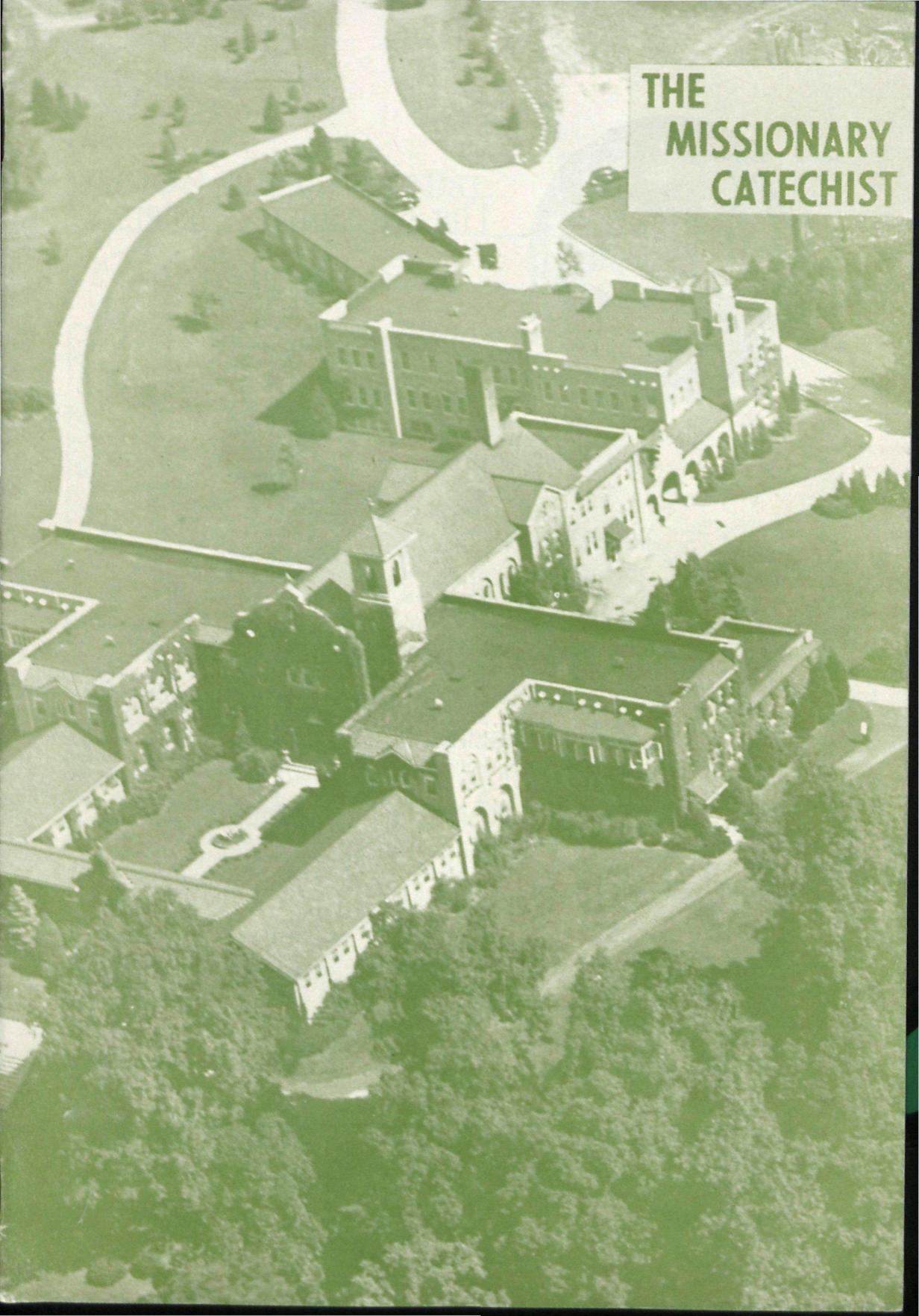


**THE
MISSIONARY
CATECHIST**





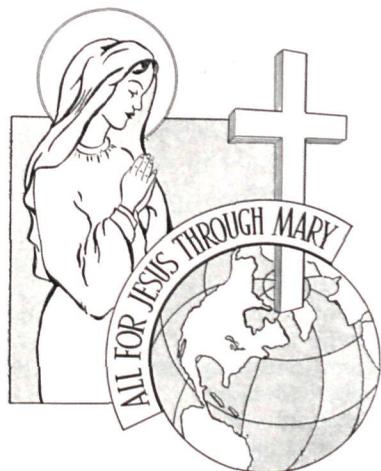
The Missionary Sisters' Ideal

Never to grow weary,
 Never to grow cold;
To be ever patient,
 Sympathetic and cheerful;
To hope always, and love forevermore;
Faithfully holding to our purpose
 Of a life of service
In behalf of our fellow creatures:
 And ALL for the love
 Of Jesus and Mary.



The MISSIONARY CATECHIST

Edited and published by
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
Victory Noll Huntington, Indiana
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OUR Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters are a home mission community. They have no institutions of any kind but are employed strictly in missionary work. The sisters teach religion to public school children and do parish census work. They instruct converts, organize sodalities, train altar boys and choirs, and engage in various kinds of youth work.

At Victory Noll, their Motherhouse, the sisters receive their spiritual and professional training for their work. Convents are located in every section of the United States. To answer the many requests for more sisters, vocations are needed.

This is a Marian Community. Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters believe that if souls love and serve Mary, she will lead them safely to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Each sister consecrates herself to Our Blessed Mother as her slave of love forever, according to the practice of the True Devotion taught by St. Louis De Montfort.

Our Cover is Victory Noll from the air. The most recent addition, to the left of the main building, does not appear in the picture.

Credits

Photographs Father Joseph Grade, Smethport, Pa., bottom p. 7; Mr. Barton, Smethport, Pa., top p. 7; Vincent Bizzaro, Port Allegany, Pa., p. 8; Courtesy of MINE THREE, p. 10; Wesley Kloefer, Azusa, Calif., pp. 9, top 14. (We are sorry that through an error Mr. Kloefer was not credited with the cover picture of our February magazine, as he should have been.) Busco-Nestor Studio, San Diego, Calif., bottom p. 14; Christy-Shepherd, Hollywood, Calif., p. 23; The Bering Studio, Bound Brook, N. J., p. 25, Big Spring Herald, Big Spring, Texas, p. 28.

