

the **MI** *ssionary* **G** *atechist*

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Sister Mary Ellen with some of the crippled children at Casa Colina who look forward to the weekly visits of the Missionary Sisters from Ontario, California.



OUR LADY OF VICTORY MISSIONARY SISTERS

My Niece's Wedding

Elizabeth Krieger

*Miss Krieger's niece, Sister Dol-
rita, formerly of St. Louis, made her
first profession last year. She is now
stationed in Greeley, Colorado.*

EVERYBODY loves a wedding because wed-
dings are always so beautiful. Not so long
ago I attended my niece's wedding. No, she
was not a June bride. Her wedding was on
August 5. It was a big affair. A bishop officiated
and there were many priests present from all
over the country. My niece is not well known,
but everyone knows the Bridegroom.

Bishop Noll of Fort Wayne to receive from him
a gift from her Bridegroom. The gift was a
silver medal and chain which His Excellency
put around her neck and which she will wear
so proudly every day of her life.

The wedding ceremony reached its climax
just before my niece received Holy Communion.
She went into the sanctuary and knelt on the



The bishop officiated and there were many priests present from all over the country.

The altar was beautifully decorated in
white and pink gladioli. I wore a pink dress, a
white hat, and shoes, purse and gloves to match.
The bride's mother had a navy blue dress and
white hat, with matching gloves, shoes, and
purse.

And the bride — that is, my niece, — wore
a beautiful navy blue dress trimmed in white
of the Sisters of Our Lady of Victory. Her veil
was navy, and as she walked up the aisle, she
carried a lighted decorated candle in her right
hand. Before the Mass began, she knelt before

altar step with the lighted candle in her hand.
Facing her stood the Bishop holding the Sacred
Host. Then my niece pronounced her wedding
vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience to her
Divine Spouse who graciously accepted her
vows and gave Himself to her in Holy Com-
munion.

In the sermon after Mass His Excellency
reminded the new bride that her Bridegroom
will always remain faithful to her, that He will
never fail her. And that, we know, cannot al-
ways be said of other marriages.

The Missionary Catechist

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VOCATION NUMBER

THIS issue of THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST is our annual vocation number. For some years now, March has been set aside in schools and parishes as vocation month. If we are not mistaken, this idea should be credited to the *Queen's Work*. Many years ago, we remember, Father Lord suggested making the week between the feast of St. Joseph and the feast of the Annunciation vocation week.

During this month many vocation projects take place. Different vocations are discussed; religious and lay persons are invited to talk to young people about the choice of their state of life. Elsewhere in this issue of our magazine Bishop Mulloy of Covington offers practical advice to directors of vocations. His own efforts have been extremely fruitful in religious vocations.

The need for fostering vocations to the religious life is recognized today perhaps more than ever before. Every community, nearly every diocese, has its director of vocations. Movies, pamphlets, lectures, advertisements, every modern approach is being used to encourage religious vocations. But since a religious vocation is a gift from God, prayer is the most powerful means to obtain it. We ask you to pray with us that Our Lord will give to generous souls a religious vocation.

Of course we are interested primarily in obtaining vocations for our own community, but we know that some young women might be attracted not to the missionary life, but to a cloistered order or a teaching order or to some other work. "The spirit breathes where He will," says St. John, so "let us pray the Lord of the harvest that He send laborers into His harvest."

MARCH NOVENAS

WE HAVE two important novenas to tell you about this month: one in honor of St. Joseph whose feast is March 19, and the other in honor of the Incarnation of Our Lord and the Annunciation of Our Blessed Mother. The first begins on March 10, the second on March 16. In both of them we remember our good friends and benefactors. If you have any special intentions you would like us to pray for, please feel free to send them to Victory Noll. These novenas are also made in every convent of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters.

FAMILIES AND VOCATIONS

DO VOCATIONS "run" in families? Sometimes it would seem so. Think of the families you know in which there are religious. You recall many of them, don't you? In our own community many sisters have brothers and sisters in the religious life. Sister Mary Rita (Windolph) certainly is at the top of the list with five brothers priests and five sisters in the convent. Eleven children — the entire family — with religious vocations! Many of our sisters have their own sisters in our community; some families have not just two but three who are Victory Noll Sisters.

It is safe to conclude, then, that religious vocations do "run" in families. And it is to be expected. Vocations as a general rule — there are exceptions — come from good Catholic families. Where the father and mother are fervent Catholics and give good example to their children, it is only natural that the seed of a religious vocation should be planted there. Parents like these pray that God may honor them by calling one or more of their children to the religious life. That such prayers are very pleasing to Him we cannot doubt.

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Are We Using the Right Approach?

Most Rev. William T. Mulloy, D.D.
Bishop of Covington

His Excellency, the Bishop of Covington, offers practical suggestions to recruiters of vocations.

WE have a gigantic task to do. On all sides we are faced with that fact. Everywhere the expansion program of the Church fills us with a sense of her greatness. From near and far we hear the cry: Give us schools! Give us hospitals! Give us homes for the aged! Give us child-caring agencies! Give us catechetical centers! Give us home-visitors! Give. . . ! Give. . . ! Give. . . !

In any chancery office anywhere in the world you will find letter upon letter—some from bishops, some from priests, some from lay persons—asking for sisters, for brothers, for priests. Listen in on a group of bishops chatting informally and you will find the constantly recurring theme to be: "We need priests; we need brothers; we need sisters." Whether the diocese be large or small, the plea is the same.

You know how Our Lord expressed this continual growth of the Church and the constant demand for religious: "The harvest indeed is great but the laborers are few." (Mat. 9:37) "Other sheep I have that are not of this fold. Them also I must bring . . . there shall be one fold and one shepherd." (John 10:16, 17)

His work is still going on. The harvests of souls are still great, and indeed growing greater almost daily. Greater . . . greater . . . greater. She will never stop growing, this Church of ours. Hence, our young people must understand that it is not because any one diocese is growing weak, or any particular community of brothers or sisters is about to fold up and, so to speak, go out of business, that the cry for vocations seems so clamorous. Neither the Church nor any of her agencies is insolvent. That is not the reason for this anxious recruiting program. On the contrary, it is evident that unprecedented growth demands unprecedented expansion. Strength, rather than weakness, calls out for the services of our young people.

Youth everywhere are being challenged. And our American young people will serve God—just give them the chance. Make them aware of the great need.

May we remind our readers that we oldsters in the vocation recruiting program learned much from the Auxiliary Services during World War II. Shame upon us who had smugly decided that modern youth despise sacrifice, that they are too luxury-minded, that they are soft and weak! Thus we had thought and thus we acted. Then the Wacs, the Wires, and the Waves came along and our American young women showed they had an appetite for adventure, that they

could sacrifice, that they could endure hardship. There we found the real American girl of the 1940's and 1950's. She differed little from her sisters of the covered wagon and sod shanty days. We must admit we just did not *know* the American girl.

