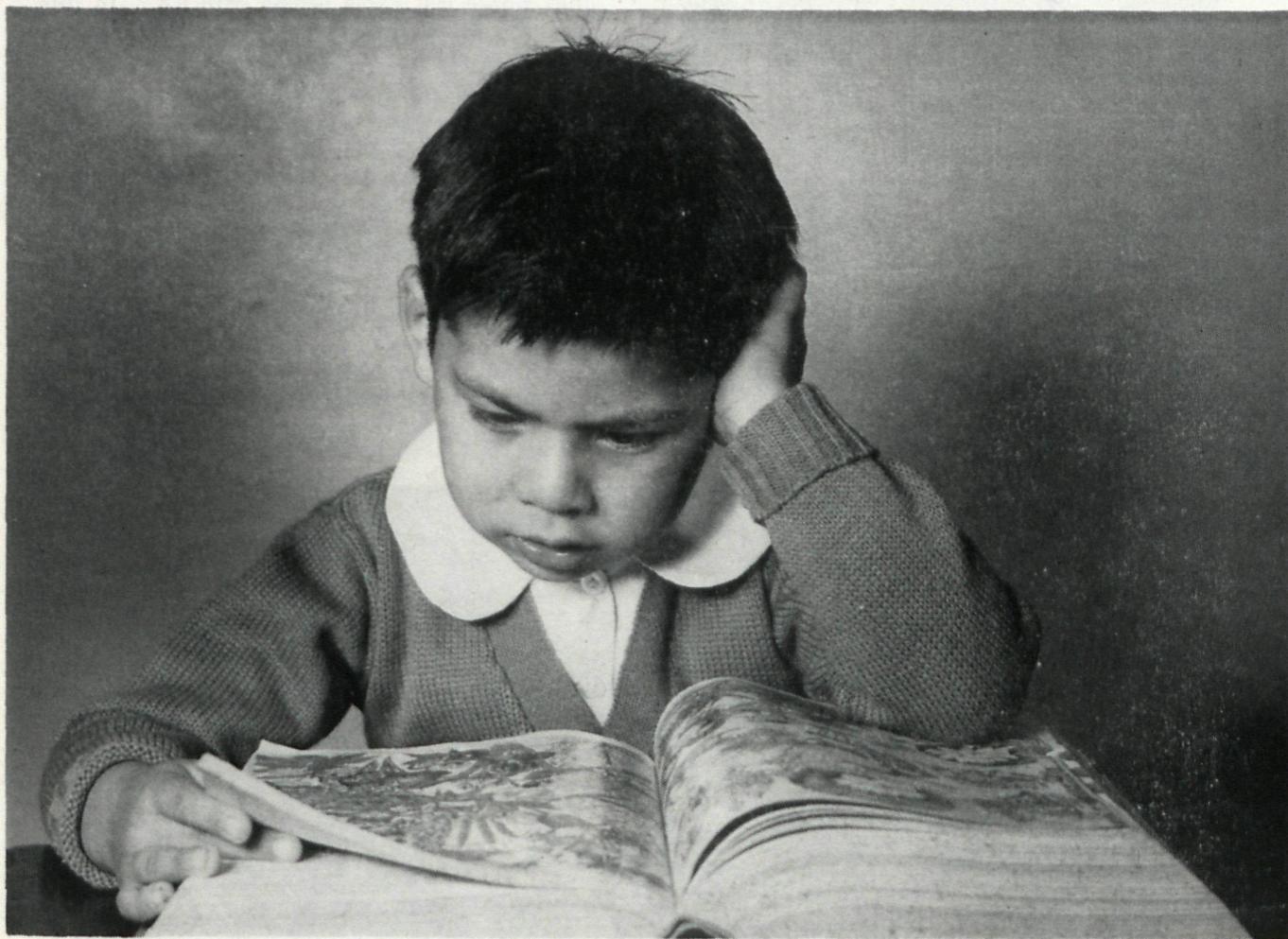


February 1952

the **M** *issionary* **G** *atechist*



February is Catholic Press Month

OUR LADY OF VICTORY MISSIONARY SISTERS

A Letter to Tarcisian Boys and Girls

A SACRED HEART PROJECT FOR 1952

Dear Tarcisians,

We have an important plan to help bring the Sacred Heart to non-Catholic Negroes and so bring them into the true Church. We need your help. There aren't enough priests and Sisters to reach the 13,000,000 Negroes in the United States.

We are having a little card printed with a picture of the Sacred Heart on it and an explanation of what the picture means as a sign of Jesus' love. We are going to distribute these cards in large quantities all through the South where there are large Negro populations. Everyone who accepts the card and honors it in any way, such as carrying it with him, or putting it in a prominent place in his home is certainly going to be blessed by the Sacred Heart Who never breaks His word. On the back of the card will be prayers which we will ask them to say every day.

Now we are going to ask each Tarcisian Club or Group to adopt a part of the State in which there are many Negroes as its special mission for 1952. We have made a chart showing each County of the State. Each Tarcisian Club

will be given a County as its own Mission. But I want you to write to me asking me to assign a county to your Group, Club or Class. Then we will send you the name of the county and state for which you will earn Golden Pennies.

When you receive the name of the county, each Tarcision should earn Golden Pennies for the Negro families in that county whose last name begins with the same initial as the Tarcisian's does. So, if your last name is Allen, you would earn Golden Pennies for all Negro families whose last name begins with "A." In this way you will be praying for particular families, not just people in general.

We are going to write to the Holy Father to tell him all about our plan, and ask His blessing. I know he will be very happy to hear about it for he loves the Negroes very much and is always anxious to have us help them to become Catholics in every way we can. So, by getting in back of this important project you will make the Holy Father very happy and he will be prouder than ever of his beloved American Tarcisians.

Sending you my blessing, I am, your friend
in the Sacred Hearts,

Father Francis, SS. CC.



SACRED HEART OF JESUS, THY KINGDOM COME!

An idea worth passing on: On St. Valentine's Day, a group of Tarcisians in Indiana are planning to give Sacred Heart badges to their friends instead of the customary valentines.