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Homes and

Vocations

by the Most Reverend Leo A. Pursley, D.D.
Apostolic Administrator of Fort Wayne

WE know exactly what Our Lord meant when He said to St. Peter: "Feed My Lambs." To put it quite concisely, the mission of the Church is to nourish the supernatural life of souls by using all the means ordained for that purpose by Jesus Christ. This the Church must do through the ministry of her bishops and priests and the help of others associated with them, especially those dedicated to religion by solemn or simple vow. It is almost too obvious to mention—and yet it is the whole point of this little article—that bishops, priests, religious sisters and brothers, like all other people, come out of homes, not merely because they are born into homes but because they are very largely the products of the kind of homes in which they grow up. To all such rules there are exceptions, of course, but exceptions are rare and tend always to confirm the rule. And the rule in this matter can be simply stated: The religious home fosters religious vocations. The other kind does not.

Happily in our day the higher functions of family life are getting more of the attention and emphasis which their importance merits and demands. If this is not yet a universal condition it is at least impressive enough to be significant and promising enough to justify the hope of better things to come. Not only have we observed with growing alarm the forces that break down

the sanctity, stability, integrity of family life, but we have taken at least some positive measures to arrest this process of disorder and decay. The reigning popes of our times, bishops, priests, teachers, devout laymen, have united in an effort to restore to the home those elements of spiritual strength without which it cannot survive and certainly cannot effectively fulfill its divine purpose.

We who are commanded, as St. Peter was, to feed the flock of Christ, must be deeply thankful for every home that strives to attain the Christian ideal of the Holy Family despite so many contrary influences at work in the modern world. I think we are perhaps more sympathetically aware of the difficulties involved than many may realize. But we have come to see more and more clearly also that such homes must be greatly multiplied. Let no one suppose that we take a narrow and selfish view of the home, as if it had value in our eyes only because it must supply recruits for leadership in the Church. We are concerned primarily because the honor of God and the happiness of His children, in time and eternity, are bound up with the success or failure of the home. That is why we strive to make every family truly Christian, which means Christ-conscious and Christ-centered, so that the whole fabric of domestic life will be permeated with His presence and the whole at-

mosphere of the home alive with His spirit. In such homes His truth will be taught and His example followed; His will concerning all the obligations of parents and children will be the rule of conduct, fixed and final, from which there will be no appeal to selfish and unworthy interests. The grace of God will abound in such homes; it will manifest its fruitfulness in the growth of personal virtue, and just as surely it will, from time to time, as God chooses, lead the souls of children to the more direct and intimate service of Christ in one of the many fields of prayer, labor, and sacrifice in His far-flung kingdom, in the sanctuary, the cloister, the school room, the homes of charity, the missions.

It is not my purpose to discuss the present critical need of more religious vocations, certainly one of the most pressing problems facing the Church in our day. We know that there is no easy and immediate answer, no single factor that can accomplish what must eventually come from the grace of God and the corresponding action of many people, of clergy, religious, and laity. I have only suggested that what the Catholic home itself can contribute toward the solution of this problem is at once so enormous and so necessary that it must continue to be regarded as vital to the success of every effort made to increase the number and insure the quality of religious vocations.

No one would make the foolish, unfounded claim that even the best of Catholic homes will be blessed with one or more religious vocations. We cannot compel the action of the Holy Spirit. His grace is a free gift and He will dispense it according to His own will. We have all known young men and women who appear to have the ordinary signs of a religious calling; and yet they have insisted, rightly or wrongly, that they feel no inclination to enter the religious life.



Bishop Pursley

For the moment, and by the way of summary, I am only pleading that we strive to make our homes such that they will invite the special visitation of the Holy Spirit, so that, if His call should come it will be heard, and if heard it will be heeded. It is possible for flowers to grow in the most unlikely places; but we always look for the finest specimens in gardens cultivated with loving care. Even so, the Spirit of God Who abides in the Church and provides for its continued vitality and growth will sow the seeds of grace in the most fertile soil, in homes that are lighted by supernatural faith and warmed by divine love, in families that eagerly seek His highest blessings and are, therefore, disposed to welcome a call to the higher life with humble joy and gratitude.

The House That Joseph Built

by Sister Noreen

JOSEPH, the foster father of the Child Jesus, was by vocation a carpenter. Joseph, the priest father of souls, is also a carpenter but by avocation. Together, St. Joseph and Father Joseph Grode remodeled a dwelling place for our sisters in beautiful Smethport, Pennsylvania. Why do I say together? Because Father unhesitatingly asserts, "Without the help of St. Joseph, I couldn't have done it. I put it in his care. More than once I was ready to give up."

To insure the cooperation of the good saint, the old house was bought on March 19, 1952, remodeled, and finished in March 1954.

In remaking the hundred-year-old house, Father Grode had the invaluable help of volunteers who gave uncounted hours during the three years of reconstruction. First to be installed was a furnace, for the winter nights can be very cold in Smethport. Before the basement floor was cemented, the men would stand ankle deep in water. No wonder they welcomed the ten o'clock (P.M.!) break for sandwiches and coffee prepared by Frances Market, Father's housekeeper.

The house that Joseph & Co. built had to be more than a home. It had to be a center from which would radiate the warmth of Christ's love and teachings to His little ones in Smethport and surrounding parishes. There is Eldred, thirteen miles to the north, through Farmers' Valley. Seminarians from St. Bonaventure's, Allegany, New York, were taking care of instruction,

but it would help so much, Father Harland Davis said, if the sisters would take over the first three grades in Eldred and also in Duke's Center, an out-mission. It is an eager little group that awaits the sisters at these two places each Monday after school. Their eagerness to answer in class is equalled only by their dislike to be caught unprepared. As Pat Slavin said one day, in attempting to answer, "Sister, you have me a bit confused."

Farther on to the east and over the hills, in famed Potter County, lies Coudersport. Father Arthur Leon had prevailed on the charity of the Benedictine nuns, and they came from St. Mary's, some sixty miles away, for summer school; but it was not possible to engage them for the year's instruction. "We need the sisters," he insisted in talking with Father Grode. When he called from Coudersport to talk over plans, he asked twice, "What convent is it?" Sister repeated, "St. Elizabeth's Convent." "That is so wonderful to hear," Father replied. "We have waited a long time for that. I just wanted to hear you say it again."

Since the inauguration of classes there, our sisters drive the fifty-five miles twice a week. They go on Wednesdays and make an overnight stay in order to take care of the high school group. Father was able to obtain an upstairs apartment across from the church. It is owned by a good Catholic woman who lives in the downstairs apartment. Mrs. Leon, Father's mo-

ther, is on hand to prepare a substantial—and we mean *substantial*—dinner on Wednesdays, and a hearty breakfast on Thursdays!

What of the one hundred and eighty boys and girls under instruction at Coudersport? The sisters felt well rewarded for any sacrifice in making the trip there when more than a hundred of them were enrolled in the scapular on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The devil is on the run! for Mary has ascendancy over his evil majesty.