Nor did we know the American boy until World War II opened up the Pacific and other mission areas throughout the world. In the wake of this revealing accomplishment our seminaries and our novitiates of men were filled. We learned that modern youth when given an opportunity are capable of great sacrifice. How can we explain the remarkable growth in the contemplative communities of men? The answer is in the yen of American youth for sacrifice, hardship, self-denial. They are fed up on the luxury, the entertainment, the over-service of the age. By their very nature they aspire to higher things; they crave an atmosphere of austerity; they thrill to an opportunity to give themselves.

WE who are working for the home missions today must be more interested in stressing the sacrifice than we are in stressing the comforts and physical advantages of the life of the religious brother or sister. How often in the past have we made the mistake of telling the prospective candidate: "Our community is so stable financially—we have such outstanding colleges, hospitals, academies, parish schools—we are so fortunately situated that you will find in our community all that you could ever wish for in the way of modern equipment; you will have no hardship whatsoever; your work will be in the most pleasant surroundings. The people whom we serve are all of the upper strata of society. You will truly come into your own when you are a member of our community." Reasoning thus, what have we to show for our work but an almost empty novitiate—or at least one greatly shrunken. We had forgotten that the Son of Man had "nowhere to lay his head." (Mat. 8:20)

You are familiar with that scene in the life of Our Lord when He spoke these words: "Go and report to John what you have heard and seen: the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead rise, the poor have the gospel preached to them." (Mat. 11:4, 5) It is this latter phase of His public ministry that receives particular emphasis.

Our Lord understood well the nature of the sacrifice involved in preaching the Gospel to the poor. He knew also that His Heavenly Father had placed in the depths of our human nature a vibrant desire to do that very thing. To find its satisfaction, this desire must be given opportunity. He gave that opportunity when

He exclaimed: "Go into the whole world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)

All of us who have had the experience of working with youth know their desire "to do things" for Christ. Often our young people of college or high school age will take a portion of their vacation time to go into the mission areas to teach catechism to the scattered Catholics. They are willing to endure almost primitive living conditions to perform this work for God and souls. In other areas where there are few, if any, Catholics, the missionary zeal of our young people will find its outlet in the work of instruction which they can do among the non-Catholics, especially among the children of neglected families. Give our young people the opportunity to do this work for God, and we shall soon find vocations budding among them.

Nor must we forget the blessing of God upon those religious communities of men and women who have added mission work, either at home or abroad, to the catalog of their works for God. They will tell you of the great dearth of vocations before they took on these missions. They will also show you the increase in the number of vocations to their community after their mission endeavors became known. Yes, the boys and girls of our age have courage. They await only opportunity. After the example of Our Lord we must direct them: "Lift up your eyes and behold that the fields are already white for the harvest." (John 4:35)

To youth must be made clear the fact that God will always provide a sufficient number of vocations to carry on His work. These vocations need only to be discovered among young men and women of our day. They are there in sufficient numbers; it is we who are chosen by God to go on the "treasure hunt" for them. Youth will be receptive to our work if we have schooled them in the fact that the vocations are there, placed by God in their souls. We are merely God's agents, trying to search out those whom God has called to the priesthood or to the religious life. We are searchers for the divine treasure which God has placed in their souls. We are not fanatics, armed with a religious hypodermic trying to inoculate them with the "virus" of vocation. We repeat, let youth know the facts, the tremendous needs, and they will become more and more interested.

WE ourselves are conscious of the "growing period" of our own vocation. At first, we were hesitant and even reticent about it. It was our own secret. Yet we were glad if some one—a priest, a religious, or a lay person—expressed the opinion that we had a vocation to the priesthood or to the religious life. Perhaps he or she approached us in some such manner as this: "Are you still thinking of becoming a priest?" or "When are you leaving for the novitiate?" Youth have not changed much since those days.



Bishop Mulloy blessing St. Clare's chapel, Berea, Ky., an out-mission of our convent at Richmond.

They are very much the same now as they were in our own younger days. If we could forget the "professional" psychological approach and remember that we are all God's children, we should be more Christ-like in our manner of helping youth to discover where in God's plan they are called to serve.

Have we learned from our Lord Himself this lesson on doing the Will of His Father: "My food is to do the will of him who sent me." (John 4:34) "For I have come down from Heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. . ." (*ibid.* 6:38) ". . . Not my will but thine be done." (Luke 22:42)

When we are addressing young men and women, either singly or in groups, we should remember that example of Our Lord and instill in them a realization of the necessity of finding out God's Will. When we tell them about prayer and the part it plays in their vocation, let them understand thoroughly that in prayer they ask God, with an open, unbiased mind: "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6) They must be told that one of the great lessons taught by Our Lord in the Garden was that of the vast difference between the Will of God and our own wills. He had taught the lesson before, but in the Garden of Gethsemani He emphasized it with greater force.

(Concluded on page 7)

Jolly Fishermen

The Postulants

EXAMS were over! Goodbye, books and teachers! Today eight of us were leaving for the annual postulants' vacation at Bishop's Island on Sylvan Lake. The other postulants would follow as soon as we had the cottage ready. We filled the truck with supplies and three postulants and, with Sister Sophia and her car of postulants leading the parade, we took off from Victory Noll after breakfast.

After an hour's drive we landed at the pier where three boats awaited us. We manned the oars and, although a few of us rowed backwards, we eventually made it across the peaceful waters to our new island home.

We approached the house waving mops and scrub brushes in a threatening manner. Even the screened-in porch seemed to cringe under our threat. We immediately donned work uniforms, rolled up our sleeves, and got after the dust. By evening we had made quite an improvement in the surroundings, so we put aside our mops and brooms and took to the lake for a cool evening swim. After our dip we enjoyed a good old fashioned gabfest over ice-cold refreshments, and topped the day by saying our Magnificat very enthusiastically.

Bright and early the next morning we took up our unfinished cleaning chores. Evening found the rooms well on the way to delightful living with nary a spot of dust in sight. To celebrate our broom and duster victory, we again took to the water for a moonlight swim.

The following morning we put the finishing touches to our summer home. Everything



Everyone took a turn preparing the meals.



Welcome to Bishop's Island!

must be ready today, for this was the day the other postulants were to arrive and join us on our vacation. As the old kitchen clock was rounding ten-thirty, excitement was buzzing in every room. Eight more postulants swarmed up from the pier. Once again we were all together and now would begin the grand vacation. A short time later and Sylvan Lake was literally dotted with postulants—some swimming, some rowing, some fishing, and others just enjoying the beautiful scenery and sunshine.

