

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

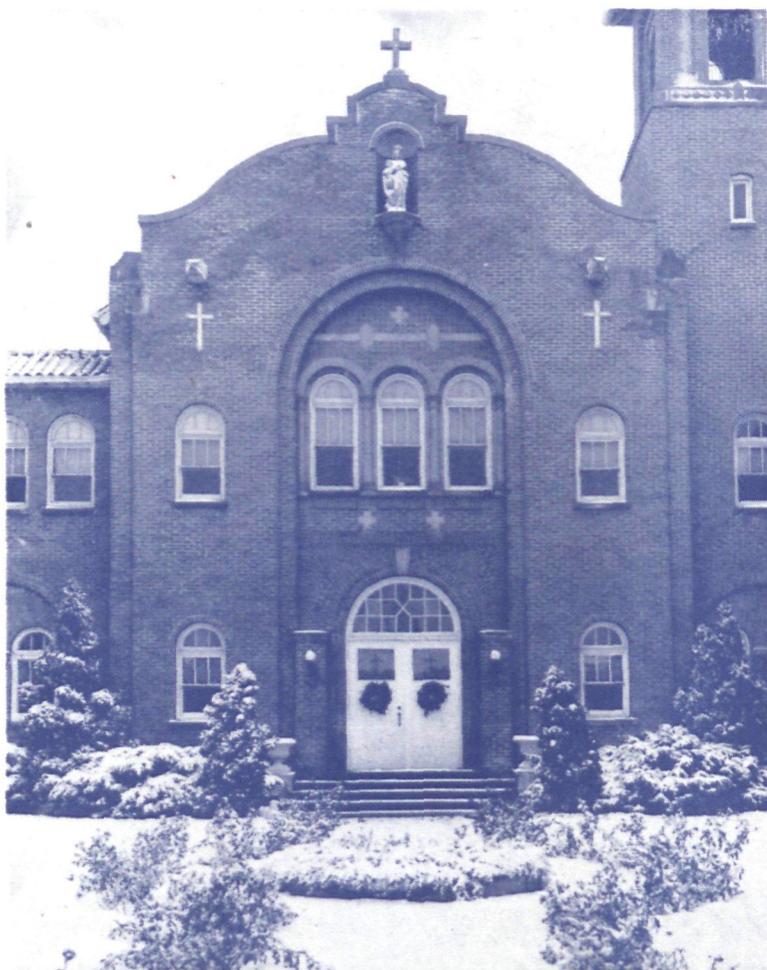
December  
1952

Volume 29

Number 1



*Christmas Greetings from Victory Noll*



May the Divine Infant, from the arms of His Virgin Mother, bless you and those dear to you this Christmastide and throughout the coming year.

On this beautiful Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, let us pray with our Holy Mother the Church:

*Grant we beseech Thee, O Almighty God, that  
we who are flooded with the new light of  
Thy Incarnate Word may reflect in our actions  
the faith which shines in our minds.*

Collect of the Second Mass

**Mother Cecilia and the Community**

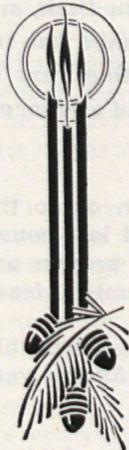
# The Missionary Catechist

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## SALUTE TO MARYKNOLL



MARYKNOLL is not quite fifty years old and yet it can number among its members martyrs and confessors of the faith. When Maryknoll was founded, France led the world in personnel in the foreign missions. There were many who thought then that young people in the United States were not generous enough to give up the comforts of the American way of life and become missionaries. Time has improved that opinion. America now leads the world in mission personnel.

It is appropriate that Maryknoll's first student, Bishop Ford, should have so gloriously given his life for the faith in Red China. Maryknoll's priests, brothers, and sisters have been privileged to suffer, as have also Jesuits, Passionists, Franciscans, Vincentians, and members of other communities. Because of their sacrifices the Church in China will live again, their communities will be blessed with vocations, and our own country will benefit from their heroism.

We salute our fellow missionaries and beg God to sustain them in their present trials. Also, we pray that if we should be called upon to suffer, we will show the same fortitude as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

## PERSUASION

TO persuade someone to return to the sacraments after three, five, or ten years is wonderful. And if it should be twenty-five or thirty years, you are simply walking on air. We know a sister who, when she was home on a vacation, was instrumental in getting an old man to the sacraments who has been away sixty years! Incidentally, Sister was not the one who told us. We learned of it in a roundabout way. But we believe it is something of a record.

## DOUBLE GIFT

HAVE you thought of giving THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST as a Christmas gift this year? It is a double gift. It is a gift to the one for whom you subscribe and it is a gift to us, for each new subscriber means a new friend for Victory Noll.

In spite of the increased cost of production, we have not raised our subscription rate. But we need new subscribers and we know from past experience that the best way to get them is through our old subscribers. Won't you send us a friend's subscription this Christmas?

## COVER

SISTER Martha Mary is responsible for the art work on our cover this month. Sister has reproduced the statue of the Immaculate Conception on our hilltop on a snowy Christmas Eve with the Star of Bethlehem in the wintry sky.



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# Christmas Celebration

## South of the Border



William B. Faherty, S.J.

Editor's Note: *Father Faherty of Regis College, Denver, will be remembered for his previous articles in THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST on the work of our Sisters and of the Cistercians in Utah, and on the apostolic life in general. His second book, American Woman's Rights—and Wrongs, has recently been completed. Father has shown his interest in the problems of the Spanish-Americans in Colorado by serving as vice-chairman of the Latin-American Educational Foundation, and as a member of the Citizens Committee on Migrant Labor.*

TWO years ago I attended the Christmas celebration at Holy Ghost Youth Center in Denver, Colorado. The children's play provided the central attraction of the evening. The Spanish-American children, who take to the stage so naturally, entertained us with their usual zest.

