

# THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST

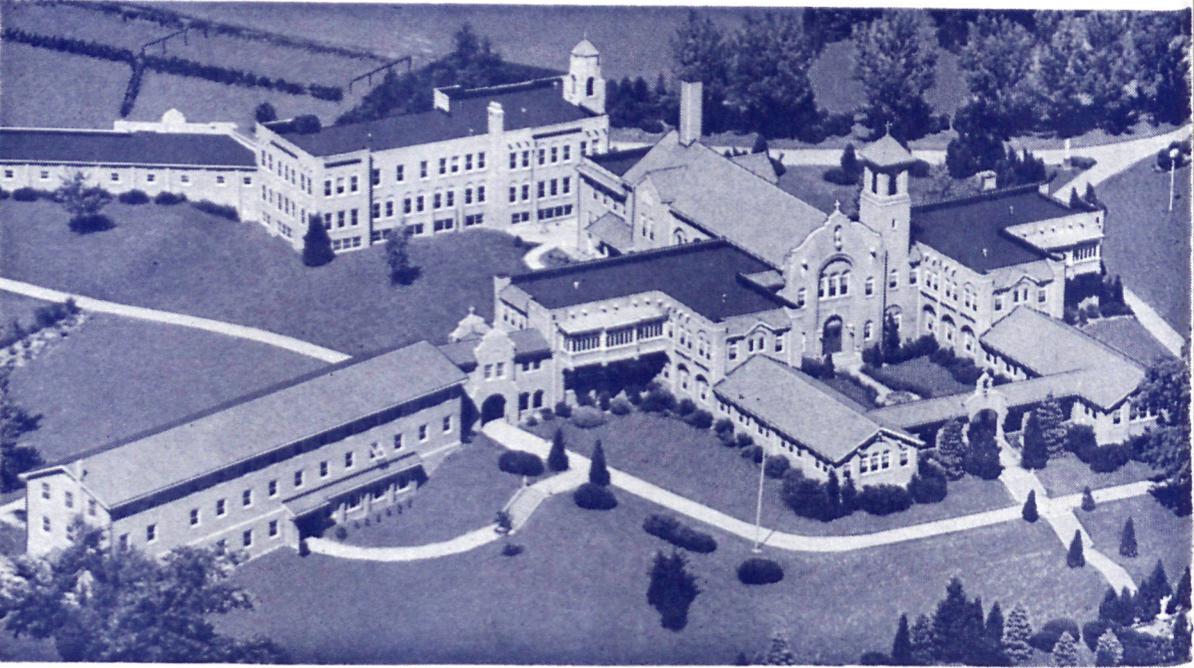
Volume 33

MARCH 1958

Number 4



*Victory Noll, Huntington, Indiana*



MOTHER HOUSE AND NOVITIATE

OUR LADY OF VICTORY MISSIONARY SISTERS

In the Catholic world March is now known as vocation month. In keeping with this theme, THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST gives you an over-all view of the work of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters. No such issue would be complete without a picture of Victory Noll where young women come from all parts of the United States and Canada to begin their missionary training. It is named in honor of Our Lady of Victory, patroness of the Congregation, and of the late Archbishop Noll, the community's greatest benefactor.

# THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST

Victory Noll  
Huntington, Indiana

March 1958

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THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST is published with ecclesiastical approbation by Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, a Pontifical Institute dedicated to catechetical and social service work.



Member Catholic Press Association

Entered as second class matter on December 30, 1924, at the post office at Huntington, Indiana, under the act of March 3, 1879. Issued monthly except August. Subscriptions one dollar a year.

## COVER

Nobody home yet, Sister! Sister Camilla wonders whether the occupants of the tulip tree might have been caught by the late spring snowfall.

## CREDITS

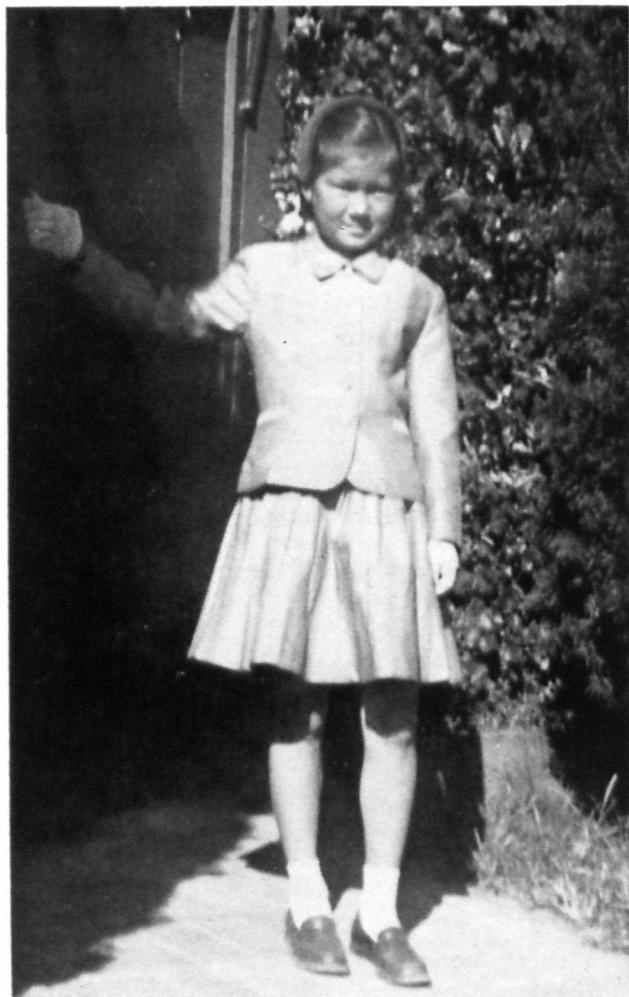
Inside front, Rickert Studio, Huntington, Indiana; p. 6 W. Wesley Kloepfer, Azusa, California; p. 12 Lashua Photo, Springfield, Vermont.

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## *May I Present to You—*

**M**ISS MAIKA KELLY. You had a fleeting acquaintance with Maika in a previous story (TMC, September

1957), but she is such an interesting little girl I would like you to know her better.



by Sister Mary Ellen

Maika was born in Japan of an Irish-American father and a Japanese mother. When we first met her she was in the second grade. Her father is in the army and is now stationed overseas. Maika lives with her mother and two little brothers, Pat and Tim.

Mrs. Kelly, a very charming and refined person, brought Maika to our convent. She explained that the children had been baptized. Although she herself was not a Catholic, she wanted Maika instructed in the Faith. The boys were still too young to attend classes.

Maika has been very faithful in coming to class and is most sincere. What is more, she lives what she learns.

One day Sister was telling the children about Jesus coming to them in Holy Communion. Maika raised her hand and said, "A long time ago I learned that Jesus knocks at your heart and wants to come in. Ever since then I've kept my heart open for Him, but closed tight to someone else—the devil."