Down from lofty Mount Jewett came Father Arthur Fleckenstein. "You can't talk to me about the importance of religious instruction," he said to Sister in making arrangements for his two parishes. "I *know* it is important." A schedule was worked out whereby the sisters teach classes at Mount Jewett each Saturday morning, enjoy a good lunch prepared by Father's housekeeper, Julia Wojciechowski, and then take a fast trip, the back way, to Mount Alton where the three sisters teach grades one to twelve.

It was Father Fleckenstein's idea that the sisters come to his parishes one Sunday a month to lead prayers and singing at the Masses. It was meant for the benefit of the children but the



Father Joseph Grode happily welcomes our sisters to Smethport. From left to right are: Mother Cecilia, superior general, Sister Mary William, Sister Noreen, superior, Sister Therese Martin, and Father Grode.

adults were pleased and many join the children in prayers and hymns. One man, a convert, said, "That's wonderful, Sister. It's the first time I really knew what was happening in the Mass."

The center of this catechetical activity, St. Elizabeth's at Smethport, has classes on Monday evenings for Junior Newman members, Tuesdays for grades four through eight, and Thursdays for the lower grades. Living in Smethport makes it possible for the sisters to take care of the junior altar boys, home visiting, private instructions, and some sacristy work. One of the big events in the year was the Christ the King procession. Junior and senior high school students participated in a beautiful ceremony in which the Sacred Heart statue, bearing a crown, was carried in procession by a guard of honor. The young people sang Father Lord's "For Christ the King" and repeated a



All is in readiness for religion class at St. Elizabeth's Catechetical Center, Smethport, Pa.



Plans for a Junior Newman Club meeting at St. Elizabeth's are being drawn up by Margaret Grega, treasurer; Audyne Wolbert, president; Robert Hakel, vice president; and Carol Chase, secretary.

pledge of loyalty to their crowned King as recited by Dan Backus. Tomasina Costa was the one chosen to place a floral heart at the feet of the statue. Now that honor is paid to the King, the Junior Newman Club looks toward the month of May to give homage to His mother, Mary.

Joseph & Co. accomplished a great good in remodeling a house that has become a home for our sisters. It may not take first prize in a *Better Homes and Gardens* contest, or be considered an architectural gem, but it pleases the sisters with its cheerfulness and conveniences. It must rate high with Our Lord. Why? Because it is dedicated to His work. From it, strengthened by the Blessed Sacrament in the convent chapel, the sisters carry the teachings of Joseph's foster Son to countless souls.

It was a Sister of St. Joseph who put in words our joy in our new mission. After viewing the cheerful convent, the house that Joseph built, she remarked, "Sister, you must be very happy here." I assured her that that was a true statement. She gave another searching look, and then added, "Yes, you look contented. With St. Joseph as guardian, it couldn't be otherwise!"

The Most Reverend John Mark Gannon, Archbishop-Bishop of the Erie diocese, has given full approval and his blessing to the catechetical center at St. Elizabeth's. His picture, which graces the reception room wall in the convent, bears the inscription, "Wishing Our Lady of Victory Sisters the blessings of God in their new mission in the Diocese of Erie." His wish is being fulfilled!

Let There Be Light

by Sister Marie

WAS it only a few short years ago — just a brief thirteen, to be exact — when I said to one of my classmates in the last year of high school.

“One thing I know! I’d never want to be a teacher, let alone a sister!”

Was it only a few short years ago — just a brief eight, to be exact — when I answered our heavenly Father’s call to become, not only a teacher, but a sister?

And, was it only a few short years ago — just a fast-gone five, to be exact — when I was sent forth to begin a fascinating and satisfying career as a sister catechist, a teacher of religion!

Was it only a few thousand years ago — to be exact we cannot — when God said, “Be light made!” Regardless of when light, in all its prismatic splendor, was created, the cry — “Be light made” — echoes and re-echoes down the years of time in the command God gave His apostles of old, and still gives to His apostles of modern times, to go forth and spread light in the darkness.

“Be light made.” Show to souls the Way, the Truth, and the Life Who is the Light of the World. Lead the little ones into the Kingdom of God.

“Be light made.” This is the sweet duty and awful responsibility of the teacher of religion. This is her sublime task. This is her delight. And this is how she spends the fleeting hours of her life — one religion class after another, day in and day out. She teaches tots, ’tweens, and teens, and loves them all. She teaches before and after school hours, released-time classes, and evening classes. When she is not teaching religion, she is preparing her classes with the one thought in mind: how will I make this truth clearer, brighter — more full of light for them?

“And light was made.” This is the consolation of the teacher of religion, to see the light of faith shining in the eyes of her little ones, and to see them putting that light before the blindness of others by their good example and fervent profession of faith in their everyday life.

“And light was made.” Oh, how exquisite is the thrill in the heart of the sister who has gently lead her class to see the light of love glowing in the Sacred Heart of Jesus!

Was it only a few short years ago — a brief thirteen, to be exact — when I thought I did not want the ecstasy of joy instigated by the knowledge that I am an instrument in the hands of God to help light the way for others, a little match He may use to set a blaze here — and here — and here!

Will it be only a few short years — to be exact we cannot — when the time for enkindling little blazes will be no more on this earth? Oh, then! NOW is the time to “let there be light.” And the sister who teaches religion, glowing with her love for the everglowing Sacred Heart, will do all in her power to be the willing instrument to enlighten those who walk in darkness.

Sister Marie in an informal discussion with a few of her religion class pupils from Citrus High School, Azusa, California. The girls are Elvira Gutierrez, Anne Calvi, and Rae Cordio.



Viva San Giuseppe

by Sister Alice Marie

"I HAD never been a praying man. My mother died when I was very small. I guess that had something to do with it." Mr. Mike Borgogna looked at me and my companion. "But, Sisters, when I came back from the hospital something happened. I remembered little Joe's face, and him lying there with polio in that quarantine room. I held all his clothes in my hand. The nurse gave them to me. Just like he was dead already."

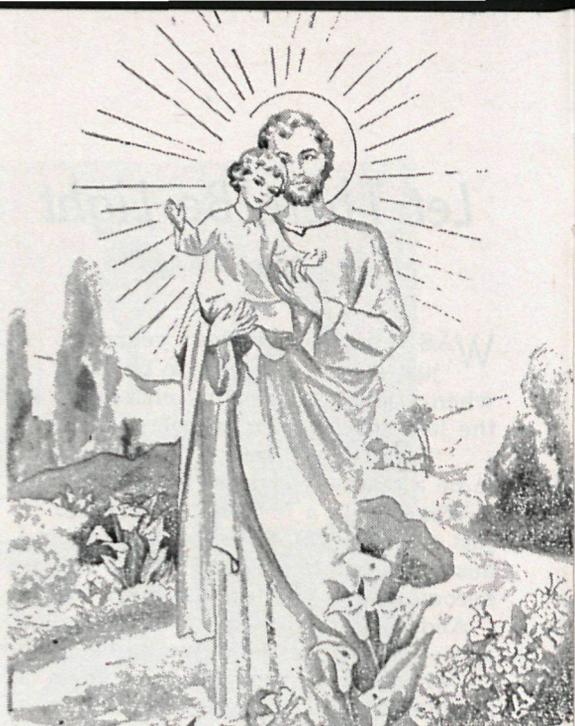
Mr. Borgogna wiped his eyes with the back of his hand. After eight years the memory still hurt. We waited for him to continue.