The story described the "South of the Border" Christmas celebration in a novel way. Santa Claus, on this occasion, overshot his mark, and landed his aeroplane—or was it his reindeer-drawn sled?—not in Denver, but in Chihuahua, Mexico. The villagers, unfamiliar with the Santa Claus story, did not know who the red-clothed, bewhiskered old gentleman could be. When he told them, they invited him to spend Christmas in *their* community.

Santa Claus graciously agreed to forego his usual top billing in American Christmasses for the position of a mere spectator in a celebration which neither he, nor we, had previously witnessed. Just then noise and chanting were audible outside the house which Santa was visiting. There was a knock on the door, followed by requests to enter.

Outside stood a group of villagers, among them a man and woman dressed as Mary and Joseph. This, the host rapidly explained to Santa and to us, was the ancient custom called *Las Posadas*. On the nine evenings preceding Christmas, a dozen or so people wander from one house to another, chanting litanies; from each residence, amid much

noise and jesting, they are driven on to the next, until finally at the ninth and last house, they are joyfully admitted. A few prayers are said, and then everyone shares a bountiful feast.

Santa seemed to be enjoying thoroughly this unusual Christmas celebration. And so were we.

Then followed the *pinata* for the children, the Spanish-American equivalent of the Christmas tree. Instead of an evergreen with gifts under it, a huge paper bag was filled with toys and things to eat, and hung from a rope in the center of the room, about five feet off the ground.

The children, one after another, starting with the smallest, tried, though blind-folded, to hit the bag with a club. While each youngster was swinging as wildly as a rookie facing Conrado Marrero for the first time, two oldsters moved the *pinata* out of the path of the swing. Finally, a future Bobby Avila, the largest of the boys, clubbed the sack, scattering peppermint sticks, oranges, figs, chocolates, and toys all over the floor. The entire group of children joined in the scramble on the basis of who grabbed "the fastest got the mostest."



As the curtain went down, everyone at Holy Ghost Youth Center knew he had spent a profitable evening. It was the first opportunity most of us had had to learn the Christmas customs of our Good Neighbors south of the Rio Grande.

Yet the play did more than entertain. It pointed up the great dilemma facing the Missionary Sisters of Victory Noll and other groups who work with the Spanish-American children of Colorado. Since they so often suffer discrimination, the Spanish-American people need the encouragement of a sense of status, a feeling of importance. That can be gotten by building up in them an appreciation of the ancient customs, language, and traditions of their ancestors.

In this very act, however, they are becoming not a part of the Anglo-community, as they call the Irish, Jews, Scotch, Italians, Slovenes, English, Germans, Swedes, Russians, Welsh and others, who make up the English-speaking peoples of the region.

They are not learning the language of the country in which they live, but employ English words with Spanish accent and inflections, a hodge-podge that endears Uncle Gordo to his cartoon-strip followers, but militates against the acceptance of the Spanish-American into the Anglo community. They are associating themselves with a culture and traditions that are venerable in themselves, and quite interesting to the American when he visits Sonora or Villa Ocampo, but which are foreign to the atmosphere of northern Colorado.

That is the dilemma the sisters face: if, on the one hand, they urge the Spanish youngster to associate himself with the Spanish background and traditions to give him the assurance he needs, he is divorcing himself from the American community in which he must live; if, on the contrary, they urge him to mingle freely in the American community, he meets an unsympathetic environment that too often he allows to destroy his morale.

Despite this and other problems, the sisters are making steady gains for Christ in the north-



**Should we encourage them to keep alive their Spanish traditions? That is the dilemma.**

east quarter of Colorado. Besides the four sisters at Holy Ghost Youth Center in Msgr. John R. Mulroy's parish in Denver, there are four each at Colorado Springs, a vacation center seventy miles south of Denver, and at Greeley, and Brighton, sixty and twenty miles, respectively, to the north of the capital city. (Three sisters have recently opened a new center in Montrose across the Continental Divide in the western part of the state.)

During one school year, these sixteen sisters at the four established centers, taught catechism to 2,646 children, prepared 431 youngsters and nine adults for First Holy Communion, provided instruction to Junior Newman club groups and adults, regularly visited homes, the sick, poor farms, and the jails, unwove the intricate Latin prayers for aspiring acolytes, showed the way to high-C for the children's choir, and disguised their urban backgrounds to push 4-H club work.

Beyond this, they have given what is even more important, the encouragement of smiling faces and kindly deeds, and the example of a happy devotion to the service of Christ.

# Finding Christmas

*Sister Marie*

CHRISTMAS in California without frost fingering frozen fairylands on the window-panes! Christmas without rosy cheeks, the wonderful, fresh feeling of icy wind against the brow, or the sensation of crunching crusty crystals of snow underfoot, or the pungent scent of snow-capped pines along the drive! Yes! Christmas in California . . . but a Christmas in a new environment, a Christmas in strange, new surroundings with weather and other incidentals heretofore never associated with Christmas.

Let's compare the old and the new: The old a Canadian Christmas . . . the comfortable circle of family and friends around a blazing fireplace munching nuts and candy and showing the gifts under the tinsel tree, singing the old familiar carols and repeating over and over the thrill of Midnight Mass, the large number receiving Holy Communion, the gay greetings called out to friends on the frosty air, the lighted windows and delightful decorations casting technicolor tints on the silvery snow. The old . . . comfort . . . security . . . contentment . . . peace.