On Sundays Maika comes to our convent to ride to church with the sisters. One morning she was wearing a pancake-like hat tied under her chin with a large bow. She didn't like the hat and showed her displeasure at having to wear it. She showed us how she had tried to cover it with her hands when she met two boys on her way to the convent. She didn't want them to laugh at her. After a little while a thoughtful smile came over her face and she adjusted the hat and remarked, "Well, Jesus, if You want me to wear this funny hat, I will—for You."

Easter morning was dark and cloudy with a threat of rain, but Maika was like a ray of sunshine in her finery.

The Irish had the upper hand in her that morning.

She had a question, "Sister, just what do eggs, chicks, and bunnies have to do with Easter?"

Sister carefully explained to her how the little chick breaks itself through the egg shell and how it symbolizes Our Lord's Resurrection.

She listened, but shook her head and said, "I don't quite understand."

Sister assured her that as she grew older she would understand better. She was satisfied.

When we remarked how nice she looked, she smilingly answered, "Thank you, Sister. Mother tries so hard to make me look like a lady. She even curls my hair; but she says I'm a tomboy."

Observing her I asked myself, "Is she Japanese or Irish or what?"

She has the smile of the Irish. Her dimples are deep and her dark slanting eyes sparkle like the sun-washed dew on the hills of Ireland. She bubbles with the wit of the Kellys and has the gracefulness of the Oriental. Maika's poise and charm could be the envy of an older person.

A seriousness flooded her face and she remarked, "I'm going to be a sister when I get big!"

"You are? Why, Maika?"

"Because I want to teach others to love Jesus as I do. Maybe more girls will want to be sisters and perhaps some little boys will become priests and then they can teach people to love God too."

Maika Kelly stands out in any group of children, not because of her ancestry, but because of her character and personality—that something in her that is hard to define.

## By Special Request

We are grateful to our many readers who tell us how much they like the little stories on the Home Field pages of THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST. It is especially for you that we are printing an extra page of them this month.

\* \* \*

### JIMMY WAS RIGHT

One Monday afternoon Jimmy greeted me with the news that he had gone to Mass on Sunday. We had been stressing Sunday Mass attendance in class. Jimmy might have thought I missed him at Mass at Santa Isabel, the parish he belongs to.

"Where did you go, Jimmy?"

"To the Right Direction, Sister," answered Jimmy very seriously.

The Right Direction! In this big city of Los Angeles there are many strange places of worship, but this was a new one. I'd try again.

"Where did you say you went to Mass, Jimmy?"

"I went to Mass at the Right Direction Church, Sister; the one near my home."

Then I knew Jimmy had gone in the right direction after all. He had gone to the Church of the Resurrection, our neighboring parish and the church very close to Jimmy's house.

SISTER CARLOTA

\* \* \*

### OLD FAITHFUL

"For two weeks," Kathleen reported, "our car has been broken so last Sunday my sister and I got the old horse out and rode across the hills to San Fernando to Mass. You know the old horse never breaks down."

"What did you do with the horse when you got to town?" asked Sister.

"Oh, that was easy. We parked him in the parking lot next to the church."

SISTER MARY NICHOLAS



Sister Mar' Joachim, Atuisa, California, reads a story to three of her little friends.

### TOO HARD

To obey cheerfully was the Lenten practice the children were given to observe. On the next class day Elaine asked, "Sister, were we supposed to obey cheerfully once a day?"

I answered, "We were to try to do it all the time."

"I did it once a day."

"That's good, Elaine," I said, trying to encourage her.

Still undaunted she asked, "Sunday doesn't count, does it, Sister?"

SISTER MARTHA MARY

\* \* \*

### POOR FATHER

When Father Peters died he was mourned by everyone. He had pioneered here in Southeast Missouri and was loved by Catholics and non-Catholics. One non-Catholic woman eulogized Father and ended by sadly shaking her head and remarking, "Poor Father. He must have believed it was the right church. He died in it."

SISTER MARY ADELE

\* \* \*

From a first grader: "O my God, I am partly sorry . . ."

## *The Editor Inquires*

What was it, we asked the postulants, that attracted you to the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters? Here are the answers some of them gave.

*Mary K. Gibson  
Sturgis, Michigan*



I like to work with children, especially poor children. I have known the Victory Noll Sisters a long time. I was taught by them up to the sixth grade.

*Rose Zita Rosonke  
Carroll, Iowa*



I liked everything I heard and read about the community, especially that the sisters wear a blue and white habit, drive cars, and work with poor people.



*Marjorie Sheets  
Monroe, Michigan*

I liked the variety of work that the community offers — teaching religion, social service work.

*Carol Dombrowski  
E. Greenwich, R.I.*



I was attracted to the order because it does missionary work. Our Lord was the greatest Missionary. In following this life I hope to please Him.

*Jean Schladen  
Mason City, Illinois*



I was a member of the Legion of Mary before I entered the community. The work and spirit of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters are similar to that of the Legion.

*Arlene Sieve  
Wilmot, Minnesota*



Like Jean, I too belonged to the Legion of Mary. The Victory Noll Sisters do Legion work on a full time basis.

# Mothers! God Only Lends Them to Us!

by Elizabeth Musante

HOW poignantly these words pierced my soul when we left Rita, our only daughter, at Victory Noll convent in Huntington, Indiana, early last September. It was with heavy hearts that my husband and I returned to our home in Warren, Pennsylvania, and to our three boys: Eugene, fifteen; Mark, twelve; and Chuckie, seven and a half years old.

I had first heard those words several years ago when I attended a mission held in our church. The missionary had made this dynamic statement: "Mothers, God only lends your children to you. They are your charges, not your possessions!"

After leaving Rita at Victory Noll it was at first difficult to reconcile myself to life without our only girl. Gradually, however, I felt the impact of the missionary's words. Yes, God only loaned our dear Rita to us for eighteen short years—years in which we tried to fulfill our obligations as good parents, to rear our children in the fear and love of God.

Now God wanted Rita for Himself. He had chosen our daughter to further His work here in this world and to be a means of bringing other souls to Him. Such a sequence of thought startled me. Here I was sorrowing for the daughter whom God had called to the religious life when He could just as well have called her in death! How petulant and selfish can human nature get, I asked myself. God, in His infinite goodness understands human nature and its frailties. Surely He well understands a mother's heart and knows the pain and loneliness that physical separation brings. Humbly I bow in deep gratitude for His mercies and His graces.

When Rita was in the eighth grade she toyed with the idea of the religious life. In her first year of high school she told me she thought she would like foreign mission work. I asked her to finish high school first. Then if she still wished to enter a convent, we would not interfere with her decision.

During Rita's second year of high school something took place which, I feel, was the determining factor in her selection of the type of religious work she wanted. Two catechetical sisters (although not Victory Noll Sisters) came to Warren to conduct a thirty-week course for lay catechists. Rita and I both took the course and at its completion, along with others who qualified, received our certificates of merit from the Most Rev. Edward McManaman, Auxiliary Bishop of Erie.

Rita was thrilled with the course. She taught a group of first graders that summer for a three-weeks period and had a regular class during the following school year. She loved her little angels, as she called them, and loved teaching them about God.