But Thursday was the great day for which we were all waiting; for this was the day our beloved Bishop Noll was coming to spend a few days with us. We all gathered at the pier to meet the Bishop when he arrived in his motor boat. His usual contagious smile greeted us and eagerly we pressed forward to hear his first words. Yes, now our vacation was complete. Our Bishop was here! One of the postulants was given the privilege of acting as sacristan in our little chapel, and now indeed it was "full speed ahead" as she made final preparations for the Bishop's Mass in the morning.

DURING the days that followed, we found out that the Bishop is not only a real marksman at horseshoes, but that he also knows the tricks of fishing and could give many good pointers on rowing as well. In the evenings we would gather in the living room with him and spend an enjoyable time talking and listening to radio programs. We were sorry when the Bishop's visit came to an end. On Sunday we knelt for his final blessing and then regretfully escorted him to the pier where we had so joyously greeted him only a few days before.

After days of boating, fishing, and swimming, we had a pleasant change on Monday afternoon—a visit to Kneipp Springs in Rome



Come and get it! Sister Sophia, mistress of novices and postulants, sounds the dinner gong.

City. The postulant sailors rowed across the lake, and a short walk on the mainland took us to the beautiful grounds of the sanitarium conducted by the Precious Blood Sisters. We visited the chapel, and the outdoor stations, and said our rosary at the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. Before returning to the island, we made our way into the town of Rome City. The city part, we thought, was slightly misleading, for its main business district consists of a post office, a general store, and a few other buildings. We found a drugstore that seemed to sell everything from soup to egg beaters, and here we stopped to purchase a few souvenirs of our jaunt.

THE next day was our last one at Sylvan Lake. We gave the rowboats double duty, for everyone wanted to tour the lake "just one



The evening gatherings were jolly affairs.

more time." The swimmers too were taking advantage of the enticing waters, and even the postulant fishermen were trying to get at least one more bite.

Wednesday came and we knew we must bid *adios* to the fish, the boats, the swims, and all the fun and sun of Bishop's Island. Quickly we packed our knapsacks in the boats and crossed the lake for the last time. Waiting on the other side were our big sisters — the novices — who were coming to enjoy their vacation.

Before long we were driving up the main avenue of Victory Noll and greeting Our Blessed Mother whose statue stands at the top of the hill. Our sun-tanned faces betrayed the joy of our happy outing, but our smiles showed our happiness at being home again after our wonderful vacation on Sylvan Lake.

ARE WE USING THE RIGHT APPROACH?

(Concluded from page 5)

Youth has a keen sense of fair play. We find that to be the truth among both boys and girls. We approach them on the basis of this fair play attitude when we remind them that in their search for their vocation they are praying to know God's Will and for the strength to follow it. Such an approach gives the lie to the idea that has gained ground among our youth that priests and religious are striving to "choke a vocation to the priesthood or the religious life down their throat."

Our Divine Master told us, "Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into his harvest." (Mat. 9:37) All of us can pray, but *do* we pray for vocations? We advise others to pray; have *we* followed Our Lord's direction: "Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into his harvest"? (*ibid.*)

When Our Lord wanted apostles, He went out after them. He did not follow the same pattern in the selection of any two. He had a diversity of ways by which He showed us how to discover them. Not all the Apostles were alike. No, they were individuals—they had their own characteristics, their own temperaments, their own virtues, their own feelings. They differed in age, they differed in occupation. Our Lord did not invite them as a group. He called them individually—He went out to each one. And He never ceased to remind them, "You have not chosen me, but I [your God] have chosen you . . ." (John 15:16)

Speak and act like Our Lord with the youth of today. They will listen; they will follow. They await the divine consolation, the justifiable pride in having Our Lord say to them, "You have not chosen Me; but I [your God] have chosen you." (*ibid.*)

America's Glory - Her Catholic Schools

Sister Blanche Marie

Among our readers there are always some who are becoming acquainted with our community for the first time. For that reason we believe it well from time to time to give a resume of our work. Sister Blanche Marie answers a question we are sometimes asked: "Why do you sisters not teach school like so many other religious?"

OPPORTUNITIES for religious instruction and Christian education have not kept pace with opportunities for advancement in the knowledge of secular learning. Taken as a whole, the young people of our country can hardly be regarded as Christian in the strict sense of the word. This is all the more tragic in those instances where their forefathers came from Catholic countries and for whom the priceless heritage of the faith is a birthright.

It is indisputable that there is no substitute for Catholic school training. The influence of religion is brought to bear upon the child or growing youth all the day long, through his formative and impressionable years, by teaching brothers and sisters or by lay teachers with the Catholic outlook.

During the Holy Year Father James Conroy, our chaplain at Victory Noll, who is also editor of the youth section of *Our Sunday Visitor* and director of the Fighting Sixty-ninth, had an opportunity to fly into American-occupied Germany and secure a brief audience with the late Cardinal Von Preysing, Archbishop of Berlin. During the interview Father Conroy asked the Cardinal what he considered the most important work being done by the Catholic Church in the United States. Without hesitation, His Eminence answered, "The glory of the Church in America is the Catholic school system. It has taken great sacrifice to build it up, but this is your most treasured possession, and you should thank God daily for it."

The enemies of God and religion know this and they are constantly chiseling at this mighty bulwark of Christianity to weaken it or even destroy it if they can. Wherever in the world the Communists are in power, one of their first moves is to stamp out all Catholic schools. They are more keenly aware of their spiritual values than are many of our Catholic parents.

Even though Catholic schools are not outlawed in America, thank God, there are far too few of them to serve adequately the needs of our Catholic population. Father Robert Hartnett, prominent Jesuit editor and educator, recently wrote in the pages of *America* that "a great many American Catholics want to send their children to Catholic high schools but cannot because there are not enough of them to supply the demand." The same situation obtains in many localities with regard to grade schools for Catholic children.

It is true we frequently read about the erection of new parochial schools; yet the situation does not seem very bright for the immediate future. Present statistics show that but twenty-five percent of our Catholic youth are in Catholic high schools, and only a little over fifty percent of them are in Catholic grade schools. The remainder are getting public education.

Consequently there is a steadily increasing demand for a community like ours whose members devote all their time and energies to these less favored children, giving religious instruction and Christian training to the army of Catholic boys and girls enrolled in the public schools.

The word of God has often been called the bread of life. You might then regard the children attending Catholic schools as well-fed



Sister Mary Consuelo and Sister Mary Martin look at all the missions they might go to if we had more sisters.

children, while those attending public schools are under-nourished and starving. J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, stated that the increasing crime rate in our country proves that our nation is "suffering from spiritual starvation."

We sisters conduct no institutions such as hospitals or schools, but devote our time each day to the religious instruction of Catholic children enrolled in public schools, teaching them either after school hours or on a released time basis; to intensive home visiting; to the instruction of adults; to the relieving of the wants of the poor and the sick; and to the giving of every possible spiritual and material help so that souls may be converted or brought closer to God and His Church.