The new: Christmas as a Missionary Sister far away in another land. See the picture on this page . . . the one with the back of the pick-up



**Sister Mary Barbara watches Sister Frances giving the little girl her present.**



**Loading up! Left to right: Sister Lorraine, Sister Mary Barbara, Sister Frances, Sister Marie, and Sister Ann Therese**

truck, the food parcels, and us . . . well, that's where our story about this new Christmas begins. Two days before the great day, I find myself busily covering sturdy corrugated boxes with the proverbial red and white and green combinations in tissue paper, or printed gift paper. Then comes the shopping tour! Oh! what fun . . . to shop for meat, bread, butter, milk, fruit and cookies, nuts and vegetables, candy and surprise packages. Then, home we dashed in a hurry, to pack our gifts as attractively as possible and top the packages with toys and Christmas motifs.

The next day, the day before Christmas, is delivery day. The picture shows us just as we are packing the boxes for delivery, ready to set out on our rounds of love and mercy, bringing true Christmas cheer to the Infant Christ hidden in the poor.

See the next picture . . . it shows a family receiving our Christmas box and toys. There were nine children in that particular family, and God had promised them another in March. They lived in a three room house and what the father made after a week of hard work picking fruit would not be enough to keep you in bus tickets. Of course they were thrilled. They hadn't seen so much food at one time since their last window-shopping tour. But, this was just one of the many families we called on that day. We brought many more smiles and tears of gratitude to other families . . . those smiles and tears which were our return gifts . . . bringing with them a peace and joy unknown to those who give only to receive.

Yes, there was quite a difference between the old and the new. The old with its complacent and cozy family ties is a peaceful memory. The new, with its "bringing Christmas to the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger" is not pleasantly relaxing . . . rather, it

is relaxingly pleasant because it brings with it an awareness of the REAL meaning of Christmas and the peace that must have been in Mary's heart as she knelt in ecstatic contemplation beside the first Christmas Crib.

## That He May Be Born Again in Hearts

*Sister Carol*

It was St. Therese of the Child Jesus who said that Sundays and feast days in the convent were like a little bit of heaven. If this is true of ordinary feast days, how much more true is it of Christmas!

The beautiful season of Advent is passed in preparation for the coming of the Infant. We join our hearts with the Immaculate Heart of His Virginal Mother as she eagerly awaited His birth. We live the days of preparation with the last saints of the Old Testament, and we rejoice with the first saints of the New Testament at the coming of the Savior.

Then as we kneel at the crib in adoration, our thoughts leap forward to the day in the not-too-distant future when we shall pronounce our First Vows. Profession Day! The period of our novitiate has been, like Advent, a preparation. It has been like the quiet period which Mary spent before "she brought forth her first born Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:7).

After our Profession Day we will go to our missions to make room for Christ in the world. We see the manger as the heart of a child which must be prepared so that the Divine Babe may rest there on First Communion Day. We place ourselves entirely in the hands of Our Blessed Mother as she kneels by the crib, asking her to make worthy instruments of us when we go forward as her missionaries to carry on her work of giving birth to her Divine Son in the hearts of men.

Yes, Christmas in the convent is like a little bit of heaven, whether it be at Victory Noll or in one of our mission convents in California,

Texas, or New Mexico. But this last novitiate Christmas is a very special one for us because it ushers in the year in which we will be consecrated to God Our Lord forever. The time of preparation will be over. The day of fulfillment will have come, when we will go forth as "other Marys" so that He may be born again in hearts.



Sister Grace Marie can't wait to see what's in it. This picture was taken last year when Sister was a postulant.



## Queen of the Missions on Christmas Day

Evidently Sister Maureen just wants to sit and admire the beautiful Christmas Tree in our convent at Redlands, California. The topmost star reaches to the balcony surrounding the patio. Sister Cecilia Marie looks as if she is urging Sister to open some of the packages.



Sister Augustine (left) and Sister Louis Marie put the finishing touches to the table decorations. Everything is ready now for the Christmas breakfast that follows Midnight Mass.



# True Devotion to Mary

**D**URING Advent and Christmastide the Church brings Mary very close to her children. First she gives us the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with its octave. Then come the winter ember days when the liturgy is filled with references to Our Blessed Mother. We read again St. Luke's exquisite account of the visit of the Angel Gabriel and of Mary hastening over the hill to visit St. Elizabeth. The offertory verse of the fourth Sunday of Advent salutes Mary in the words of the Angel and of



**A postulant (now Novice Sister M. Felicitas) admires a reproduction of the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe painted by a young Mexican boy in El Centro, California, and given to Sister Evelyn. At the time he painted it, he was not a Catholic, but the story has a happy ending. During the war he took instructions and was baptized. Later his whole family came into the Church.**

St. Elizabeth. The doxology of the hymns of the Divine Office during Christmastide reminds us of Mary's part in the Incarnation:

*O Jesus, born of Virgin bright,  
Immortal glory be to Thee;  
Praise to the Father infinite  
And Holy Ghost eternally.*

The spirit of the True Devotion is the spirit of the Church. We do not find the Son without the Mother. St. Luke says of the shepherds: "And they found Mary and Joseph, and the Infant lying in the manger." (Luke 2:16) St. Matthew writes of the Magi: "And entering into the house, they found the Child with Mary His Mother." (Matt. 2:11)

True Devotion to Mary is not hard to practice. It is very simple. Our whole spiritual life consists in the imitation of Christ. We must become filled with the knowledge, with the love of Christ. "Let this mind be in you," says St. Paul, "which was also in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 2:5) And the Eternal Father Himself bids us, "This is my Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased. *Hear ye Him.*" (Matt. 17:5) Now who knew Christ better than Mary did? Who loved Him more than she? And who imitated Him so closely as His Mother? To know Christ, then we must know His Mother. To love Him, we must love His Mother. And to imitate Him, we can imitate her.

All perfection consists in giving up self and giving ourselves completely to God. That is what we do when we practice the True Devotion as taught by St. Louis de Montfort. First we empty ourselves, then we give ourselves to Jesus through Mary. This "emptying" must go on constantly, for being human we are always taking back a little of ourselves. But if we earnestly try, Our Blessed Mother will give us her powerful help. She will make it easy for us.