She wrote to a number of convents for vocational literature. Many of the addresses she obtained from *Our Sunday Visitor*, among them that of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters. She subscribed to THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST. The vivid stories and candid pictures of the work of the sisters in the missions throughout the country fascinated her. Her decisive choice: Victory Noll!

Rita was a typical teenager. In school she had always been on the honor roll and was inducted into the National Honor Society. She played the piano with ease. She was editor-in-chief of her high school year book.

She enjoyed sports, dances, was a member of the *a capella* choir in school and the church choir at St. Joseph's, our parish. By playing the piano for several dance studios she was able to get a return on the cost of her music lessons and defray her personal expenses.

In church activities she was a human dynamo, working for improvements in the sodality and helping in the organization of the Catholic Youth Council. She liked boys as well as girls and enjoyed their company. Knowing her desire for the religious life, I questioned her association with boys. "Mother," she said, "don't worry. The boys are my friends, but God comes first! No one can take His place in my life."

After Rita's graduation last June all six of us ventured out on a trip in our new Ford station wagon and our house trailer. It would be our last family vacation together and we wanted to make it a memorable one.

Our first stop was at Victory Noll. This beautiful place, situated on a hill overlooking the Wabash Valley, ex-

ceeded our expectations. Mother Cecilia and the other sisters were most gracious and kind. Before we left they suggested we try to visit one of their mission convents while we were in California.

From Huntington we went to Chicago to see our nephew, Confrater Vincent Giegerich, C.P., at the Passionist Monastery. Then we headed west stopping at all the beautiful national parks and places of interest along the way. Our longest stop was in Garden Grove, California, where we visited my husband's sister and her family. During those two weeks we saw San Juan Capistrano Mission, Disneyland, crossed the border to Tijuana in Mexico, and took in all the well-known tourist sights of southern California.

It was while we were in that area that we visited the convent of the Victory Noll Sisters on Fetterly street in Los Angeles, and met the sisters there. Seeing the mission work at "close range" only increased Rita's eagerness to devote her life to it.



*Gene snaps the family while they visit with Confrater Vincent at the Passionist Monastery. Rita is on the left. Mother has her back to the camera!*



*No traffic problems in the South Dakota bad lands.*

Before leaving California we traveled north to San Francisco and the Yosemite Valley. We detoured a bit to see the wonderful Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico and then headed north, trying to escape the intense heat. After six weeks we were back in Warren. It had been a glorious trip—the trip of a lifetime with memories for a lifetime. I still had before me, I reflected ruefully, the trip to Indiana that would mean separation.

During the Christmas holidays, it was my privilege to spend a few days at Victory Noll. It gave me an insight into life in a convent. I found Rita extremely happy. I could not help but notice that the other postulants, the white-veiled novices, and the professed sisters all radiated with happiness.

During one of our walks together Rita intimated the reason for this happiness. "Mother," she said, "if everyone in this world could spend one year in a place like this, there would never be any wars. Everyone would love everyone else. People feel sorry for us, I guess, thinking we are devoid of all love when truly, everything we do is done for love—love of God. Here at Victory Noll there is such a wonderful spirit among us."

To Rita's words I can add my own.

I could not but observe that wonderful spirit of wholehearted cooperation, of humble submission, of doing menial tasks with such cheerfulness. Could I ask for anything better for my own daughter?

Of course all parents cherish hopes that their children will find happiness and be a comfort to them later in life. These hopes are often realized when a child marries and has a family of her own. But we know, too, that there is much unhappiness in the world. There is so much grief and such difficulty in combating the evils found everywhere in worldly life. The safest place, the richest place, is in the convent or seminary. Daily I pray that God may call one or more of our three boys to the holy priesthood.

It is indeed a privilege, given by God, to be parents of a religious. Yes, we still miss our daughter. That is only human. Perhaps we *are* making a sacrifice, but at the same time it is wonderful to know that Rita will always be our very own. Surely her first and last thoughts and prayers each day are for her parents.

As the missionary said, good Christian parents must remember that children are "charges," not "possessions." One cannot really give up what is not truly his.

## For Your Information

PUBLISHING statistics can be hazardous, we have learned. Too often we find the figures quoted long after they have become obsolete. We have decided to take the risk, however, but beg you to note that these numbers are for the scholastic year 1956-57.

The total number of children enrolled in our schools of religion came to 91,644. Not included are those who attended religious vacation schools. Were we to add them, the number would be 96,774.

The sisters made 81,043 visits. "Census taking visits" made outside our regular missions, usually during the summer, are not included here. They added up to 39,015.

We found it interesting to note that three missions — El Paso, Santa

Fe, and San Pedro in California — had over 5,000 children enrolled. Redlands, California, was not far behind with 4,506. Six convents had over 3,000; five over 2,000; and fifteen well over 1,000: Brigham City and Ogden in Utah; Flemington and South Bound Brook in New Jersey; San Pierre, Indiana; Colorado Springs and Cheyenne were not far from 1,000.

The largest numbers of adults taking CCD teacher training courses were in California, but we can expect those figures to jump considerably this year. The sisters everywhere are engaged in this work.

These statistics represent work done in seventy-two convents. California still leads with eighteen. Texas is next with ten.



*We've lined up several times during the past months for both polio and flu shots. Sister Mary Camillus, R.N., infirmarian at Victory Noll, gives flu vaccine to Sister DeMontfort. The other novices are, from left to right: Sister Joseph Adele, Sister Karen, and Sister Michael Marie.*

# Full Circle

by Sister Jeannette

**A**PPPOINTMENT time — when we receive our mission assignments — is always full of surprises. For me it was especially so this past year, for my assignment took me back to my home state, Vermont.

It was a beautiful day in the last week of August when we four sisters drove from New Jersey to Springfield, Vermont. The Green Mountains were already beginning to exchange their summer green for beautiful autumn colors.

As we rode along, the scene changing at every bend in the road, my mind roved back over the years. How quickly they had fled: four years in New Jersey, several in Indiana and Ohio, fifteen in California, and the very first years of my mis-

sionary life spent in New Mexico. Wonderful years they have been, spent as they were:

Teaching little ones to love Our Lord and His Blessed Mother; preparing them for the reception of the sacraments of penance, Holy Eucharist, and confirmation; yes, and in many cases, also for baptism . . .

Visiting the poor and sick in their homes, giving them comfort and material aid; praying with them at their bedside; consoling the afflicted and the sorrowing . . .

Visiting the suffering members of the Mystical Body confined to hospitals and encouraging them with words of cheer and comfort; leaving with each a blessed medal, rosary, or piece of literature . . .



*The Rt. Rev. Msgr. P. A. Nolin, pastor of the Church of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, welcomes the sisters to Springfield, Vermont. From left: Sister Marion, Sister Henrietta, Monsignor Nolin, Sister Mary Patrick, and Sister Jeannette.*



*"Teaching little ones to love Our Lord and His Blessed Mother . . ." Photo from South Bound Brook, N.J.*

Taking census; visiting those in prison and encouraging them to return to God through prayer and the sacraments . . .

Going out into the highways and byways to reclaim the strayed ones . . .

Forming sodalities and training young girls to love Our Blessed Mother in a special way by studying and practicing her virtues.