OUR work began in 1922 when two sisters, Sister Julia Doyle and Sister Marie Benes, both formerly of Chicago, were sent as missionaries to an obscure mission post in the state of New Mexico. They have both passed on to their eternal reward, but the work they began lives on. Our community has grown in numbers until now there are 313 professed sisters. The scope of our work, too, has been extended until it now takes in sixteen states. As mothers of their souls, our sisters fare forth each day from our fifty-five convents to reach 65,000 children who hear nothing about God from their teachers in school.

We have been invited to make foundations in many new dioceses and even in foreign countries, but we do not have enough sisters to supply the demand. Archbishop Beckman of Panama, when he could not get a group of our sisters to work in his country, requested of Mother General that she at least lend him two sisters so that they might help him establish an order of native Panamanians who would do work similar to ours. This work was begun by Sister Monica and Sister Mary Bernarda in 1948. Mother Catherine, our former Superior General, and Sister Helen visited Panama in 1950. They reported that so completely had these Panamanian sisters absorbed the spirit of our sisters that "you would think you were visiting one of our own convents and kneeling in one of our own mission chapels," excepting, of course, that they say their community prayers in Spanish instead of English. Their motto, like ours, is "All for Jesus through Mary." They are laboring in some of the poorest missions in Panama, and their work is a projection of our own in America so that we feel they share in our good works and we in theirs.

March 1953



**Is the baby afraid of the sisters?
Home visiting in San Antonio—
Sister Mary Bernarda and Sister Martin.**

In 1949 our sisters were asked to help in the training of a new institute in Detroit known as "Home Visitors of Mary." The special work of this community will be recruiting converts and instructing children and adults among the Negro population of Michigan. Eventually the community will be interracial.

We are happy to be able to extend ourselves and our good works in this fashion by lending our sisters to the founding of communities to be engaged in missionary undertakings similar to our own.

THE vocation of a Missionary Sister seems to deserve an honor akin to that of motherhood. They bring children into a world—not this world of sin and suffering, but the world we call heaven. For such a holy and glorious vocation the sisters are carefully prepared. Although, at Victory Noll personal holiness is the point mostly insisted upon, it is doubtful if anywhere in the country there is more adequate and careful attention given to the mastery of every worthwhile method of catechetical instruction. The sisters are thoroughly trained in the art of teaching religion and in the use of every helpful device. When they go forth to their difficult missions, they are well prepared.

—Rev. Aloysius Heeg, S.J.

PRIZE EXPLANATION

It was Saturday morning after the dismissal of catechism classes. A few children were waiting for their parents to call for them. Gathering around me, they began to ask questions that would help solve the "mystery" of sisters for their inquisitive little minds. Tiny



Sally reached up to clasp the medal of Our Blessed Lady of Victory that hangs from a silver chain around my neck.

Sally edged her way toward the front of the group, reached up to clasp the medal of Our Blessed Lady of Victory that hangs from a silver chain around my neck, and popped her question.

"Sister, where did you get this big pretty medal?"

All eyes turned expectantly to me for here was an important question and no doubt its answer would be most enlightening. Just then seven-year-old Mickey (who always has all the answers) walked over to have a better look at the medal still resting in Sally's palm. Turning to the others and speaking in a superior tone of voice he said, "Don't you kids know where sisters get those medals?"

"Do you know, Mickey?" I asked.

"Sure I do. You get them as a prize for never missing catechism class."

Sister Evelyn Marie
Los Angeles, California

In the Home Field

BOYS CAN BE HEROIC

Gilbert, a junior high student, lives fourteen miles from church, and since his father is not a good Catholic, it is impossible for the boy to attend Mass regularly. One Sunday his father reluctantly gave him permission to take the car so that he could make his Easter duty. When Gilbert arrived at the church, he discovered that he had misunderstood the change in the Mass schedule. The extra nine o'clock Mass would not begin until the following Sunday. He had only enough gas in the car to get back home, so he waited, fasting, until the eleven o'clock Mass. He was afraid he would not have another chance to return and make his Easter duty.

Sister Theresa
Los Banos, California



Photo by W. Wesley Kloepfer, P.S.A.

Choosing a penance for Lent is serious business. These little girls are getting theirs from Sister Florence, Azusa, California. Sister reports that children consider giving up TV hardest of all. One little boy not only gave up his favorite program, but went to another room and studied his catechism during that time.

VACANCY

"What does God do for you?" I asked. Now the answer in Father Heeg's *Jesus and I* is "God does everything for me." And that is what I expected to hear. All hands were raised. I called on Gilbert, aged six, for the answer. Pointing to the vacant space in the front of his mouth he answered, "God is going to give me two teeth."

Sister Joan
Abilene, Texas



In our convent chapel at Redlands, California, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thomas A. Matthews, pastor of Holy Rosary church, San Bernardino, as the representative of the Most Reverend Bishop, receives the vows of the sisters.

POPULAR PENANCES

Penance slips are popular during Lent. The children love them. In fact, one of the greatest punishments is to be refused a penance slip at the end of class. They take them seriously, too. For instance: one boy picked the penance to wait five minutes before taking a drink. He had a tooth pulled. The dentist told him to take a drink. "No, doctor," he said, "I can't for five minutes." A girl also had to go to the dentist. When the ordeal was over, the doctor gave her some gum to chew. At the next class she reported apologetically, "Sister, I took only a little and gave the rest to my mother."

Sister Vivian
Detroit, Michigan

GOD PAYS

"It's time to put things away girls. The sisters will be coming for me soon."

"Aw, Sister, please let me finish cutting out just this one flower. Then I'll be all finished with my rule book," pleaded eleven-year-old Juanita as she hurriedly reached for the scissors.

"You heard what Sister said," admonished her sister Concha. "Besides, we have to hurry home and help Mom with the table."

Juanita's face fell, but brightened up again as she asked, "Sister, do you have maids?"

"Maids?" I wanted to laugh. "Why no, Juanita, what made you . . . ?"

She tried to get her point across. "I mean, Sister, who washes the dishes at your house and who sweeps the floor, and . . ."

Juanita continued to name a litany of chores that she had to do at home, while I gathered my project work together and put each article in its proper place.

"Juanita," I explained, "each sister at our convent has special housework to do. Some do the washing, some do the cooking, and others mop the floors and dust."

"And Sister, who tells you what to do?"

"Well, just as your mama tells you and all your brothers and sisters what to do, we have a sister who is called our superior. She is just like a mother. She tells us what to do, and we do what she tells us because we know that's just what God wants us to do. When you obey your mother you're doing just what God wants you to do too."

"Oh," smiled the little inquisitor, happy to learn of the similarity between her home and ours.

As the little group helped me carry my bundles to the car where the sisters were waiting for me, there was just one more question that it seemed very necessary to ask.

"Sister, do you get paid too?"