This is the advantage of practicing the True Devotion.. Mary takes a special interest in our striving after holiness. If we try to do it on our own, it is a long, uphill process; but if we give ourselves to Our Blessed Mother, she will smooth the way for us.

Living in the spirit of Mary is living in the spirit of faith, seeing in all events the Holy Will of God. Our Divine Lord taught us to say: "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (Matt. 6:10) He said of Himself: "I do always the things that please Him," (John 8:29) that is, His Heavenly Father. Mary presented herself to the Eternal Father as His handmaid: "Be it done unto me according to Thy word." (Luke 1:38) This conformity to God's Holy Will, taught us by Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother, is the secret of holiness and happiness.—SEA



Sister Gertrude and the sodalists have their picture taken before delivering the layette. Sister sent us this story from Tulare. She is now in Elko.

### LUCKY BABY

Every year the sodality in Tulare, California, has given a layette to a poor baby born on Christmas Day. Last year they raised funds for the project by means of a candy sale and realized enough profit to buy a complete new baby layette of about eighty-six pieces. The bassinet, however, was an old one badly in need of repairs. A kind man in the parish came to the girls' rescue and did such a complete job of renovation that when the crib was returned to us, it had the appearance and the sturdiness of a new bassinet. Everything was in blue, so you can imagine the girls' delight when the baby was a boy.

Two of us sisters and the officers of the sodality delivered the layette. The little home was extremely poor, having only the barest necessities, but everything was scrupulously clean.

The poor little mother was most grateful for everything, especially for the bassinet. The new baby had been sharing another child's bed by day and it was a problem at night where to lay the one or the other.

Sister Gertrude  
Elko, Nevada



# In the Home Field



## VISITS . . . AND VISITS

Very often, especially when our people move around so much, some children miss important explanations in class. I had taught the second graders how to make visits to the Blessed Sacrament. Several classes later I merely made the suggestion that the children slip over to church on their way home. I added that the visit would be counted in the spiritual bouquet the children were making for Father's feast day.

After closing the classroom some ten minutes later I too went to the church. Jane, the new girl, was coming out waving a scrap of paper. "Sister, I made twenty visits and I am going to make twenty more before I go home." I told the little girl that Jesus must be happy with her sacrifices.

Only in church did I realize Jane's ingenious way of counting visits. There she was making the rounds of the six statues. Then she piously made the Way of the Cross marking a visit for each station. Finally she knelt before the altar and really made a visit.

Sister Mary Rosella  
Big Spring, Texas

## COLD SIGNS

"Road Closed," "Bridge Out" are signs one might expect on the highway. The sign that sent chills through me, however, was the morning the thermometer registered below zero and the stately bare tree showed forth the shingle: NO SWIMMING ALLOWED.

Sister Patricia



Typical of the chapels in our convents at Christmas time is this picture of our sisters' chapel in Santa Fe.

## SPIRITUAL MOTHERHOOD

The time for Confirmation was drawing close, and excitement was mounting among the fourth and fifth graders. My girls were studying hard. For every new prayer or lesson learned, a star would appear on the chart beside each girl's name.

Little five-year-old Becky was watching the proceedings with evident interest. The only way her sister Peggy could come to class that day was to bring the little one along. The climax came when Peggy, with much struggling, finally recited the difficult lesson on the Redemption. With a smile of satisfaction she watched me put another star beside her name.

Then Becky came up to me. "Sister, can I please have a star like Peggy?"

"Why yes, Becky, if you can make the Sign of the Cross."

The hopeful look faded from Becky's eyes. Immediately Peggy spoke up, "But Sister, she is only five; she doesn't have to pray."

I turned to Becky and asked, "Would you like to learn how to pray, Becky?"

With a delighted laugh she replied, "Oh, yes, Sister."

So eager was she to learn that before she left for home there was a new name on my chart with a beautiful star opposite it.

What a joy and privilege Becky's mother had forfeited in not teaching her little one to pray. The mother realized this, too, for we met her a short time later. She told us that after

Becky came home from catechism that day, she had gone to her father's grocery store. Each customer who came in had to be shown what she had learned in class. Her mother, too, had learned her lesson well and resolved to make up to the child what she had been depriving her of.

Sister Alice  
Redlands, California

## GREEN LIGHT

Mrs. Segura attended rosary devotions every evening during the month of October in the parish church. One evening Inez, her granddaughter, came with her. Inez had not been to rosary very often in her three years of life. She knelt down with grandmother and was quiet for two decades, but sat down during the third decade. By the fourth decade she snuggled close to her grandmother, pointed to the sanctuary lamp, and whispered, "Grandma, when is that red light going to turn green so we can go?"

Sister Mary Denis  
Los Banos, California

## BABY SITTERS

During a lesson on the fourth commandment I explained to the children that God gave us our parents to take care of us for Him. Louisa, the smallest child in the room, suddenly held up her hand.

"It's like baby sitting for God, isn't it, Sister?"

Sister Columba  
Colorado Springs, Colorado



Christmas party, St. Theresa Chapel, one of the Kentucky mountain missions cared for by our Sisters in Richmond. The gifts of toys and clothing were furnished by the Blessed Virgin Sodality (ACM) of St. Patrick's parish, Fort Wayne. Some of these children had never before received a wrapped Christmas gift. The party had to be held in the chapel because it was the only place that could be heated. The giant cedar tree was hewn from the woods surrounding the chapel.

# News Items About



The city of Bethlehem, seen from a church tower.

(On those days we have the Infant clothed in pale blue in honor of His Mother.) Did He not work His first miracle, because of a gentle hint from her?

Apart from the honor due His images, we know by Faith that we have the Infant really present in our churches *at all times*, where we may sue Him for favors. Each day, during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Christ is mystically born anew. The altar is another Bethlehem; the Blessed Sacrament a continual Christmas.