For further information about the Tarcisians write to:

Tarcisian Secretary

Box 109 Victory Noll

Huntington, Indiana

The Missionary Catechist

Volume XXVIII

February, 1952

Number 3

To Shelter the Homeless

by Sister Melita

"How fortunate that the Sisters found a home for the poor little waifs," you will probably say upon seeing this picture of Ricky and LeRoy. But, wait! You have drawn the wrong conclusion, for this time the situation is really the reverse. It was not Sister who provided shelter for them, but they who gave her refuge. This is how it happened.

The two little cherubs are cousins, and Ricky's mother, Mrs. Floyd, takes care of both of them. Her three school-age children, although not Catholic, enrolled in our release time classes, and were faithful in attendance. Until January, they were the only ones of the family that we had met. That is when we were presented with the problem of finding new quarters to teach in, for we could no longer teach in the apartment we had been using.

For the first class after this sudden displacement, Sister settled the youngsters on the steps of the dark stairway, but the sneezes and sniffles informed her that even in sunny California, January can bring penetrating cold and dampness. An indoor classroom had to be found, but no Catholics lived close enough to the school. It was then that John Floyd, Ricky's oldest brother, told Sister that they lived close to the school gate, and that his mother would be glad to have us. True to traditional southern hospitality, she welcomed us wholeheartedly.

"I always did want to learn about the Catholic religion, and this will give me a chance," she informed us, "and my boy, John, he says he wants to become a Catholic."

So we moved in, and twice a week, Ricky and LeRoy watched from the window for their "Sister Lady" to come. Mrs. Floyd was most gracious and helpful, and listened to every in-



struction while she did the family ironing in an adjoining room.

Toward the close of the year, Sister gave the family a framed picture of the Sacred Heart, which they promptly hung in a prominent place in the living room. Though they are not yet received into the fold, we know that Our Lord will surely bless this family, who so generously "sheltered the homeless."

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Islands of Christianity

by Sister Miriam

"Reading in a Christian home," began Sister, "is really a big, broad subject. But this is Catholic Press month, and it's a good time for our Mothers' Club to start discussing the matter."

The little group had been buzzing with interest before the opening prayer, poring over an array of books, pamphlets and magazines. Now they were ready for an animated discussion.

"First let's talk about reading in general. It seems to be almost a lost art nowadays, and we don't want that to be the case when so much good can be accomplished through it."

"Don't you think movies and radio and television have caused that, Sister?" asked one of the mothers.

"Yes," replied Sister, "and you may add a couple of other factors. The increased use of pictures, both photos and cartoon style, has supplanted reading matter to a great extent. While all these audio-visual aids are good, they cannot take the place of reading when it comes to serious study and discernment of truth."

"I was very disappointed when my oldest child started to school," proffered a thoughtful woman, "and seemed to like only picture books. I tried to encourage her to enjoy little books as I had done at her age. Finally I realized that she just couldn't read."

"Well, I'm glad I'm not the only one with that experience. I don't like to be criticizing the school, but their method just doesn't seem to work," spoke up another member.

"They told me not to teach Jerry the ABC's, since the progressive system taught them to read by words, but I could tell he wasn't getting anywhere. Now I'm giving the younger ones a start on their alphabet before they enter school."

"Good," commented Sister. "Many are recognizing that fact now, and reverting to the older idea of teaching the phonetic value of letters and building them into words. We find in our religion classes that many children are far below in reading ability. I think mothers can do a lot to actually teach reading skill."

"You can also counteract the other factors that are inimical to developing an enjoyment of reading. Try to control the proportion of movie, radio and television intake, and watch that the children do not have an unbalanced diet of picture material."

"Doesn't it help if we read aloud to the little ones?" queried a young matron. "I remember my mother reading to us as she rubbed our chests during a family siege of whooping cough. We all loved it and as soon as we could read ourselves, became real library fans."

"Reading aloud in the home is splendid," said Sister. "You read to the children when they are small, and later let them read to you, or to the still younger ones. They'll learn to take a just pride in being good readers."

"I'm a little afraid of overdoing it," came a cautious voice. "Isn't it possible to ruin their eyes and have young bookworms wearing glasses too soon?"

"Not if they use their eyes correctly," was the answer. "Teach them to read in proper lighting, keeping their eyes relaxed by frequent easy blinking. Don't let them stare and strain, and read when they're too tired or not well. Normal eyes will never need glasses that way."

"Now that we've touched on the highlights of restoring the lost art of reading in the home, let's see what material should be found in a Catholic home. That includes books, pamphlets, comics, magazines and newspaper."

"There is a steady stream of fine Catholic books coming from various publishers. You can choose from annotated lists such as The Family Book Shelf from Confraternity Publications, or join a Catholic Book Club, or follow the review in your favorite periodicals. Gradually you can build up a good home library."

"Sister, much as I appreciate good books, I find them pretty expensive when trying to raise a large family these days," interposed a member.

"I realize that," answered Sister. "Instead of buying all you would like to read, you can train the family to patronize Catholic lending library sources, and to find what Catholic books

they can in the public library. Incidentally, if more of us asked for 'our own' material, the public library would carry more of it."

"And don't you think," came an eager voice, "that we could be more apostolic in lending our treasures of the Catholic press to our non-Catholic friends."

"Fine," said another. "I heard a good suggestion once, that even with pamphlets you should loan them to some one you want to impress, as if it were a special and valuable favor. Seems to have a psychological effect."

"Pamphlets are good for prospective converts, of course," Sister added, "and also for any member of the family. You can find almost any subject covered in the pamphlets put out by Our Sunday Visitor, The Queen's Work, Paulist Press, and others.

"Comic books are another short, light form of absorbing truths. Treasure Chest and Topix are the best-known, and besides their bi-monthly issues they have published striking numbers on communism, secularism and various religious subjects.

"The magazine field is vast, as you can see from the sample copies on display."

"Oh, yes, Sister," some one replied. "I never knew so many even existed."

"Well, it would be impossible to read even half of all that's printed. But I think every home should have a good assortment: some thoughtful magazines like The Sign or the Ligourian; others of the homey type as St. Anthony's Messenger, or the Catholic Home Journal; and special publications for the children, such as the Catholic Boy and the Catholic Miss, and Mine for little ones.

"Newspapers, of course, include our diocesan weekly, supplemented if you like by a national paper like Our Sunday Visitor or the Register, and the children's own Messenger series."

"I've been thinking about how to realize this ideal," proffered a practical woman. "Perhaps neighbor families could pool their books and magazines instead of duplicating subscriptions and purchases."