I now had all my belongings packed into the trunk. Closing the lid, I turned to Juanita, smiling with an assurance that even she could understand. "Yes, Juanita, God pays me."

Sister Teresita
Brawley, California

One thing I have asked of the Lord, this will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. — Psalm xxvi, 4.

News Items About



Slogan Girl:

Pictured at the left is Miss Maria Comparetta, of Binghamton, N. Y., who contributes to our mission work.

teen active members in the Band. Three cheers for their splendid accomplishments!

We should like to go on giving all the Bands their meed of well deserved praise but space does not permit it.

To all our good mission friends, near and far, our heartfelt thanks and the assurance of our grateful prayers during 1953 and always.

SISTER SUPERVISOR, ACM.

Dear Associates:

THE ladies who won the laurels as the largest contributors to our Missionary Sisters, among our Associate Catechists of Mary Bands for the year 1952, are the members of *Good Shepherd Mission Club, Chicago, Ill.* Their annual total was \$836.21. This was the highest year-end total ever attained by any one mission club or band for the past twenty-six years, according to our office records. It may well be the highest total for a twelve-month period ever attained by one of our mission bands at any time. Incidentally, there are only eleven members in the Band. Our hearty congratulations to the President, *Mrs. Mary Staley*, and her hardworking co-workers.

The members of *Sacred Heart Mission Society of Newark, N.Y.*, who enjoyed highest honors for four consecutive years, came in second with a grand total of \$700 for the year. We know they rate very special praise and thanks for they had a Herculean task confronting them in 1952. They had to divide the funds they raised into three parts—one part going to aid the Bishop Kearney Drive in their Rochester (N.Y.) Diocese, one part to a parish building program, and a third part to us. *Mrs. Sue Albanese* is President, and *Mrs. Theresa Pitrella*, Secretary. There are only seventeen active members in the Band.

Third highest place was attained by *St. Martin of Tours Band of Omaha, Neb.*, with a final total of \$522 for 1952. This is \$237 better than they did in 1951. *Mrs. Frances Schuette* is President, and *Mrs. Adelaide Wichert*, Secretary. A nice portion of this amount was made during the first six months of the year while *Lucile Murphy* was President and her sister *Elizabeth* was Secretary. There are only thir-

HEADS GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION CLUB



In the accompanying picture to the left is *Mrs. Mary Staley of Chicago, Illinois*, whose Club broke all our previous records of mission giving for the period of one year.

ST. CLARE BAND (Omaha, Neb.)

WE hear from the Secretary of this Band, *Mrs. H. Leutenegger*, just about every month, with that welcome introductory phrase, "Enclosed find check." The Band dues from members amount to five dollars each month, but this is often augmented by some special "operation" put on by the members. A one-day rummage sale in December increased the usual amount to \$55. Sometimes, too, the group puts on a benefit card party. One of the pet projects of these ladies is the purchase of flannelette in quantity from which they fashion baby layettes for poor mothers in our missions.

At the head of the Band is *Mrs. Ann Igel*, sister of our Sister Mary Clare, Las Vegas, New Mexico.

Our Associates

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION BAND OF CHICAGO



WHEN Miss Mary Perkins cannot attend a large card party being given for our Sisters, she is there by proxy, her proxy being her signature attached to a generous check which she has sent on in advance.

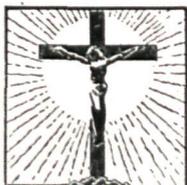
A letter received from our Promoter which reached us on one of the last days of November, and which accompanied a check for \$35.00, read in part as follows: "I finally succeeded in getting the girls together last night. We had a very nice dinner in one of the downtown restaurants after which we visited and then started out for home. It was a pleasant evening as far as the food and all were concerned, but it poured rain most of the day and part of the evening. In view of the fact that we had to go to work the next day, we were not out too late. The enclosed check represents the girls' donations."

ST. MARY'S MISSION CLUB (Oak Park, Ill.)

This club consists of sisters, and near relatives of Mrs. Elizabeth Lehman, Promoter, who is the daughter of Mrs. Baldwin, who in turn was a co-worker of "Mother Service" in the early days of ACM. Voluntary offerings are made from time to time by the members. Usually an annual bridge party is held to increase the funds sent to Victory Noll.

HOLY GHOST BAND (Elkhart, Ind.)

THE Promoter, Miss Mary Nye, sends us a large donation three times a year. One of these times is, appropriately, during the season of Pentecost because the Band is named after the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. At the other times, Miss Nye selects some big feast of our Blessed Mother on which to send us the voluntary offerings of her members. The Band sponsors Sister Marie Vianney, who has spent some years at Victory Noll due to ill health.



Lord bless our friends
And help them see,
In helping us,
They have helped Thee.



ACM BAND CONTRIBUTIONS

December 18, 1952 to January 16, 1953

Bl. Martin de Porres Band, Lewiston, Minn., Mrs. Irene Lehman	\$ 16.00
Charitina Club No. 2, Paris, Ill., Miss Mary C. Gibbons	130.00
Florentine Band, St. Louis, Mo., Mrs. L. H. Luechtefeld	15.00
Good Shepherd Mission Club, Chicago, Mrs. H. F. Staley	66.00
Good Will Mission Circle, Carrollton, Ky., Mrs. Geo. Krumpelman	24.00
Holy Family Band, Chicago, Joseph Waiz, Sec. Holy Ghost Band, Elkhart, Ind., Miss Mary E. Nye	27.00
Martinettes, The, Cincinnati, O., Carole Niklas	2.00
Mary, Queen of Our Hearts Band, Lombard, Ill., Miss Wilma Wengritzky	10.00
Queen of Angels Band, Los Angeles, Mrs. C. J. Sauthier	8.00
Poor Souls Band, The, Berwyn, Ill., Mrs. J. V. McGovern	25.00
St. Anthony Band, Chicago, Mrs. Agnes Beck	29.00
St. Bridget Band, Covington, Ky., Mrs. John Busse	11.00
St. Catherine Band, Los Angeles, Mrs. M. McMannamy	50.00
St. Helen Band, Dayton, O., Miss Helen Melke	32.50
St. Irene Band, Chicago, Miss May Walsh	5.50
St. Irene Auxiliaries, Chicago, Miss Madeline Sebraska	21.00
St. John Mission Guild, Chicago, Mrs. Anna Bechtold	100.00
St. Joseph Band No. 2, Chicago, Mrs. Aloysia Naumes	12.00
St. Luke Band, Chicago, Mrs. Edwin Potter	38.10
St. Margaret Mary Band, Omaha, Mrs. Fred Shields	40.00
St. Mary's Mission Club, Oak Park, Ill., Mrs. Forest Lehman	5.00
St. Mary Mission Society, Ft. Wayne, Ind., Mrs. Augusta Hake	2.00
St. Michael Guild, Palos Hts., Ill., Mrs. Chas. Lynch	20.00
St. Philomena Band, Chicago, Miss Mary Schaefer	57.50
St. Raymond Band, Chicago, Mrs. Kathryn Quinlan	9.00
St. Rose Band, Marshfield, Wis., Mrs. John Huebl	50.00
Upsilon Chap., Pi Epsilon Kappa, LaPorte, Ind., Miss Marie Menkhaus	25.00

A Novice Surveys the Cost

Sister Carol

PERHAPS you wonder how a novice looks on the things of the world that she so recently renounced. You may even think that looking back, she feels that the price was too big. If you do, you are wrong. We do not look back and count the cost. We look forward and count the reward. We do not yearn for the things of the past. We only long for the day in the future when we will be professed Missionary Sisters and will go forward to act as instruments of God in saving souls.