May the Virgin Mother keep you in the love of her Divine Son throughout the coming New Year and always.

SISTER SUPERVISOR, ACM.

MARY, QUEEN OF OUR HEARTS BAND  
(Lombard, Ill.)

Dear Associates:

SOME weeks ago a local friend came to Victory Noll with a pink rose and a petition for the Infant of Prague, whose image we have enshrined in the vestibule of our chapel. She was especially pleased because that day the image was clothed in pale pink. "It is said," explained our friend, "that the Infant grants favors most readily when clothed in that color." We smiled, feeling that we would be more confident, ourselves, of receiving favors on Mary's feast days.

THE membership of this Band is largely composed of young married women with small children. Others are employed during the day. Each year it becomes increasingly difficult for the ladies to meet, either to play cards or make things for the missions. Therefore, the present plan of action seems to be that the members send or give their offerings to the Promoter, Miss Wilma Wengritzky, who in turn sends them to Victory Noll. The Band sponsors Sister Mary Elizabeth (Wengritzky).

CHRISTMAS MORNING AT THE HOME OF MRS. LOTTIE GLONEK, ACM.

In the accompanying photograph are Mrs. Glonek, her little daughter and husband. Mrs. Glonek belongs to Christ the King Band, Detroit, Michigan, of which Miss Elizabeth Bien is Promoter.

The Gloneks do not have to strive to "put Christ back into Christmas." They have never left Him out.



# Our Associates

## INFANT OF PRAGUE BAND (Chicago, Ill.)



In giving you news of this Band we are somehow reminded of the concluding words of the gospel according to St. John: "There are, however, many other things that Jesus did; but if every one of these should be written, not even the world itself, I think, could hold the books that would have to be written."

You see the members of the Band, under the leadership of *Mrs. Fred Hansen*, Promoter, do so many unrecorded deeds of charity in behalf of the poor cared for by our Sisters. The following quote from a letter from *Mrs. Hansen* will convey what I mean.

"Our shipments during the year run close to 1,000 pounds. Last year we furnished twelve super deluxe complete layettes alone, so if the money expended in purchasing items, clothing, toys, etc., were added to the dues money we send to Victory Noll, we would be up near the top. Of course, this part of our mission work does not show up in the magazine."

### ANNE ACCOMANDO'S WHITE PENNIES

NOT long ago we received a check for \$9.40 from *Anne Accomando*, who is a member of *Les Petites Fleurs Band, Chicago*. She wrote that "Six dollars represent white pennies saved by my office friends and myself. The total amount of pennies saved for the missions since 1947 is 3,090. Who said the penny is a trivial coin? It makes me laugh the way the employees bring me their pennies. They probably would spend them but I must have a strange power. Even the non-Catholics bring them. They are a good lot, all of them."

### ANNOUNCING ST. AUGUSTINE BAND Norwood, Mass.

We are happy to announce a new Band in Massachusetts. It is the first Band, to our knowledge, to be formed in "The Bay State." The organizer is *Mrs. James (Julia) O'Brien*, the mother of our Sister *James*. Sister is presently located in El Paso, Texas.



### ACM BAND CONTRIBUTIONS

September 18 to October 23, 1952

Bl. Martin de Porres Band, Lewiston, Minn., Mrs. Irene Lehmann .....	10.00
Charitina Club No. 1, Chicago, Katherine Hennigan .....	6.50
Good Shepherd Mission Club, Chicago, Mrs. H. F. Staley .....	443.56
Holy Family Band, Chicago, Joseph Walz .....	20.50
Immaculate Conception Band, Detroit, Lillian Dunn .....	26.00
Mother Cabrini Band, Wauconda, Ill., Mrs. Clara Swiatly .....	100.00
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Band, Appleton, Wis., Helen Arens .....	66.50
Poor Souls Band, Berwyn, Ill., Mrs. J. V. McGovern .....	45.00
St. Clare Band, Omaha, Neb., Mrs. Ann Igel .....	20.00
St. Irene Band, Chicago, May Walsh .....	11.50
St. John Mission Guild, Chicago, Mrs. Anna Bechtold .....	35.00
St. Joseph Band No. 2, Chicago, Mrs. Aloysia Naumes .....	13.00
St. Jude Mission Club, Chicago, Mrs. C. J. Fiala .....	10.00
St. Justin Martyr Band, Chicago, Mrs. Fred Kiefer .....	32.00
St. Katherine Band, Chicago, Mrs. Katherine Hammer .....	34.00
St. Margaret Mary Band, Omaha, Neb., Mrs. Fred Shields .....	10.00
St. Martin of Tours Band, Omaha, Neb., Mrs. Frances Schuette .....	50.00
St. Michael Mission Guild, Palos Hts., Ill., Mrs. Jno. McCann .....	5.00
St. Philomena Band, Chicago, Mary Schaefer .....	17.50
St. Raymond Band, Chicago, Mrs. Kathryn Quinlan .....	7.00
Seven Dolors Band, Bellwood, Ill., Mrs. Jno. J. Murphy .....	39.50
Srillians of Our Lady, Cincinnati, O., Eleanor Hanekamp .....	3.00
Via Matris Band, Chicago, Mary Genge .....	90.00

It is *Mrs. O'Brien's* plan to collect donations, chiefly from relatives of the family and close personal friends, several times a year.

# Invitation Through the 'Imitation'

Therese Beihl

Editor's Note: Mrs. Biehl will forgive us for disclosing something about her that we learned from our sisters in Redlands. Since her reception into the Church a year ago she has driven TEN MILES every morning to assist at Mass and receive Holy Communion. On Sundays she plays the organ in a small church and teaches hymns to the Mexican children who attend there. After playing for two Masses she spends two more hours teaching organ to interested young girls. Now she is preparing, with the help of our sisters, to teach catechism in this same mission.