"I went into our bedroom. I knelt down. I said, 'God!' I don't know if I prayed or not. I just said, over and over, 'God! God!' and then I came back into the living room. Our baby, Andy, just two years old, was sitting on the couch. All at once he rolled over. His little muscles were drawn just like Joe's. My two sons, both stricken with polio within a few hours." He couldn't go on.

We turned to Mrs. Borgogna who continued the story.

"Sisters, by the end of that day we didn't know which way to turn. Two of my sisters phoned from across town to tell us that my niece, Nina, one year old, and my nephew, Gerald, seven years old, had been taken to the quarantine section of the hospital also.

"I looked up at the picture of St. Joseph there on the wall. I said with all my heart, 'St. Joseph, help us, please.



—From MINE THREE

If our children live and recover, I'll make a promise to you . . . I'll promise anything.' Then I remembered an old Sicilian custom of a pre-Lenten open house, with a home shrine decorated for San Giuseppe, and Italian dishes for all who would come to the home on his feast. I looked at his picture again, and I told him, 'San Giuseppe, I'll make an altar and a table for you if you'll help me. I promise!'"

Mrs. Borgogna smiled wryly. Had St. Joseph really understood? She wondered. In a few hours her sister, Rosary Leone, who was thirteen years old, joined her young nephews and niece in the hospital. Would the scourge of the dread polio continue?

"That's when Mike really broke," continued Mrs. Borgogna. "He said to me, 'Lena, help me. Help me to pray!' We all prayed, Sisters, as we had never prayed before. We were closer in our sorrow than we had ever been before. And we all renewed my promise to San Giuseppe of an altar and table in his honor."

Rosary, her nephews, and niece returned home after two weeks. There were many more trips to the hospital for orthopedic treatments, and young Joe favored his one leg quite a bit when walking or running. But today that group of young people are normal, healthy, and happy.

Joe is a happily-married young man, proud of the lovely young bride he chose last June. Rosary is entering the nursing profession to bring to others the type of care that she received when polio crippled her. Gerald is a lively young lad of fifteen, and Andy and Nina were happy First Communicants last year. Indeed San Giuseppe won his altar and his table.

Every year on March eighteenth, Lena Borgogna, her six younger sisters, relatives, and friends, work the entire day preparing the beautiful altar and the feast. Satin and gold draperies form the background for the humble saint. Lovely flowers and wax tapers are placed around him. Other loved saints are given places near the great patron of the universal Church.

We were privileged to see the open house last March nineteenth. There was a constant stream of relatives and friends coming in and going out. And one heard constantly their tribute to the foster father of Christ. "Viva San Giuseppe." The women of the house went busily from the kitchen to the St.

Joseph table, adding dainties to well-filled plates. The men took their portions to the back yard where tables were set up attractively. Some of the older ladies kept watchful eyes on the youngsters, who were adept at reaching swiftly for the filled pastries when the adults were engrossed in reunions with friends and neighbors.

Everyone was happy. And San Giuseppe smiled happily in the mellow glow of the tapers. All had to be presented to the sisters. The sisters were happy too at this home feast with its innocent fun and affection. No, they couldn't join the guests at the tables, San Giuseppe did not forget them. A large bakery box was packed with goodies for them to take home and share with the others.

Perhaps the happiest of all was Grandpa. He had begged to be brought home from the hospital for just one day, the Feast of San Giuseppe. The doctor gave consent. Now grandpa's door stood open, and as he sat propped up in his bed, he could look directly at the altar. He had watched this scene for eight years. He knew just how it would end.

Lena Borgogna with her six sisters, a sister-in-law and two young nieces. Rosary is third from the left.

St. Joseph, at the left, smiles down upon the beautiful and sumptuous table spread in his honor.



When the last guest would depart, the family would take a basket from the front of the table in which their guests had placed whatever offering they cared to give. The family would count the amount carefully and then wait. Mike Borgogna, the father, would go to his room, bring out another amount, carefully saved through the year, and then add this to the rest.

Lena admitted that Mr. Borgogna is the most faithful regarding the promise. "Several years ago, when I was not too well," she told us, "I did not intend to have the altar. I reminded Mike that we did not have to do the impossible. San Giuseppe would understand. But Mike never listened. 'Lena, is our altar only for when we get something? Or is it our thanksgiving for then and now?' was his answer."

Mike Borgogna has stayed very close to God since that sad evening eight years ago when he felt that he didn't know how to pray. As the man of the house, he writes a check for the money donated, and mails it to the National Polio Fund. Then he turns with a grateful prayer to that other man of the house, of the house of Nazareth.

"Viva, San Giuseppe!"

At Home At Victory Noll

THERE are thousands of Catholics in our country to whom the name Victory Noll means nothing. To be honest we must acknowledge that our community is still a "mustard seed" among religious communities. However, it is spreading its branches slowly but surely to the remotest corners of our vast United States.

We now register sixty-nine convents in twenty-one states, with plans pending for houses in new localities while young sisters are being trained to staff these convents in the near future.

Victory Noll, unknown to many, spells HOME to about four hundred ardent sisters, novices, and postulants. It was named after Our Lady of Victory, the sisters' special patroness, and Archbishop Noll, Archbishop-bishop of Fort Wayne, their co-founder and greatest benefactor.

The Missionary Sisters must personally stand upon a firm spiritual foundation before they can build in themselves that character of sacrifice so necessary for successful missionary work in the Church. This foundation is well laid at Victory Noll, the mother-house and novitiate of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, located a mile west of Huntington, Indiana.

Postulants are received at Victory Noll on September 8 each year. Thus they have the advantage of a full scholastic year of training before they enter the novitiate, on the following August 5. At the completion of the postulancy, the sisters receive the dark blue habit and white veil of novices,

Sister Emmanuel, as a second year novice, is thrilled to put the finishing touches on her sacrament chart.





Sister Agatha Marie, a happy novice, poses near the statues of St. Bernadette and our lovely Lady of Lourdes. This is a favorite corner for prayer or play, under Mary's gracious eyes.

and the name each will be called in religion. After the canonical year of novitiate, the sisters have a second scholastic year to prepare them further for their mission work. Then they pronounce their first vows and are assigned to the missions. Vows are renewed each year for three years, then taken for a period of three years, and finally for life.