We are career-minded like the other young women of our generation. We believe in a career with a future. That is exactly what we have chosen. If the price which we have paid looks big to others, it is as nothing in our eyes. Christ has done for us what He did for the blind when He was on earth. He has taken the scales off our eyes. We see things as they really are. We see the value of things in the light of eternity. In other careers does one count the cost? Does a doctor look back with regret at the things he sacrificed to get his M.D.? Does an opera singer at the height of her career regret the meals she sacrificed for singing lessons? Do you think that we can miss the things we left behind us when we contemplate our future? And what future could be so glorious as being the eternal brides of Christ?

Some think that the biggest part of the price was giving up our freedom. If so, we are merely prisoners of love as is Christ in the tabernacle. We love God. We love life. We love people. Love is sacrifice. The greater the sacrifice for God, the greater will be our love for Him and His love for us. To give ourselves to Him is a small return for what He has done for us. We have loved life so much that we are eager to give up the temporal things so that we can live forever and so that the people we love may live forever too. Christ came into the world and as the True Light enlightened the hearts of men. We will carry the True Light into the darkness to those who need Him.

We liked to sing and we liked to swing. We have not given these things up really. When next you see us, though our eyes might be cast down, you may be sure that our hearts are joyously singing with the highest choir of angels, and our spirits are so far heavenward that they are swinging from star to star.

In looking back we feel that the cost is small. The things we left behind have been replaced by qualities which are more becoming to the brides of Christ. No, there has been no price. One never pays for a privilege. The religious life is a privilege given to us through the generosity of Jesus through Mary.



W. H. McIntosh Photo

Chatting in the archway during the brief period between classes.



W. H. McIntosh Photo

Long looked forward to is the period every novice spends as assistant sacristan at Victory Noll. She learns to do the things she will be privileged to do so often as a professed sister in the missions.

WANT AD

A few years ago we enlisted the help of our readers to supply our library at Victory Noll with missing numbers of *National Geographic* magazine. Encouraged by our success then, we are begging again. This request will be harder to meet. It is for the *American Ecclesiastical Review* from 1939 to 1947 inclusive, that is, Volumes 100 to 117 inclusive; also for the issue of August 1952. This is a big order and can be met by only a limited number of subscribers—priests and/or libraries in Catholic schools. We realize this, but still we are hopeful.

Here was I still postponing the giving up of this world's happiness to devote myself to the search for that of which not the finding only, but the *mere seeking* is better than to find all the treasures and kingdoms of men, better than all the body's pleasures though they were to be had merely for a nod.—*Confessions of St. Augustine.*

March 1953

The Sacred Heart and Our Blessed Mother

MANY years ago, in 1928 to be exact, Victory Noll became the headquarters of the Confraternity of Mary Queen of All Hearts, a confraternity of all those who practice True Devotion to Our Blessed Mother as taught by St. Louis Marie de Montfort. In more recent years there was established here a secretariate of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart.

Both the confraternity and the secretariate have brought great blessings to our community. The enthusiasm of those who practice the True Devotion and of those who promote devotion to the Sacred Heart by the enthronement or by night adoration in their homes is a source of deep edification to us sisters.

One man telephoned long distance to tell the Sister Secretary the joyful news that he was making his act of consecration the next day, a feast of Our Blessed Mother. A young girl, only a freshman in high school, sacrificed an hour of sleep once a month to make her holy hour. The result — her father returned to the sacraments after a lapse of twelve years. We could multiply stories over and over, but the good people who wrote them did not do so for publicity.

In recent years special emphasis has been placed on explaining how children, even little children, can learn the True Devotion. The DeMontfort Fathers publish an attractive booklet "To Jesus Through Mary" for small children. It may be ordered from Victory Noll, ten cents a copy. Very soon we hope to have a special article in *THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST* showing how children can practice the True Devotion. In fact, it has been our experience that children grasp it more easily than many adults do.

The sister in charge of these two works — the Confraternity of Mary Queen of All Hearts and the Enthronement and Night Adoration — has a complete assortment of explanatory leaflets and pamphlets that she will be glad to send you on request. They cannot help but deepen your spiritual life. **SEA**

Please send me information about the True Devotion to Our Blessed Mother and also the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart and Night Adoration.

Name

Address

City Zone State



Dear Loyal Helpers:

It has become an annual custom for our Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, to speak to the Catholic boys and girls of the United States, over the radio, at the beginning of Lent. He reminds us how well off we are. Our dear country has been spared the ravages of war. In countries which have been devastated by war, you have an abundance of starved, ill-fed, often maimed, war orphans. They have lost parents and homes through bombings and the constant surging forward of victorious armies or the withdrawal of defeated ones. Even in countries which have not witnessed the horrors of war, as for example India, children often suffer and die because of crop failures and consequent famine.

Sometimes we see pictures of the gaunt faces of these war orphans and they haunt us. We want to do something to help them. That is why our Holy Father talks to you. He urges you to contribute your sacrifice money, or else clothing and canned foods, through your school, as a corporal work of mercy to your less fortunate brothers and sisters in Christ, overseas. We know you will answer our Holy Father's appeal with great generosity.