"TAKE this book along and look it over," he said. "It's the best edition of the 'Imitation of Christ' I've ever seen."

Frankly, I had never heard of the book in any edition. It looked very musty to me.



The last thing in the world I expected or wanted to be was a Catholic! I had searched for years among the protestant churches for the true faith and I was still unsatisfied. The change began this day while I was interviewing a priest on a newspaper assignment. The book he handed me proved to be a lighted match falling on dry leaves.

I was disappointed that evening in a theater engagement. Not having anything else to do I opened the "musty book" and read, "My son, saith our Lord to His servant, 'suffer me to do with thee what I will, for I know what is best and most expedient for thee.'" That was enough. I closed the book and turned on the radio. The programs were terrible. Restlessly I picked up the book again. This time I saw a truth which was destined to change the course of my life. The meaning was very hazy to me. There was such an experience, the writer said, as a "Sacrament of Love" in which *God makes Himself into food*. We can actually take God into ourselves and *become one with God* by the hands of a consecrated servant.

I knew almost nothing about the Catholic faith and what I had heard was mostly unpleasant. I decided to call the priest and ask him about this Sacrament which brings one so

close to God. I learned, to my disappointment, that before anyone can receive God in Holy Communion that he must take a long course of instruction, be baptized, received into the Catholic Church, and confess the sins of his whole past life. That was too much! I put the book away. That wasn't the end, however. The conflict had begun!

I couldn't forget this Sacrament where God makes Himself into food. I wanted to receive Him that way but I didn't want to be a Catholic. I argued with myself that I didn't understand the Pope and Mary as Catholics do. I didn't believe in the confessional (what I really meant was that I didn't want to confess my sins).

One Sunday I decided to go to Mass. I was hoping that none of my friends would see me go into the Catholic Church. Seeing the Mass only made my confusion worse because I thought, "How could I ever belong to such a religion where they speak Latin." The first part of the service I tried kneeling down, standing up, and sitting down with the people but finally I gave up and just "sat" while they went through what seemed to me unnecessary exercise. A kind woman seeing my confusion whispered, "We kneel to pray and stand to hear the gospel." The bells, the strange vestments of the priest and altar boys, the images, even the incense and candles seemed too strangely different to be religious. Worst of all to me was the music! Somebody told me afterwards that it was "Gregorian" and that the Church prefers it.

It was my misfortune that one of my family saw me coming out of the Catholic Church. I discovered that the family was not indifferent as I had supposed, but opposed to the Catholic religion. So I tried to give up the whole idea

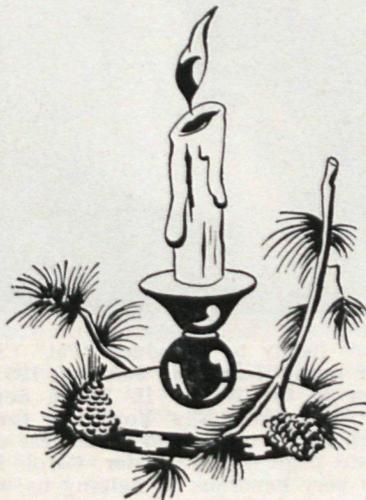
of the Catholic faith. I didn't give the book back to the priest, however.

There were about forty-nine different protestant faiths in our area. I inquired of each one to find out if any one of them believed that Christ became our food in Holy Communion. Most of the churches believed that Communion was a "Memorial Service" and a few believed that Christ was spiritually present in the Holy Bread. None of them believe like the Catholics that the bread and wine were changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. I wanted to receive Him in the Catholic way.

The hunger to receive this "Divine Food" grew stronger until one day I sought out the old "musty book" and reading it this time I was convinced that Christ meant exactly what He said, "He who eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, abides in me and I in him." At the last supper our Lord broke bread and said, "Take and eat; THIS IS MY BODY . . . THIS IS MY BLOOD."

This is why I came to the Catholic Church, that I might receive my God as my daily bread. I have discovered that what the old "musty book" said about the Sacrament of Love in which God makes Himself into food for us, is really true.

I came to the true faith because there was no other place where I could find the true and living Bread of Heaven, although I first looked everywhere else.



## Noel

*Sister Celestine*

It was the Saturday before Christmas. Ten excited girls, Children of Mary, gathered at the convent. Each year at Christmas time it was the custom for them to sing carols at the two hospitals in town and distribute little gifts to all the patients.

Filled with gleeful anticipation of the joy they would soon bring to others, the girls loaded the cars with the boxes of gifts and the two crib sets which they would set up in the entrances of the hospitals. At the hospital they tiptoed to a strategic spot in the main corridor and at a signal from Sister, began with everybody's favorite, "O Come, All Ye Faithful." Nurses gathered 'round the carolers, a happy peace shining from their faces. One patient in a bathrobe slipped up quietly behind them, tears in his eyes. The carolers continued with "O Little Town of Bethlehem," and the soft strains of "Silent Night." The Christmas spirit seemed to be growing and filling the atmosphere with each succeeding carol.

As the last echoes faded away down the corridor, the girls filled their arms with the little gift boxes and went around to every patient to greet him with Christmas wishes and give him a gift. The colorfully wrapped boxes contained oranges, candy, nuts, and cigarettes which the girls had provided through their sodality funds. Every patient also received a little statue of the Infant Jesus wrapped in bright red cellophane.

The girls were happy and the patients were happy. As one patient expressed it, they were consoled by the visit and made to realize that Christmas can be celebrated just as well, or even better, in a hospital bed as amid the bustling activity they would have had in their homes during the Christmas season. The Infant King would find perhaps more room in their hearts to bestow His Christmas spirit of peace and joy because their hearts would not be filled with the distractions of worldly Christmas celebrations. For these souls, union with the suffering Incarnate God through their own sufferings would be easier now.