The postulants and novices have a busy, happy time at Victory Noll during their formation period. Their studies include religion, catechetics, ethics, sociology, English, Spanish, liturgy, psychology, principles of teaching, music (both vocal and instrumental), hygiene, and care of the sick.

During the summer before their profession, the novices take a systematic course in driver education and training under the guidance of a competent instructor.

These postulants are now canonical novices at Victory Noll. They are discovering that the training period, which seemed long in anticipation, passes quickly. There are so many wonderful things to learn!

Besides their classes, both postulants and novices have household tasks to perform. They rotate their duties so that each has a period in the laundry, sewing room, sacristy, kitchen, dining room, etc.

Judging from the sounds emanating from the postulancy and the novitiate during free time, it is easy to believe that recreations are joyous as well as wholesome. Some time is spent out doors each day on Victory Noll's spacious grounds.

Yes, postulants and novices may receive visitors, and they may write and receive letters, although there are regulations regarding these matters.

In the mission field the sisters' spiritual life and progress are safeguarded and assured by daily Mass and Communion, meditation, rosary, and other prescribed prayers. They live a community life and have always been characterized by a happy family spirit.





Teaching religion to children who attend public schools. Her class may be a group of first graders, or of any grade from the first through the twelfth. Her classroom may be a new well-equipped catechetical center, a parish hall or church, a private home, a garage, or even the great outdoors. She may be teaching before or after public school hours, on released time, or on Saturdays and Sundays — any time convenient for the families of that particular locality.



Serving in clinics as administrators, nurses, technicians, or social case workers.



In the Home Field

Having completed her three-year period of training at Victory Noll, the young Missionary Sister receives her first appointment to active duty in the home mission field. August 15 is the traditional day for that event. Soon after, you will find her busy at one of the important works of the community pictured here.



Checking information and writing up census cards for the parish records.



Visiting homes to compile a door-to-door census, to round up children for instructions, to enlist the cooperation of parents in the parish catechetical program, to help straying Catholics back to the Church, to win converts, or simply to encourage, strengthen, and console souls on the way to heaven.



Instructing altar boys, organizing choirs, and assisting parish groups in necessary duties such as the care of the church and sacristy.



A Mother's Faith

by Mildred M. Bruckner

MANY people have asked me how I felt about my youngest daughter, Leona, entering the convent four months after the death of my husband, and only two months after my mother's death.

Wasn't it rather inconsiderate of her, and why couldn't she have waited a while? To questions such as these, coming from well-meaning friends who know our family and its circumstances, I could give only one answer, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away." I knew that God had given her to me and that she was His to take back for Himself again if it so pleased Him.

It is true that the material things of this world became fewer in our home after my husband's death. We now had to subsist on the contributions of my two daughters who remained at home, and the financial aid I could give by securing a position, which would not be easy due to my lack of experience and my age.

My only son was attending a Catholic boy's high school in New York City. This meant an expensive commutation ticket each month, for we lived in the suburbs. Also, money for incidentals and tuition. But we were willing to

make the necessary sacrifices entailed rather than deprive him of the fine training he was receiving at the Marist Brothers' school.

My daughter, Leona, then nineteen years of age, had long felt the desire to be an Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sister. She planned to realize this desire in September of that year. My husband's passing had cast a shadow of doubt on her plans. It seemed apparent that her financial help was needed at home. She confided to me that she felt it was her duty to remain with the family until we would be able to manage without her assistance. I knew that the decision now rested with me.

God has seen fit to bless me with many crosses in my life. (Some crosses were of my own making, of course). But never has He let me down. I have been given the great grace of faith and of confidence in God. These gifts have carried me through many trials and tribulations to even greater tranquility of heart and a deeper love and trust in Him.

It was very evident to me that Leona's missionary vocation far outweighed any temporal goods we would have to manage without, were my decision to be in favor of her leaving home at this time. I realized I had much to be grateful for. I had not merited this wonderful blessing that God was bestowing upon our family. Why had one of MY children been chosen to become a Bride of Christ? There were countless parents who were more worthy than I.

I knew from past experience that Our Dear Lord is never outdone in generosity, and that He would care for us in all our temporal needs.

It is almost four years now since this all happened. My daughter entered Victory Noll as she had planned—that September. I have never regretted it for a moment. Although I miss her tremendously, her vocation is one of my greatest consolations. She is closer to



With pageant and song the novices dramatically welcomed the new class of postulants to Victory Noll last fall.

me now than ever. If she were married her first thoughts would justly be of her husband. As it is, after Jesus and Mary, I am her first concern.

As far as this world's goods are concerned, I can honestly say that we have never felt a day of want. It hasn't

always been easy, but we have managed to pull through these trying times. God has proved to us that He is with us, watching over us at all times. In turn, may we show our love and gratitude to Him, through our dear Lady of Victory, in a Te Deum.

Hail Mary Day

by Sister Mary Blanche

"But why the thousand?"

"That I don't know. I never heard of the practice outside our clan. Maybe the number had some significance, or maybe it was just a goal set to spur us on to greater generosity."

"It wouldn't be that your ancestors had made a vow?"

"I doubt it. We never had the feeling of complying with an obligation, but rather the joyful spirit of being wonderfully privileged to spend the day with our Blessed Mother, of sharing her joy in the Incarnation. We children counted the days before March twenty-fifth as eagerly as we did those before Christmas. As soon as the snow thawed a little we asked, 'How long until Hail Mary Day?'—which is what we called it."

"I suppose it was a festive day; that's why you looked forward to it so eagerly?"

"If you mean a holiday, no. We all went right on with our daily business, praying the Hail Mary as we worked. We might be cleaning house, or ironing, but the Hail Marys went right on. School interfered somewhat, but then you can say quite a few Hail Marys walking a mile each way. The men would be plowing, rosary in hand, and they stuck to the Hail Marys no matter how the March winds blew. When Uncle Jim died suddenly last year, without a chance to receive the sacraments, that was the picture that consoled me—the memory of him driving into the yard on a particular March twenty-fifth, rosary in hand, and remarking, 'I felt many times like saying something besides the Hail Mary, but I

stuck to it, and I know Mary won't forget.'"

"Wasn't it discouraging for the children to try to say so many?"

"Oh, we started with ten, helped by one of the older ones. After a few years we said a hundred. We felt really grown up when we were allowed to say the thousand. But we never felt as if it were something we HAD to do, or as if we had failed miserably if we did not reach the thousand. We said as many as we could."





our **A**ssociates'

Dear Associates:

IN January we mailed out our financial report for 1955 to the heads of mission groups. In case you did not see it, we shall summarize here a few remarks concerning it.