"Excellent," said another. "And we can utilize the Catholic Press more in selecting gifts for one another."

"I'm glad you're showing that spirit," was Sister's warm comment. "The financial sacrifice of supporting our press will be more than repaid in our spiritual and moral gain. After all, how does it compare with what we spend for daily newspapers and other secular reading? And how control the menacing flood of secularism from engulfing our Islands of Christianity, without the guidance of Catholic thinkers and writers?"

A HEART-WARMING TALE

by Mary Margaret McBride

You can talk until your tongue drops out about brotherhood and loving your neighbor and how fine and noble it all is, but brotherhood in action, however simple its forms, has the fine words beat five ways. To prove it, I'll tell you a story you may have heard before. If you have, it will be a heart-warming tale to hear again.

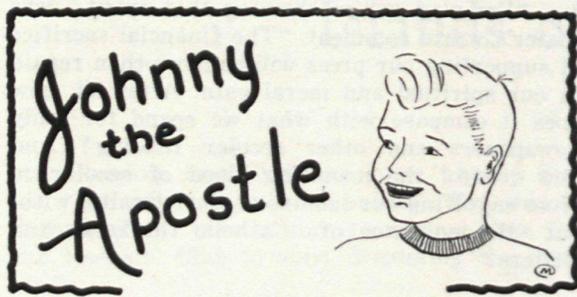
The scene is Detroit, Michigan. Two or three times every day a ragged line forms outside a nondescript red brick hall on the lower east side of the city. Not a man in line has a job, and most wouldn't even know where their next meal was coming from if it weren't for a group of business men who call themselves the Capuchin Charity Guild.

You'll find Protestants, Jews and Catholics in the guild and the members have managed to keep a kitchen open for the needy throughout the past 14 years whether there were 100 or 1500 hungry men.

The group takes its name from the Capuchin Monastery located a few doors from the Guild Hall. During the depression the monks began this task of feeding the hungry. But as it grew, a number of Catholic business men offered to help. Before long Protestants and Jews wanted in on the work. There were about 200 in the original group. Today there are nearly a thousand.

In the early days they promoted a much-needed Guild Hall and a kitchen. Then they suddenly had to have a basement and two cold storage rooms because tons of food and supplies poured in from local dairies, grocery chains and bakeries. Everybody wanted to help—brotherhood in action! See what I mean?

Sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews



By Sister Marie

Sister sighed with relief. Another class was finished. She enjoyed teaching the fifth graders about God's love for them. That Johnny, however, tried her patience so! He was such a mischief-maker in class. She often wondered if he heard anything she said. "If only I knew he understood something from my instruction," she thought as she put her books together.

Johnny was already on his way home. Sister would have been surprised if she knew where Johnny's thoughts were. Believe it or not, he was thinking about something Sister had said.

"The best way to be an apostle is to give good example, and the best way to give good example is to do something hard just for Jesus, just to show Him that you really are His friend and that He can count on you to be a real apostle."

"Gee whiz," Johnny thought to himself, "Who wants to do something hard? It is hard enough to be good some of the time."

Johnny trudged along unconsciously counting the cracks in the sidewalk. Suddenly he remembered the *Treasure Chest* in his back pocket. He pulled it out and began to read it, when suddenly . . . BANG!

"Why don't you look where you're goin'?"

"Aw, I'm sorry, Chuck. I was reading an interesting story here, and I didn't see you."

"What's the book?"

"*Treasure Chest*."

"Never heard of it."

"You haven't!" Johnny cried in surprise. "Well, say, you've been missing some good reading. This is not just another comic. It is a *Catholic* comic full of good reading and interesting stories about the saints, and people who were real friends of God."

Chuck eyed the comic with that "wish-I-had-it" look, and said, "How about giving me this one so I can see what it's all about?"

Johnny opened his mouth to say "No," because he had not finished reading it himself. But all at once (it must have been his Guardian Angel) he heard, "'An apostle is one who for the love of Jesus, always gives good example and tries to win other souls for Christ.' Pete is the type of guy who needs something good to read. Someone has to get him back on the right track. He's been slipping lately. Go ahead. Be generous. Give him the *Treasure Chest* and you will have your treasure in heaven."

Johnny's eyes brightened, "Yes, here is my chance," he thought, "but I still would love to finish reading it myself. Oh well, I can't let Jesus down even though it hurts." Then, aloud, he said, "Here you are, Chuck. Read the story on page 8 . . . it's great."

"Gee, thanks, Johnny! You're a pal!" Chuck grinned as he tucked the comic under his arm and went whistling down the street.

