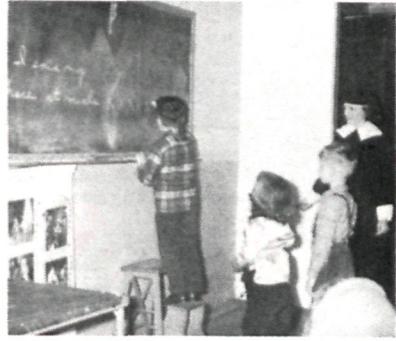


March 1957



# *The Missionary Catechist*



# Questions We Are Asked

How does the work of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters differ from that of other sisters?

The sisters do not teach school nor conduct institutions of any kind. They teach religion to Catholic children who attend public schools, and do social service and parish census work.

Besides teaching religion and visiting homes what else do the Missionary Sisters do?

They train altar boys, conduct choirs, and engage in various kinds of youth work. Convert instructions, private or group, take up many of their evenings in their convents.

Where are the convents of the Missionary Sisters located?

Their convents are in nearly every part of the United States—from coast to coast, and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. In one convent there may be anywhere from three to twenty sisters, depending on the needs of the place and the amount of territory to be covered.

Where do the sisters receive their training?

The sisters receive their spiritual and professional training at Victory Noll, the Motherhouse and Novitiate of the Congregation, located at Huntington, Indiana. They spend nearly three years here before taking their vows and being assigned to the various convents.

What vows do Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters take?

The sisters take simple, perpetual vows. Vows are renewed annually for three years, then are taken for a period of three years, and finally for life.



# The Missionary Catechist

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters

Huntington, Indiana

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## COVER

Upper left: Sister Mary Lucille has a lesson on the Church. Right: Maybe pre-schoolers can't write, but Sister Mary Martin sees that they use the black board profitably. Lower picture: Sister Clarice and Sister Ruth find it a pleasure to take the religious census in a fine Catholic home like this one.

## CREDITS

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A HUMAN body with four arms would be a monster.

Now just as the human body must have one head, two arms, ten fingers, two legs, and ten toes in order to be a perfect body, so the Church, Christ's body, must have the proper proportion of limbs for its perfection.

We cherish the leadership of one head in Christ's body, our Holy Father, the Pope. Under him and intimately connected with him are the successors of the apostles, our bishops. The priests of the Catholic Church help the bishops, just as the fingers extend the work of the human arm. Other members of Christ's body are the religious men and women and the laity.

is lagging. The Church needs more generous men and women to care for the sick, to aid the poor, to teach the little ones, in fact to do all the works of mercy, that is, the works of Christ.

How often do we hear this need announced by our bishops and priests. Last summer, for example, we heard the bishop in a mid-western state generously praise the various groups of sisters working in his diocese, but declare that he needed twice their number. How often priests lament the fact that they cannot open Catholic schools, or must increase the number of lay teachers each year in their schools . . . because there are not enough sisters. How often must religious communities

## *As Members of Christ's Body*

by William Bresnahan, O.S.B.

We are witnessing today a tremendous expanse in the body of Christ. Our Divine Savior foretold that His kingdom would grow as the mustard tree, since it was destined to include all mankind. Of course there can be no numerical growth in the head, for we remember that any body with more than one head is a monstrosity.

There can be, in fact there must be, a growth in the other members. As the Church carries the message of her Divine Founder to all peoples in all lands, there must be in each country a native hierarchy, native clergy, native religious, as well as native laity. As the Body of Christ thus expands, it may happen that some members grow faster than others.

Just now the Catholic world is crying for more men and women in religious life; it is clamoring for more religious brothers and sisters. With God's help the Church is expanding numerically, but the work of intensive growth

of both men and women regrettably refuse assistance, simply because there are not enough members to share in the needed work.

A tremendous part of this work is carried on by Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters. It has been our happy privilege to be associated with these good sisters in their work, both in California and in Missouri (though their work covers many more states than these). It was our consolation to see the aid they afforded the Body of Christ in teaching the children, helping the poor, consoling the sick, comforting the dying.

In the Imperial Valley of southern California we saw a handful of these generous women bringing the Gospel of Christ to neglected children, chiefly of Mexican parentage. We saw these sisters struggle to champion the cause of Christ against the influence of materialism, Protestant evangelism, spiritism, and superstition. We saw

them travel miles to little rural communities; we saw them concentrate on the hundreds that spilled from the public schools; we saw their tireless efforts to give what they could in such short time and with so few sisters available.

We saw them visit the sick, clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and bury the dead. How discouraging our priestly efforts would have been without the vital help of the Missionary Sisters. True, their work was not so intensive as that of the sisters constantly in the classroom, but how could it be with so much to be done and so few to do it?

In more recent years we asked the help of the Missionary Sisters in taking a parish census. How often we priests are reminded that non-Catholics as well as Catholics living in our assigned territory are our responsibility. Yet how can a priest of any large parish ever hope to contact even his known Catholics? What a blessing were the two Missionary Sisters who went from door to door, seeking out the fervent, the careless, the disinterested as well as the interested. Our only regret is that these good sisters could not remain longer with us to further their noble work.

Our city (Springfield, Missouri,) is predominantly Protestant. Catholics cannot claim more than three or four in a hundred. What a blessing for these people, non-Catholics and Catholics, to have a Catholic Sister visit them and offer them some small acquaintance with Christ's true Church.

Yes, we need more of them!

The Holy Father has encouraged sisters of contemplative religious Orders and Congregations to devote some time to the active needs of the Church. Bishops and priests are encouraging girls and young women to give their lives to these needs. Let us never feel that these needs are only in hospitals, orphanages, schools, and other charitable institutions. We need sisters to go out into the streets and into the homes. We need sisters to bring Christ to those who will not look for Him.

May God inspire more and more young women to follow this wonderful form of religious life. May He help them to realize that this type of membership in His body is vitally essential. May He help them to realize that as Missionary Sisters they are actively responding to His call, to bring the Gospel to all creatures.



# From Hot Dog Stand to Classroom



... was the way travelled by this trailer. We are indebted to The Tidings of Los Angeles for story and pictures.

THE old-fashioned routine of bringing pupils to the classroom has been reversed by the Confraternity of St. Frances of Rome parish in Azusa, California.