Sacred Heart Mission Society, Newark, N. Y., was able to retain its position as "the highest giver" in 1955 with a year-end total of \$703. Its runner-up was *St. Martin of Tours Band, Omaha, Nebraska*, which fell just three dollars short of that mark with a total of \$700. The other two Bands in Omaha with their totals as follows: *St. Margaret Mary Band, \$635*, and *St. Clare Band, \$265*, brought receipts from our Omaha Associates up to \$1600 for the year.

Third highest givers for 1955 were the ladies in *St. Joseph Band No. 2, Chicago*, whose total was \$677.50. Fourth highest givers were members of *St. Margaret Mary Band, Omaha, Nebraska*, total \$635 (see paragraph above); and fifth highest givers were associates in *St. Catherine Band, Los Angeles, California*, total \$390. (Through error in our annual letter to Promoters, we gave fourth place to *St. Catherine Band* instead of to *St. Margaret Mary Band*.)

Other Bands making fine records for the year were: *Charitina Club II, Paris, Ill.*, *Dolores Mission Guild, Holy Family, Infant of Prague Bands, Little Flower Mission Circle, St. John Mission Guild, St. Luke*, and *Seven Dolores Bands*, all of Chicago. Also *Holy Ghost, Elkhart*, and *Our Lady of Fatima*

Bands, Huntington, (both in Indiana); *St. Augustine's, Marshfield, Mass.*, *Christ the King, Detroit*, *Mother of Perpetual Help, St. Louis*, *St. Francis Circle, Louisville, Ohio*, and *St. Rose Band, Marshfield, Wis.*

We wish to thank all whether you figured conspicuously or modestly in the year-end report. *We need all of you!*

SISTER SUPERVISOR, ACM

St. Omer's of Cincinnati

Some time back, our Promoter, *Mrs. Omer Hurlburt*, had this bit of interesting news when she wrote. "Enclosed is \$20 for Sister Therese Martin's Burse.



I sold my eleven baby birds so I am sending a part of the money I received for them."

Mrs. Hurlburt is the mother of our Sister Therese Martin. This new Band is named for Mr. Hurlburt, and its members comprise eight-year old Barry (look for his picture on right hand side of *Mary's Loyal Helpers* page at top) and his mother who save their money offerings in a special bank.

Write TODAY for yours!



Have you written for one of our Lenten Self-Denial Mite Boxes? If not, be sure to do so and we will send it by return mail. Place it in a prominent place in your home where all the members of your family will see it.

Club Mention



Charitina Club, Paris, Ill.



The Promoter, Miss Mary C. Gibbons, wrote us in December as follows: "Our Altar Society voted this year not to exchange gifts and asked each

member to make a silver offering to a worthy cause instead. The enclosed check from the Altar Society amounting to \$40.37 resulted from that action. The other check is the contents of our baseball bank since you heard from us last, plus a donation by Father Cronin to bring our donation up to \$100."

Ave Maria Band, Elkhart.

ACCORDING to our records, this Band evolved from what was once a Mission Committee of a Young Ladies Sodality, and they have been helping our sisters for thirteen years. The ladies sponsor Sister Noreen, superior of our convent in Smethport, Pennsylvania, who lived in Elkhart, Indiana, before joining our community. The present Promoter is Miss Patra Lese.

Adrian Club, Chicago.

A letter from the secretary, Mrs. Louise Schmit, in the late fall had this to say: "Enclosed is a check for twenty-five dollars from our mission club. Had a meeting at Marie Neybert's two weeks ago and we are planning to have a theater party with money we saved for that purpose. We put away a small amount at every meeting and when it has accumulated sufficiently we take in a good show!"



BANDS, CLUBS, GUILDS DONATIONS Dec. 28, 1955, to Jan. 21, 1956

Adrian, Chicago, Florence Dietz	\$25.00
Christ the King, Detroit, E. Kmiec	25.00
Good Will Circle, Carrollton, Ky. Miss Louise Hill	24.00
Holy Ghost, Elkhart, Mary Nye	90.00
Les Petites Fleurs, Chicago Mrs. Peggy Kusmerz	37.00
Mother of Perpetual Help, Evanston, C. Henrich	50.00
Our Lady of Sorrows, Chicago Florence Kuenster	10.00
Queen of Hearts, Lombard, Ill., Wilma Wengritzky	10.00
St. Augustine, Marshfield, Mass., Mrs. Jas. A. O'Brien	10.00
St. Catherine, Los Angeles Mrs. M. McMannamy	2.00
St. Irene, Chicago, May Walsh	4.00
St. Joseph No. 2, Chicago, Mrs. A. Naumes	44.45
St. Joseph's Club, Baldwinville, N. Y., Mrs. M. Brotherton	13.20
St. Katherine, Chicago, Mrs. Hammer	30.00
St. Omer, Cincinnati, Mrs. Hurlburt ..	10.00
St. Patrick Sod., Ft. Wayne Catherine McGill	19.00
St. Philomena, Chicago, M. Schaefer ..	96.00
St. Theresa, Los Angeles, Mrs. Burch	1.00
Seven Dolors, Bellwood, Mrs. Murphy	11.50
Tip Top Twelve, Cincinnati, Catherine Dumont	5.00

St. Catherine's, Los Angeles

THIS Band is composed of the married brothers and sisters of Sister Madeleine Sophie, with Mrs. Margaret McMannamy serving as the Promoter. It should encourage other Bands to know that the group has completed one Burse and is working toward the completion of a second. The Band did exceptionally well in the year just ended.



Mary's Loyal

HELPERS NOW POSTULANTS

Dear Loyal Helpers:

On these pages you will find (1) Loyal Helpers who on growing up became members of religious orders, and (2) Helpers, still young, dressed in a religious habit they hope some day to wear.

Pray daily for the grace to become one of God's favorites—a priest, a brother, or a sister.

Mary-ly yours,
SUNSHINE SECRETARY, MLH.

A "FUTURE" WITH AUNT?



Former Helpers, *Consuelo Rodriguez* of Salt Lake, Utah, and *Irma Wilke* of Breese, Illinois, meet at Victory Noll as postulants. See picture above.

To the left, Helper *Kathy Beales* of Washington, D.C., listens as Sister *Miriam* explains to her the life and work of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters.

In the oval in upper right hand corner of these pages is *Barry Hurlburt* of Cincinnati, Ohio, whom we believe has sent us more Sunshine money than any other Helper. His sister is our Sister *Therese Martin*, and he has a brother studying to be a priest.

Helpers' pages



HELPER NOW SISTER



For many years Mary Southard of Chicago, Illinois, was a Loyal Helper. Upon completing high school she gave up a college scholarship she had won to enter the Sisters of St. Joseph. Mary is now known in religion as Sister Mary Barbara.