Dear Loyal Helpers:

SEVERAL years ago I read about a school program in which a little girl, who had not yet started to school, was allowed to take part. She was just a baby, but she did her part so well she "stole the show." She received a great deal of applause, and one lady in the audience threw her a bouquet of flowers. It landed on the stage floor, and for a minute the school children and the tiny girl were startled. They didn't know for whom the flowers were intended. Finally, in a loud stage whisper, the lady who threw the bouquet said, "Give it to the baby." Immediately the rest of the audience took it up. "Give it to the baby!" "Give it to the baby!" they cried.

Dear boys and girls, at this time of the year, we, too, are thinking very much about a baby—the Babe of Bethlehem.

Have we something to give to Baby Jesus? He is the King of Heaven and the Lord of all. All things belong to Him already. Still there is something that He wants from you and me. Something that will make Him very happy. He wants our love. School children can best show their love for Jesus by practicing little acts of virtue, because these cost them something, not in money but in effort and will power. Resolve always to be *truthful*, *obedient* to parents and teachers, *polite* to everyone, and *industrious* (get that "home work" done promptly).

## Mary's Loyal

If you are generous in giving to Him, He will likewise be lavish with His gifts to you. The best way of being sure that you will have a Happy Christmas is to begin now to make birthday gifts for our Infant King. These gifts should consist of a certain number of virtuous acts each day (two, three or five). Put yourself out for the sake of others, serve others, with the hidden intention of doing it for Him!

A "Mary" Christmas to you!

SUNSHINE SECRETARY, MLH.

We have a new member in our club, Mary Rita Rohan. Will you please send me a dime bag, money card and membership card for her?

I'm going to send you a box of stamps that we saved. Could you send me four extra dime cards for we need them. We've been praying for you.

Dorothy Maday, Chicago, Ill.

PATRICIA CIULIK, AMSTERDAM, N. Y.



We are happy to introduce "Pat" Ciulik, who joined our Loyal Helpers in January, 1951. Patricia is a junior in the Wilbur H. Lynch Senior High School in Amsterdam, New York. Her favorite subjects in school are music and a business course. On the opposite page is Pat's sister, Carol. Both girls have been very generous in helping us with offerings for the missions.

The Missionary Catechist

# Helpers Page

## CHRISTMAS GIFT

*\*By Bernadette Winslow*

I watched her from the corner of my eye,—  
A little girl, fair-haired, and oh, so shy!  
She waited for my back to turn and then  
Knelt down before the Babe of Bethlehem.  
I thought I saw her reach Him something white,  
Before she turned and tiptoed out of sight.  
My dusting brought me closer to the crib.  
It lay there on His Infant breast—a bib,  
And when (I trembled) it was open spread:  
"To You from me, through Mary dear," I read.  
"One hundred acts of adoration deep,  
" 'I love You' fifty times before I sleep,  
"And when I wakened, 'All for Thee,' I said;  
"Five times in passing church I bowed my head.  
"And now I bring my spiritual bouquet  
"Which I made just for *You* this Christmas  
Day."

*\*Pen name of Sister Blanche Marie, OLV.M.*  
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CAROL CIULIK, AMSTERDAM, N. Y.



Loyal Helpers meet Carol Ciulik, sister of Patricia Ciulik. Carol is in the Theodore Roosevelt Junior High School, her city. She belongs to the choir at her parish church and to the girls chorus at her school. One of her hobbies is writing letters to pen pals, all over the United States. She even corresponds with a girl in Hawaii.

December 1952



It makes us very happy to be able to offer this small gift. We have been saving our Sunshine pennies in our bags and now we have five dollars.

We'll save more pennies for you. God bless you.

*Hope and Connie Negrete, Dinuba, Calif.*

I have sent another box of clothing to your mission in Las Vegas, New Mexico. In it I included the skirt of a dress which I thought maybe some of the teen-age girls could make into a lovely summer skirt.

Could you use old picture postcards, seals, and magazines?

I remember you and your missions in my prayers.

*Mildred Wondra, Marymount College  
Salina, Kansas.*

## DECEMBER PUZZLE

*(Complete the Christmas Story.)*

The following sentences contain the story of the First Christmas. There is a word missing here and there for you to fill in. Our older Loyal Helpers can find the missing words by consulting a copy of The New Testament. Our younger Helpers can find them in their Bible Histories. Number your sentences, and list the missing words in each. Send us your worked puzzle for a holy card.

1. Joseph went to.....to be enrolled together with.....his espoused wife.
2. It was in a poor.....that.....the Son of God was born.
3. There were.....in the same district, keeping watch over their flocks.
4. And behold, an.....of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of.....shone round about them.
5. The chorus of angels sang, "Glory to God in the.....and.....on earth among men of.....will.
6. The shepherds went with haste to Bethlehem, where they found.....and.....and the.....lying in the manger.

## ANSWERS TO NOVEMBER PUZZLE

1. Bob earns. 2. would-be artist. 3. cube are. 4. wardrobe, armchair. 5. babe!" Ar. 6. Abe Arden. 7. rub ear.

## Book Reviews

BIBLE STORIES IN THE LANGUAGE OF YOUTH by Sister Evelyn Benton, O.L.V.M. A Spanish-English Help for Teachers and Parents. Book I Creation, Book II Annunciation to Public Life, Book III Confession and Communion, Book IV The Passion. Our Lady of Victory Press, Victory Noll, Huntington, Indiana. 25c each.

A year ago the first of Sister Evelyn's bilingual texts was published. Now we are happy to announce that all four books are available, attractively bound in bright blue, green, yellow, and red. The text is large and easy to read, Spanish on one page, the English opposite it. There are exercises at the close of each lesson, and songs to learn. You will even find the music for *Las Posadas* — traditional melodies that are sung by the people each Christmas, but seldom written. Except for the several years she taught Spanish at Victory Noll, Sister Evelyn has spent her entire religious life working among the Spanish Americans, Mexicans, and Puerto Ricans. Where their words and expressions differ, Sister has indicated this in her text.