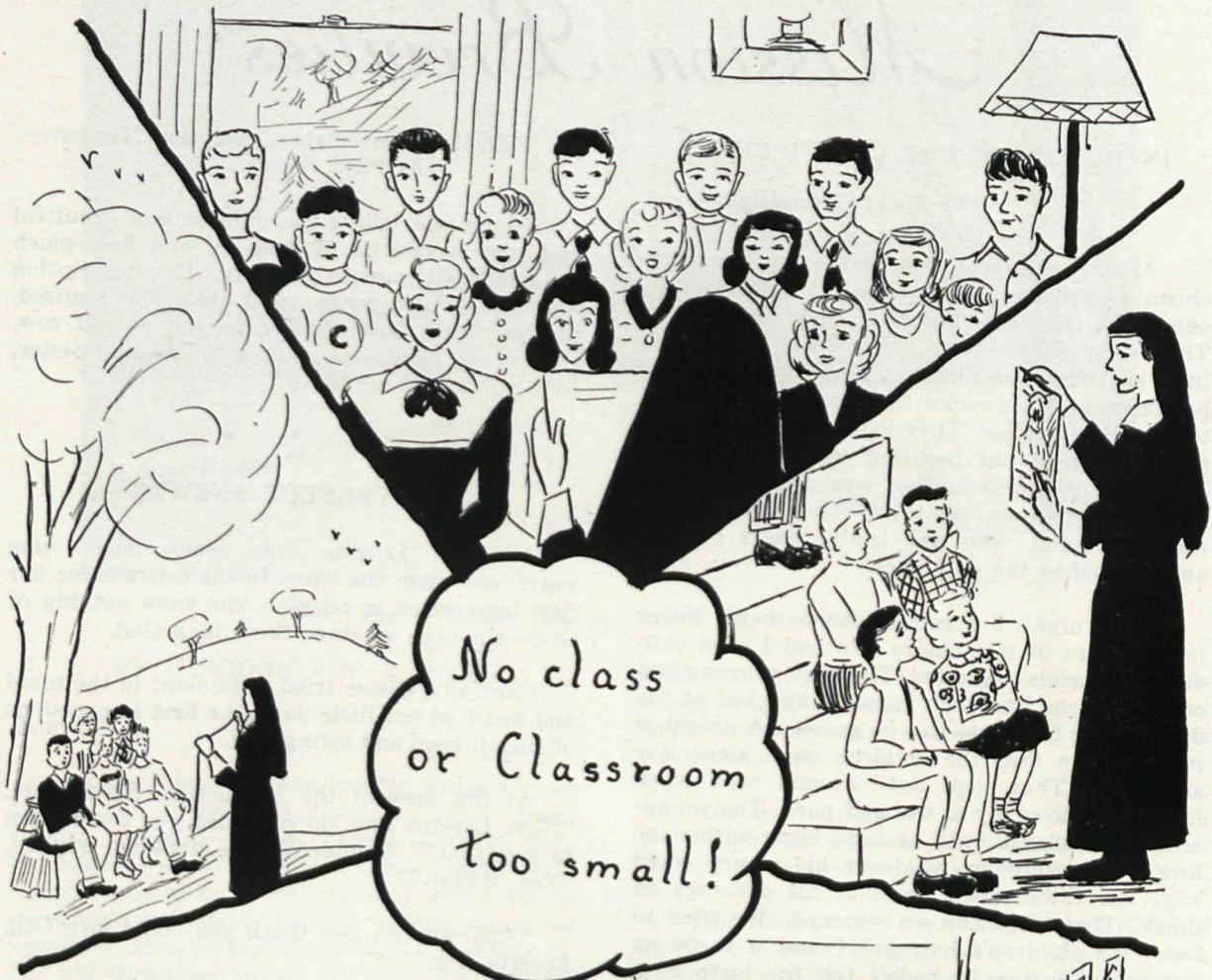
Johnny walked on now without bumping into anyone. He could see where he was going now, and he had time to think. "I don't know why," he thought to himself, "but I feel good all over. I wish I could be brave and have courage enough to do things like that more often."

Johnny turned up the walk leading to his house. As he opened the door his twin sister Julia met him and said, "Oh, Johnny, I hope you didn't buy the *Treasure Chest* yet because I got this one this afternoon."

Johnny was so filled with happiness that he couldn't answer right away. He was thinking how good Jesus is to those who try to prove their loyalty to Him, even in little ways. He remembered that Sister had once said, "Jesus can never be outdone in generosity. Whenever you do something for Him, He will always do much more for you."

From the fullness of his heart, Johnny exclaimed, "Gee, Julia, it's great to be an apostle!" And Julia thought, "What's wrong with him? The apostles lived almost two thousand years ago, when Jesus was living on this earth."

Julia had not heard how one can be an apostle in 1952; but, we know what Johnny meant, don't we?



No class
or Classroom
too small!



Mission Brevities

IN HONOR OF THE CHRIST CHILD

by Sister Carmelita

As the children were gathering for catechism class at Benito Juarez hall, I saw two girls, one about ten years and the other about eight. They were followed by a barefoot, half naked little boy whose hair was so long that I thought he was a girl. I greeted them and invited them to come in for class. They looked afraid so I did not urge them but inquired where they lived. They told me their mother was dead and their father worked out of town. They also had a brother Daniel, who was twelve years of age, and worked at the golf park.

That night I dreamed about them. Never in my years of missionary life had I seen children so terribly neglected. The next morning two of us went to find their home. I knocked at the dug-out hut but there was no answer. A neighbor informed us that the children were alone day and night. They slept until around noon when Daniel left to caddy at the golf park. The younger children played until he came home with some bread and candy or whatever his money could buy. The father spent most of his earnings on drink. That afternoon we returned. We tried to comb the children's hair but found it to be an impossible feat as it hadn't felt the teeth of a comb for so long. As it was full of vermin, we did not hesitate to cut it and treat it. There was a complete transformation in little Nickie and his big smile was a joy to behold.

We made our report to the Catholic Welfare Bureau and soon the girls were placed in a Catholic orphanage. Daniel was old enough to go with his father, but what about little Nickie? We sent our prayers winging heavenward for him.

The following Sunday a young couple came to our convent asking us to find a baby for them to adopt as they could not have any children of their own. The next week they took Nickie to his new home. He cried a bit at first, but after he saw all the toys they had for him he was consoled. It took but a few weeks to transform him into a little prince in his new home. His adopted parents love him as their own. They are busy teaching him to pray and he accompanies them to Mass on Sundays. Blessed are they who adopt and care for a little orphan in honor of the Christ Child.

FROM—Immaculate Conception Mission—
El Paso, Texas

Sister was telling the children how beautiful and how wonderful Heaven is, and how much we should all want to go there. Her description must have been more vivid than she realized, because little Jose, sitting in the second row, raised his hand and earnestly asked, "Sister, have you ever been there?"

* * *

THE PERFECT ANSWER

Although Loretta Ann was almost nine years old when she came to the convent for her first instruction in religion, she knew nothing of God—not even whether there be a God.

Carefully, Sister tried to implant in the mind and heart of her little pupil the first impressions of the all-good and loving God.

At the close of the instruction, Sister said, "Now, Loretta Ann, do you think you could learn to love God?" Confidently the little one replied, "Yes, Sister."

"And why do you think you could love God, Loretta Ann?"

"Because He is so good," the child said simply. And Sister was satisfied with the first instruction.

Sister Helen
Flat River Missouri.

* * *

I was sitting down after Mass waiting for the adults to leave the church before dismissing the children, when I heard a little voice talking aloud. I turned to see who was breaking the silence and saw a toddler of about two years coming towards me with his arms outstretched repeating: "Let me kiss you! Let me kiss you!" Throwing his arms around my neck he gave me the kiss of innocent childhood. I thought of the Christ Child Whose image shone in the upturned face.