MARCH PUZZLE

(Religious Founders Quiz)

Can you furnish the names of sainted founders of best known religious orders or congregations from the cues given below? Number your answers and send them to Sunshine Secretary for a holy card.

1. Called the Poor Man of Assisi. Followers for the most part wear a brown habit and white cord.
2. Was famous for propagating devotion to the Most Holy Rosary. Members of this order wear a white habit.
3. His feast day is March 21. He bears the title of Father of Europe. His sister was Saint Scholastica.
4. A Spaniard. His feast day is July 31. His motto was "All for the greater glory of God."
5. He spread devotion to Jesus and Mary and wrote "The Glories of Mary" His followers are called Redemptorists.

FUTURE PRIEST AND SISTER?

To the left is Jimmy Spengler of Brooklyn, New York, dressed as a Capuchin Friar. Jimmy has been a Helper for nearly two years. He is the brother of our Sister Francis Marie, a novice at Victory Noll.

To the right is Helper Lorraine Goetz of Vandergrift, Pennsylvania, dressed as a Benedictine Sister in a play their class gave last year.

ANSWERS TO FEBRUARY PUZZLE. 1. Cherry. 2. Hatchet 3. Tree. 4. Lie. 5. Father. Little.



Victory Noll Convert

by William E. King, C.M.F.

A Priest

CURIOSITY probably had a great deal to do with it. To a little Methodist, the idea of attending a Catholic catechism class presented somewhat of a challenge. But gathering myself up to the full extent of my ten years of manhood, I pushed open the door and walked into what proved to be a new and fascinating world.

A quiet little blue-garbed woman, Sister Denise, looked up from the small grey catechism from which she was teaching, and welcomed me to the class.

Several things, I noticed, were different from what I had come to expect in my Methodist Sunday school. First of all, I observed that there was a certain air of seriousness and silence about the class which carried with it an almost physical impression of reverence. This impression was only intensified by the making of the sign of the cross, the use of holy water, and the genuflections towards the small white throne of God. Then again, I could not but be aware of the new racial ambience. My own church had been an exclusively colored congregation. Here I found myself the only Negro child in the whole class. The friendliness and cordiality with which I was met (although not all my Negro brethren have received such an unprejudiced reception from their white fellow Catholics) brought home to me, in a very concrete and tangible way, the universality of the Church.

During the months that followed, my interest in the classes, and in the teaching and practices of the Church, increased. That Lent, although I was as yet not a Catholic, I attended Mass daily in addition to the regular classes. Finally, after six months of careful in-

struction, I received the Sacrament of Baptism on May 18, 1939, and had the happiness of making my First Holy Communion with the rest of my class on the following day.

The next two events of serious religious significance to me were by becoming an altar boy and being confirmed. It was due, perhaps, to this intimate contact with the Holy Sacrifice as acolyte that I felt the first stirrings of a vocation to the priesthood, and by my Confirmation received the fortitude I needed to carry out my resolve.

The fact that I was the only Catholic in my family and had no relatives with whom I could share my religious convictions might have made me feel somewhat isolated, but the constant encouragement and inspiration of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters were always there to support me.

It was my good fortune to attend a parochial school, St. Mary's in Visalia, for my last year of grammar school. The Catholic atmosphere which I had missed in public schools, no doubt, deepened my appreciation of the beauties of the faith, and awakened my as yet unformed religious aspirations. These ideals were fostered and channeled by the Immaculate Heart Sisters who counseled me to see the Claretian vocational director, Father Eugene Herran, in Los Angeles. Father Herran, who received me most cordially, arranged for my entry into Del Amo Junior Seminary at Compton, California, where for the next few years I pursued the traditional classical studies.

I began my year of probation and intensive preparation for the religious

life at Immaculate Heart Novitiate in Los Angeles in September 1946. Here, on October 23, 1947, I pronounced for the first time the three vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Among the many friends who attended the ceremony were three Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, one of whom was that same Sister Denise who just seven years before had brought me into the Church of Christ.

During the four years that followed, I was stationed at Dominguez Major Seminary in Compton, where, on completing the Liberal Arts Course, I received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Loyola University at Los Angeles.

After philosophy I began the study of sacred theology and of the really *priestly* sciences that play the central role in the drama of the sacred ministry. My first year of studies was passed in the historic Dominguez Rancho buildings where the theology department was then located. During the second year, the theologate was transferred to Claretville, near Calabasas, in the Malibu Hills. After two busy happy years at Claretville, I was sent by my superiors to study at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D. C., where I completed my theological



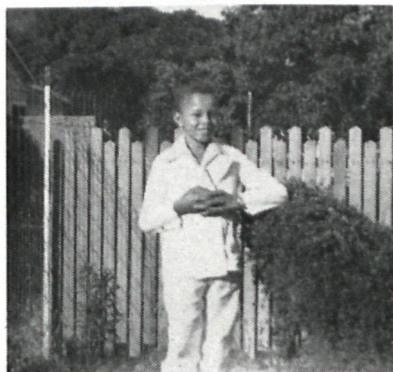
Father King

studies and received the degree of Licentiate in Sacred Theology.

That spring, Archbishop Patrick O'Boyle of Washington conferred the order of subdeaconship on me and on my classmates in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Soon after came the deaconship, which I received in the National Shrine of St. Jude in Chicago.

On returning to the West Coast, by the kind arrangement of my superiors, I followed an intensive summer course in Library Science at Immaculate Heart College in Hollywood.

And then, at the end of summer, came the day of days! At Claretville on August 24, 1955, through the imposition of hands of His Excellency, the Most Reverend Timothy Manning, auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles, I received the unthinkable power of changing bread and wine into Christ's very flesh and blood.



Billy King, the boy whose wholesome curiosity led him into the Church.

Sister's Medal

After the Ordination Mass, I descended the altar steps to the communion rail to give my first blessing. This is one moment I had been looking forward to: to hold my hands, fragrant with the holy oils, over my mother's head in my first priestly benediction. In that moment, I realized that it was worth all the hard work and sacrifices of the past years—and more.

A week later, I had the rewarding experience of celebrating my first solemn high Mass in St. Aloysius' Church in Tulare. The significance of the occasion was enriched for me with many memories, for it was in this same church that I had been baptized, made my First Holy Communion, was confirmed, had served—and now *said*—Holy Mass. Great was my happiness—and gratitude—when, following the Mass, I imparted my priestly blessing to several Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters who were among the great number of relatives, friends, and acquaintances who attended.

As my first assignment, I have been appointed professor of Sacred Scripture and assistant prefect of theologians at Claretville. I feel honored that I should be privileged to take part in the formation of these young men who will someday, like myself, become other Christs.

And to think that all these graces might have passed me by, if on that summer day, so many years before, I had not been led by curiosity to open a door that led to Christ!