Before you lay down this magazine, Loyal Helpers, we want you to think about another kind of starved child. See the little boy in the lower right hand corner on this page? He doesn't look hungry or ragged, but he has a sad look. *You would be sad, too!* He is a spiritually starved child. There is no one to tell him about the good God who loves us and wants to be loved in return. The joy of a little visit to Jesus

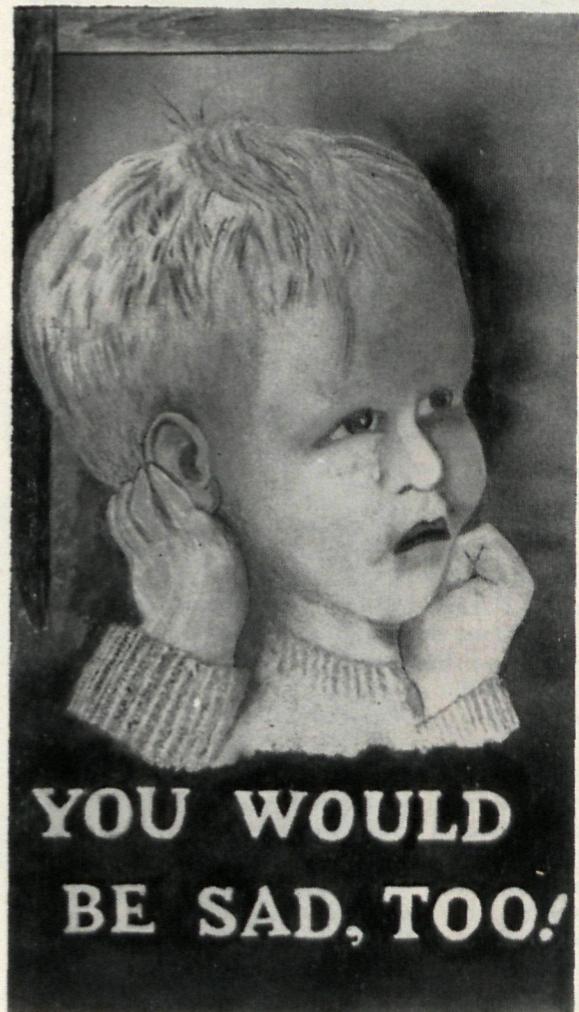
Mary's Loyal

in the Tabernacle is not his. He does not know that Jesus is there. He has not become a dear child of God, perhaps, through Baptism. He does not know the joy which comes from making a worthy confession or receiving the Sacred Host.

Dear Loyal Helpers, it is to help thousands of poor children like him that we, *Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters*, have dedicated our lives. We know you will assist us through your sacrifices and prayers.

Mary-ly yours,

SUNSHINE SECRETARY, MLH



Helpers Page

LETTERS O' THE MONTH

Dear Sister

The magazine, THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST, came today and I was reminded that my subscription expires next month. I am enclosing one dollar, please renew it.

I am abstaining from the movies and candy during Lent, and when I save up a dollar I will send it to you for the missions. I will close now because it is time for us to say the Family Rosary.

Mary Jane Vogt, Monongahela, Pa.

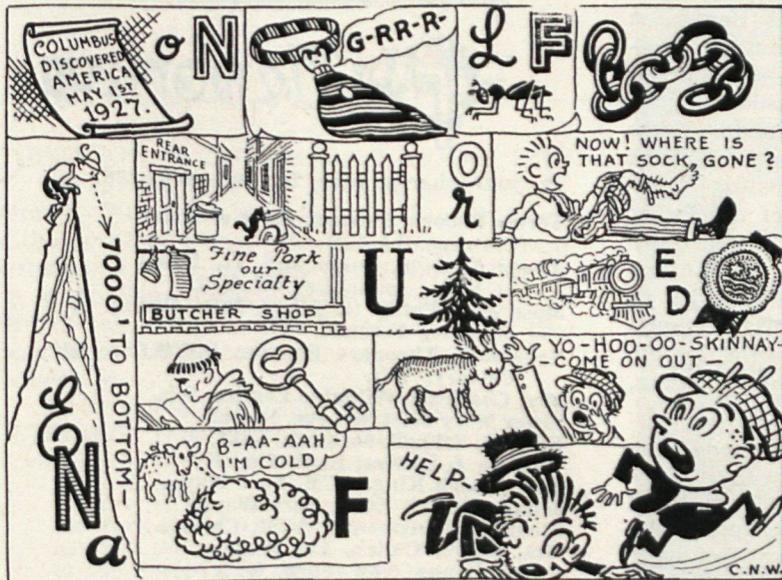
(Sunshine Secretary's note. Mary Jane wrote this letter three years ago but it is still good for printing, and she is still a Loyal Helper.)

Dear Sister:

I am sending you a dollar I saved up. Will you please send me a dime card? It is easier for me to save money for the Missionaries when I have a dime card because then it isn't so easy to take the dimes out of it. Otherwise, one is tempted to spend the money for something else. I will try to keep up the sacrifices and prayers during 1953.

Jeanne Lentz, Ionia, Iowa

MARCH REBUS PUZZLE



A little wholesome fun is good for us all. What have we here? Two greatly excited men are running for all they are worth. They have just heard that the circus animals are escaping. Can you, from the pictures, guess the names of these animals? Sunshine Secretary will send a holy card to the one who sends her the correct answers.

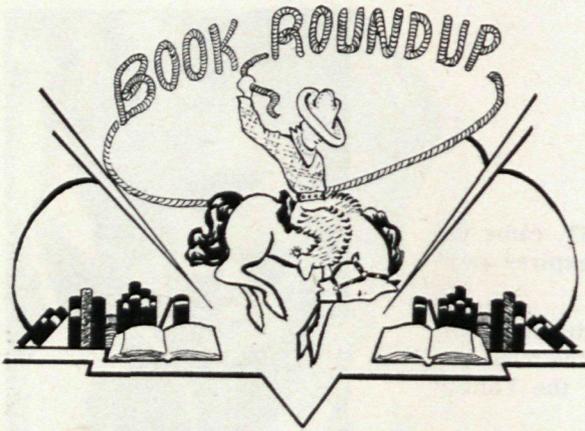


ANSWERS TO FEBRUARY PUZZLE: 1. O hear the, 2. Hearth, 3. mouth, ear, tongue, 4. the artificial, 5. he artfully, 6. Oh, earthbound.

Sunshine Secretary thanks all the Helpers who sent greetings and Sunshine money at Christmas.

Loyal Helpers Heard From Lately

- Patricia and Carol Ciulik, Amsterdam, New York
- Marlene Donovan, Windsor, Ont. Canada
- Mary Jo Drilling, Shelby, Ohio
- Lilly Grapinag, Manila, Philippine Is.
- Joseph Hertz, Lititz, Pa.
- Carol Kirschbaum, Chicago, Illinois
- Jean, Barbara and Mary Pounder, Savannah, Georgia
- Dale Ruppel, Louisville, Ohio
- Henry and Catherine Schmitt, Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Annette, Betty and Carole Wagner, Butternut, Wisconsin



WHY I BECAME A PRIEST, edited by Rev. L. Kane. Newman Press, Westminster, Maryland. Cloth, \$2.50; paper, \$1.

It was an excellent idea the editor had to compile this symposium on *Why I Became a Priest*. It is intended primarily to enlighten and encourage young men who are called to the priesthood. But in the opinion of this reviewer, at least, the book does not quite measure up to expectations. The reason, I believe, is this. A number of well known priests were asked to contribute. What they wrote is very worthwhile, but still there is a bit of monotony: too much emphasis on the influence of home, pastor, sisters, etc.; and in some accounts, too many details of early life and seminary routine.