Sister Josepha
Middlesex, New Jersey



Our Lady of Victory Convent, Santa Fe, New Mexico

MY KINGDOM FOR A JEEP

Dear Sister,

As we promised when leaving Santa Fe, we are writing to tell you about the place where we are staying — Juan Tomas. This is truly the Shan-gri-la of America. I can hardly make myself settle down to writing as I would like to sit outside and watch the moon come up over the mountain. How calm and peaceful everything is. The big dipper just seems to dip right down over Martinez' house. I can hear the sound of a bell. It is the sheep wandering through the village.

We call this house our little mansion for we seldom have a four room house to stay in. The youngsters keep our wood box filled, though it is at a sacrifice of time for they are up at five in the morning and work in the fields until time to go to school. After school they resume work until time to go home for supper.

We have to draw our water from a well, the

The children had just gone to confession in preparation for their First Holy Communion. We had a short recess before we started class. Marie came running to tell everybody. "Oh, I'm so happy. I just had to call up my mother and tell her all my sins are taken away."

Sister Mary Lawrence
Winnemucca, Nevada

kind you use a bucket to pull the water up. No sooner do we arrive at the well than the horses come for their share of water and the children come to help us carry the water.

And our reading lamps: In vain do we look for a light switch only to remember that coal oil was discovered before electricity!

The road to get here: That is THE problem. Many are the times when I have to walk up the hill as the car won't pull. (But that is how I keep young, or so I tell Sister.) Rocks seem to appear from nowhere and I have to remove them from the road. The car will not pull, the brakes will not hold; so I get busy piling rocks behind the wheels until we start merrily on our way.

Yes, my kingdom for a Jeep.

God bless you. We're looking forward to seeing you in Santa Fe.

Sister Susanna

FROM—Holy Family Mission—
Lubbock, Texas

A little "grown-up" miss came for private instruction for First Communion. On taking off her coat and perching herself in a big arm-chair she said, "Sister, we're going to move." "Oh, you are, Aleta! When do you plan on leaving?" Very sure of herself she answered, "Well, I believe it will be yesterday."

In the Home Field



Sister Mary Christine and a group of Tarcisians at Santa Catalina church, Catalina Island



Sister Margarita with a First Communion class, Santa Fe Cathedral, Santa Fe, New Mexico



Sister Mary Ruth and junior sodalists,
San Bernardino, California



Sister Dolores with Troop No. 940, Resurrection church,
Los Angeles

Our Front Cover: Anthony Victorino is taught
by our Sisters at San Basilio Mission Center, Los
Angeles, California.



Sister Frances and a group of boys during handcraft period at religious summer school, Santa Paula,
California.



News Items About

OUR ORCHIDS TO MRS. FRED KIEFER

DURING the first six months of the year recently ended "all was silent on the Potomac" as far as *St. Justin Martyr Band, Chicago*, presided over by *Mrs. Fred Kiefer*, was concerned. In the Fall, things began to happen. A very large and successful card party, held in the parish hall, brought \$360.75. Besides this, Mrs. Kiefer induced the Immaculata Club (Mrs. A. J. Sach, President) through her very dear friend, Mrs. Frances Sutterlin, to contribute the proceeds of one of their parties to Sister Justine's Burse, which added another \$85.00 to same.

Our Promoter writes that they had the worst possible weather on the night of their big party—a terrible snowstorm—and they were heart-sick about it. In spite of this, they made more money than at any previous party.

One of the prizes which went over big was a christening coat and bonnet. "Every doting grandmother had her eye on it," according to Mrs. Kiefer.

Dear Associates:

RECENTLY a number of Promoters have written me as follows: "There are so few women left in the Band, as compared with the number we had twenty years ago when we organized."

May I suggest that hereafter when a member drops out for any reason, that a new member be sought to take her place? In the case of Bands which are notably depleted in ranks, perhaps each member could try to secure one new member.

It would grieve me very much if our auxiliary organization were to die out for want of members. It is mutually too good a thing for that, don't you think so?

I should therefore like to counsel you, my dear Associates, to make a real effort to bridge the gaps which have occurred in the mission clubs, through deaths and resignations, by inviting new friends into your old circles. Surely, the united purpose, "to help the Sisters who help the poor" should be sufficient motivation to forge a bond of union between the old and new members. Newcomers may have new ideas, helpful suggestions, experiences to bring into the group, also. Of course, you will want to find congenial persons who will be acceptable to the rest. You might invite a "prospect" simply in the capacity of a guest for a couple of meetings. Then, if the rest of the members like her and are willing to admit her into the Band, the invitation to become a regular member can then be extended.

God love you and reward you for your help through the years.

Yours in our dear Lady of Victory,
SISTER SUPERVISOR, ACM.

MEET OUR PROMOTERS



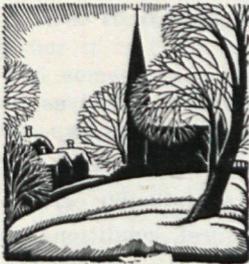
We are very happy to present to you, *Mrs. John J. Murphy*, Promoter of *Seven Dolours Band, Bellwood, Illinois*, which was organized on the Feast of the Seven Dolours of the Blessed Virgin Mary, September 15, 1949, and already numbers sixteen members. Mrs. Murphy is also a charter member of the Good Shepherd Mission Club, Chicago.

ATTENDANCE BETTER

A LETTER from the Promoter of *St. Joseph's Band, Chicago*, *Mrs. Eva M. Dugan*, with which she enclosed a check for \$25.00, said the attendance at meetings has been somewhat better of late. She continues to do her best to promote the Band.

Our Associates

DAYTON FRIENDS



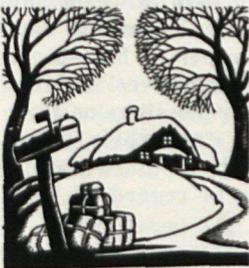
The members of *St. Helen's Band, Dayton, Ohio*, (*Miss Helen Melke, Promoter*) sponsor our Sister Eleanor, formerly of their city. In August, 1951, Sister was missioned to Richmond, Kentucky, which

was close enough for some of the Band members to visit her on a week-end. This gave them a close-up view of Sister's mission field and work.