A TRUE vocation is not determined so much by some inner feeling of devout attraction which may sometimes be absent entirely, but rather by a right intention in the one who aspires, together with a combination of physical, intellectual and moral qualities which have fitted the individual for such a life.—Pope Pius XI.

“**I** LIKE your medal, Sister,” is a common enough remark. Second grade Timmy didn't stop at that. He asked:

“Sister, if I come to class every time, and study hard, can I earn one of those medals you wear?”

Sister smiled down upon the small eager boy. “Timmy, you may earn a medal but not this kind. You have to be an Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sister to wear this medal.”

The class wanted to know why. Sister took advantage of their interest to tell them about her medal and its significance. Soon Timmy's disappointment was replaced by admiration of Sister who was privileged to wear something so special.

Every Missionary Sister cherishes the round silver medal and chain that she receives at her first profession. On one side it bears the name of her community and the image of Our Lady of Victory whom she loves as her patroness and mother. Below the figure of Our Lady are branches of laurel, symbolizing the victory to which this good Queen will surely lead all who fight valiantly for her divine Son under her standard.

On the reverse side of the medal are the cross and the crown of thorns — object lessons of the great truth that this victory and eternal glory are attained through suffering and the cross.

Around these sacred emblems is printed the motto of the community, "All for Jesus through Mary," which is, moreover, a short renewal of the consecration Sister made of herself entirely to Jesus through His holy Mother according to the practice of the True Devotion to Mary as taught by Saint Louis de Montfort, and propagated by the Missionary Sisters.

The burse that sponsors Sister is also named on her medal so that she will remember to pray daily for the particular benefactors who contribute toward the extension of her work in the missions.

The chain from which her medal is suspended is a constant reminder of that holy slavery which Sister has voluntarily embraced in order to spend

her life in self-sacrificing service of God in the person of His needy children.

Every day, during the community morning prayers, Sister kisses her medal as an affectionate greeting to her good Mother, and a rededication of herself to Jesus through Mary in whatever the new day may hold for her.

NOVENAS

THE novena in honor of St. Joseph begins on March 10. The one in honor of the Incarnation of Our Lord and the Annunciation of Our Blessed Mother begins on March 16. Send your intentions now to Victory Noll. We are happy to pray for your needs.



Sister Mary Martha enjoys telling about her precious medal.

The last word

by the Editor

March, the month dedicated to St. Joseph, is vocation month, with stress on vocations to the priestly and religious life. A more suitable patron for this cause can hardly be imagined than good St. Joseph who spent his life in loving, selfless devotions to Jesus and Mary. To humble, faithful St. Joseph we turn, then, with confidence to implore an increase of vocations in the Church.

Each vocation is a love story — a hidden romance between God and the soul. As such, it is difficult to trace its sequence. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note the external factors which contribute toward its growth and development.



Sister
Barbara

We are warmly grateful, as we listen to our sisters discussing their vocations, to learn that THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST played a rather important role in helping many of them make their all-important decision to follow Christ. An outstanding example is Sister Barbara of St. Louis, Missouri, who is back at Victory Noll for special work after sixteen years in the missions. Here is her story:

"During the summer following my graduation from Rosati Kain High School, I called to consult Father Charles Helmsing (now Bishop Helmsing, auxiliary to the Archbishop of St. Louis) about problems concerning my future. Father was kind and gracious as ever, but busier than usual. I offered to return at another time. He made an appointment and then handed

me a roll of magazines saying, 'in the meantime, read these.' I took the magazines home and practically devoured them. They had the answers to most of my questions. Before I was half way through the pack, I knew that my future lay with Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters. So, here I am, thanks in large measure, to THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST."

Sister Barbara, and others like her, are among the reasons why we persistently urge you to pass along your copy of THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST, and to subscribe for friends who may not realize, as you do, the value of Catholic mission periodicals in the home. A new family on our subscription list may mean a new sister in our religious family. Is it worth your subscription dollar? Think it over, and may God bless you always.



In Memoriam

- William J. Welter, Chicago, Illinois, father of our Sister Louis Marie
Margaret Rudell, Baltimore, Md., mother of our Sister Christopher.
Christine Knecht, Louisville, Kentucky, grandmother of Mary Jane Knecht, postulant.
Alicia Prendergast, Hammond, Indiana, grandmother of Anita Nondorf, postulant.
Mother Jeanne Corneau, R.C., Paris, France
Joseph Molin, Burgettstown, Pa.
Pauline Edel Benton, Winona, Minn.
Mrs. T. L. Hammond, Port Allen, La.
Bernard J. Stoehr, Cincinnati, Ohio
Mary Klein, Twin Falls, Idaho
Frank X. Holl, St. Paul, Minn.
Peter Lauber, Coldwater, Ohio
Miss M. O'Toole, Independence, Iowa
Josephine Grone, San Diego, Calif.
Joseph Leads, Detroit, Mich.
Edward J. Vianco, Lafayette, Indiana.
B. J. Stoehr, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Are You Wondering If You Qualify?

Here are the necessary conditions for entrance into the Community of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters:

1. Right Intention—An earnest desire to serve God, to sanctify one's own self, and to assist in the salvation of the souls of others.
2. Good Health—Necessary to support the labors of a missionary life. A physical examination, as designated by us, is required.
3. Prescribed Age—Eighteen years of age and not over thirty. Older applicants, possessing special qualifications, may be admitted by exception. Younger girls, if they have completed high school, may also be admitted by exception.
4. Mental Fitness—At least average intelligence. A high school education is desirable.
5. Required Documents; a) baptismal certificate, b) confirmation certificate, c) parents' marriage certificate, d) letter of recommendation from your pastor or another ecclesiastic to whom you are well known.



Hope Nevarez and Antoinette Nolan discuss the vocation chart, while Erna Rivera peruses a copy of our magazine with interest.—Ogden, Utah.

*IF YOU QUALIFY, thank God for it
and
mail this coupon to Victory Noll today
for further information*

Victory Noll
Huntington, Indiana

Dear Reverend Mother:

I am interested in the life and work of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, and should like to determine if God is calling me to your community. Will you please send me further information.

Name

Address

City Zone State

Because you will say YES

The special work of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters is to teach religion to Catholic children who are obliged to attend public schools, and to instruct adults and converts.



Sister M. Rosella, superior of our convent in Big Spring, Texas, and two star pupils, Simon Chavez and Viola Deanda.

to Christ's invitation

to follow Him

as a Missionary Sister

*THOUSANDS of souls will learn to know and love
God—souls who otherwise might have been lost*

If you cannot become a Missionary Sister, pass this magazine on to someone who can, and continue to do your part to promote the work of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters

BY

renewing your subscription to THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST

sending stringless donations—large or small
praying and suffering for the missions