Training altar boys; teaching them to become Knights of the Altar, to



*"Forming sodalities and training young girls to love Our Blessed Mother in a special way . . ." Sodalists, Lubbock, Texas.*

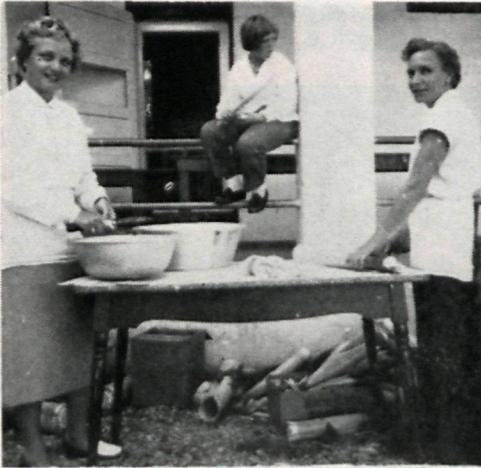
serve the representative of Christ at the Eucharistic Sacrifice . . .



*"Training altar boys . . ." Sister Evelyn Marie and Claude Rivera, Ogden, Utah.*

Yes, they were full years, but the time was not all spent in works of mercy. The hours of each day have their own particular duties: assisting at Holy Mass, and taking part in other prayers and religious exercises; study, household duties, and periods for recreation.

So back through the years my mind raced to that day thirty-two years ago when as a young girl I said goodbye to relatives and friends and boarded the train which would take me away from Vermont and start me on the journey to the fulfillment of my ambition to become a missionary and help win souls for God. Now, after laboring in various parts of the country, I return to begin missionary activities in my home state.



**HUSH PUPPIES AND SWAMP CABBAGE.** Do they sound appetizing to you? They're very special in Florida. The day the sisters took this picture the school was in a festive mood. Older boys were cutting out the hearts of the palmetto. Mothers were busy slicing the edible part which they would mix with pineapple and other delicacies to become a salad known as swamp cabbage. What hush puppies are we didn't find out yet.

\* \* \*

**SMART JOES**

At the conclusion of the first religion class held in the home of one of our parishioners, our hostess commented, "Sister, these children are angels. Did you ever see that cartoon in the paper: Moments We'd Like to Live Over? Well, having class here is just like that."

Then she added, "Joe must be a very smart boy. You called on him more often than anyone else."

We had to explain our partiality. She had been listening from another room and did not know we had three Joes in the class.

SISTER BARBARA

# In the Home Field

**INQUIRIES WELCOME**

I have the good fortune to be teaching in one of our newest catechetical centers. It is a beautiful two-room center directly across the street from our largest grade school. This catechetical building has been a matter of discussion among the Protestant release time teachers. Their respective churches have adopted the idea of erecting teaching centers close to the schools. What is more — they even asked to examine our course of studies to see what it is that we teach. We are praying that God's grace will lead them still further.

SISTER HELEN CLARE

\* \* \*

**LIFE BEGINS AT . . . .**

Several of our converts who entered the Church recently are well past forty. Most of them are men ranging in age from sixty-five to eighty-one years.

SISTER BEATRICE

\* \* \*

**WATERING THE CLASSROOM**

After a particularly long dry spell, the dust on my "teaching plot" was a couple of inches thick. I had between forty-five and fifty kindergarten and first grade children and there was only a little shade. To avoid standing in the hot sun, I would stand very close to the children. As a result I was showered with dust.

One day, after they had got me a little dirtier than usual, I asked someone to give the place a good soaking the day before the next class. But instead of soaking it the DAY before, they did it a couple of HOURS before. That day I had my choice between teaching in the mud or the sun. I never again asked anybody to water our classroom. I found the dirt preferable to the mud or desert sun.

SISTER MARY LAWRENCE

**ME AND MY SHADOW**

Adriana turned to wave goodbye as she left the church hall after class.

"Oh," she stopped suddenly, "I forgot my hat."

"It's on the table. I'm glad you remembered," Sister Victoria said.

"You know how I remembered, Sister?" remarked Adriana. "As I was going out the door I saw my shadow and it didn't have a hat on. So I knew I forgot my hat."

SISTER CHARLENE

\* \* \*

**UNIQUE BENEFACTOR**

We have a unique benefactor. When we go to the supermarket the cashier usually hands us a little brown sack containing anywhere from sixteen to fifty cents left for us by our benefactor. He remained anonymous until Christmas when he sent each of us a card and dollar and actually signed his name and address.

The next time we met him he introduced himself and then showed us a copy of a newspaper clipping dated around the turn of the century. It told of the death of his father who had never heard from his kidnapped son. "I am that son," the old man said. "I was kidnapped when I was four years old." The rest of his story would make a thriller.

Anyway, we agree with the cashier who said, "He has a big heart!" Sometimes she starts to hand us the sack, then looks in and says, "No, not enough yet. I'll wait." Then she puts the sack back in the pigeon hole until the next time.

SISTER LOUISE MARIE

**MORE WONDERFUL THAN GRACE**

"What did God do for Adam that He didn't do for any of the animals?" I asked. "What did our Heavenly Father give him that made him so wonderful?"

"I know, Sister," said a little boy. "Our Heavenly Father gave Adam a wife."

SISTER MARY JOHN

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**INDIAN LOGIC**

At the beginning of the school year of religion, one of the sisters told her class of Navajo boys and girls what her name was. Several classes later she asked them, "What is my name? Do you remember? Sister—what?"

The class responded, "Sister What!"

SISTER DOLORITA



This is not the sandwich man. It's Lennie Chavez carrying the big picture Sister Charlene is going to use in class. Sister teaches in the Chavez garage in Chino, California.



# IS there a convent type?

by Ellen Kemmeter

If you were to visit the postulancy at Victory Noll, you would recognize the fact that Christ chooses no single type of girl for the convent. You would see here girls fresh from high school and college; girls who have worked; girls who have traveled. You would find talent galore, be it vocal, playing a musical instrument, drawing, or the ability to make something useful from scraps.

We range in size from five feet one to five feet nine. Some are slender; some not so slender. Some are quiet; others are vivacious.

Not only are outward appearances different, but also the backgrounds which have prepared us for our life work. Many worked as waitresses and clerks during high school. Several were secretaries: one at Notre Dame, one at Westinghouse, another at an air force base. Still another worked in a bank. One was with an airline.

Among the postulants you will find a former prom queen, an ex-cheer leader, two commencement speakers, an editor of her high school annual, and several who acted in plays in high school, college, or summer stock.

Our postulants come from different parts of the country, also. One comes from as far east as Rhode Island; two from as far west as California. The Lone Star State is represented, and many other states besides.

Many are the laughs we enjoy over the various pronunciations and accents.

Do you still think all girls who enter the convent are alike?

One thing, perhaps, we all had in common. We liked to have fun and we wondered how we could get along without parties, cars, and so-called good times. Now we know that you can have fun in a convent, too, and none of us would consider trading our new life for the old one.

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## Entrance Conditions for Our Lady of Victory

1. *Right Intention*—An earnest desire to sanctify one's soul by the practice of the three vows of religion: poverty, chastity, and obedience.