St. Frances parishioners now bring a classroom to the pupils for released time and after school catechism classes. "Our Lady's Classroom," a 28-foot-long trailer refitted by men of the parish, makes weekly visits to four public schools in Azusa and another in Glendora.

The trailer has been completely outfitted as a practical and attractive schoolroom. It has a capacity, depending on their size, of from forty to fifty pupils. Benches and desks are built in. There's a blackboard and desk for Sister, too. The words, "Our Lady's Classroom—St. Frances School of Religion," are painted on the blue exterior.

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teaching program in the northern San Gabriel Valley is under the direction of Our Lady of Victory Missionary

Sisters; and home port of Our Lady's Classroom is the grounds of their convent in Azusa.

The trailer school project was launched last August when Father Albert Duggan, pastor, asked Father Vincent D. Barrett to pursue the idea already followed in some other dioceses.

Steve Matchura of Glendora, member of the local CCD, located a somewhat beat-up old house trailer which had seen service as a mobile hot dog stand before it was abandoned on a vacant lot. He thought the trailer had possibilities, and Father Barrett concurred. It was purchased by the parish.

Mr. Matchura took charge of the renovation project. Carpenters in the parish volunteered their services. Electricians and painters followed. Other parishioners donated materials.

The men of St. Frances' did not stop with the trailer. The Missionary Sisters had always wanted to develop the large lot adjoining their convent as a suitable playground. Since the trailer was park-

ed on the lot, the men went on to fell trees and grade and gravel the lot.

One of the sisters' former students, Gilbert Grignolla, took charge of laying a large area of concrete for basketball and volleyball courts. Salvador Luevanos, director of a boys' club, got members to help out in the project.

The momentum started by the work on the trailer carried on into the construction of a beautiful outdoor shrine of Our Blessed Mother. It was built of rock carried down from the nearby mountains and Arizona flagstone. So far, fifty men have been involved in the various projects.

Every morning except Sunday one of the Confraternity men stops by the convent, hooks onto the trailer and enroute to work drops it off at a Catholic home near a public school.

On the way home from work he returns the trailer to the convent. Next day another CCD man and another public school are involved.

Most of the public schools are on half-day sessions, so there may be several classes in the trailer each day under both sisters and lay teachers. There are two husband and wife teams, with the husband delivering the trailer and the wife teaching.

The trailer is not the only Confraternity classroom in St. Frances parish. Altogether there are twelve teaching centers and 1,705 public school pupils under instruction. The trailer accounts for about 325 of them.

The Missionary Sisters, from their Azusa convent, also direct religion classes in four other San Gabriel Valley parishes and conduct teacher-training courses for members of fifteen Valley parishes.

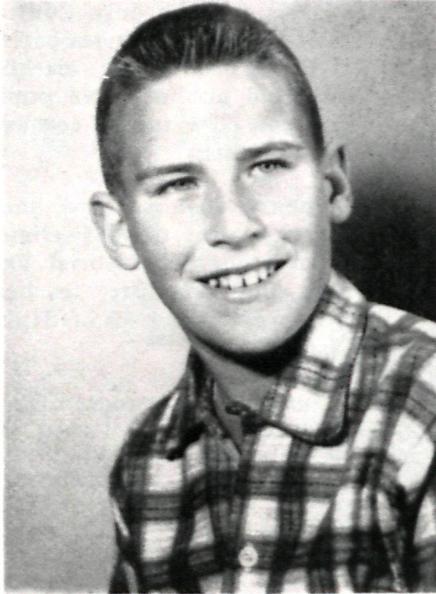
The teacher-training program and new parish schools have released the sisters from the actual teaching of children in a number of parishes. Through the adults they have instructed, they are now reaching far more children than they ever could before, however.

"We could use another trailer right here in the Azusa parish," Sister Florence, superior, observes. A lot of teaching time is lost in the transportation of pupils to the parish hall or other class centers. Trailer classrooms are the natural solution to the problem.

"Please make a point of this," Sister adds. "There wouldn't have been any trailer or playground without a well-organized parish Confraternity, a Confraternity with men as active members. The men did the work."

**The trailer accommodates forty-some pupils, depending on their size. Sister Anna Margaret teaches a released time group.**





Michael Harris

MICHAEL chose as his prize a small film-covered picture of Our Blessed Mother. I could not help wondering. He was high on the list and there were many religious articles a boy might choose. Not that the picture was not lovely, but — well, he could have taken something more “spectacular.”

After confirmation practice the next day Mrs. Harris was waiting outside the church while her son Michael went to confession.

“Mrs. Harris, have you a moment?” I asked. “I have a question to ask you.”

With a look of expectancy Mrs. Harris waited.

“Whatever happened to Michael yesterday that he picked the prize he brought home? Did he happen to say?” I half expected to hear that Mike was praying extra hard to Mary to let him enter the seminary. We all knew his desire to be a priest.

“Michael mentioned that now he had something special for the bishop to autograph,” was his mother’s reply.

## Michael’s Hobby

by Sister Patricia

So that was it. Securing autographs is Mike’s hobby. Mike lives on Santa Catalina Island and is a faithful altar boy at St. Catherine’s Church. His aim is to get the autograph of as many priests and religious as he can, whether they come to the island by steamer or the amphibian plane.

We have here for you to see something that will give to him many pleasant memories — his holy picture after the confirmation ceremonies. There are the signatures of:

Bishop Bell who confirmed him. It was the new bishop’s very first confirmation.

Sylvester Ryan whose place he hopes to fill at the seminary when “Syl” is ordained next May.

Father John L. Brennan, his former pastor who built the church and baptized him.

Sister Patricia, his teacher who prepared him for confirmation.

Sister Mary Teresa, his brother’s teacher.

Father Aiken who accompanied the bishop and whose Mass he served the following morning.

+ *Adm. J. Bell*  
*Sylvester Ryan*  
*John L. Brennan*  
*Sister Patricia, O. L. V. M.*  
*Sister Mary Teresa, O. L. V. M.*  
*Rev. Thomas Aiken*

## Around Victory Noll

THIS month we are going to let the postulants give you some of the news Around Victory Noll.

As we write this we are studying for mid-year exams. We can't expect all the help to come from above, so each one must do her part.

We are eagerly awaiting a warm sunny day so that we can make our walking pilgrimage to the two Catholic churches in Huntington. Each afternoon when we take our regular walk, our steps become quicker, no doubt to get into condition for the longer jaunt.

Shoveling coal isn't just for those on the railroad, but also for us Around Victory Noll. When the oil furnace refused to work one day, the request went out for volunteer coal shovelers for the emergency boiler. Eagerly three postulants added their names to the list.

Three-thirty found them excitingly snapping their aprons as they hurried to the coal bin. A half-hour later they returned to the study hall, coal dust even in their shoes, for we're sure the crunch, crunch we heard was not the creaking of boards.

One of the many things a postulant learns Around Victory Noll is how to work the floor polisher. It looks so easy when Sister shows us how, but when she turns it over to a postulant for the first time, it's a different story.

It's hard to believe that we don't have to use every ounce of strength we have to run such a big hulk of a thing. At our first attempt it swings around like a monster, pulling the poor victim with it and entangling her in miles of cord. Or, still worse, it bangs into radiators and beds, and whatever else is in its path before the startled postulant knows what happened. And all because she insists on hanging on for

dear life, when all it needs is a slight tip up and down.

Sister calmly shuts off the switch and explains all over again, and the postulant, after a good laugh at her own expense, begins again with better luck this time. In a very short time we learn to be experts at handling the polisher.

Weather Around Victory Noll has kept everyone guessing lately. Anyone out walking last week couldn't have missed the chirp of the flaming cardinal overhead. Underfoot there were green signs of new plant life. But a few days later Victory Noll was wrapped in a thick blanket of snow.

Cardinals are not the only things flaming Around Victory Noll. One day while the novice sacristan was lighting candles for Benediction, the taper in the candle extinguisher really took fire. Although some of us in the pews were uneasy, Sister didn't seem to be in the least perturbed. She reverently genuflected and calmly carried the lighter, by this time a flaming torch, to the sacristy.

Anyone know whether there is such a thing as a candle extinguisher extinguisher?



# Back-to-the-Missions Letter

by Sister Madelon

San Fernando, California

My dear Laura

As I promised, I am going to tell you about our return trip to the missions.

It's hard to realize that I've been making this trip for the past thirty years, but not always, of course, from the east.

How well do I recall the thrill of our first mission assignment to New Mexico, the land of enchantment. We were really enchanted with everything, most of all with the privilege of helping our dear Spanish-speaking people learn more about our holy religion.

Then came the call to leave New Mexico and go to Texas—the Panhandle first and then down to El Paso on the border. Here we learned to know and love the Mexican people. Many of them had come from old Mexico seeking religious freedom and a livelihood in our country.

Later on I was sent to California where we did our soul-hunting in the beautiful setting of orange and walnut groves. My next appointment took me to colorful Colorado with its hundreds of children of all nationalities awaiting our instruction.

Happy indeed was the privilege of going home to Victory Noll to spend the summer in its restful surroundings. To me it seems that the years have enhanced the beauty of that hallowed spot.

And now my mission appointment was taking me back to California with a newly professed sister as my companion. Is that what made me reminisce about those first trips?

We left Victory Noll early Monday morning. And I mean early. We got up at 3:30 a.m. We had plenty of time in Chicago between trains to assist at Mass at St. Peter's in the loop.

At every turn, it seemed, we were being stopped with: "Sister, please tell us what order you belong to." We were happy to explain that we were Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on our way to California to teach religion to Catholic children in public schools.

Another stop. "Sister, will you please pray for my son?" We heard the distraught mother's sad story and consoled her as well as we could. Then a poor man caught up with us. "Sister," he asked, "will you please tell me what this card says? I can't read."

Not far from the station we stopped to buy some fruit. The vendor hustled around to get what we wanted and then presented us with two beautiful red roses. We thanked him and hurried off to the train, wondering what we would do with the gift!

In line at Gate No. 4 we were stopped again. "Sister, what denomination are you?" was the query this time.

"We are Catholic Sisters!"

"Oh! I am a Lutheran and I thought maybe you were deaconesses."

Near us stood a Mexican woman, quite alone and seemingly worried. This time we took the initiative and spoke to her in Spanish. Her happy smile rewarded our efforts. She was returning to her home in Mexico and knew very little English.

Our first stop over was Las Vegas, New Mexico. Our sisters met us and after a delicious meal and rest at our convent, they packed a picnic lunch and took us up into the mountains.

We stopped on our way to visit Montezuma Seminary where boys from Mexico are being prepared for the priesthood. When I was first missioned to New Mexico this same place was a Baptist seminary. How fervent was our thanksgiving now as we knelt in the lovely chapel. It was good to know that zealous apostles for Mexico were being trained here.

We continued up the winding mountain road to our favorite picnic grounds—Las Gallinas. It was a joy to see Sister's delight in these beautiful surroundings. For my part I lived again the happy picnics of years gone by.

After a good night's sleep in cool New Mexico, we again boarded the "Grand Canyon" for our final destination. We arrived in Los Angeles just before noon and met the other two members of our religious family in the station. We had dinner with our sisters at one of our Los Angeles convents and then continued on our way to San Fernando.

Our convent here is very homey and we have a lovely little chapel. Now we are busy unpacking and getting acquainted so that we will be ready for our mission work.

Better not expect to hear from me very soon again, Laura, for we are going to be very busy. When I do write, I will have lots to tell you about our San Fernando missions.

Lovingly in Jesus and Mary  
Sister Madelon



A typical mission convent of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, this is home to Sister Madelon and three other sisters. San Fernando, California.



No, there is nothing wrong with your eyes. These are our postulant twins, Joyce (left) and Arline Skroblus of Brooklyn.

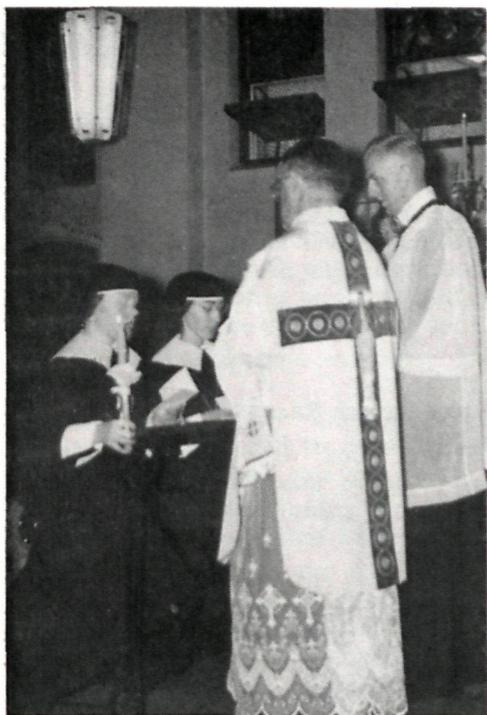
## From Our Picture Album

Novice days are joyous days. Besides the year of novitiate prescribed by the Church, Victory Noll novices have a second or scholastic year. During this time they resume their professional training begun as postulants and interrupted for the canonical year.



Sister Rose, librarian, explains the card index to two of the novices.





Profession day, the goal of every novice; the beginning of a glorious missionary life.



Newly professed sisters before their assignments took them and the other members of their class to many different parts of the country. Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters now staff 70 convents.



Young women give up home and family when they enter Victory Noll, but as professed sisters, they find a happy home and religious family wherever they go.

Dear Sisters

I am sorry catechism is out. I will miss both of you. Thank you, Sister, for helping us make our First Communion.

Mary and I have a little room upstairs. We fixed it up and pretend it is our church. We are helping Catherine learn her prayers that she will need to know to make her Communion. We are going to make a chart and mark the prayers she learns down. We are going to study catechism every day. I'll never get tired of catechism.

The first time we saw both of you, we wanted to be like you. We kept thinking of things we liked to do that we couldn't do if we became a sister. But when we saw you so happy we knew we wanted to be like you.

Mary and I want to go to a Catholic school but there isn't one near us. Mary and I always feel good when we're around sisters like you.

We never want to get into a fight. Mary pretends she is you, Sister Mary William, and I pretend I am you, Sister Andrea. We think you never want to

## In the Home Field

get into a fight with other sisters so that is how we stop a fight if one gets started.

We haven't got much to say only have a happy summer and please write to us soon.

With love  
Frieda and Mary

### WHAT BETTER REASON

After class eight-year-old Marie asked me to mark in her book what she should study that week. She was very anxious to make her First Communion.

When I showed her, she said, "I'll study very hard, Sister, because when I'm about sixteen or seventeen I want to be a sister."

"Why do you want to be a sister, Marie?" I asked.

"Because I love Jesus."

SISTER MARY LAWRENCE

Emily Richards, left, better known as "Peaches," and her classmate, Pamela Profaizer, were devout and efficient guides for the First Communicants in Ogden, Utah. They gave special help to Patricia Moriarity, a cerebral palsy patient, and made it possible for her to receive Holy Communion with the group.



### ANSWERED PRAYER

After class was dismissed and the children were leaving for home, I noticed one little second grade boy talking to his mother who had been waiting for him. When all the other children had gone, Philip and his mother came over to me.

"You are the sister who teaches my son, aren't you?"

I replied that I was. Then she went on. "Sister, I just had to come to tell you that your prayer was answered!"

My prayer! I began to think fast. What prayer was she talking about?

Philip's mother saw my puzzled expression and went on to say, "Sister, my little boy came home and told my husband and me at the dinner table all about his catechism class. Then he said that at the end of class all the children had prayed that their mothers and fathers would go to Mass the next Sunday. My husband looked very much surprised and rather thoughtful. I had been feeling so sad because he had not been going to Mass on Sundays the way he should."

With tears in her eyes she concluded, "But last Sunday he was the first one out of bed. He got everyone else up saying, 'Get up. This is Sunday. We have to go to Mass.'"

Then with a smile on her lips she took Philip's hand and the two started to leave. "Sister, I just had to come and tell you. We don't always get such a fast answer to our prayers."

SISTER ALICE

Sister: What is matrimony?

Pupil: Matrimony is a sacrament by which a man and a woman bind themselves for life in a lawful marriage.



Brother Joseph Robert, C.M.F., (center) the former "Pepe" Tinajero of El Paso, makes his first profession of vows as a Claretian Missionary Brother in Los Angeles. Brother Joseph Robert was a former pupil of our sisters. For a time before his entrance into Immaculate Heart Novitiate, he helped us teach the boys at San Xavier parish in El Paso.

### NO RESPECT FOR SISTER

One of our mission churches boasts of a new rug, but it only serves as a better breeding place for the ever-present fleas. As everyone knows—who has had any experience with fleas—these pesky little creatures are attracted to some persons, but do not bother others. The sister who teaches in this church unfortunately belongs to the first class.

One day she had just begun her first grade class when one of the fleas began to nibble at her wrist.

A first grade lad, his eyes wide at the sacrilegious audacity of the lowly flea, exclaimed, "Gosh, Sister, he must not know who you are!"

SISTER LOUISE

The children were selecting penance slips for Lent. Jimmy, a pre-school child, was so happy with the idea that he remained after class to ask if he might pick one for his father. He thought he needed one. Sister wondered if Daddy would want one next week. The one Jimmy picked for him was: "I will not look at my favorite TV program this week."

# True Devotion to Mary

by Sister Mary Eva

## Results Expected from a Full Christian Marian Education for the Elementary School Student

**W**HAT results are to be expected from giving Mary her full place in the education of the elementary school child?

In many ways this is a question as wide and limitless as are the secret workings of God's grace in the souls of men.

However, let us look ahead to see what we may confidently expect if we pour our children from their earliest years into the mold of Mary's maternal heart. The result can be expressed simply and summarily in a few words: Growth in those virtues which the elementary school child needs to develop into a Christlike teenager and into a Christlike adult.

If Mary gives her heart to the children so that with it they may love Jesus, they will be transformed into thinking, acting, and willing as Jesus Himself. What magnificent changes this should work in their conduct.

The first virtue that the practice of True Devotion will effect in us is self-knowledge and contempt of self. How often we who deal with children in the upper grades especially, find them self-sufficient, over-confident, "smart." They are products of our age of self-glorification.

"If only we could teach them a little humility," we often say. "How can we



Sister Mary Eva steps before the microphone at the True Devotion Seminar for Sisters held at St. Joseph Academy, Tipton, Indiana, last summer. Part of her paper is reproduced here.

get across to them that God is all, they are nothing?"

Isn't the True Devotion with its dependence on Mary, covering self with her virtues, the perfect answer?

With this self-knowledge, may we not hope to find developing in our children a beautiful simplicity, the outgrowth of this childlike dependence on Our Blessed Mother which we have tried to teach them? They will learn to see the will of God in the little childish disappointments that come to them, in the joys and surprises of which children's lives are full.

If the children learn to be humble, will they not also be courageous in the battle to preserve the purity of their young souls? What with fashions, the theater, television, reading matter going completely pagan, an elementary school child on the threshold of his adolescence experiences a tremendous struggle in this matter of purity.

Bishop Suenens in his "Theology of the Apostolate" calls daring a virtue of the humble. I wonder if we realize

how daring Our Lady had to be in vowing herself to a life of virginity in an era when such a thing was virtually unknown and almost despised?

It takes a tremendous amount of a similar kind of courage for a youngster to say: "No, I will not wear an immodest bathing suit or dress," when everyone else is doing that very thing; "No, I will not go to the class C movie that all the kids are talking about"; or, "No thanks, I don't read those kinds of comic books"; or again, "You wearing shorts on that picnic? Not me! I don't like them." We can see how much more firmly that "No" will come, even in the face of ridicule if our consecrated children have been trained from early childhood to ask, "What would Our Blessed Mother do in this case?"

And what about the virtue of reverence for God, holy things, parents, teachers, companions? Isn't it more than just possible that children dedicated to the holy slavery of Mary will develop in themselves a beautiful sense of this most neglected of virtues, because the children are learning to live through Mary, with Mary, in Mary, and for Mary?

How many of us have not in our teaching experience had great difficulty in inculcating obedience? The spirit of today's world is all for independence and self-assertiveness, as against docility and submission. But a Christlike child must be obedient as the Son of God was obedient even unto death. If we teach the children how to let Mary form Jesus in them, with all His manly virtues, how much more readily will they be obedient and docile!

Then, too, how earnestly do school sisters work to cultivate diligence and honesty in their pupils. When Johnny and Susie get lazy and do not want to apply themselves to their school work, we can spur them on to diligence by reminding them that they are Our

Lady's slaves, and slaves must work hard for their masters. Our Blessed Mother wouldn't let herself get lazy when she worked for her parents or later on for Jesus. There is also the recurring question of honesty in homework and examinations. If the child writes his examination paper or his homework for Mary, would he resort to dishonest means to get a good grade? It is far from likely.

What wonderful effects cannot be expected in regard to increased fervor in the reception of the sacraments of penance and Holy Eucharist with this Marian emphasis in education? Perhaps most of us have wondered in this day of frequent confession and Communion whether our children always realize sufficiently what they are doing, whether this familiarity with holy things might not lessen their fervor?

But if they are being taught dependence on Mary, she will come into the confessional with them, give the children her horror of sin and guide them in making honest accusations. How wonderful for them to know that they can receive Jesus into Mary's heart, depend upon her to clothe them with her virtues, so that her Son will be most pleased to rest through her, in them in Holy Communion.

We must not become discouraged, however, if we are not always successful, even over a period of years. We must remember that by pouring into the perfect mold of Mary, the souls of our little charges, not all of them will be of equally pliant material. Not all will be Dominic Savios or Maria Gorettis, but the potentialities for the virile Christian life are there, and I think Our Blessed Mother is pressing us in this age which is so characteristically hers, to give her the chance to work with these potentialities for the formation of Christlike, saintly children to the greater glory of God.



# Club Mention

Dear Associates:

**M**OST of the mission clubs and bands kept their annual figure in 1956 very close to that attained the previous year. A few showed a remarkable increase, however.

First among these we wish to mention *Sacred Heart Mission Society, Newark, New York*, whose members not only performed their usual feat of giving more than any other Band but also exceeded all previous efforts of their own in this connection. Their annual total reached the magnificent sum of \$1204! Our sincerest praise and heartfelt thanks go out to them.

The *second* highest average was attained again by *St. Martin of Tours Band, Omaha, Nebraska*, whose year end total was \$712.29. It is interesting to note while we give Omaha a "cheer" that the three Bands which grew out of one gave a combined total of \$1407. *St. Clare's* did exceptionally well

with their \$420 total—the best yet from them. *St. Margaret Mary's* fell down a little but that is because they presented one of our convents with a new electric washer and dryer, which were badly needed.

*Third* place in the annual giving was attained by *St. Joseph Band, Chicago*, whose members sent us receipts totaling \$577 for the year.

Our Bands worthy of honorable mention because their annual totals showed remarkable increases were: *Dolores, Holy Souls, St. Philomena* and *St. Sabina* in the *Chicago area*; *Florentine* and *Mother of Perpetual Help, St. Louis*, and *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart* and *St. Rose of Appleton* and *Marshfield, Wisconsin*, respectively.

Once again we wish to assure those Bands whose annual total was quite small by way of comparison that their donations were very much appreciated too. It is these small sums, added together, which really accomplish great things for the missions. So don't become discouraged! Remember, too, that all of our Associates' intentions are remembered *daily* in our prayers.

SISTER SUPERVISOR, ACM

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ST MEL BAND, *Chicago*.

This is a small West Side group which have a monthly social get-together and pay dues which are credited to the Burse held by Sister Mary Eva, whom the Band sponsors. They are headed by *Miss Margaret L. Murphy*. Their Sister is the Superior of our *Indiana Harbor* convent which, with our *Gary* and *San Pierre* convents now lies in the newly created *Gary Diocese*.



# our Associates'



OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED  
SACRAMENT BAND, *Oak Park, Ill.*



One of the busiest Bands we know about is this one headed by Miss Marian Turek. Inspired by the tireless example of the Promoter and her sister Dorothy, the ladies pitch in and make or purchase all sorts of useful and attractive articles for some of our mission centers. Here are listed some of the articles\* which went out in their December mission boxes: Baby layettes, twelve new housedresses, a "good as new" blanket, twenty-five stuffed clowns, bean bags, toys, new and old, religious pictures, statuettes, mounted medals, rosaries, holy cards, Christmas tree decorations and hard candy.

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ST. IRENE BAND, *Chicago*



We look forward every month to the letter which nearly always starts out in this fashion: "St. Irene Band reporting." Miss May Walsh, the Promoter, is always the embodiment of cheerfulness even when inclement weather makes for a poor turn-out on Band meeting nights. The checks may not be large (membership is very small) but it is the regularity with which they come that makes up for more spectacular donations given but once in a year or two.

## BANDS, CLUBS, GUILDS DONATIONS

December 28, 1956 to January 22, 1957

Charitina No. 2, Paris, Ill., M. Gibbons .....	\$31.00
Dolores, Chicago, Mrs. Klingel .....	64.50
Our Lady of The Bl. Sacrament, Oak Park, Ill., M. Turek .....	6.00
Queen of Hearts, Lombard, Ill., Wilma Wengritzky .....	25.00
St. Catherine, Los Angeles, Calif. Mrs. M. McMannamy .....	25.00
St. Clare, Omaha, Neb., Mrs. Ella Hamilton .....	110.00
St. Irene, Chicago, May Walsh .....	3.50
St. Joseph, Chicago, Mrs. A. Naumes .....	30.85
St. Jude, W. Allis, Wis., Mrs. E. J. Polakowski .....	30.00
St. Jude, Ft. Wayne, Ind., Mrs. Fred Potthoff .....	1.00
St. Justin, Chicago, Mrs. F. Kiefer .....	32.00
St. Katherine, Chicago, Mrs. Hammer .....	35.00
St. Margaret Mary, Omaha, Neb., Miss Marie Egermier .....	50.00
St. Michael, Chicago, Mrs. Dowling .....	5.00
St. Omer, Cincinnati, Mrs. Hurlburt .....	10.00
St. Patricia, Chicago, Mrs. L. Gones .....	5.00
Seven Dolors, Bellwood, S. Murphy .....	10.50

 **Reminder**

*those mite-boxes you were  
going to order!*

**WRITE TODAY FOR THEM!**



# Mary's Loyal

FORMER HELPER NOW AT V/N

THE month of March is the month of St. Joseph. It has also become known as vocation month, with particular stress on "religious vocations." It always gladdens me to hear that one of my former Helpers has joined a religious order or congregation. Elsewhere on these pages is the picture of a Helper who joined us at Victory Noll in September. Another Helper, Georgia Condon, of Holland, Ohio, is an aspirant at St. Francis Woods, Mokena, Illinois.

After the gift of Faith, there is no greater gift from God than the grace of a religious vocation. If you pray for it God may grant that grace to *you!*

## PITTSBURGH (PA.) HELPERS



Above is pictured Patricia Murphy, formerly of Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, now a Postulant at Victory Noll. Patricia also has an older sister in our community, Sister Alice, who at present is stationed in our Detroit convent.

To the left are three Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Helpers. Reading from left to right they are: Richard Adams, Caryl Lee Adams and Michael Golia. Richard and his sister have been Helpers for quite some time. Michael joined more recently. They remember our Missionaries with Sunshine offerings and in their prayers.

When I was looking for a part time job I promised the Blessed Mother that I would give half of my first pay check to Mary's Loyal Helpers' Club. I started working last Saturday at a variety store in town and enclose a money order. I enjoy the work very much. I am now sixteen and a junior in high school. I am taking a college preparatory course as I plan to become a nurse.

*Theresa Pacheco, Visalia, California*

# Helpers' pages

GREEN BAY (WIS.) HELPER



## MARCH PUZZLE



Above is pictured Karen Marie Kaiser of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Karen wrote us of a unique way in which she earned some Sunshine money recently. At the Christmas season she and two girl friends decided to go caroling in their neighborhood. They did it only for the joy they found in singing of Christ's Birth. Imagine their surprise when people began to open their doors and give them money! At the close of the evening they found they had \$9.30. The money was divided into three equal parts and each girl sent her portion to her pet charity. Karen's portion came to us.

Enclosed is my Christmas offering even if late. It is part of the money with which I was to buy ice skates, but I think other children who are less fortunate than I am can use it for a better purpose. I can always buy skates next year. After hearing of the Hungarians who escaped (or didn't) from the Russian Communists I feel so sorry for them. It is heartbreaking. Every night I say a prayer for them and I never forget my daily Hail Mary for you.

At Christmas I got everything I ask-

March witnesses the feast days of some very great saints. Below we describe six of these saints (or feast day) and your part is to name them with the aid of your daily Missal or a Catholic art calendar. In left hand margin of a blank sheet of paper write numbers one to six, then list the names of these saints with the date of their feasts.

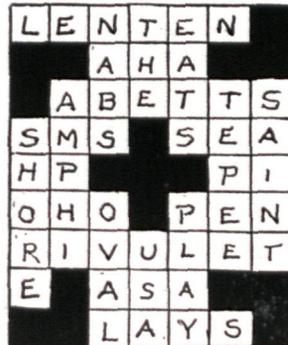
1. Patron saint of Ireland.
2. Patron saint of schools.
3. This feast is one of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
4. Founder of the Benedictines.
5. Spouse of Mary and foster father of Jesus.
6. This saint saluted the Virgin Mary for the first time with the words "Hail Mary."

Send your worked puzzles to Sunshine Secretary for a holy card.

ed for. I thank God I have such good parents. Some children do not even have parents.

It is cold out and it's snowing. The lake is frozen and many people are going skating.

Carolyn Bien, Walled Lake, Mich.



FEBRUARY  
CROSSWORD  
PUZZLE  
ANSWERS

# It Really Happens

by Sister Anthony

**D**ID you ever look at mission pictures and wonder if what you were seeing really happened? I did.

I was in high school when, one day, I saw a small ad in *Our Sunday Visitor* that attracted me. It was a picture of a Missionary Sister teaching two small children under a tree. Although I didn't realize it at the time, that picture planted the seed of a missionary vocation in my heart, for the thought of it never left my mind.

I wrote to Victory Noll for literature and literally "ate up" what was sent me. For the first time I learned that there are Catholic boys and girls in public schools who are receiving no religious instructions.

I, who had been sheltered within the walls of a parochial school, had never realized that there could be children without a sister to prepare them for their first Holy Communion, or that there are teenagers fighting the battles of life without the grace of confirmation because there is no one to teach them. I had taken my Catholic education for granted, but now I wanted to share it with others. The fact that I could be a missionary right here in my own country was something new to me, too, and it delighted me.

Pictures of sisters working in the missions continued to fascinate me, but I was a doubting Thomas. Did these things really happen? Did sisters work and live like that or did someone pose for those shots? Then I seemed to hear a soft, irresistible voice within (the same voice certain fishermen heard some 1900 years ago) inviting, "Come and see!" I did! Now I am privileged to have the wonderful experiences I used to read about in Catholic papers

and magazines. Now I can honestly say that those pictures really happen.

My first year in the missions found me teaching catechism in a one-room little red school house—I in one corner and another sister in the other. No partition to help keep my children attentive; only competition with a zealous sister across from me. Since then I have taught religion in a church and in a choir loft. I have stood by anxiously in our convent kitchen while the pastor examined my class for First Communion. I prayed with children and taught them in a firehouse—one sister on one side of the big red fire truck and I on the other. At one time the stage of a parish hall was the only available — and incidentally, very appropriate — place to teach my teenagers about God's stars, the saints.

For desks and seats I've learned to improvise by placing boards across boxes or bricks. I've stood a blackboard against a coca-cola box or an orange crate; hung pictures and charts on fences, fire extinguishers, washing machines, garage doors, vigil light stands; and placed a crucifix on top of a TV set. And, like the sister in the original mission picture which captivated me, I too have had the sky for a roof and a tree for shade during a religious vacation school.

True, these situations are not ideal ones in which to teach the ideal subject—religion. But missionaries cheerfully make the best of what they have while they work unceasingly to improve conditions for the growth and development of Christ's Kingdom upon earth.

Yes, I know now that mission pictures are true, and yet, they don't tell the whole story. They can't. It is im-

possible to film the supernatural. The true story would have to reveal the beauty of countless little souls who received the first spark of love for God while sitting on a bench in a garage; or the fervor of the many who prepared for first confession and the Holy Eucharist during released-time classes held in someone's crowded living room; or again, the perseverance of many small altar boys who learned to pronounce *Ad Deum qui laetificat* while sitting on the back steps of a mission church sacristy. The true picture would have to show the long line of those who became frequent communicants, or who returned to the sacraments after years, because of reminders received in religion classes conducted in an abandoned country store or shed. It would have to tell of the large number of unhappy and unlawful marriages being avoided today because public high school pupils attended discussion clubs after school hours, at the cost of much sacrifice, to talk over Christian ideals of marriage.

No, a mission picture can't give the complete, wonderful story. Only God can do that. To Him be the glory! He is the real teacher, touching the hearts and souls of those whom we gather and bring to His feet. He is no respecter of places or circumstances, as we know from the miracles of grace we witness in the most unlikely classrooms; and His predilection continues to be for the poor and most neglected, wherever found.

My doubts about mission pictures have long ago disappeared. The pictures, I thought, were fascinating. The real thing—missionary work—I have discovered, is immeasurably more so. It is truly great. And I dare anyone to show me a happier life.

Mission pictures must continue so that through them Christ can extend to generous hearts His loving invitation, "Come and see." But it is only when others, like myself, accept His invitation that these mission shots can keep on really happening.



**Sister Anthony has the sky for a roof and a tree for shade during a religious vacation school.**

## BOOKS



The Spiritual Doctrine of Dom Marmion by M. M. Philipon, O.P., M.S.T., translated by Dom Matthew Dillon. Newman Press, Westminster, Md. \$3.50.

This is a book that will be welcomed especially by those who know and love Dom Marmion's trilogy: *Christ the Life of the Soul*, *Christ in His Mysteries*, and *Christ the Ideal of the Monk*. Marmion is so important that of him we can never have enough.

Dom Marmion based his spirituality on the doctrine of the divine adoption. It was the dominating idea in all his writing and preaching. He went straight to the Gospels and to St. Paul. To him Christ was All in all, the Life of the soul.

What makes his doctrine so attractive is that it is solidly founded on dogma. Abbot Marmion taught theology for many years. His keen mind reduced all problems to the central question of Christ. He saw all theological doctrine in the light of the mystery of Christ.

We believe it is no exaggeration to say that the modern world owes more to Dom Marmion than to anyone else for making known the fundamental doctrine of divine adoption, of our predestination in Christ. Today there is a greater appreciation of the grace of baptism, an appreciation that had unfortunately been in eclipse before Abbot Marmion's time.

Pere Philipon, whose own spiritual doctrine is so like Dom Marmion's, is eminently qualified to expound that of the great Benedictine. This he has done

so well in the *Spiritual Doctrine of Dom Marmion* that the book leaves nothing to be desired. It is excellent. The author includes a brief resume of the life of the Abbot, and Dom Raymond Thibault, Marmion's faithful disciple and historian, has contributed a preface to the book.

*Moods and Truths* by Fulton J. Sheen. Popular Library, Inc., 10 East 40th St., New York 16, N. Y. 25 cents.

The imprimatur on this pocket-size edition of *Moods and Truths* is dated 1932 when the book was first published. It is, however, as timely now as if it were written today. And it will be just as timely fifteen years from now.

Perhaps it would not be fair to say that there is a freshness about the writing in this book that one does not find in Bishop Sheen's *Life Is Worth Living* series, for they were not written primarily for publication. In *Moods and Truths* the writing often reaches great heights.

The essays contained in the book treat of the sacrament of penance, the evils of birth control, the necessity of dogma, the charge of intolerance on the part of the Church, and other subjects. There are thirteen chapters in all.

*I Am Indian* by Rev. Gualbert Brunzman, O.S.B., St. Paul's Indian Mission, Marty, S. Dak. Illustrated by Ade de Bethune.

This is an attractive, paper-bound biography of the Indian girl, Kateri Tekakwitha, commemorating the three hundredth anniversary of her birth. In 1943 Kateria was declared Venerable by a Decree approved by His Holiness Pope Pius XII. The publication of this little book should help to further her Cause.

Rosary Leaflets by Wilfred Jukka, S. M.M. The Montfort Press, Burbo Bank Road, Liverpool 23, England.

Anyone who has instructed converts has longed for a good explanation of the rosary so that they can begin early to say this powerful prayer.

Our attention has been called to these leaflets—there are four of them—written and distributed by an English Montfort Father. The explanations are excellent and just right for the convert-to-be or for the Protestant who has no intentions of becoming a Catholic. In fact, the leaflets were designed with the non-Catholic in mind.

Why not send for some to give to your non-Catholic friends? They cost one penny each in English money; special rates for quantity lots.

Three Days to Eternity by Richard Reid and Edward J. Moffett. Newman Press. \$2.50.

From the title we thought this would be an account of the last three days and the possible torture of Father Robert Cairns, M.M. Instead, it is a flashback on his life, the authors assuming that Father Sandy, during the last three days before his death at the hands of the Japanese, re-lived all that has gone before.

There must be many persons like myself who never knew Father Sandy Cairns, but who remember him well if they were readers of Maryknoll's *The Field Afar* during the thirties. Perhaps it was because Father Sandy was sent to Sancian, the island hallowed by the death of St. Francis Xavier; perhaps it was the quotes from his letters. Whatever it was, he was a man to be remembered.

So there must be many persons like myself who will want to read about Father Sandy—from his birth in Scotland, through his school days at Holy

Cross College, Worcester, Massachusetts, and seminary days in Baltimore and at Maryknoll.

Three Days to Eternity recounts all this in a somewhat breezy style. Much of it covers familiar ground; for example, the pages on the founding of Maryknoll and the stories of St. Francis Xavier and Father Ricci. Added to the story are some notes on Holy Cross and on St. Mary's, Baltimore, as well as some short writings of Father Sandy.

If there is a re-print, we hope *whom* on page 34 is changed to *who*.

## What They Said

*when Mary decided to be a  
Missionary Sister*

Mom: May God's holy will be done! I've prayed for this, dear, but it will be hard.

Dad: We'll miss you, Mary, but your happiness is all that matters.

Brother: Gee, Sis, I hope you'll like it.

Sis: Can I have your fur coat, Mary?

Pastor: God bless you, my child. It always makes me very happy when one of the girls of my parish enters religion.

Neighbor: The very idea! She wouldn't go one step if she were my daughter.

The Girls: She'll probably be home in about six weeks.

The Boys: Anybody but Mary! If it were someone dumb like . . . But Mary! Gosh!

Guardian Angel: Mary, if you but knew the happiness you have given to Our Lord and Our Bessed Mother by generously answering their call to be a Missionary Sister. Think of the souls you will be a means of saving. I shudder to think of what would have happened if you had not answered the call. But I must not think of that now, for I am the happiest angel in heaven tonight.

## The Editor's By-Line



I have been reading the vocation ads in our diocesan paper. No, I am perfectly satisfied, quite happy as a Missionary Sister. I have no intention of transferring to another community. My motive is of another kind.

As I read on and on, it occurred to me that if I were a young person—girl or boy—looking to see which community appealed to me, I would have a hard time deciding. Why? Because the ads are so much alike.

Of course we all know that the Holy Spirit has something to do with vocations—much to do; but at the same time God makes use of human means to bring about His designs.

Obviously the idea of using an ad is to make the work of the community sound so attractive that the prospect will write for information. It must work. Otherwise, religious communities would hardly go to so much trouble and expense to advertise. During March—vocation month—there will be more advertising than at any other time during the year.

Maybe we can learn something from those who write copy for the thousand and one products on the market; or from the men who do the commercials for TV and radio. Now that's an idea. Maybe we could even get a spot on the air!

I am unfamiliar with TV commercials because we do not have TV. My knowledge of radio commercials is almost as poor, for my listening has been more or less confined to weather reports and news.

To get on the weather broadcast would be ideal because everyone listens

to it. Even though it's pouring rain outside, you have to hear the weather man say it's pouring rain. Then you hang on to find out whether it's going to keep it up all day. And of course you have to know whether the wind is out of the southwest or just the south, so you listen through to the end and are subjected to the advertising that interrupts the broadcast.

There is a minute of advertising before the w. m. starts out with the general weather picture. Then he tells us he'll be back in a minute with the local forecast. At the very end there is another half minute or so for the commercial, but by then most of us have turned off the radio. The psychological moment is right in the middle of the weather report. Maybe we could try something like this:

Victory Noll is just the place for you. Other young women have found happiness teaching religion to Catholic children in public schools and winning souls for Christ. Why shouldn't you? Visit Victory Noll today and see for yourself. Just west of Huntington on U.S. 24. Free parking space in the rear. SEA

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## In Memoriam

**Most Rev. Robert J. Armstrong, D.D.,  
Sacramento**

**Elizabeth M. Murphy, Chillicothe, Ohio**

**Mr. Gonnella, Lima, Ohio**

**Mrs. Phyllis Nicholas, Bremen, Ind.**

**Mary C. Moran, White Plains, N. Y.**

**Frances Breen, Buffalo, N. Y.**

**Fralen N. Hower, Verona, N. J.**

**James A. Kroll, Chicago**

**Anne Profant, Chicago**

**Helen Healey, Chicago**

**Mrs. Margaret H. Hillery, Cambridge, Mass.**

**Dr. P. R. Fletcher, St. Louis**

**Harry C. Catlett, Maplewood, Mo.**

**Edward Bramm, Wausau, Wis.**

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.



## **Wouldn't It Be Wonderful**

**if all these girls would become Missionary Sisters when they grow up?**

We could use them and many more besides. There are not nearly enough Missionary Sisters to teach religion to all the Catholic boys and girls who are attending public schools.

Perhaps Our Lord wants *you* for this work. Or maybe you know someone who would like to be a Missionary Sister. Write today to Victory Noll for free literature and information.

**Mother General**

**Victory Noll**

**Huntington, Indiana**

**Name** ..... **Age** .....

**Address** .....

**City** ..... **State** .....



# 2500 C L U B

Our Missionary Sisters are devoting their lives to the work of giving spiritual and material assistance to the needy under their charge. If you wish to share in this Christlike work and in a rich eternal reward, you will welcome our 2500 CLUB as a convenient way of doing so. Members contribute twelve dollars a year or one dollar monthly for one year. This fund helps the sisters to carry on their work in areas where it is so much needed.

**JOIN TODAY** and receive daily, weekly, monthly remembrances in the Masses and prayers of our Missionary Sisters.

*The 2500 CLUB is under the patronage of St. Joseph. On the first Wednesday of each month Holy Mass is offered in his honor for the intentions of the members.*

.....  
Victory Noll                      Huntington, Indiana

Dear Sister:

Please enroll me in your 2500 CLUB. I will send a dollar a month, or more, toward the support of your sisters and their work.

Name .....

Address .....

City ..... Zone ..... State .....