THANKS OUR LADY

In a recent letter, *Miss Veronica Foertsch, Promoter of the Little Flower Mission Circle, Chicago*, attributes the success of two card parties to Mary's intercession, stating "Our Lady gave us nice weather." We believe our Blessed Mother (like a true mother) is solicitous about our temporal affairs as well as spiritual. Did she not relieve the embarrassment of the young bridal couple at Cana by providing more wine for them, through her Divine Son? And now she procures good weather for our Associates when they want to give benefit parties for our Sisters.

BIG CHECK FROM WAUCONDA, ILL.



At the end of the year, we received a hundred dollar check from *Mrs. Rosemary Hennessey, Secretary Treasurer, Mother Cabrini Band*. The Promoter, *Mrs. Clara Swiatly*, once a member of *Infant of*

Prague Band, Chicago, organized the Wauconda Band about four years ago when she moved to that location. The group sends mission boxes to our Sister *Mary Genrose*, formerly of Chicago.

GREETING CARD SALESWOMEN

The members of *Immaculate Conception Band, Detroit, Michigan* (*Miss Lillian Dunn, Promoter*) have made the selling of greeting cards their chief means of raising money for the missions. They have been very successful in their endeavor, in spite of keen competition.



ACM BAND CONTRIBUTIONS

November 17, 1951 to December 19, 1951

Charitina Band No. 1, Chicago, Katherine Hennigan	\$ 6.00
Charitina Band No. 2, Paris, Illinois Mary C. Gibbons	90.00
Immaculate Conception Band, Detroit, Lillian Dunn	25.00
Mother Cabrini Band, Wauconda, Illinois, Mrs. C. Swiatly	100.00
Mother of Perpetual Help Band, St. Louis, Mrs. Katherine Krueger	5.00
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Band, Appleton, Wisconsin, Helen Arens	53.00
Poor Souls Band, Berwyn, Illinois, Mrs. J. V. McGovern	16.50
Queen of Angels Band, Los Angeles, Mrs. C. J. Sauthier	15.00
Sacred Heart Mission Society, Newark, N. Y., Mrs. Sue Albanese	500.00
St. Anne Band, Fort Wayne, Mrs. Ann Deininger	10.00
St. Anne Band, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Mrs. Robt. Schrimpf	15.50
St. Catherine Band, Los Angeles, Mrs. M. McMannamy	5.00
St. Clare Band, Omaha, Mrs. Ann Igel, Mrs. H. Leutenegger	5.00
St. Irene Band, Chicago, May Walsh	7.00
St. Joseph No. 2 Band, Chicago, Mrs. Aloysia Naumes	17.00
St. Jude Mission Club, Chicago, Mrs. Chas. J. Fiala	25.00
St. Justin Martyr Band, Chicago, Mrs. Fred Kiefer	25.75
St. Katherine Band, Chicago, Mrs. Katherine Hammer	35.00
St. Luke Band, Chicago, Mrs. Lillian Potter	68.40
St. Margaret Mary Band, Omaha, Mrs. Fred Shields	5.00
St. Martin of Tours Band, Omaha, Lucille Murphy	5.00
St. Michael Mission Guild, Palos Hts., Ill., Mrs. Chas. Lynch	30.00
St. Raymond Band, Chicago, Mrs. Kathryn Quinlan	9.00
St. Thomas Aquinas Band, Chicago, Mrs. Marie B. McDonald	19.00
Seven Dolors Band, Bellwood, Illinois Mrs. Jno. J. Murphy	20.00
Via Matris Band, Chicago, Mary Genge, Sec.	10.00

Catechism of the True Devotion

by Rev. Ralph W. Beiting

10. HOW CAN MARY SANCTIFY, AUGMENT, AND EMBELLISH THE MERITS AND VIRTUES WE GIVE TO GUARD FOR US?

Once we have performed a good action, we receive a reward from God. This reward we call merit. This merit is given because of the work done here and now; so, once the good work is completed, the merit of that action cannot be increased, not even by Mary. However, once we have made the Act of Consecration to Mary as her slave, the same act performed now, will be more meritorious than it would have been before we bound ourself to Mary. In this sense, Mary increases and purifies our merits. The reason for this is that we now belong to Mary; we are doing things for her intentions, which are the purest imaginable. Mary is partner with us in all our activities, and therefore, our acts carry the stamp of Mary's love. Jesus seeing our actions permeated with Mary's love and grace, gives them a far higher reward than He would if we had only our intention expressed in them. It is the same way with our virtues. Virtues are augmented and embellished by God alone. However, God gives this increase because of the good acts we perform. So, when Mary purifies our acts by inspiring us to unite our intentions with hers, and to put the same love into them that she did, she thereby augments and embellishes our virtues.

11. IF I GIVE TO MARY THE MERITS BY WHICH I PAY THE DEBT I OWE FOR MY SINS, WILL I NOT SPEND AN EXTRA LONG TIME IN PURGATORY?

It is true that by this act of consecration we give all to Mary, even the indulgences we may gain, having nothing for ourselves. So, in itself, it could be possible that we should still have all our debt to pay. But remember, when we gave all to Mary, she also gave herself to us, and it is morally impossible for Mary to abandon one who is her own child in a very special way. Mary loves us much more than we love ourselves. So we shall not have to worry about being too generous with her. She simply cannot be outdone in generosity.

12. IF WE GIVE OUR INDULGENCES TO MARY, CAN WE STILL MAKE SPIRITUAL BOUQUETS?

Spiritual bouquets can still be made as in the past, but with this difference. Before, you stated without reserve that you wanted the prayers and indulgences to go for a particular person, but now you make this request conditionally, which means if Mary sees that this will be for the greatest glory and honor to God. We now leave it to her to decide. We ask only; we do not demand.

13. DOES NOT THE TOTAL GIFT OF MY MERITS PUT ME IN A STATE OF INCAPACITY TO ASSIST THE SOULS OF PARENTS, RELATIVES, FRIENDS, PUPILS, BENEFACTORS?

It is true we have given up the right of specifying for whom our prayers and good works will go, but this does not mean that our friends and relatives will suffer. We have given ourselves as slaves to Mary; all that we can call our own, in any way at all, now belongs to her. Our parents, friends, and relatives belong to us, by our Act of Consecration, they, too, are brought into closer relationship with Our Mother. She is bound to take a more loving care of them now that they are closer to her than she would have taken before we gave them to her as her special charges. Priests who give themselves to Mary as slaves thereby bring greater blessings on their flock. Sisters and Religious draw their pupils closer to Mary by their Act of Consecration. The same is true of parents in regard to their families.