A true vocation to devote one's self—in honor of Our Lady of Victory—to the catechetical, missionary, and charitable works of the community.

2. *Good Health* — Applicants must have good health in order to support the labors of a missionary life. A physical examination, as designated by the community, is required.

3. *Required Age*—Applicants must be at least eighteen years of age and not over thirty. Older applicants possessing special qualifications may be admitted by exception.

To answer that question Postulants Ellen and Agnes look around the postulancy and share with us their conclusions.



by Agnes Rapp

WHAT is convent material? Or is there such a thing?

Can a car hop become a nun? Would a college girl with only her senior year ahead of her dare to enter a convent? Could a girl who has worked as a counselor in a Jewish Center be convent material?

All these and others are in our postulant class. Let me show you some of our "convent material" at Victory Noll. You may be in for some surprises.

---

## the Congregation of Missionary Sisters

4. *Mental Fitness* — Applicant must have at least average intelligence. A high school education is desirable, but not indispensable.

5. *Moral Character*—Applicants must be of blameless character.

6. *Necessary Documents*

- a. Baptismal certificate
- b. Confirmation certificate
- c. Parents' marriage certificate
- d. Letter of recommendation from pastor or another well known priest.

Correspondence is invited. Address all communications to:

Directress of Vocations  
Victory Noll  
Huntington, Indiana

See the postulant in the sewing room? She used to be a car hop in a town that is predominantly Lutheran. She ranked high in her public high school class. Her flute brightens the recreations of the postulants and has won her many musical honors.

The three postulants over there, the ones listening to the game over the radio, are recent high school graduates. The first one has five brothers. One of her many accomplishments was ironing their shirts; but she also found time after school to work in a diet kitchen in a local hospital. The middle one is our youngest postulant. Her dramatic ability makes her a perfect emcee for our entertainments. The third postulant is an accomplished pianist. Before she came to Victory Noll she played for two different dancing schools.

Two of the postulants, with a little coaxing, might tell you about their travels in Europe and elsewhere. One of them was a lay missionary in the Caribbean area.

That short postulant you see, who does not live up to her state's boast of having the biggest of everything, just graduated from high school. She is the only one in our group who has a close relative in the community. Several others, though, have brothers and sisters in religion.

The postulants in our group come from farms, big cities, and from small towns. About the only thing we all have in common is the loving invitation of the Holy Spirit to "come and see."



# our **A**ssociates'

**Mission  
giving  
makes life  
worth  
living!**

Dear Associates:

**F**OLLOWING is a digest of my annual letter to officers of Mission Bands, Clubs, and Guilds.

We know that the sharing in our sisters' *daily* prayers and missionary works, in a *weekly* Mass for benefactors and a *monthly* Mass just for Associates, has strongly influenced you to continue your efforts in our behalf. But your firm Faith, too, that God will reward such a simple act as a cup of cold water given in His Name (we have His word for it) has likewise encouraged you to keep on with your mission support.

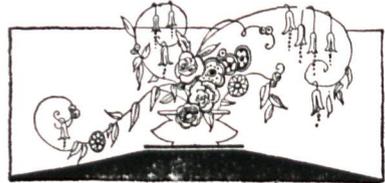
Now for a quick summary of Bands which excelled in mission giving in 1957. Sacred Heart Band, Newark, N.Y., again leads (for many consecutive years now) with a total of \$800. Second highest, a repeater, too, is St. Martin of Tours Band, Omaha, with a total of \$707.54. These ladies might have led in mission giving this year except for their purchase of a new mimeograph for one of our convents. It cost at least \$200. Third place was won by St. Margaret Mary Band, Omaha, with \$534—a splendid showing for a comparatively small group. We think, at this point, St. Clare Band, Omaha, deserves special mention with its annual total of \$425. (Combined total of Omaha Bands, \$1,666.54!)

Highest total among our Chicago Bands was made by St. Joseph's which

was \$495.35, and St. Justin Martyr's got very close with \$475. Here again, a daughter in the missions got part of her mother's mission gleanings. Lastly, when a group of twelve women or fewer can raise \$300 and more (we refer to Little Flower Mission Circle, Chicago, and Holy Ghost Band, Elkhart, Indiana) we think that's news, too! Many more deserve special mention, but we lack space to give them their just due.

Once again, let us assure you that all your donations, whether large or small, are needed and greatly appreciated.

SISTER SUPERVISOR, ACM



GOOD WILL MISSION CIRCLE

As the new treasurer of Good Will Mission Circle, this is my first opportunity to send you our yearly check.

Our Circle started around 1925. I was the first President and, at that time, newly married. Now after raising four children and being grandmother of seven, I am an officer in the club again. We are only twenty members and, like myself, most are grandmothers. Our oldest member, Miss Elizabeth Framme, will be ninety-six this month. She crocheted and sewed for the missions until she was ninety and now says all she can do is pray. At present, we are centering all our charitable work on the Kentucky mountain missions. Your Sisters in Richmond are doing wonderful work there.

Mrs. Frank Moorman, Carrollton, Ky.

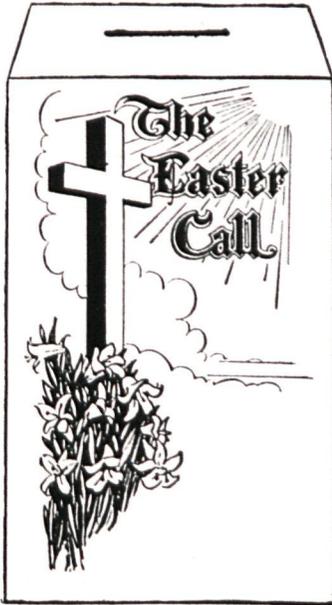
# Club Mention

SEVEN DOLORS, Bellwood, Ill.

There are eleven ladies in this Band headed by Mrs. John J. Murphy. Each member takes her turn at entertaining the rest (no meeting in July). The hostess-of-the-month then writes and sends the dues to Victory Noll. In this way we hear from the individual members at least once a year. The ladies use this opportunity to request special prayers for their many intentions.



## Lenten Miteboxes!



Sister Supervisor, ACM  
Victory Noll  
Huntington, Indiana

Dear Sister:

Please send me a Mite-Box. I promise to send the contents to you in time for Easter.

Name .....

Street .....

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

March 1958

## BANDS, CLUBS, GUILDS DONATIONS

Dec. 29, 1957 to Jan. 22, 1958

Charitina, Chicago, Helen Ford .....	\$ 5.00
Dolores, Chicago, Anna Klingel .....	34.00
Good Will Circle, Carrollton, Ky., Mrs. Frank Moorman .....	24.00
Hely Souls, Chicago, Mrs. McGovern .....	17.00
Les Petites Fleurs, Chicago, Mrs. M. Caldarola .....	24.00
Little Flower, Chicago, V. Foertsch .....	30.00
Mary, Queen of Hearts, Lombard, Ill., Wilma Wengritzky .....	20.00
St. Anne, Ft. Wayne, Anna Kocks ....	5.00
St. Catherine, Los Angeles, Calif. Mrs. M. McMannamy .....	28.00
St. Gerard, Chicago, Mrs. Perkins ....	15.00
St. Irene, Chicago, May Walsh .....	12.00
St. Joseph, Chicago, Mrs. Naumes ....	52.00
St. Katherine, Chicago, Mrs. Hammer ..	10.00
St. Luke, Chicago, Mrs. Potter .....	17.25
St. Margaret Mary, Omaha, Neb. Marie Egermier .....	60.00
St. Mary Sod., Detroit, Ann Huhn .....	8.00
St. Michael, Chicago, Mrs. Dowling ..	5.00
St. Omer, Cincinnati, Mrs. Hurlburt ..	10.00
St. Patricia, Chicago, Mrs. L. Gones ..	4.55
St. Patrick, Ft. Wayne, Miss McGill ..	17.00
St. Raphael, Milwaukee, Mrs. Schrimpf .....	36.00
Seven Dolors, Bellwood, Mrs. Murphy ..	9.00

## OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART BAND, Appleton, Wis.

Enclosed is a check for \$43.00. I intended sending it sooner but am convalescing after a bout with the "flu." We surely enjoyed



Sister Marion Frances's visit with us. Her explanation of her work with the Navajos was very interesting.

You Sisters are doing very fine work with unfortunate people.

Miss Helen Arens, Appleton, Wis.



# Mary's Loyal

## From our Mail Bag

Dear Sister:

Here are some ideas for Loyal Helpers everywhere.

Girls who are good at sewing could run up sunshine bags for you. Boys and girls could make shrines of Mary from holy cards, paper and paste. These could be sent to some mission center where Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters teach. Where Helpers have formed a club and work together, they could wear blue arm bands at meetings in honor of Mary, our Heavenly Patroness.

Since March is vocation month, boys and girls should pray for a vocation. They could say the ejaculation: "St. Joseph, patron of vocations, pray for us" on each bead of their rosary. They could do this every day of the year. It wouldn't take more than five or ten minutes a day.

Judy Coy, Erlanger, Kentucky

### AN APOLOGY

In our January issue we gave Helper Charlotte Bodenlos' address as Jacksonville, Mississippi. It should have been Jacksonville, Alabama!



Dear Loyal Helpers:

A LONG time ago I clipped the following lines from *Our Sunday Visitor*.

If I were standing to be judged  
Before the great white throne,  
Where I could hear the righteous sing  
And hear the sinners moan,  
I'd want no greater advocate  
To make my final plea,  
Than just a boy or girl who'd say,  
"He did a lot for me."

Anon.

Have you ever thought about what you would like to do when you are grown up? Have you ever considered what a noble vocation it is to help God save the souls of young people?

If this work has a great appeal to you, then perhaps that is God's way of gently calling you to the religious life,—His way of saying, "I want you to be My priest or brother or sister."

There is one thing you can all do. You can pray for an increase of religious vocations. God may reward you, when you are old enough, with this greatest of graces—a call to the religious life.

Mary-ly yours,  
SUNSHINE SECRETARY, MLH

## FORMER LOYAL HELPERS WHO JOINED OUR SISTERS AT VICTORY NOLL



To the left is Postulant Joan Butts, formerly of San Antonio, Texas, a niece of our Sister Rose Anthony. Joan joined Mary's Loyal Helpers when she was only eight years old.

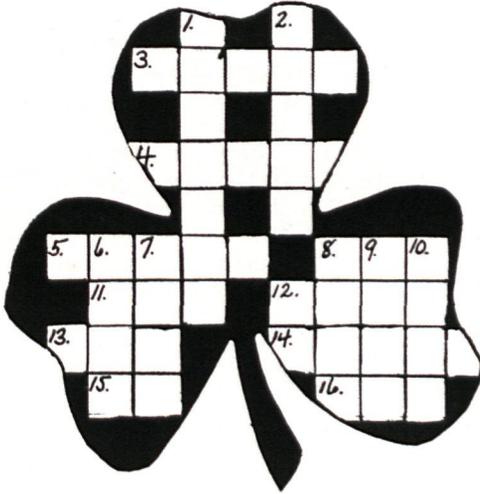
To the right is Postulant Rita Musante, formerly of Warren, Pennsylvania. Rita's younger brothers will now be likely candidates to our penny saving crew! We noticed that one had an interesting looking bank when he and his parents visited Rita recently.



# Helpers'

# pages

## MARCH CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### DOWN

1. Patron saint of Ireland.
2. Natives of Ireland.
6. A name borne by many Irish women.
7. You need a pair of these to row across one of the Lakes of Killarney.
8. St. Patrick lighted this on Easter eve.
9. Small green vegetable.
10. Crowns of gold were part of Irish kings head . . . . .
12. Mother.



### ACROSS

3. Irish name for child.
4. A Celtic . . . . . is of ancient and distinctive design.
5. Famous shrine of Our Lady in Ireland.
8. This often hovers over Irish coasts.
11. Probable site of some Druidistic rites.
12. A name borne by many Irishmen.
13. To make a mistake.
14. An exclamation (Irish).
15. Like.
16. Organ of hearing.

Send worked puzzles to Sunshine Secretary, Victory Noll, for a holy card.

This year I am very busy after school hours with a great number of activities.

On Sundays at our church I teach religion to forty children for one hour. At St. Joseph's Church in Bound Brook, there are lessons for religion teachers every Monday night at 8 o'clock which I attend.

During the week, too, I have a lot of club meetings to attend after school. I am secretary of the French Club. I am refreshment chairman of

the Foods Club, and a co-chairman of the entertainment committee in the Junior Red Cross Club. I am also a member of our debating team at school. On Wednesday nights we have Newman Club meetings at our parish church.

I am sorry I haven't written often-er but you see how it is. I am sending you a dollar to renew my subscrip-tion to THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST.

Marie Sikora, Middlesex, N.J.

Wear a blue and white enameled Mary's Loyal Helper pin. Price, seventy-five cents.

Wear a silver medal of Our Lady of Vic-tory. Price, ten cents. Please include a three-cent postage stamp for mailing.

Send your orders to Sunshine Secretary, Mary's Loyal Helpers, Victory Noll, Hunting-ton, Indiana.



# Mary's Role in the Mystical Body

by Sister Helen

This article is taken from a paper Sister Helen prepared and read at a seminar on the *Mystical Body* held at Victory Noll during the past summer.

\* \* \*

“**B**EHOLD the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to Thy word.” (Luke 1,38)

Heaven and earth waited for this answer of the Maid of Nazareth, while the Angel Gabriel, coming to her as ambassador of the Most High God, sought her consent to become the Mother of God.

In giving this consent Mary realized that she was to do more than bring forth the Infant Christ, watch over Him, care for His physical needs, as other mothers do for their children. She had studied the Scriptures. She knew and understood them. She knew that the Messiah was to be a Man of Sorrows; she knew He would undergo contradiction, suffering, and death in order to redeem mankind.

Yet with this knowledge and the full realization that the mother of the Redeemer would be closely associated with Him in His sufferings, Mary did not hesitate to acquiesce with the Divine Will once it was made known to her. “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to Thy word.” The decision was made and the Eternal Son of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, uniting to Himself a human nature, took up His abode in her chaste womb. “The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.” (John 1,14)

But who is this Virgin? Who is she who by her simple *fiat* to the angel's message brings down from heaven the Eternal Word?

Let us pause a moment and look at this fairest of the daughters of Eve.

When in the eternal designs of God, the Incarnation had been decreed, so in the mind of God there was present the Virgin Mother from whom the Son of God was to take human nature. Sprung from the race of Adam, she herself would share in the sin of Adam. She would be in need of redemption. But that the human nature of the Son of God should ever be in contact with sinful human nature was unthinkable. God would suspend the punishment of Adam in this one single case. Mary would be conceived immaculate through the foreseen merits of her Divine Son.

But Mary was not only created in the state of original justice, she received such an outpouring of grace ever after, that no breath of sin touched her most pure soul. Next to the Sacred Humanity of the Redeemer, she is God's most perfect creation.

Mary's privileges, her Immaculate Conception, the miraculous Conception and Virgin Birth of her Divine Son, and her glorious Assumption into heaven stem primarily from her exalted position as the Mother of the Redeemer.

Christ was not inactive in the womb of Mary. “Within her virginal womb,” our Holy Father writes in his encyclical *Mystici Corporis*, “Christ our Lord already bore the exalted title Head of the Church,” for He became incarnate not only to redeem man, but to establish His Church through which the benefits of the redemption would be spread. While hidden from the eyes of men He sanctified through His most holy Mother, the household of Zachary, washing from the soul of His yet unborn precursor the stain of original sin.

This was to be the role of Our Blessed Mother in the Mystical Body, the role of a Mother who would bring Christ to men and men to Christ through the distribution of the abundant graces He would put into her hands.

We who have grown up with one hand in that of our heavenly Mother, placed there by the gentle hand of our earthly mother, find it difficult, perhaps, to realize all that our heavenly Mother means to us. She is part and parcel of our life. We have never faced an issue without her guidance.

In our trials and difficulties, great or small, even in the early days of our



*It is a wise mother who dedicates her little one to Our Blessed Mother. Mrs. Dech of Sebring, Florida, consecrates her baby to Mary immediately after its baptism.*

March 1958

childhood, we turned instinctively to our Blessed Mother. She was as close to us and as real as our earthly mother, and she was always at our side. Was it a word we couldn't spell, a problem we couldn't work? Who was there to help in the moment of need? A quickly whispered "Hail Mary" and help was ours.

How then can we realize what it is to be without the aid of our Blessed Mother? Yet how many people in the world today know nothing of her maternal care. How difficult, how insecure must be their journey through life, because four centuries ago their forefathers surrendered her loving protection under the pretext that veneration of the Mother took away from the worship of the Son.

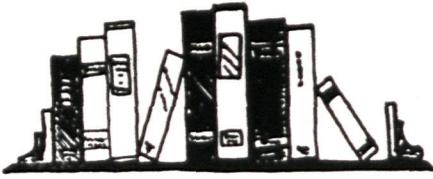
Exactly the opposite has proved true, as indeed it must always prove true. Today we find these people not only less devoted to the Son, but many sects or persons within the sects even denying that her Son is Divine. This must always be the case, for as devotion to Mary diminishes, so does devotion to her Son. It is through the Mother that we go to the Son. It is in her arms that we find the Savior of the world.

This is why Christ, in His divine wisdom, gave us His Mother. He knew that His Mystical Body the Church needed not only a Head, but the love and devotion of a mother who would care for it and extend a helping hand to it throughout all time.

Just as an earthly mother gives to her family and to each of her children everything necessary, within the limit of her means, to enable them to attain success and happiness in this world, so Mary bestows on the Mystical Body of Christ and each individual member everything necessary — and her means are unlimited — to attain to everlasting happiness in the world to come.

23

## Books



*The Sacrifice of Praise* by Vilma G. Little. P. J. Kenedy & Sons, New York. \$3.00.

This little book is subtitled *An Introduction to the Meaning and Use of the Divine Office*. We have read many books that claimed to be just that—an explanation of the Office—but this one is far superior to any of them.

In the first place Miss Little does not assume that the reader already knows very much about the Office; but at the same time she is not patronizing. She explains simply and interestingly, as a good teacher would.

What is more, in every line she writes shines forth her own great love for the Church's Sacrifice of Praise. The reverence with which she writes is bound to communicate itself to the reader.

The author devotes the first six chapters to the history of the Office and an over-all description of its structure. She helps us to understand the so-called imprecatory psalms. Unless these psalms are explained properly, they produce the uneasy feeling that they are not exactly in harmony with the spirit of the Gospel.

To call the second division of the book the practical part does not imply that the whole volume is not eminently practical. It is in these chapters, however, that the author goes through each part of the various hours and tells us how to recite them. She does not omit directions on the read-

ing of the ordo, but even gives the meaning of the various abbreviations it uses.

One chapter explains the characteristics of the seasons, and the final chapter is an exquisite appreciation of the Office and its role in the prayer life of the members of the Mystical Body.

This is not yet all. Three appendices treat of: a) Rhythmic Psalmody; b) Rhythmic Recitation of Hymns; c) Note on Antiphons (the rules for treating antiphons that are identical with the opening lines of their psalms); and d) Bodily Attitudes and Gestures at Office.

We have only one criticism to offer, and even that is not so much a criticism of the book and its author as of ourselves. *The Sacrifice of Praise* would lend itself better to reading in public—in the community dining room, for instance,—if it did not contain so many Latin phrases.

It is true that they are not unusual phrases. An alert reader could translate them or omit them when they are irrelevant; for example, the old Latin verse that sums up the proper conclusions of collects (p. 81). The author herself is so much at home in Latin (she has written a book that deals with the learning of Latin for the purpose of reciting the Office) that it probably does not occur to her that the rest of us are not so familiar with it.

We can think of no better book than this to be used by one whose privilege it is to initiate others into the recitation of the breviary. It should be most helpful not only to those who recite the whole Office, but to communities who say only part of the Office or who use the Short Breviary in the vernacular. Even those who know the Office well should profit from this book, for they cannot help but absorb the author's own love for the Sacrifice of Praise.

*The American Parish and the Roman Liturgy* by H. A. Reinhold, D.D. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$3.50

Those who would not miss reading anything that Father Reinhold has written—and they must be legion—need no urge to read this book. It is "HAR" at his best.

Here are seven essays on the liturgy. The author explains that in presenting them in book form he has drawn largely on previously published material. This material, however, he has revised and brought up to date. Some of it had been written before *Mediator Dei* and the recent reforms issued by the Holy See. For that reason some revision was necessary. Then too, as Father Reinhold himself commented, his thought ("so I fondly hope") has matured over the years.

In the first essay, in what he calls "The Strangeness of the Roman Liturgy," Father Reinhold describes the naturalness, the simplicity, the soberness of the Roman liturgy. He writes briefly of the "baroque mentality" that Father Louis Bouyer develops at length in his book, *Liturgical Piety*.

Active participation in the Mass, the use of the vernacular, the liturgical parish, and the Christian meaning of Sunday are some of the subjects Father Reinhold discusses. One chapter he devotes to forgotten aspects of sacraments and sacramentals. The section on the sacrament of extreme unction should be required reading for every Catholic. If it were meditated upon by priests and people alike, extreme unction would be restored to its proper place in the sacramental system. It would be honored for what it is, the Anointing for Glory, as Father Reinhold so aptly refers to it.

The last chapter of the book is a magnificent one called "Man Formed by Sacramental Religion." Life should be a prolongation of the liturgy. Everything becomes worship when one "lives the liturgy."

*A Popular History of the Jesuits* by Denis Meadows. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$3.50

To write a satisfactory history of the four hundred-year-old Society of Jesus in one volume—and a rather slim volume at that—is an accomplishment. To write it entertainingly and brilliantly is the feat that Mr. Meadows has achieved.

The author was a member of the Society for ten years. His admiration for it shines through his writing. Obviously he is in a unique position to write objectively and at the same time to give credit where credit is due. This is exactly what he has done in this book.

Mr. Meadows follows Father Brodrick, especially in his account of the founding of the Society by St. Ignatius. The Society of Jesus is primarily a missionary order, as its founder intended it to be. Its work of education is here put in its proper perspective.

There is a fascinating chapter on the amazing experiments of Father Robert de' Nobili in India and Father Matteo Ricci in China. They literally made themselves "all things to all men." the former living the life of a Hindu Brahmin and the latter, a Chinese Mandarin, in order to win over these elusive classes to Christianity.

Especially valuable to anyone who wants the information at his fingertips and has no time to search through many volumes are the chapters on the Paraguay Reductions and on the history of the suppression and restoration of the Jesuits.

Referring to the survival of the Society in—of all places—White Russia—Mr. Meadows writes (p. 129): "The Jesuit phoenix did not wholly perish in the fire; to change the metaphor, it was hibernating in the Russian snows."

This is the delightful kind of writing you will find in *A Popular History of the Jesuits*.

## Editor's By-Line

From all parts of the world we receive letters of inquiry from prospective candidates. This, of course, is because of our ad in *Our Sunday Visitor*. Everyone knows that the *Visitor* gets AROUND.

For various reasons we have to turn down many of these would-be applicants. One reason that might surprise you is that some of the inquirers are of the wrong sex. Our Constitutions state that only Catholic *women* may be admitted to the Congregation.

The other day we received a letter from Ghana, from a young man whom we shall refer to by his first name, Isaac. We loved his letter and are so sorry Isaac is of the wrong gender. His handwriting is beautiful and shows character. Isaac is a hard worker evidently. He is working hard at his English and is very ingenious in his choice of words. Here is his letter:

Dear Sisters

I am with much merriment to inform you this simple lines of words. Please when I receive your address from my humble friend, I was very gladsome, inasmuch as I cherish you too much. So kindly forward me information of your work, because I am a member of ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH and I like the news of Jesus. If you received this letter indite me without procrastinate. Assuring of my best attention

Yours sincerely

Isaac - - - -

In another hundred years or so Isaac's countrymen will be coming to the United States to convert us. We will need conversion, for at the rate we are declining we will be completely pagan by then. A country that

offers such luxury items as these deserves to perish: toothpicks and screwdrivers in 14-carat gold; mink-trimmed can openers; personalized jigsaw puzzles up to \$2,000.

Our society is becoming wholly secularistic. Catholics, too, are tainted by materialism. Decay is bound to set in. We cannot long survive, permeated as we are by such an atmosphere.

So, dear Isaac, we are with sorrowfulness that you are not a girl. We too cherish you very much and were very gladsome when we received your letter. Maybe someday you and your countrymen will come to the U.S. and help us regain our proper sense of values. Meanwhile, please pray for us without procrastinate. SEA

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A zealous convert came to the convent all excited. She told the sisters she was no longer having trouble with a certain minister who had resented her becoming a Catholic. To her it was very simple. Her husband owns the local garage. When the minister brought his car in, she put a green scapular in it.

"He will be driving with it all the time," she said, "and I will say the prayer for him!"

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## In Memoriam

Mrs. Mary Wilbers, Jefferson City, Mo., mother of Sister Louise and Sister Eloise  
F. May, Brooklyn, brother of Sister M. Clarice  
Brother Robert Gase, C.P.P.S., Carthagena, Ohio  
Dr. and Mrs. John B. McNulty, Memphis, Tenn.  
Mrs. M. Schumann, ACM, Chicago  
Mrs. Julius C. Weber, ACM, Chicago  
Eleanora Cahill, ACM, Fort Wayne  
Mrs. Frank Evans, ACM, Fort Wayne  
Mrs. Elizabeth Woodyard, Lake Wales, Fla.  
Michael O'Donoghue, Monaghan, Ireland  
Mrs. Otila Villarreal, Bernol, Texas  
C. H. Wasson, Daleville, Ind.  
Laura Lennertz, Hobart, Ind.  
Mrs. Lillian Green, Chicago

# Eleanor Decides

by Sister Clare Marie

RELIGION class was over, but Eleanor lagged behind. She waited until all had left. Then she asked, "Sister, did you want to be a sister when you were little?"

"Well, no, Eleanor. I can't say that I did," I answered; "but why do you ask?"

"Well, Sister, sometimes I think I want to be a sister and then again I don't think I'm good enough or that I could do everything I'd have to do."

Eleanor and the other members of her class had recently made the act of total consecration to Mary so I suggested, "Why don't you ask Our Blessed Mother to help you decide? She can help you better than anyone else."

"That's a good idea."

From that time Eleanor began to receive Holy Communion more regularly. She made many visits to the Blessed Sacrament and studied harder than anyone else in her class.

One day she had something special to tell me. Over the weekend she had gone on a little trip with a friend. They had passed a place that had a large sign "Victory Noll" at the entrance to the drive. She said she looked and looked to see all she could as they passed, and oh, it was so beautiful up there on the hill!

"Why didn't you stop in and really see Victory Noll?"



"We couldn't, Sister, because Ann's father said there was a sign that said 'No trespassing' and that meant we couldn't go in. Besides, he was on a business trip and had no time to waste."

I explained that the sign did not refer to visitors and told her I hoped she would have another opportunity to see our mother house. It is only about sixty miles from our convent here.

During the following summer we told the girls that on the feast of the Visitation those who had their parents' permission could go on a trip to Victory Noll. Over a hundred girls and mothers made the trip, Eleanor among them.

Shortly afterward Eleanor came to our convent. This time she had something very definite to tell me. "Sister, all I want to say is that I have made up my mind. I really know now that I want to be a sister. When I am old enough, I am going to Victory Noll."

# You Can Help Her



to carry on her catechetical and missionary work in the Home Missions by joining our 2500 CLUB. This Club is made up of men and women who are contributing a dollar a month for one year.

*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 one Wednesday of each month Holy Mass is offered in his honor for the intentions of all members.

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Victory Noll      Huntington, Indiana

Dear Sister

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

Name .....

Address .....

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