This will surely be eliminated in the forthcoming companion volume, *Why I Became a Nun*. Instead of asking certain nuns to contribute to it, the editor has wisely sent out an invitation to all religious communities of women in the United States and Canada. From the manuscripts that are submitted, about twenty will be selected for publication. Perhaps there will be a later edition of the *Priest* volume compiled in the same way. Then there will be greater variety and more human interest. The merits of the present book lie in the reader's interest in the personalities who have contributed to it: Archbishop Lucey, Bishop Sheen, Father Lord, Thomas Merton, Father Peyton, and others.

There is a point, however, to be made concerning this very sameness found in their stories. It proves once more that there is nothing spectacular or glamorous about a religious vocation. It manifests itself in much the same way with everyone, vague and general at first; gradually becoming more and more clear and distinct.

Father Kane, who edited *Why I Became a Priest*, is director of vocations and of religious

education in the Diocese of Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Royalties will be used to further vocations.

The format and typography of the book are up to the usual high standard of the Newman press.

TYPING SIMPLIFIED, ENCYCLICAL EDITION by Louis A. Leslie and Philip S. Pepe. American Book Company, Cincinnati. \$2.40.

Ingenious indeed were the authors when they prepared this textbook that teaches speed and accuracy at the typewriter at the same time it acquaints the student with important papal encyclicals. An accompanying teacher's text explains this *Typing Simplified* course for high school or college classes. The method in itself is excellent. There are no more isolated letter or word drills such as were found in the old texts. The sentence is the smallest practice unit. The practice material is based on *Quadragesimo Anno*, *Divini Redemptoris*, *Divini Illius Magistri*, *Casti Connubii*, and *Mystici Corporis*. As Sister M. Therese, O.S.F., says in her foreword to the book: "The experienced Catholic teacher will instantly recognize the double value of such a plan and welcome the opportunity to place in the hands of the typing learner practice material which will guide his mind and faith as well as his hand as daily lessons proceed."

Memoriam

In your charity pray for our departed:

Teresa Osborn, Chicago, sister of Sister Caroline, O.L.V.M.
 Joseph Gratton, Burlington, Vt., father of Sister Jeannette, O.L.V.M.
 Most Rev. Philip G. Scher, D.D., Bishop of Monterey-Fresno
 Very Rev. Theodore Roemer, O.F.M.Cap., Mt. Calvary, Wis.
 Mrs. Charles J. Wilhelm, Lomire, Wis.
 Sister Mary of St. George, Detroit
 Edna M. Schnell, Saratoga, Calif.
 William J. Lawler, Louisville, Ky.
 Mrs. Joseph Klug, ACM, Fort Wayne
 Jennie Denzel, ACM, Fort Wayne
 Eleanor Weingartner, ACM, Chicago
 Mrs. Daniel Cullen, Los Angeles
 Emma Evans, New York, N. Y.
 Rose Sarlono, Chicago
 Charles W. Reynolds, Kentland, Ind.
 Vincent de Paul Fleming, St. Louis
 Jerome J. Crowley, Chicago
 Robert Lanaghan, Fort Madison, Iowa
 Adelaide Meyer, Chicago

"Twenty-Fifth Devotions"

for more postulants



By prayer, study, and manual work a postulant is prepared to dedicate her life as a Missionary Sister.

DEVOTION to the Incarnation of Our Lord has always been the devotion in our community. Our motto *All for Jesus through Mary* is the spirit of every Missionary Sister. Since Jesus came to us through His Blessed Mother, we go to Him through Mary. Every twenty-fifth of the month is like a little feast of the Incarnation at Victory Noll and in our mission convents.

Twenty-five years ago THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST reported the beginning of this observance. In the July 1928 issue we read:

Since all devotion seems to center in the Nativity of Our Lord, our Society has felt the urge to give greater honor to the Sacred Incarnation of Our Lord and to the Joyful Annunciation of His Blessed Mother. Accordingly, on the 25th of June the first monthly procession took place here at the Noll to commemorate these two events.

We feel that this ceremony had a very auspicious beginning as we numbered among those taking part our Reverend Founder, Father Sigstein, Fa-

ther A. J. Blaufuss, Father Jose Lara, and Father Salesius Schneiweis, O.F.M. Cap. Due to the inclement weather it was impossible to have the procession outdoors as planned. However, our wide corridors gave us ample space. The procession, led by the cross bearer, followed by the entire community bearing lighted tapers and chanting the Litany of Loretto, with four novices triumphantly carrying the beautiful statue of Our Blessed Lady of Victory, wound its way through the long east corridor, out under the arches of the Spanish patio, and then through the west corridor back to the chapel. There the rosary was said and Benediction followed.

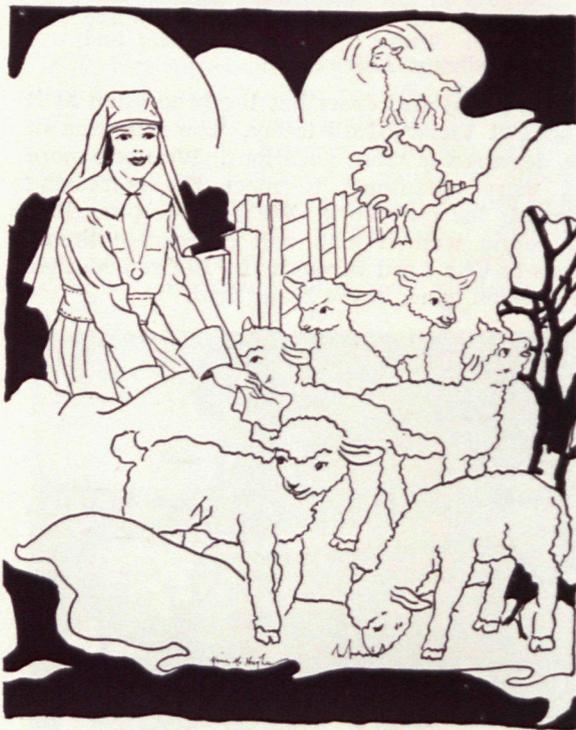
And that still describes the procession as it is held at Victory Noll today. The intention of this devotion is more vocations. We need more and more postulants to meet the increasing demands for our work. We need self-sacrificing young women who will consecrate themselves to Our Lord through His Blessed Mother for mission work in the home field.



W. H. McIntosh Photo

Recreation is a most important part of the postulants' daily order.

I a Missionary Sister?



Yes, it may be that God is calling YOU to be a Missionary Sister. A religious vocation does not just happen by chance, but is the result of prayer, advice, and serious thinking. The signs of a vocation to the religious life are

right intention

moral fitness

mental fitness

physical fitness

On your decision may depend your own
salvation and that of thousands of others!