These books are a God-send to the busy Confraternity teacher, whether her Spanish is fluent or mediocre. High school and college language teachers are using them as a supplementary text in their Spanish courses.

A word should be added about the fine job Sister Agnes Marie did in printing and binding the books.

LET'S PRAY, FIRST PRAYERS FOR LITTLE CATHOLICS, selected and explained by Sister M. Juliana, O.P., of the Maryknoll Sisters, illustrated by Charlot Byj.

A FIRST LIFE OF CHRIST FOR LITTLE CATHOLICS by Father Gales, pictures by Bruno Frost. Both published by the Catechetical Guild Educational Society, 14 E. 5th St., St. Paul, Minn. 25c each.

Parents especially will rejoice over these beautiful little books. They fulfill a need that has long been felt. Too few books of this type have been published under Catholic auspices. The illustrations are delightful, all in colors. Here are the ideal Christmas presents. The children will love them.

THE AMERICAN DREAM by John A. O'Brien. Our Sunday Visitor, Huntington, Ind., and the National Conference of Christians and Jews, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y. 15c.

Father O'Brien's little book is needed at this time. If its message were spread abroad, it would do much to relieve the religious tensions in our country. The book is filled with lively anecdotes, for Father O'Brien is a born story teller. On the last page he writes: "Here ends the reading of this book; now for the living of it!"

THE SMALL MIRACLE by Paul Gallico. Doubleday. \$1.50.

This is a whimsical little story about a small boy and a donkey. The setting is in Assisi. Pepino, the orphan, concerned about his most precious possession, Violetta the donkey who is ill, wishes to take her into the crypt of the basilica of St. Francis to ask the saint to cure her. His difficulties in carrying out his plan bring about the small miracle.

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The music listed here is published by J. Fischer & Bro., 119 West 40th St., New York 18, N. Y. Unless otherwise specified, each copy is 15c.

*Tui Sunt Coeli* and *Laetentur Coeli* by F. X. Witt. T.T.B.B. No. 8706.

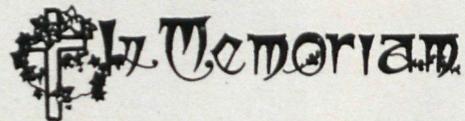
*Terra Tremuit* and *Regina Coeli* by F. X. Witt, T.T.B.B. No. 8707.

*Panis Angelicus* and *Adoro Te* by Cl. Cascini, attributed also to Bainsi. T.T.B.B. No. 8708.

*O Quam Amabilis* and *O Esca Viatorum* by A. Pero, T.T.B.B. No. 8709.

*Ave Maria* by Jacques Arcadelt, arranged by Philip G. Kreckel. S.A.B. No. 8694. Also S.T.B. No. 8695.

*Laudate Dominum* by Caspar Ett, arranged by Philip G. Kreckel No. 8696. 18c.



Rev. Theodore Fraling, Dodgerville, Wisc.  
Sister Mary Monica, R.S.M., Titusville, Pa.  
Sister Mary Norma, S.C., Mount St. Joseph, Ohio  
Marion Lorenz, Chicago  
Mae O'Carroll, Salt Lake City  
Joseph H. Strutzel, Chicago  
Raymond J. Mourey, New Haven, Ind.



Sister M. Rita Therese with Victory Noll's Advent Wreath. This picture was made on Christmas Day after the Infant had come.

FOR some years now the Christmas season has been pushed so far ahead on the calendar that it has become almost an accepted thing to hear familiar carols over the radio as soon as the Thanksgiving rush is over. And it is not at all uncommon to find Christmas trees in homes before Gaudete Sunday arrives.

It is in keeping with the mind of the Church to observe a spirit of longing throughout Advent, and let the joyful carols and Christmas tree await the arrival of the feast. The world needs to be reminded that the time before Christmas is a season of preparation for the coming of Christ. The Advent wreath is a reminder. Its evergreen branches are a sign of hope; we look forward to the coming of our Redeemer. Its four candles represent the four Sundays of Advent, which in turn remind us of the long years of waiting for the birth of Christ, the Light of the World. Three of the ribbons are violet, the color of the vestments the

# The Advent Wreath

priest wears on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of Advent. A fourth ribbon is rose-colored for Gaudete Sunday, the day on which the Church bids us in the words of St. Paul to the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice . . . The Lord is nigh."

On the Saturday evening before the first Sunday of Advent, one candle on the wreath is lighted. The following week two candles are lighted, the third week, three, and the fourth week all the candles. Each week the light grows stronger reminding us that before the time of Christ each prophecy revealed Him a little more clearly, each prophet shed more light on Him who was to come.

At Victory Noll and in our mission convents the period of preparation for the Feast of the Nativity culminates in the solemn novena chanted each evening. The novena is taken from the Roman missal and breviary and expresses the longing of the world for the Messias. As in Vespers, one of the beautiful O Antiphons is sung before and after the Magnificat until, on Christmas Eve we can sing at last: "When the sun shall have risen on the heavens, you shall see the King of Kings proceeding from His Father as the bridegroom from the bridal chamber."

In this solemn novena we remember especially the intentions of our friends and benefactors. If you wish, you may send us your intentions before the novena begins on December 16.



O SHEPHERDS speak, and tell us what you have seen;  
who is appeared on earth? We saw the newborn Child,  
and angels singing praise to the Lord.

V. Speak; what have you seen? Tell us of the birth  
of Christ.

R. We saw the newborn Child, and angels singing praise  
to the Lord.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the  
Holy Ghost.

R. We saw the newborn Child, and angels singing praise  
to the Lord.

*Third Responory, Christmas Matins*