIDEWALK (30c single copy; \$13.00 a hundred)
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND MODERN MAN (65c single copy; \$38.00 a hundred)
RELIGION (50c single copy; \$22.00 a hundred)
THE ROCK PLUNGED INTO ETERNITY (40c single copy; \$18.00 a hundred)
HOME WRECKERS (20c single copy; \$8.00 a hundred)
ST. THERESE: MESSENGER OF THE CHILD JESUS (20c single copy; \$8.00 a hundred)
OPENING THE GATES (20c single copy; \$8.00 a hundred)
OF SAINTS AND KINGS AND THE PRINCE OF PEACE (20c single copy; \$9.50 a hundred)
THE UNKNOWN GOD (20c single copy; \$9.50 a hundred)
IN THESE OUR DAYS (25c single copy; \$10.00 a hundred)
THE WOMAN (35c single copy; \$17.00 a hundred)
GOD ON WEEKDAYS (20c single copy; \$9.50 a hundred)
STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND TEEN-AGE GROUPS (10c single copy; \$4.00 a hundred)
MARY IS SHE IN HEAVEN WITH HER BODY NOW? (10c single copy; \$4.00 a hundred)
OUR'S IS A MAN'S WORLD (10c single copy; \$4.00 a hundred)
LIVING OR LIVING (10c single copy; \$4.00 a hundred)
CATHOLIC TEACHING ON CHURCH AND STATE (10c single copy; \$4.00 a hundred)
WHAT ABOUT MERCY SLAYING? (10c single copy; \$4.00 a hundred)
GOD'S PLAN—YOUR WAR (25c single copy; \$11.50 a hundred)
THE CHILD: CITIZEN OF TWO WORLDS (30c single copy; \$12.50 a hundred)
EDUCATION FOR CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP (30c single copy; \$12.50 a hundred)
 Novena to ST. MARY GORETTI by Father Conroy.





Our Postulants

A Postulant Is A Little Girl—

Who has just changed her stylish frock
 For one of black—
 ankle length and full—
 Her slender feet are a trifle awkward
 In black oxfords
 with rubber heels—

A Postulant Sometimes Moves "Squads Left"—

When she should move forward—
 She breaks dishes
 and misses bells—
 She goes to dinner when it's time
 for prayers—

A Postulant Laughs At Anything And Nothing—

She giggles at the right time
 and the wrong time—
 Reproving looks cannot restrain her laughter
 because it bubbles from her heart.

A Postulant Weeps A Little On Occasion—

Because the knife that separated her
 From home and loved ones
 Is yet warm with sacrifice—
 Time is required—

A Postulant Loves Everything And Everybody—

She loves her mistress and her companions—
 her convent home and its surroundings—
 her books—her duties—
 her quaint little costume—
 her funny shoes—

And Because She Is Young And Gay And Generous—

A postulant is cherished
 by her Community—
 And deeply loved
 by
 God.

Children at Paulding, Ohio visit the outdoor Crib at the Sisters' convent.



A Happy and Blessed Christmas to All!

*May the Immaculate Mother ask her Divine Babe
to bless you and yours
on Christmas Day and throughout the New Year*

*Mother Cecilia, Superior General
and
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters*