

The Missionary Catechist

May 1957



All for Jesus through Mary

... is the motto of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters. To lead souls to Jesus through Mary is the ideal of every sister. It is her privilege to teach little ones to know and love Our Blessed Mother and to practice dependence upon her throughout life.



Mother Catherine and the younger children who attended religious vacation school last summer at Bremen, Indiana.

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Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters

Huntington, Indiana

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May 1957

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COVER

May 24 is the patronal feast of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters. Grouped around her statue are (front row, left to right): Sister Mary Imelda, Sister M. Joan Louise, Sister Louis Marie; back row: Sister Mary Kathleen, Sister Martha Mary, and Sister Barbara Marie.

CREDITS

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True Devotion to Mary

CHRISTIAN SCHEMBRI, O.F.M. Cap.

Father Christian is a Capuchin Missionary on the island of Guam.

IN the story of the French Revolution, historians relate how a group of peasant revolutionaries stormed the royal court of Paris one day. They were out to kill the queen, Marie Antoinette.

Among the mad revolutionaries, there was a frail young girl. Caught in the violence and pushing of the mob, she was thrown against a door with such force, the door gave way and knocked her unconscious on the floor. Upon regaining consciousness, the young girl saw the kind face of Marie Antoinette. The queen was bending over her administering first aid. The peasant girl burst into tears and cried out: "Oh, I never dreamed she was like this."

Like the frail young girl, many a sincere Catholic and devotee of Mary is unfamiliar with complete consecration to the service of the Queen of heaven and earth, the Blessed Virgin Mary. True Devotion to Mary with its Act of Total Consecration of one's body and soul, material possessions and spiritual merits to Mary and through her to Jesus, might seem like tying oneself into a Marian "straight-jacket." But upon further investigation of True Devotion, one cannot help cry out like the young girl of the story, "Oh, I never dreamed she was like this."

Actually, True Devotion to Mary is both traditional and scriptural. It is as old as the Church. It has always existed in the Church since the days of the Apostles. And they learned it from Christ Himself.

When Our Divine Savior came into this world, He made Himself as dependent upon Mary as any child upon its mother. He depended on Mary's consent for the Incarnation: "Behold

the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word" (Lk. 1, 38). As an Infant, He depended on Mary's maternal care for food and warmth. She brought Him forth, "wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger" (Lk. 2, 7).

Christ's dependency upon Mary is evident in all the events of His earthly life. At Bethlehem, the shepherds and magi "found the child with Mary his Mother" (Mt. 2, 11). When the angel spoke to Joseph, he said: "Take the child and his mother, and flee into Egypt" (Mt. 2, 13). At the finding in the temple, Jesus left with Mary and Joseph, and like any other child, He "was subject to them" (Lk. 2, 15).

Later at Cana, when He began working public miracles, "the mother of Jesus was there" (Jn. 2, 1). And at the end of His mortal life, while He hung upon the Cross and His precious Redeeming Blood trickled down from His Sacred Body, "There was standing by the cross of Jesus his mother" (Jn. 19, 25).

True Devotion to Mary is traditional in the Church. It goes back to the days of the Cenacle when Mary mothered the college of Apostles. She prepared them for the coming of the Holy Spirit in the fiery flames of Divine Love. For the Apostles "with one mind continued steadfastly in prayer with Mary, the mother of Jesus" (Acts 1, 17).

Mary mothered the infant Church, as the Apostles and disciples went out to gain the whole world for her Divine Son. From the early centuries of Christianity down to our present day, there is ample proof that legions of saintly souls have practiced True De-

votion to Mary as the surest way to increase in union of love and grace in Christ.

In the Eastern Church, St. Germain, Bishop of Constantinople writes to his Catholic flock: "No one is saved, no one escapes danger except through you, O Mother of God; no gift is obtained from heaven except through you, O beloved Mother of the Savior."

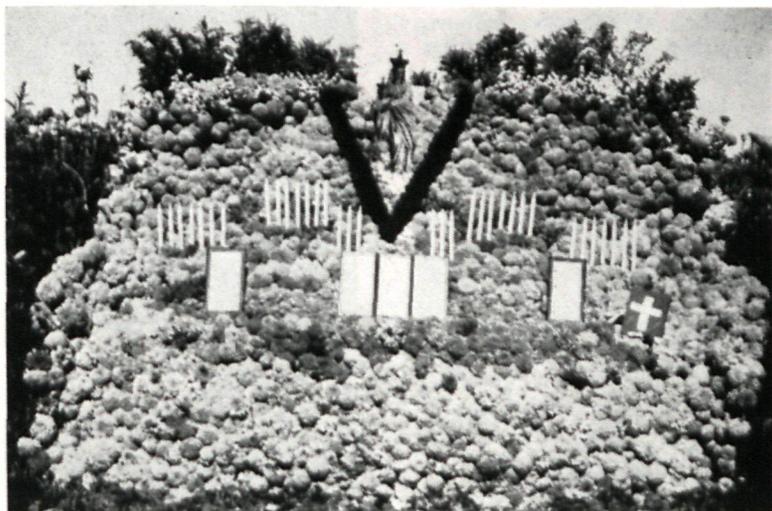
In the Western Church, St. Peter Damian declares: "No grace comes from heaven to earth without passing through the hands of Mary." St. Ambrose writes: "Through her, all graces come to earth"; St. Bernard: "It is God's will that we should receive all graces through Mary." And St. Bonaventure writes: "All that comes to us from heaven comes through Mary."

St. Louis de Montfort formulated his True Devotion from Catholic doctrine as contained in Scripture and taught by the Fathers and Doctors of the Church. He used St. Augustine's phrase, "mold of God," to explain how Mary will form those who practice True Devotion into "other Christs." He

outlined a method of progressive practice of devotion to Mary. His works—*True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* and *The Secret of Mary*—contain a system whereby we may regulate our lives in entire dependence on Mary. He called this system True Devotion to Mary.

Pope Pius IX, who defined the dogma of Mary's Immaculate Conception in 1854, declared that St. Louis de Montfort's True Devotion to Mary is the best and most acceptable form of devotion to Our Lady.

The era in which we live has been labeled by spiritual writers as "the Age of Mary." Cited as evidences of our Marian Age are: Papal pronouncements and encyclicals on Mary, apparitions of Mary at Lourdes and Fatima, worldwide movements like the Legion of Mary, the Rosary Crusade, Pilgrim Virgin demonstrations, and Marrian congresses. In view of such a flourishing of Marian devotion, is it any wonder that St. Louis de Montfort and his True Devotion to Mary have become so popular in our day?



For the past twelve years Miss Mary Grippe of Arvada, Colorado, has honored Our Blessed Mother with a magnificent floral display in her yard. This picture was taken last September. The altar was banked with yellow chrysanthemums, orange marigold, rose dahlias, golden-rod, and rose phlox. The V was made of red chrysanthemums.



Typical of First Communicants everywhere are these little girls at Roanoke, Indiana. They were prepared by the sisters from Victory Noll.

THE papers and periodicals of late are carrying grass roots reports. It is an expression coined to cover the opinions of the man in the street on a specific problem. The interviewer tries to get to the very heart of the matter.

In the small missions surrounding Ontario, California, I set out on an adventure in grass roots myself. I asked my little people in the second grade why they wanted to make their First Communion. I asked the question in private so that there would be no outside influence by classmates.

After a few weeks of popping the question, "Why do you want to receive your First Holy Communion?" at odd

Grass

Roots

SISTER M. DePORRES

moments and in diverse centers, these are some of the replies I have in my grass roots notebook.



Although it was our smallest First Communion class, it was one we are very proud of. These boys, shown here with their mothers, were taught by our sisters in Alabama.

Jim, bounding off to Dad waiting in the car answered, "So I can go to heaven."

Another lad simply said, "So God can come to me."

A little Mexican girl answered, "So He can live in my heart and take care of me."



South Bend, Indiana, First Communicants.

This answer was whispered in great secrecy close to my ear, "Because I love Jesus."

A dainty blond second grader said, "So my soul can be bright and beautiful."

Others sincerely confided, "I want Jesus in my heart 'cause I love Him."

"So God can get into me."

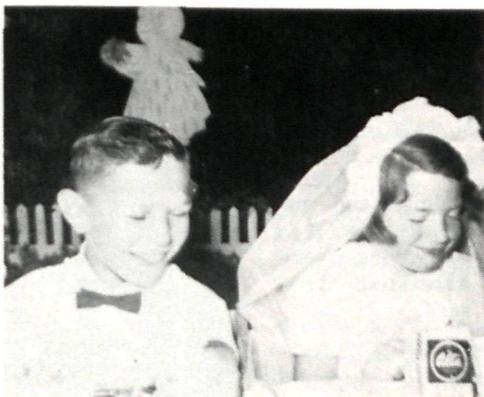
"Well . . . because He loves me."

Also there is the boy accustomed to be brief, "To receive God."



Girls of last year's First Communion class form a guard of honor for the children who are going to receive this year in Chino, California.

These then are the grass roots answers. They reflect the intimate thoughts of First Communicants all over the world.



And afterward a breakfast in the parish hall! Ronald Bem and Alice Flynn, Willows, California, are enjoying theirs.

Motor Missions in Missouri

VERA ENGLAND

“THERE are three Catholic priests in town and they are going to hold a motor mission.”

Try to imagine, if you can, what such an announcement means in a strong Protestant town where the very mention of the word Catholic not only raises eyebrows, but many questions and much curiosity. In my own case it aroused interest and a strong determination to find out all I could about the Catholic Church, her teachings, and beliefs. I did not know it then, but actual grace had begun its work.

The word motor mission was something new. In this area of southern Missouri a meeting of this sort is usually called a revival. We went up town that June night expecting to find a group of people sitting in chairs on a vacant lot curiously eyeing a priest and listening cautiously to his sermon.

To tell you the truth we almost missed the whole thing. I saw a number of cars parked on the street, but failed at first to notice the priest standing on the small platform, until we had driven almost in front of him. We immediately found a parking place and

joined the listening crowd. Calmly and patiently Father was giving a very interesting lecture.

After it was finished we returned home with the literature Father had passed out. We read it and held a family discussion. We decided to go back the next night. I could hardly wait until seven-thirty.

I had once received from a friend a child's catechism. For fear of having to return it soon I had memorized all the prayers I could and now I was brimming over with questions. I used the questions and the catechism to bring about the meeting of my husband and the priest. Poor George, for my sake he bravely agreed to approach Father. It took one good talk from Father Connolly and George was as interested as I was.

The following two weeks our sleeping hours were uncertain and disturbed. We followed the motor mission to Cardwell, Missouri, and then to make certain my mother and father would have equal chances with us, we drove to Kennett each night of the closing week and escorted my parents to the lecture.

Calmly and patiently Father was giving a very interesting lecture.



Mother had had the pleasure of meeting the dear Missionary Sisters from Kennett in the early spring. They were responsible for her becoming interested in the Church. We as yet had not been so fortunate as she. All of us, however, became acquainted during the motor mission with the priest from Kennett, Father Burghoff.

Little did my husband and I suspect the great help that Father Burghoff, through God's grace, would be in our lives. He called on us several times during the following months, and in January 1956 we began our formal instructions from him.

We completed our instructions in the spring and then came the time for a decision. Should we become Catholics or not? My husband made up his mind quickly, but I who had been the first to become interested now became disturbed. I pondered, prayed, shed a few tears, and finally went to Kennett to talk to the sisters. Once I thoroughly made up my mind to pull away from the church I then belonged to and become a Catholic, I was satisfied. My husband and I were baptized and made our First Communion.

Now that we were Catholics we wanted others to share the happiness that was ours. Our first concern was for my parents. We offered many prayers in their behalf. Imagine how grateful we were when they began their instructions.

This past summer the motor missions again came to Hornersville. We were very enthusiastic, but hardly knew how to go about stirring up interest in other people. A few days after the mission started, George came home and said that our dear friend E. J. Longdon had come by the station to find out about the motor mission and the time it started. In the meantime George found out that E. J. was really interested. We were overjoyed. Just



A Vincentian Father delivering a motor mission talk in a small Missouri town.

think, some other person from our home town was interested in the Catholic Church.

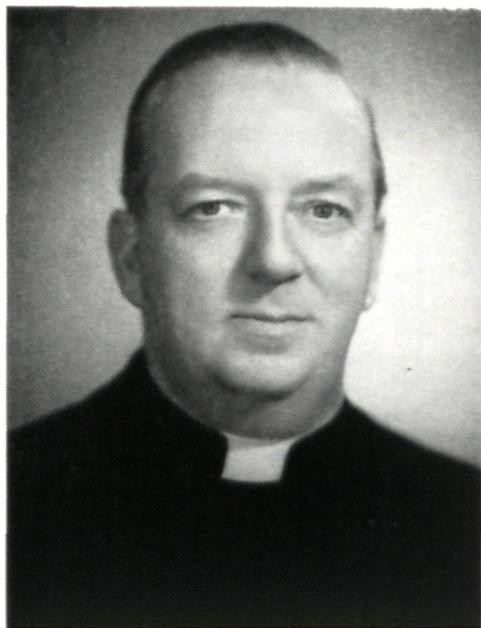
All of us attended the rest of the lectures and then Mr. Longdon started going to Mass with us. Later he began his instructions under Father Schmitz, the assistant in Kennett. October saw some of the fruits of our many prayers and the prayers of others. My father, mother, and Mr. Longdon were all baptized at St. Cecilia's Church in Kennett.

This has indeed been a wonderful year for us. Of course with only three Catholics in our town our progress seems slow, but with God's help and the prayers of our many friends we shall come out victorious.

Our field down here is a vast one and the laborers are few. It is with joy that I thank God that someone prayed, and I like to think that He applied the grace to us so that now we are Catholics.

Death Takes Monsignor Ryan

SISTER MARY KEVIN



The late Rt. Rev. Msgr. John C. Ryan of Detroit.

“WHY, hello there, Sister. And how are you?”

With these words and the heart-warming smile that accompanied them, every sister who has worked in the Archdiocese of Detroit has been made to feel perfectly at home and a necessary part of the religious instruction program.

Those who succeed us in Detroit will miss this friendly and sincere greeting from Monsignor John C. Ryan, who for twenty years was Director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in the Archdiocese. Death claimed Monsignor on February 16.

The list of his accomplishments is long to those who knew him well. We feel certain, however, that much of what he did was visible to God alone. While we marvel at the magnitude of

his works, those of us who worked with him marvel still more at the magnitude of his virtue and his personal interest in everyone with whom he came in contact. He was as much at home with great dignitaries and civic officials as with the smallest child.

During summer schools it was his custom to visit our classes. He came to my 6th, 7th, and 8th grade class during recess. It was in a rural area. The boys had worked in the fields all the previous afternoon, so they had asked to remain in the classroom (a back porch) rather than play ball.

Monsignor found them there and began discussing with them the current milk strike and other farm problems. One would have thought that he himself had at one time lived on a farm. He was indeed, in the words of St. Paul, “all things to all men” that he might gain them all for Christ.

His human sympathy for the sufferings of others knew no limits. One of the sisters had been called home because of the serious illness of her mother. The next time Monsignor met her after her return, tears came into his eyes as he inquired about her mother. Many were the Masses he offered for her recovery.

Once, to a newly professed sister who was a bit discouraged by what she considered the children’s lack of response to her teaching, he made this comment, “Sister, that’s why God gave them two ears: one on each side of their head so that what you say can go in one ear and out the other!”

As Director of the Confraternity Monsignor Ryan was responsible for all religious instruction throughout the Archdiocese. He could not bear to think of even one soul being neglected. Many times he himself would make personal visits to families with ill or retarded

children to make some arrangement for instruction.

By chance he discovered that an attendant at a gas station was contemplating entering an invalid marriage. He began trading there just so that he could get acquainted with the young man and help him through this temptation.

The last year and a half of his life he spent in great suffering. Yet never a word of complaint passed his lips. It was always "whatever God wants."

Through it all he kept his marvelous sense of humor. Early in January the end seemed imminent. He was anointed, but rallied several days later. To one of his fellow priests he jokingly commented, "I'm allergic to being buried in the winter."

The end came quietly and peacefully. In the quiet of his own soul we feel certain that Monsignor Ryan could say in all honesty and sincerity, "I have completed the work Thou gave me to do."

Answer to Peaceful Living

SISTER MARY MARTHA

WE have organized the Tarcisians among the fifth and sixth graders and some of the mothers are amazed at the change in the children.

Tarcisians is the name given to children organized to promote devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and especially to make reparation for the offenses committed against Him. They are named for St. Tarcisius, the boy martyr of the Blessed Sacrament.

One little boy broke his arm last spring. He cried and screamed all the way to the doctor's office and kept up such noise and so much jumping that the doctor had to administer a sedative.

The same little boy broke his arm again last month. It was a compound fracture, much worse this time than it was before. It so happened that the doctor was at the hospital when John and his mother reached the office and they had to wait almost two hours for him. All this time John sat there silently. His mother said she watched him wipe the tears from his eyes several times.

When the doctor came he set the bone without any anesthetic. John was

quiet and said nothing except to answer, "Oh, a little bit," when the doctor asked him whether he was hurting him.

On their way home his mother commented to John on his behavior and was deeply moved when he answered, "Sure it hurt, Mom, and lots worse than the first time, but I offered it to the Sacred Heart as golden pennies."

"Golden pennies" is the term Tarcisians use for their sacrifices.

Another mother told us that her two little girls, seven and nine, used to fight and argue continually. Now the older (a Tarcisian) refuses to answer her little sister when she starts an argument. One day the little one insisted on an argument and screamed, "Sandra, answer me!" The mother was amused when Sandra answered, "Barbara B., you know very well I would like to answer you back and even give you a good slap for being so fresh, but I have to do sacrifice."

Then the mother asked, "Sister, can't you organize the little ones into one of these secret societies? Seems to be the answer to peaceful living."

Saturday

Morning

Special

SISTER MARY EDNA



Mr. Goudan instructing (left to right): Sister Mary Edna, Sister Susanna, Sister Anna, and Sister Mary Loretta. They are signing "Come to me, my Jesus."

Early each Saturday morning a big red bus pulls up at St. Francis Cathedral School in Santa Fe and out scramble a group of lively youngsters. At first glance they appear to be like all children though perhaps showing a little more enthusiasm than most for their weekly religion class. But as they scatter into their respective classrooms, a difference becomes noticeable. They are noisy, playful, mischievous, but **not** talkative, for they are the children from the New Mexico School for the Deaf.

A peek into the first classroom shows us several boys in Sister Susanna's senior group industriously filling in their weekly lesson in the Messenger. Others are studying the examination of conscience as they prepare for confession.

The Rev. Aquinas Schneider, O.F.M., "hears" confessions at the school so that all the children who wish may receive the sacrament of penance during the religion period.

In the next classroom there is never a dull moment for Sister Anna from the time the children arrive until the bus returns for them an hour later. Some of the primary children are only five years old, but all are lively and curious about everything. If we were to stop

and visit their class they would be delighted to point out Jesus and Mary on the chart, to show us the pictures they had colored, and to "sign" the first questions in the catechism.

Sister Mary Loretta's group is seriously studying the examination of conscience form and laboriously writing out their confessions. Written confession is a big project for a child and many times the children come to Sister with some problem. Some are those common to all children: How long since my last confession? Was it a sin to eat meat on Friday if it was served at school? Occasionally the form gives them trouble. What does this word mean?

The last group are my own First Communicants. Here there is friendly rivalry to see who has the most stars on the achievement chart. One glance at their eager, intent little faces shows us that preparing for First Communion is a serious business with them. Having been promoted from the primary class they are determined to prove they are ready for First Communion instructions by their willingness to settle down and study. If one starts to play or let his attention rove, another child is sure to sign "baby" to him, indicating that such behavior is unbecoming to this group.

Working with these deaf children is a privilege and a challenge to our sisters stationed in Santa Fe, for these handicapped children are eager to learn. Although not all the children are totally deaf, all have serious hearing loss. Many of them, especially the older ones, are excellent at lip reading or speech reading, as it is more correctly termed. Some, like Teddy who lost his hearing as the result of a childhood ear infection, have excellent speech. Others, deaf since birth, can manage only a few sounds, but communicate rapidly through the use of signs.

Last year we sisters were privileged to have a course of instruction in teaching the deaf given us by Mr. William Goudan, at that time the assistant principal of the school. In the series of classes in the sign language, Mr. Goudan pointed out many useful techniques and methods which helped us to understand the children and their needs. Even more than most children, our deaf pupils love writing on the blackboard—filling in blanks, writing sentences, and spelling words. Visual aids, charts, and pictures are essential for every class.

One of the big events of the year was First Communion Day when twelve of the small children and two older ones received Our Lord for the first time. Both on the day itself and during the two practices the children were models of reverence and devotion.



Sister Mary Edna's First Communicants are a lively group.



Sister Mary Loretta signing "Jesus."

On St. Patrick's Day we celebrated with a party for all the upper grade girls at our convent. Everyone participated in all the games both outdoors and in, and of course did justice to the refreshments. Afterward several of the older girls insisted on cleaning up and doing the dishes. Now they are all looking forward to another party at the convent.

More than a year has passed since I first faced a class of deaf children, but it is still vivid in my mind. Probably all of us can remember the first speech we ever gave, or our initial performance on the other side of the desk, but I am sure I had my greatest case of stage fright on that memorable Saturday morning. What would they do? How did the alphabet go? What was my lesson plan? My mind was the proverbial blank!

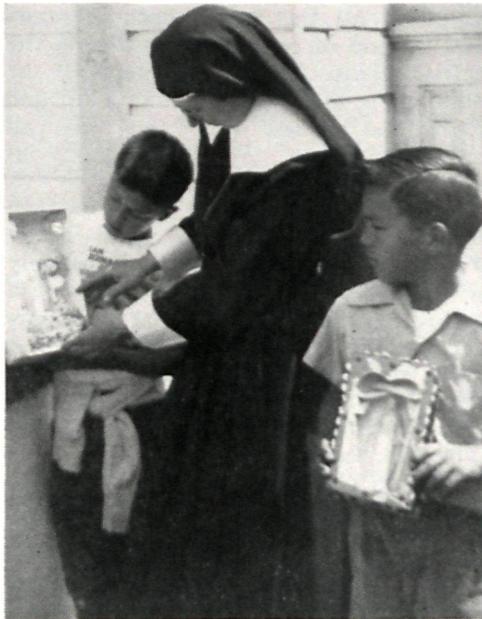
Like all "firsts" this one came and went and wasn't too bad. The boys came in first, curious to see what the new sister looked like. Sensing my timidity each one tried to be as helpful as possible.

A year's experience has lessened the difficulties, but by no means eradicated them. The enthusiasm and interest in learning the truths of faith shown by these handicapped children is a consolation to all of us. It is with gratitude for our share in helping these little ones that we meet the big red bus as it unloads its precious cargo at St. Francis School each Saturday morning.

MAY CONTEST

My second grade boys arrived for class with that "after First Communion glow." Two days earlier they had received Our Lord for the first time. Now they simply beamed. Their very conversation and demeanor seemed to take on a mature air.

When I showed them my May shrine, they wanted to know what they would have to do to win it for a prize. I told them that mine was not to be given away, but I would show them



Sister Melita and the boys admire the winning shrine.

how to make one all their own. Furthermore, I would give a prize for the nicest one.

The day for the contest arrived. Some eager beavers could not wait for the designated day, but brought theirs a week early. Too bad, for the flowers withered and died before the day of judgment.

In the Home Field

The teachers at school that afternoon must have wondered at the colorful collection of shrines of various sizes, shapes, and styles. Some mothers obliged by bringing their sons' masterpieces in the car. I was astonished at the beautiful display. To make it democratic, the boys themselves voted for the ones they thought the best. A few who considered their own the nicest, with boylike simplicity, voted accordingly.

Appreciation was not lacking to them, for they chose well in voting for the winner. The little contest had brought them closer to our Mother Mary, Queen of May.

SISTER MELITA

MORE SISTERS

One day on our round of visits we met a third grader who has not yet made his First Communion. He lives in one of the newly built sections, far from any class. "Gee," he said wistfully, "I wish we had lots and lots of sisters so I could make my First Communion."

SISTER MADELON

IN THE WAY

We were studying the first commandment and our obligation to worship God alone. When class was finished the pupils genuflected as usual before leaving church, all but one little boy who did not move. I asked him why he did not genuflect. He replied, "Sister, I'm waiting for you to get out of the way. I cannot genuflect to anyone but God."

SISTER M. EDWARD

SHADES OF BRAWLEY

The Chamber of Commerce has just made stickers available to the native sons and daughters and the rest of us. They read: Every Day Is Sun Day in Brawley.

We of the outdoor classrooms agree wholeheartedly. When we are looking for a suitable teaching place, trees and shade come in for great consideration. After scouting the neighborhood reasonably near school, Sister Mary Lawrence found a yard full of trees. They gave wonderful shade all afternoon; that is, until pruning time. When china-berry trees are trimmed they look like telephone poles and give about as much shade. Sister moved her classroom and is now teaching in the shade of an old storage shed.

SISTER CONSUELO

FORTY-TWENTY

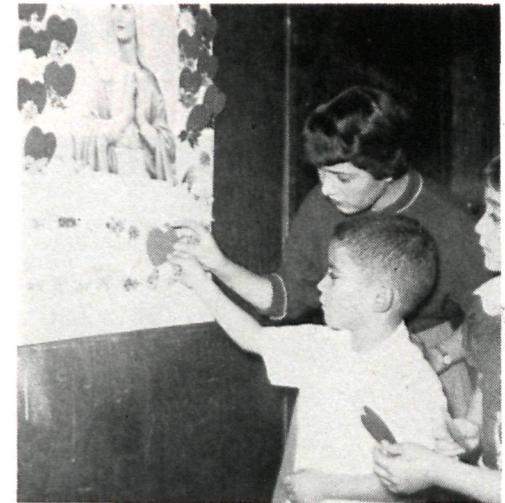
Tommy was explaining the reason for his absence from class. "You see, Sister, I had to have my eyes checked. And do you know what the doctor said? He said I have 40 hours devotion in one eye and 20 hours devotion in the other."

SISTER DENISE

STRICTLY BUSINESS

All morning we had been going from house to house, checking the parish census. One woman was very much surprised to see us. She exclaimed, "Why, I thought you sisters were always so busy working that you never had time to go visiting!"

SISTER CAROL



Marcos gets special help from his teacher, Anita Ramirez, to get his heart in place on the chart.

HEARTS FOR MARY

Anita Ramirez, our lay teacher at Santa Maria de Guadalupe parish in Ogden, taught her pre-school and first grade pupils a short act of consecration to Our Blessed Mother. After the class had recited the act of consecration in unison each child placed a bright red paper heart (symbolizing his own love) into a slot chart that had been provided for it.

SISTER EVELYN MARIE

BE AT MY SIDE

I was trying to impress on my third graders how very intelligent the angels are. I concluded with the statement, "The angels are so smart that they don't have to go to school to learn as we do." Some of the boys had a look of envy on their faces, but one of the little girls looked puzzled. She said, "Sister, my angel has to go to school, because he goes with me no matter where I go; so he must come to school too."

SISTER ALICE

May Is the Month



It is the privilege of a First Communicant —Alice Flynn this time—to crown Our Blessed Mother at St. Monica's Church, Willows, California.



Crowning at St. Joseph Church, Paulding, Ohio.



Sodalists who took part in May crowning ceremonies in Brawley, California.

of Our Mother



The girl in the middle made her May shrine from an orange crate. San Pierre, Indiana.



At Victory Noll the postulant youngest in rank has the privilege of crowning the lovely outdoor statue of the Immaculate Conception.



our Associates'

ST. OMER'S, CINCINNATI.

Dear Associates:

THIS is the month of our Heavenly patroness. May Mary, our Mother, ever shield you beneath the blue mantle of her loving protection.

SISTER SUPERVISOR, ACM

NEW BAND IN HAMMOND, IND.



The mother of our Sister Rita Therese, *Mrs. Helen Johann of Hammond, Indiana*, formed a small Band recently. It is tentatively known as *St. Rita*

Band. The first check to come through, representing dues and donations over a period of several months, amounted to \$27.50. It so happens the ladies have birthdays in consecutive months through the milder seasons of the year, and therefore each member plans to entertain the others the month of her birthday. In addition, the group has sent many boxes of clothing to Sister Rita Therese's convent in the Southwest, for distribution among the poor.

ST. MARY MAGDALEN, LOGANSPOUT

At *Logansport, Indiana*, there is a group of women known as *St. Mary Magdalen Study Club* who send occasional donations to aid our mission work and respond to appeals which appear in our "Mission Want Ads" bulletin. Our correspondent is *Mrs. John H. Hiatt*, the secretary-treasurer.

This is a Band consisting chiefly of a mother and her small son, *Mrs. Omer Hurlburt and Barry of Cincinnati, Ohio*. Together they stuff a piggy bank—or during Lent a Lenten Mite-Box—and send us the contents when filled. *Mrs. Hurlburt* has a daughter in our community, *Sister Therese Martin*.



AVE MARIA'S, ELKHART

These Indiana friends, headed by *Miss Cecilia Murphy*, seem to think that "money talks" (and it does speak of their undying loyalty to our mission cause) and so they seldom write. We can always count on the regularity with which their annual donation is received at *Victory Noll*. The group sponsor *Sister Noreen* who is Superior of our convent in *Smethport, Pennsylvania*. Read the interesting account of *Mary's Loyal Helpers* of that city, pages 20 and 21 of this issue.

Club Mention



ADRIAN CLUB, CHICAGO

It is no wonder that *Mrs. Louise V. Schmit* has held the office of treasurer in this Club indefinitely. *Mrs. Schmit* is statistical secretary for the Armour Research Foundation, one of her sons is a teacher of mathematics, another served as an accountant in the army and at present is studying to obtain a degree in electrical engineering. So being good at figures seems to run in the family.



Although our Associate likes her office job (she went back to one after years of happy wedded life at the death of her husband), she is happiest when she is baby sitting for her daughter's children.

ST. CATHERINE'S OF L.A.



One of the members of this Band, *Mrs. Evelyn Renier*, died during the past year. Immediately, her husband, *Mr. Raymond Renier* (Sister Madeleine

Sophie's brother) filled the vacancy in the Band by having himself enrolled as a member of the Band and pays dues. The members are chiefly brothers and sisters who promised their dying mother they would complete a Burse she started many years ago. They accomplished this objective and are now giving toward another Burse.

The Band is headed by *Mrs. Margaret McMannamy*, of Los Angeles.

BANDS, CLUBS, GUILDS DONATIONS February 21 to March 22, 1957

Charitina, Chicago, Helen Ford	\$ 5.00
Charitina, Paris, Ill., M. Gibbons	40.00
Christ the King, Detroit, Mrs. Brusch	11.00
Holy Souls, Chicago, Mrs. McGovern	\$ 16.00
Little Flower, Chicago, V. Foertsch	70.00
Our Lady of Fatima, Huntington, Ind. Mrs. Dan Herzog	10.00
Queen of Virgins, Madison, Minn. Regina Emmerich	7.00
St. Anne's of St. Mary's, Ft. Wayne Miss Clara Ankenbruck	5.00
St. Anne, Milwaukee, Mrs. Karnitz	62.00
St. Clara Band of St. Mary's, Ft. Wayne, Mrs. Wm. F. Ryan	12.00
St. Clare, Omaha, Mrs. Hamilton	10.00
St. Elizabeth, Springfield, Minn., Miss Ida W. Rubey	6.00
St. Helen, Dayton, O., Miss Melke	7.50
St. Irene, Chicago, May Walsh	12.50
St. Joseph, Chicago, Mrs. Naumes	73.50
St. Katherine, Chicago, Mrs. Hammer	48.00
St. Luke, Chicago, Mrs. Edw. Potter	22.96
St. Mary Sod. Band, Detroit Miss Ann Huhn	15.00
St. Mary Magdalen Study Club Logansport, Ind., Mrs. Hiatt	15.00
St. Margaret Mary, Omaha, Neb., Miss Marie Egermier	5.00
St. Martin, Omaha, Mrs. H. Wentz	146.00
St. Mel, Chicago, Margaret Murphy	15.00
St. Michael, Chicago, Mrs. Dowling	10.00
St. Patricia, Chicago, Mrs. L. Gones	3.00
St. Patrick Sod. Band, Ft. Wayne, Ind. Miss Catherine McGill	14.00
St. Philomena, Chicago, M. Schaefer	35.00
Seven Dolors, Bellwood, Ill., Mrs. John J. Murphy	6.50





Mary's Loyal

Dear Loyal Helpers:

MOST of you joined our mission club as individuals, and many have a sister or aunt in our community. The interesting article which follows tells about the activities of a whole group of girls who joined *Mary's Loyal Helpers* at the same time, early in the fall, and who have had as a moderator, our Sister Noreen.

Mary's Loyal Helpers of Smethport, Pennsylvania

Sharon McKeirnan, president, Patty Brown, treasurer, and Lauren Backus, secretary, led *Mary's Loyal Helpers* in procession on December 8th, in St.



Reading from right to left: Sharon McKeirnan, Patty Brown and Lauren Backus, officers, leading procession on December 8.

Elizabeth's parish, Smethport, Pennsylvania. The twenty-four members recited an act of consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary before going to the communion rail to receive their



Mary's Loyal Helpers reciting their act of consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

blest medal from the hands of their pastor, Reverend Joseph J. Grode.

Father Grode, in a short talk before the presentation, emphasized the meaning of the consecration. "Now you are to do everything the way Mary would do it, and offer it to Jesus through Mary."

Sister Noreen, moderator, meets with the members on Saturday afternoons since the organization of the group last September. Opening the meeting with the Morning Offering, the members then sing their theme song, "Immaculate Mary." First in the order of business is the review on check sheets of individual progress during the week in such matters as rising promptly, daily prayers, helping at home, etc.

Helpers' pages



May Puzzle (Hidden Flowers)



In the sentences below are hidden flowers of the more common variety. For instance in the first sentence you will find the word "rose" hidden between "Cairo" and "seldom." Now go ahead and hunt the rest of the flowers.

1. Cairo seldom has witnessed a flood such as this.
2. Savio let Don Bosco lead him to great holiness.
3. The veranda is yellow but the house is white.
4. I was so glad iolite was spelled correctly on my paper.
5. Giovanni risked much to help his friend.
6. The cherry tree in Japan symbolizes something sacred.

Send your worked puzzle for a holy card. Address your answers to *Sunshine Secretary, Mary's Loyal Helpers, Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana.*



Some of the club's activities were to sponsor adoption of a pagan baby named "Mary Therese," a surprise birthday party for the pastor, a Christmas party for their younger brothers and sisters, caroling at the County Home. The Feast of the Purification was the occasion for a party for their mothers, which opened with a ceremony depicting the presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. Kathleen Mayo enacted Simeon, Janet Harrington was Mary, and Norah Curran took the part of Joseph. Maria Billitier was Anna the prophetess.

Refreshments were served the mothers afterwards, followed by a program. Lauren Backus, in reviewing the purpose and activities of Mary's Loyal Helpers, said: "You perhaps heard us talk about sunshine bags. The first dollar we save in these buys a subscription to The Missionary Catechist, so we can learn more about what the Victory Noll Sisters are doing for their missions, and what other Loyal Helpers are doing to help the Sisters. It's fun being a member of Mary's Loyal Helpers! Thank you, dear mothers, for letting us have that fun!"

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E		G	E	M		
		S	T	I	R	

April CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

The Proof

SISTER SOCORRO

“YOU will meet in Room 109, Sister. It’s straight ahead and to your left.”

“Thank you, Sister,” I replied, and started to walk out of the principal’s office, my heart pounding wildly. I must find Room 109 before the bell rings and the halls fill with students, but no such luck. As I stepped into the corridor I heard it go off. Brrrrr. . . . Instantly doors flew open and it seemed as though hundreds of boys and girls poured into the hallway.

The once quiet corridor was filled with soft chatter. “Susan, did you know the answer to. . . Oh, good afternoon, Sister!” “And last night. . . Pardon me, Sister!” “See you after class, Tom . . . Oh, may I help you, Sister?”

Smiling, I cheerfully returned a good afternoon to each one as I weaved my way through the crowd. I was amused at the question in their eyes as they caught sight of the strange, unfamiliar sister in their school. Who is she? What is she doing here?

Finally I found Room 109, took a firm grip on my brief case, breathed a little prayer to the Holy Spirit, and walked in.

As I faced my first Teacher Training class of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine here in Pomona Catholic High, I felt a tremendous joy. This was proof that our teen-agers are generous. Before me sat forty-nine juniors and seniors ready to give their time and energy to Christ; eager to learn how they could share in the great apostolate of teaching the little ones of His flock.

The choice of taking the Teacher Training Class was a hard one for some of the students, because by doing so they “miss out” on many other school activities. Their zeal and enthusiasm are inspiring. Here are some of the reasons they have given for enrolling in the CCD course.

Marilyn MacIntyre, Azusa

My chief purpose, I must admit, was a selfish one — to learn how to teach children and how to cope with their problems. After attending the classes, however, my motive began to change. Now I can truthfully say I want to help bring our beautiful religion into the lives of all those children who would otherwise be without any religious training.

Rudy Escalera, Puente

Our Lord said, “Go, teach all nations” and when He said this He meant to inspire all of us, not only His apostles and priests. For that reason I joined the CCD. I want to contribute my little share in making Christ known to others. In order to carry this knowledge to others I must be instructed myself. With these instructions I can also be a better and more active Catholic.

**Delia Martinez
Chino**



I’m interested in doing something to help others, especially children. I would like to do something in return to God for all He has done for me.



**Marilyn Arnone
Duarte**

My main objective in taking the course is to help spread our Catholic faith and to help children learn more about our Blessed Savior. I will also be getting great satisfaction in seeing the children grow in the love and knowledge of God, knowing that I helped them along the path to God.

Sandra Burgan, Pomona

In order to give my reasons for joining the CCD I find it necessary to go back to the time I was in the fourth grade. The only book I dreaded more than my little catechism was my speller. It wasn't that I didn't like religion, for I loved bible history; it was just that I hated having to memorize everything word for word. My desire to change places with my teacher and use some ideas of my own made me decide then and there to become a teacher.

Upon entering high school, still having that same goal in mind, I learned of many clubs and joined a few which were devoted to various vocations. But one club was missing — something for future teachers. Then one day a new organization was introduced to the juniors and seniors at an assembly. That organization was the CCD. I investigated and found it not only gave me information on teaching techniques but also gave its members a chance to do something for their community and their Church. This is what I wanted. Therefore, I joined the CCD.

Pat Cormican, Pomona

I want to teach others about God and try to help them love Him very much because of all the things He has done for us.



**Teresa Rosales
Azusa**

I joined the CCD class because I realized the need for religion teachers. There are so many children in public school where they never learn their duties as Catholics. I feel that by helping these children save their souls, I can also save my own.

**Sandra Sacco
Puente**



The first CCD assembly was very strange to me because I had never heard about this organization. But it wasn't long before I became interested. I remembered that Christ said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Those who lead the little ones to Him, in turn are led to Christ themselves, for He also said, "A child shall lead you." I feel very proud to be among those who will be able to say they helped deposit a soul in "God's Treasure Chest."

BOOKS



The Cruise of the 'Nona' by Hilaire Belloc. New introduction by Lord Stanley of Alderley. Newman Press, Westminster, Md. \$4.

"Let The Cruise of the 'Nona', says Lord Stanley in his introduction, 'stand as Belloc's memorial. He could have no better; for in writing it he has left to all his old friends, and I believe to many new ones to come, the essence of himself, with which we may amuse, comfort, and refresh ourselves for as long as books are printed.'"

The 'Nona' was Belloc's beloved boat. The title does not refer to any one cruise she took, but is rather symbolic of Belloc's cruise through life. Sailing in and out of small harbors in the British Isles, Belloc has plenty of time to ruminate over the past and voice his views on many things.

"Nona," he addresses her, "cruising and voyaging Nona, wandered over the seas of Britain, how in the solitude of your companionship my mind does lead me from one thing to another!"

And that is just what happens. You actually begin to wonder how in the world he manages to "get on" so many subjects. Then he will remark, "And what has all this to do with the sailing of the sea? Nothing, save that it is during the sailing of the lonely sea that men most consider the nature of things."

The Cruise of the 'Nona' is really a collection of essays, written against the background of the sea. The cruise simply serves the purpose of tying them together and of passing from one subject to another. Belloc dedicated the book to his dear friend Maurice Baring. Since it was first published in 1925, it has been reprinted several times. This is the newest edition.

Although the voyaging is merely secondary, it might have been interesting to include a map showing the harbors and heads of Scotland and Wales along coasts so unfamiliar to most of us.

Transfigured World by Sister M. Laurentia Digges, C.S.J. Illustrated by Sister Charlotte Anne Carter, C.S.J. Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, New York. \$4.

This book of Sister M. Laurentia is the winner of a literary contest for nuns sponsored by the Thomas More Association with the cooperation of Farrar, Straus and Cudahy. It is subtitled Design, Theme, and Symbol in the Liturgy.

Transfiguration, the author explains, is the glorifying of man and of things that they in turn may glorify God. She then shows how this may be accomplished in considering the four elements of earth, fire, water, and air.

The liturgy is, indeed, exquisite in design, theme, and symbolism. This is what Sister Laurentia shows in Transfigured World. The book gets off to a rather slow start. The reader has the feeling of being circumscribed by all the circles, symbols, etc.

We found the last part of the book more rewarding reading, particularly the chapters on the sacraments and office.

The author quotes poetry extensively, especially that of Dante, T. C. Eliot, and Dylan Thomas.

The ten illustrations by Sister Charlotte Anne are exquisitely done. If they were in color they would make beautiful posters.

A Seal Upon My Heart, Autobiographies of Twenty Sisters. Edited by George L. Kane. Introduction by Godfrey Poage, C.P. Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee. \$3.

Father Kane has collected the stories of twenty sisters who try to trace the why of their vocation. We say "try to" because the call to the religious life is almost too subtle to analyse. As Father calls it in his preface, it is a mystery, not in the sense of a whodunit, but in the sense of a whydidshedit.

The stories are certainly varied. They vary as to the communities the sisters belong to, their number of years in the convent, the kinds of homes they came from, and the places in which they lived. The sisters are from Canada and the United States. One was from Hawaii. Almost as many communities are represented as there are autobiographies. Among them is one of our own congregation, Our Lady of Victroy Missionary Sisters.

We could not help being struck at the amount of parental opposition that enters into the stories. It is understandable when the parents are not Catholics as is the case of several sisters who became converts but whose parents did not come into the Church. But when otherwise good Catholics object strenuously, it is disturbing, to say the least.

Imagine a father telling his daughter on her wedding day, "Now remember, the door is always open. Come

home any time you feel like it!" Yet that is just what some fathers—and mothers—say, not only when their daughters leave home, but on their vow day!

Father Godfrey, an authority on the subject of religious vocations, has contributed a valuable introduction to the book. Vocation directors will find *A Seal Upon My Heart* valuable. It reveals many facets of vocations that one does not find elsewhere.

Song of the Dove by Mary Fidelis Todd. P. J. Kenedy & Sons, New York. \$2.95.

The *Song of the Dove* is the story of St. Catherine Laboure and the Miraculous Medal. It is beautifully told and charmingly illustrated by the author. Although written for "young readers" (no particular age specified), we believe that many oldsters will enjoy the *Song of the Dove* also.

Miss Todd makes the little Zoe Laboure and her family really come alive. The story begins with the death of the mother. The boys and Marie are already grown, but there are three little ones: Zoe, nine; Tonine, seven; and Auguste, five and an invalid. Marie takes the mother's place for two years and then enters the Sisters of Charity, leaving Zoe, not yet twelve, in charge of the household.

She is a most lovable child and we follow her through her girlhood and into the convent where she became Sister Catherine and the special confidante of the Mother of God. Our Blessed Mother revealed to her the now well-known Miraculous Medal. Sister Catherine, however, guarded her secret so well that most of her own sisters in religion were unaware of the fact that she had been the favored one to whom Our Lady appeared.

The Editor's By-Line

May is the month of processions and special devotions to Our Blessed Mother. In most parishes there is one big celebration culminating in the crowning of a statue of Our Lady. Not so is it in churches attended by our Spanish-speaking people. More than any other Catholics they demonstrate their love for Our Blessed Mother by their outward expressions of devotion.

During May these devoted clients of Mary gather together in church not only to recite the rosary, litany, and receive Our Lord's blessing in Benediction, but to have a nightly procession!

Customs vary slightly from church to church, but usually little girls attired in white dresses and veils offer flowers to Our Blessed Mother between decades of the rosary. The congregation sings a May hymn while the children march to the front of the church and put their flowers in a vase outside the communion rail, or give them to the altar boys who in turn put them in vases before Our Blessed Mother's altar.

My own initiation into devotions of this kind was in a parish where we not only supervised the children, but actually had to dress them! The children were from very poor families and it had been the custom for some years to keep special dresses and veils for them to wear for May devotions. When we came to the parish we were supposed to continue doing this.

Since it was "first come, first served," our doorbell began to ring very early, long before time for devotions at seven-thirty. This went on night after night during the month of May.

Many side issues were involved. Little girls don't sit around demurely

waiting for "church to start" even when they are wearing white dresses and veils. Father was very strict about beginning right on time, so we literally had to round them up well before seven-thirty. I usually managed to escape this detail, for I had to help the altar boys find *their* outfits and then be ready at the organ when Father emerged from the sacristy. Altogether it was a merry month of May.

It was in a very, very poor little church in Texas where we used to go on weekends that May devotions touched me most. A statue of Our Blessed Mother was placed on a pedestal in the center aisle outside the communion rail. Little girls, wearing the best they had, knelt two by two in the aisle during the prayers of the rosary. Between decades they offered flowers.

I used to be fascinated by four little girls, obviously sisters. The three oldest wore cotton prints—white with blue plums scattered here and there. When it came to the smallest, evidently the plum material gave out, so she wore a white flour sack skirt and a plum blouse. But that did not mar her happiness. With all the others she sang just as joyfully: *O Maria, madre mia.*
SEA

In Memoriam

Fernando Aragon, La Loma, N. Mex. father
of Sister Margarita
Charles E. Chettle, Orange Park, Florida, father
of Sister Marie Jane
Rev. Eustace Eilers, C.P., Louisville, Ky.
Rev. L. J. Krzyzosiak, Orchard Lake, Mich.
Andrew J. Czoiba, Pittsburgh
Louis Caldareira, Houston, Texas
Raymond Tlapak, Elvins, Mo.
Josephine Gephard, ACM, Avilla, Ind.
Mrs. Mary Bail, ACM, Fort Wayne
Lawrence A. Bragg, Sharpsburg, Pa.
Stephan Anovcsin, Chicago
George Schaefer, Chicago
May the souls of the faithful departed through
the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

Graduates of High School of Religion



The Rev. Aloysius J. Bertrand, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Montrose, Colorado, presents diplomas to graduates from St. Mary's High School of Religion and from Our Lady of Fatima, Olathe, a mission.

Father Bertrand concluded his address to the graduates with the words: "There is no doubt we are living in days of fear, and there is no escape from fear except trust in God. The Founders of America knew that we would need God's help in fearful times so they put on all our coins the words, 'In God we trust.'"

"Here raised besides me is the American flag, the most beautiful of all flags. It is in St. Mary's Church not merely as an ornament. It has a purpose. Its stars remind us of Someone beyond the stars, our Creator. As you go through life ask God daily for guidance and protection. May God bless you, your teachers, your parents, and our land of liberty."



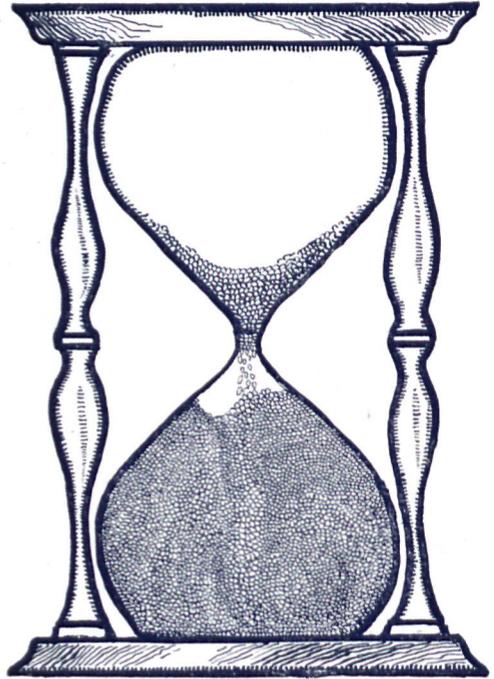
Seniors enjoy a Communion Breakfast at Rancho Carrillo. With them are the Rev. Felix A. Collymore, pastor of Our Lady of Soledad, Coachella, California, and Sister Estelle, Indio.

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your Mother's membership in*

**THE ASSOCIATE
CATECHISTS OF MARY**

or better still enroll her

PERPETUALLY!



Usual offering for perpetual individual membership, \$10.00; annual individual memberships, \$1.00. Besides daily remembrances in the prayers of our Sisters, there is a monthly Mass offered at Victory Noll for living and deceased Associates.

.....
Sister Supervisor, ACM
Victory Noll
Huntington, Indiana

Dear Sister:

Please enroll (Living)
..... (Deceased)

Name of Donor

Street

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