14. DOES SAINT GRIGNON DE MONTFORT CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF PRAYING FOR OTHERS?

Yes, he does. Here are his exact words: "This practice does not hinder us from praying for others, whether living or dead, although the application of our good works depends on the will of Our Blessed Lady. On the contrary, it is the very thing which will lead us to pray with more confidence." (True Devotion, 132.)

15. IF WE CAN NO LONGER SPECIFY DEFINITELY TO WHOM WE WISH OUR PRAYERS AND GOOD WORKS TO GO, HOW CAN WE SAY THIS PRACTICE LEADS US TO PRAY WITH MORE CONFIDENCE?

Our confidence can come from two sources. Either it is from our own actions or it comes from something outside ourselves. By the Act of Consecration we have given up our own interests and intentions and have united ourselves with Jesus and Mary. From now on, Mary will be the cause of our hope with God. When Our Lord looks at us, He will not see us so much as Mary, our Mistress. We no longer count on our own merits, but rely on the graces of Mary, and our confidence will be greatly increased.

16. HOW CAN THIS ACT GIVE ME MORE HOPE OF OBTAINING WHAT I ASK?

God can give His merits and favors in two ways. In the first case, He gives them because we have worked for them, and therefore have a right to them. In the second, it is His pure and free love that prompts Him to give us the things we need. When we give up our right to our merits, our hope of obtaining what we ask is not directly increased by this gift, but indirectly it does give us greater certitude. The reason is a simple one. No longer are we entering into a business deal with God, demanding petty wages. Instead, we tell Mary to take our wages and use them for the things she knows are best. God is now so pleased with us that He showers down on us and the persons for whom we pray blessings over and above those we could ever have hoped to obtain by our own individual works.

17. WHEN WE HAVE GIVEN ALL TO MARY, DOES IT NOT SEEM CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF TRUE DEVOTION TO ASK FOR INDIVIDUAL FAVORS?

If we asked for individual favors without making the reservation that it is up to Mary to grant them or not, then our petitions would be contrary to the spirit of True Devotion. But when we made our Act of Consecration, we became united with Mary in all things; we became sharers of the mission her Son gave her, which is the sanctification of mankind. So, we can see that we also become sharers in her apostolic prayer, and her prayer is a constant, ever-living, all-embracing prayer. Our prayers must be molded on hers, or rather, should be a part of hers. So, instead of True Devotion decreasing the number of our prayers, it will rather increase them, make them greater and more intensive.

18. IF WE GIVE ALL OUR MERITS TO MARY, WILL THIS NOT INTERFERE WITH THE DUTIES OF OUR STATE IN LIFE?

Saint de Montfort clearly states: "We make this offering of this devotion only according to the order of God, and the duties of our state." (True Devotion, 124.) So, a priest could make the Act of Consecration and still apply the satisfactory and impetratory value of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to some private person. The same thing is true of Religious who by the rules of their Community are bound to offer certain prayers for benefactors, and other specified intentions. The explanation lies in the fact that by reason of our state in life, these actions are no longer ours to give, and we can give only what we ourselves have a strict right to.

19. COULD ONE PRACTICE TRUE DEVOTION AND AT THE SAME TIME MAKE THE HEROIC ACT OF CHARITY?

According to the definition of the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences, Dec. 1885, the Heroic Act of Charity consists in this, that a member of the Church Militant offers to God for the souls in Purgatory all the satisfactory works which he will perform during his lifetime, and also all the suffrages which may accrue to him after his death. It can be seen at once that this Heroic Act does not go as far as de Montfort's slavery of love.

After making the Heroic Act we still keep our merits, strictly so called, as well as the right to pray for anyone we wish. By the Holy Slavery, however, we give Mary our merits in the strict sense also, as well as our right to pray for others. Even in the Heroic Act, we still specify that the satisfactory value of our works shall go to the Souls in Purgatory. But, by the Act of Consecration, we leave it all up to Mary to aid whom she wills. So, one would not be living the life of slavery if he merely made the Heroic Act. De Montfort asks for the complete gift of oneself, nothing else.

20. WHY DOES SAINT DE MONTFORT STILL TELL US TO BE SLAVES OF JESUS AND MARY WHEN WE SHOULD BE THEIR LOVING CHILDREN?

It must be remembered that Saint de Montfort calls his devotion the Holy Slavery of Love. By it, we are loving children of Jesus and Mary, and more besides. To bring out that we are

(Please turn to page 18)



Letters from our Loyal Helpers.

Dear Sister:

In this letter I am sending a dollar for your missions. I know you are always glad to receive money for such a good cause. This year I am really going to make a holy Lent by giving up more than I planned to. I hope you will not be disappointed with my picture which I sent you.

Sharon Stuhr, Salem, Oregon.

Our comment. Sharon is a high school girl and has recently been accepted as a future candidate in a Sisterhood. Congratulations!

Dear Sister:

Christmas Eve our choir (the sixth, seventh and eighth graders) of Holy Trinity School sang Christmas carols at the outdoor crib in front of the rectory. It was very beautiful, and fun, too. This was the first time we were given the honor because the CYO always used to do the singing.

Yesterday I received a letter from my pen pal in Africa, Helen Lee. She is not related to me, just a friend. She and her sister Angela are war orphans and have been living at Convent Izeli, a Dominican orphanage for eight years. In December 1950 they moved to Springs Convent in Johannesburg to go to high school. I received a note from Sister M. Albertine, one of the Dominicans who has been like a mother to them, and she tells me they are really pitiful cases but so deserving. It makes me think so often how lucky I am that I have my own dear Mother and Dad right here.

Barbara Anne Lee, Wallingford, Conn.

Barbara Anne is good to orphans and is grateful to God for blessings.

Mary's Loyal

BELGIUM (WIS.) HELPER

We are happy to introduce you to *Marie Uselding*, of *Belgium, Wisconsin*, through the medium of these pages. Marie was in the eighth grade when she joined our Helpers last year, which would make her a freshman in high school this year. She wrote us, several months ago, as follows: "I go to Saint Mary's School. The Dominican Sisters teach me. They are very nice. My teacher's name is Sister Rose Albert, O.P. We just finished our exams. My marks were very good. Please pray for me, for I remember you in my prayers."



Dear Sunshine Secretary

I still say my "Hail Marys" for peace and for the Missionary Sisters. I pass my magazine on to cousins and friends when I finish reading the interesting articles which make up your whole wonderful magazine.

Sister, my brother is in the U.S. Air Force and is coming home by plane from Biloxi, Mississippi. Please say a prayer that he and his friends arrive safely.

I am now fifteen years old, and a sophomore in the Wilbur H. Lynch Senior High School, here in Amsterdam. We have very nice teachers and plenty of activities. I am on the Sophomore Girls' Athletic Club at school, too. It is an organization of all girls, with Miss Cooper in charge. We play sports against different girls from neighboring cities and schools. We have plenty of clean and honest fun. I'll send some pennies soon.

Patricia Ciulik, Amsterdam, New York

Patricia joined our Loyal Helpers about a year ago. She wrote this letter shortly before Christmas. She writes an interesting letter. Come on, Loyal Helpers, and show us what fine letters you can write!

Helpers Page

Dear Sister:

I would like to thank you very much for praying for my father. He won the election by an overwhelming victory. His margin was 1155 votes. This was very unexpected as the largest margin anyone forecast was 200 votes. We are all very thrilled. I have, however, one favor to ask. Please pray that my father may be successful in his new post and that God will guide him.

Mary Louise Previdi, Danbury, Conn.

Our comment. Mary Louise's father was elected mayor of Danbury last March. We are very sorry to be so tardy in publishing her fine letter.

LEIPSIC, OHIO HELPER



Above is pictured Mary Ann Lammers, of Leipsic, Ohio. Mary Ann goes to school and church in New Cleveland, Ohio. She is in the eighth grade. She writes, "I like your magazine very much. God bless you and your work."



PAN-AMERICAN GAME (Our February Puzzle)

GET your your geography books and see if you can find the names of the countries and territories located in the Western Hemisphere which are hidden in the sentences below. Then send your worked puzzle to Sunshine Secretary for a holy card. To help you, we are pointing out the hidden country in the first sentence. You will find "United States" hidden in the three words, *united state some*. Now go ahead.

1. "If you think we are united, state some reasons for your belief," sighed the UN Delegate.
2. "Can Adam be persuaded to speak for us?" queried Philip.
3. "You suggest Permex. I could think of no better trade name," said Jack.
4. "Pal, ask another fellow to help you!" exclaimed Bob.
5. On the ranch I left, there were great herds of cattle.
6. "Slide down the rope, Rufus, and you will be safe!" cried Peter.
7. "Give me the pan, Amanda!" commanded Tillie.

Dear Sister:

Enclosed is one dollar which I earned selling pins. God bless you and all the other Sisters.

Louise Plum, Milwaukee, Wis.

Louise is about eleven years old and a niece of our Sister Ann Therese.

Dear Sister:

I am sorry that I have been so long in sending you some Sunshine money. It is not much but I saved it by not eating candy during Lent.

Beatrice Haines, Goshen, Indiana

Our comment. We are very sorry to have delayed so long in publishing this nice note. It was received by us last March. Do you make sacrifices during Lent so as to be able to help the poor?

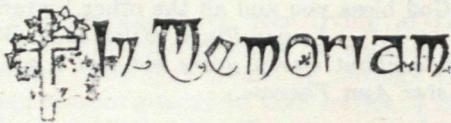


(Continued from page 15)

children of Mary he uses the word, "love" and to show that we are to exceed the duty imposed on even loving children, he uses the word "slave." It is the only term that we have to express this idea of complete surrender. It is the same slavery which Saint Paul prized so highly. Indeed, he found his honor in being a "slave of Jesus Christ." When he wrote to his converts to congratulate them on their entrance into the Church, he gave them the same glorious title of slaves: "But now being made free from sin and become slaves of God, you have your fruit unto sanctity and the end, life everlasting." This is a slavery that only the most perfect can conceive.

For further information write to:

Confraternity of Mary, Queen of Hearts
Victory Noll



Peter Grzeslo, Chicago, Illinois
father of Sister Teresita, O.L.V.M.

Louise Gratien, ACM, Baldwinsville, N. Y.
Henry Hammen, Appleton, Wisconsin
Edward R. Babinger, Olean, New York
Alice Manley, Forest Park, Illinois
Herman Weber, Green Bay, Wisconsin
Ladislaus Torzewski, Detroit, Michigan

SOMEBODY WAS PRAYING

Eighty year old grandma lay dying, but felt she could not die before making her peace with God, and each day she longed for that opportunity. Sixty years ago she had married out of the Church and now she hesitated asking her non-Catholic husband or his sons to call a priest for her.

It so happened that we were sent to this little town to do some census work which would take but a few days. Grandma had expressed the desire to see a priest to one of the sons. The next day he met us on the street and asked if we would go see her as she lived very near.

With tears streaming down her cheeks, Grandma narrated her story. We gave her a crucifix and a Sacred Heart badge and assured her that we would ask Father to stop in to see her. Before quitting the house we asked the husband if he would consent to having the marriage blessed. He said he wanted to make her happy and if that's what she wanted he would be very willing to do so. We drove the ten miles to the nearest priest who promised to see her the following day, which was also the day we were scheduled to leave, having completed the census.

We frequently thought about grandma and prayed for her. It was much later that we learned that the marriage had been validated, grandma had made her peace with God and had died a very happy death. The husband and sons had attended the funeral Mass and the husband had gratefully received the crucifix from her coffin. Now he frequently listens to Mass over the radio on Sundays.

Just another example of God's goodness to one who in her youth disregarded His laws. After many years of repentance, she finally corresponded with His grace, and returned to Him before it was too late. We knew somebody, somewhere, was praying.

Sister Kathleen
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Do with me what Thou wilt in time and in eternity. I desire what God wills, as He wills it and as long as He wills it.

Divine Wisdom rules all things. This should suffice to make us bless God for everything.

We must expect to meet the Cross everywhere, it is the ladder by which we mount to heaven.

Blessed Therese Coudere

The Missionary Catechist

Addresses of Our Mission Centers

- Our Lady of the Rosary Mission
Grove Hill, Alabama.
- St. Coletta's Mission, 224 S. Kendricks Street,
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- Refuge of Sinners Mission, 512 Soldano Avenue,
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